

# MIDDLETON- CUM-FORDLEY



*May Vincent (Peter's mum) aged 100  
really enjoying the live music from 'Silmor'  
at our recent village fete.*



**NEWSLETTER**  
*October 2021*

Editorial

We are having a great summer of fundraising once again in Middleton – Open Gardens, the Fete, Macmillan coffee morning, Steps of a Nurse, Ride and Stride, Thames Bridges, all raising fabulous amounts. Let’s hope it continues into the upcoming Autumn Fair and Lynda & Colin’s Festive lights for the Air Ambulance (though I’m not sure I want to start thinking of Christmas just yet!)

Our front cover photo this time is the amazing May – who was in her element both at the fete and at the recent musical afternoon at the Bell, listening, clapping and tapping her feet along to ‘Silmor’. Brilliant to see!

A few people are beginning to ask about the MCC Christmas Party - a decision is to be made at our next meeting in November due to the still uncertain-ness about being in close proximity to others indoors and whether the rules might change again. This decision will be after the next newsletter has gone out so I will send an ‘extra’ flyer out both by email and printed for those who don’t have the email version. Keep an eye out for it in early November.

Last month I printed a letter from a resident with only initials on it instead of a full name which caused a bit of a problem with mistaken identity. This was entirely my fault, not the person writing, for which I have already apologised to both parties.

Contributions for the next newsletter to me by email preferably as a WORD doc please to [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) or 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October** - back to the normal day.

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual. Also to be found on the Parish website. [www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk](http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk).

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**Lesley’s Vegetarian Curry Night , also gluten free**

**Friday 15th October**

Pakorras and chutneys

Roasted butternut squash, red pepper and chickpea curry.

Stuffed aubergine

Spicey Dal

Microwavable rice provided

£12.50 pp

Orders by Tues 12th Oct.

Contact Lesley 07970257329

taylormadeflowers@yahoo.co.uk



Reminder

**Four fun, workshops de-mystifying the Bard on Fridays October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 – 9pm - “Why Did Shakespeare Write Like That?” - no acting experience necessary! Contact Simon (see above) to book - £10 per workshop or £35 for all four – 20% discount for students.**







### Update from Mandy

We tried to take selfies at each location but some worked better than others!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored us - we managed to visit a total of 12 churches in Aldeburgh, Aldringham, Leiston, Theberton, Westleton and of course - Middleton. We were accompanied by Blodwyn the dog (on loan for the w/e!) and did a mixture of (mostly) walking and some cycling. It was a brilliant day, the weather was kind to us and there was a super atmosphere as we met and lapped with other cyclists enroute (interestingly not so many other walkers) - and all the churches were manned with friendly, welcoming volunteers who provided much-needed refreshments.

We've raised over £500 for this endeavour - to be split between Suffolk Historic Churches Trust with 50% coming to Middleton's Holy Trinity. If anyone else wants to donate, it's not too late! Our JustGiving page will close on 15th October 2021 - <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mandy-beaumont>



"Many thanks to Mandy, Steve, Adam, Naomi and Blodwyn for their amazing stamina and huge success in raising over £500, and to Paul and Amanda for setting up Middleton Church on the day to welcome riders and walkers from all over East Suffolk. I will let you know the total funds raised across the county when everything is totalled up."

Thanks and best wishes, Jonathan.

Dear Mandy,

On behalf of Holy Trinity a big thank you for undertaking Ride & Stride from which our church will benefit.

Great photos and a great sum raised visiting so many lovely churches.

Thank you.

Rita



**Thames Bridges Trek update – and many, many thanks!**

Saturday 11 September 2021 – Graham’s 60<sup>th</sup> birthday – and as an alternative celebration we walked the Thames Bridges Trek in aid of CRY. We started at Bishop’s Park SW6 and crossed 16 bridges from Putney Bridge to Tower Bridge (see picture with Angus and Hebe who joined us at the Tower of London) and we finally finished in Southwark Park SE16. We had to cross the Golden Jubilee Bridge twice, each side of the railway line, so you could possibly say it was 17 bridges! We raised £1,300 and have been overwhelmed and touched by everyone’s support. After walking 46,500 steps overall that day (about 35km – over 20 miles) we still found the energy to celebrate with family in the evening and thoroughly enjoyed what was a very unique and memorable birthday. Thank you so much to everyone who donated.

Graham & Trish Cooke



**MIDDLETON-cum-FORDLEY SUMMER FETE 2021**



For the first time in around twenty years, the Village Fete took place on the Playing Field, bringing back fond memories for many long-time residents of the village but only one or two who are on the Community Council Committee can remember the last time it was held there, a time when the village had more families with younger children. The size of the field is rather daunting as a smaller fete could easily become lost but with initial planning and site meetings an enclosed, rectangular format was decided upon in order to create a more intimate feel and it worked.

With the Comic Dog Show arena in the centre, the new pavilion as a hub for refreshments and food and the stalls and activities surrounding it had the feel of a vibrant event well capable of interesting the large crowds who attended.

Only a few tables and items needed to be transported from the Village Hall as all the other stalls and equipment are stored in the container on the field. This facilitated a streamlined assembly of the structure of the fete and many thanks go to the Committee members and all those other helpers who arrived on Friday evening and Saturday morning which enabled everything to be ready for action an hour or so before the opening at 2pm.

The heavens opened, as if on cue. It was sharp but fortunately short lived and the fete continued during an afternoon which continuously improved weather wise. (Someone even remembered

our tatty old ‘good luck’ tent which had superstitions surrounding it and the weather for many years!)

The Community Plate was awarded to the W.I. for their 100 years of service to the community and the event began and jogged along pleasantly supported by ‘SILMOR’, a local band and May, their 100 year old biggest fan!! (see front cover photo!)



The fete continued well into the afternoon with plenty of food, BBQ, pancakes, teas, coffees, cakes, ice creams, vegetarian paella and a bar. The stalls, which included Peta’s Pottery, Holy Trinity and the WI all experienced brisk business and all did well, and the more ‘hands on’

activities were heartily supported.





Basketball, boules, miniature gardens, crockery smashing, a coconut shy, bowling, splat the rat, tins a fairground stall and of course the egg throwing and comic dog show, combined to keep the crowds entertained throughout the afternoon. Unfortunately there's not room for pictures of everything!

Some of the winners:

Best in show : Bramble (with Lynda)

Boules - Rob and Jude.

Eggs - Liam & Steve



The event proved to be the most successful ever with more income than usual and fewer outgoings. The profit was well over £2000 and this will be used to support future events and buy items and resources for the use of the village residents.

Many thanks go to everyone who gave their time and energy to create a very successful and enjoyable event. All the people running stalls, activities and competitions, the car park attendants, all Committee members, Leiston Vets for judging the dog show and providing prizes, those who gave generous donations, to the tombola, raffle and bar, Nigel for taking all the photos, the Summer Winers for strimming and tidying up beforehand, the First Aider and the residents of Back Lane and Fletcher's Lane for tolerating what must have felt like the M25 for a few hours!

The Committee members extend their thanks to everyone who participated, no doubt pleased to attend an enjoyable, outdoor, communal event during these trying and concerning times. Many compliments were heard.

We look forward to similar success at the Autumn Fair based around the Bell and wish to thank Julian, Leroy and staff for their co-operation in its organisation.

See you all on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Richard Turner



Possibly the smallest ever entrant to the dog show?



### Autumn Fair also known as MAFAFAM

This year Middleton Autumn Fair is due to go ahead as normal on Saturday 9th October starting at 12pm. With the success of the Summer Fete it all seems possible despite Covid. The event is held outside and Covid protocols will be in place.

Many people both long term residents and those more recently arrived often ask why MAFAFAM? What does it mean? It stands for Middleton and Fordley Autumn Food and Music. The long name got shortened to MAFAFAM resulting in many no longer knowing what was being referred to so a few years ago it was changed by the community council to The Autumn Fair.

It is an opportunity before winter sets in to get together and celebrate all things autumnal. As well as food and music, this year from The Random Blues Band, there are many games and contests for adults and children to enjoy and the hard-fought apple pie competition with the wonderful prize of a turned apple donated once again by Mr Wickens. Thank you.

Apple pies should be submitted between 12 and 12.30pm



This year the local school children will have their scarecrows on display.

We look forward to a good turn out where you can catch up with old friends, make new ones while enjoying some special autumnal food and entertainment. Come along, tell your friends and let's have fun.

Fiona Cusack

***There is no set recipe governing the apple pie entries except it should be a pie not a tart and up to 12" diameter. Anyone any age can enter, but get them in by 12.30.***

***We do ask if we can sell off slices of the pies after judging but entries may be returned if required.***

***Judging criteria will include taste, presentation and quality of the pastry.***

***Please remember to reclaim your plates/dishes at the end of the event.***



# Middleton-cum-Fordley AUTUMN FAIR

W.I. Stall

REAL ALE

Variety of Food

PUMPKINS  
and  
CONKERS

RAFFLE

Apple Pie  
Competition

Autumn Activities  
and Competitions

Random Blues Band

PYGMY GOATS, SHEEP  
AND PONY

TEAS and REFRESHMENTS



SCARECROWS

Bell Meadow

Middleton

12 noon

Saturday 9th October 2021





## WI News

At our September meeting Sally Sibley gave us a talk on "Holding the Line--The Women of Sutton Hoo". The history of Sutton Hoo is usually told without much emphasis put on the contribution of women to this story. Sally who is a volunteer for the National Trust gave us a new slant on this history starting with the wife of Raedwald, King of the Angles. She along with all Anglo-Saxon women of that time enjoyed equal status with the men. The Anglo-Saxons were educated, clever weavers and crafts people. They wore bright colours and intricate jewellery. It really was not "the Dark Ages" as we have been led to believe. Raedwald, sometime in his life had converted to Christianity but his wife, being her own person, stuck with the old religion of Paganism. When the King died in about 625, it is probably his wife who decided to see him off to Valhalla in a Pagan burial. The site of the burial was on a hill so it could be seen from the river. She ordered that the grave be filled with a display of his wealth and all his personal belongings to see him on his journey, including his ship. This display was to impress all his people and enemies, 1300 years later it would impress the archaeologists.

In 1926 Edith Pretty (nee Dempster) bought her new husband Frank, Sutton Hoo House and estate as a wedding present. She was intrigued by the mounds on the property but left them alone until after Frank's death in 1934. Even then it wasn't until 1938 when guests at her house saw what they thought were ghosts on the mounds that anything happened. Edith, being a spiritualist, contacted a local archaeologist, Basil Brown, to start a dig. Gradually the perfect outline of the famous ship was revealed, the wood had rotted away. Other archaeologists joined in. One of them, Peggy Piggott, weighing the least was able to get down into the grave without disturbing the ship's outline, was the first to discover a precious gold and garnet object. It was one of 263 pieces found. The entire dig was photographed by 2 young school teachers, Marcie Lack and Barbara Flagstaff. Four hundred photos, some in colour, were taken for posterity. Edith Pretty was legally declared owner of the Sutton Hoo treasure and she refused to sell it to anyone. She felt an affinity with Raedwald's wife which made her think that the collection should stay as a whole. She decided to give it as a gift to the British people with the British Museum as the custodian. Edith died of a brain tumour in 1942. The property was eventually bought as a family home by Annie Tranmer. She realised the significance of the place so when she died in 1995 she left the Sutton Hoo estate to the nation. The National Trust bought it in 1998 and renamed the house Tranmer house in Annie's honour. Sally's talk was fascinating, the women in this story certainly helped to make sure that Sutton Hoo became one of Britain's significant treasures.

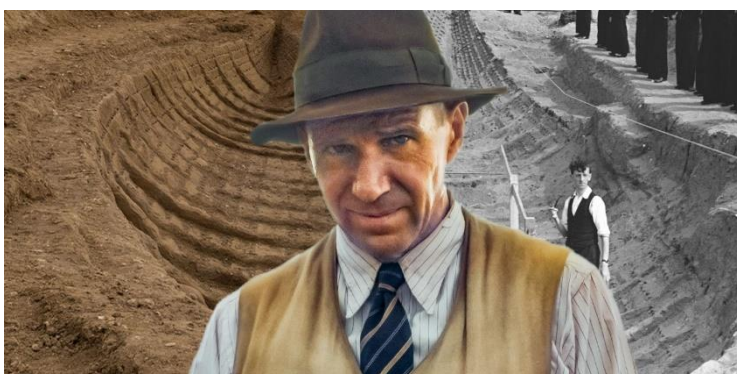
Also at our meeting, members were able to see the Middleton Plate awarded at the Fete by Richard Turner to the Middleton-cum-Fordley WI for long service to the community. We're very proud.

Our next meeting will be October 20th at 7:15pm. Julian Cusack will talk on "Nature and Well-being". Please feel free to come, we're happy to welcome you.

Lynne Venn



Tranmer House, Sutton Hoo.



Ralph Fiennes as Basil Brown in the Netflix film 'The Dig'

# HOLY TRINITY - MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY



## Services during October

There will be a **Benefice Harvest Festival Service at 11 am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Theberton Hall Farm.**

Lunch will be provided afterwards. We are asked to bring a folding chair or something to sit on. If it is wet the service will be held in Theberton Church.

**Sunday 10 October      Morning Praise 11am**

**Sunday 24 October      Holy Communion 9.30am with Theberton HERE**

Please do join us

## Holy Dusters rota from October 😊

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none...

6 October:    Rob and Paul	20 October:    Jonathan and Graham
3 November:    Paul and Rob	17 November:    Margaret and Nicola
1 December:    Irene and Amanda	15 December:    Mark and Liz

## Our thanks to the Summer Wine Group

I am sure that everyone who has noticed the difference as they walk through, would like to join us in thanking the Summer Wine Group for their recent work in the church yard.

## Village Fete

It was so good to see the Village Fete back up and running and huge thanks are due to its organisers who provided the church stall with a gazebo in record time when the heavens opened; what's that line about the rain falling on the just and the unjust?!

## Update on buttress work at the church

We are pleased to say that work is restarting on this from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September and will continue through to the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

As the work will involve deep excavations, the path will be closed from the Monday - with our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.      Fingers crossed.

## Eco Church

Holy Trinity has committed to A Rocha, a programme where churches are being asked to look at and act on the carbon footprint of our activities.

We will be undertaking an audit of our buildings and land, among other things, and have made a start by applying for and being granted swift boxes for installation on the church.

The initiative is being promoted as churches response in preparation for the COP26 climate summit in November. [Arocha.org.uk](http://Arocha.org.uk) gives further information.

Part of the programme is to involve the wider community, and as such the PCC would welcome any ideas for us to consider taking forward.

Please contact Rob.buxton1954@gmail in the first instance.

## Open Gardens – a final update

We are delighted to report that, now the final sums have been done, an amazing £5,510.40 was raised from this event. Our continued thanks go to everyone who played their part...

Amanda Taylor

## Thought for the Month

'We will never look into the eyes of someone God does not love. As far as we are able, let us choose to be kind...'



The recent Macmillan coffee morning was a great success though no further details available at the time of going to press.



**BLACKED  
OUT BRITAIN  
PRESENT AN EVENING OF**

# **GHOST STORIES**

**8-11.00 PM  
SAT & SUN  
23/24 OCTOBER**

**TICKETS  
07835  
144198**

**WE INVITE  
YOU TO JOIN US BY  
THE FIRESIDE FOR AN  
ENJOYABLE EVENING OF  
SUFFOLK GHOST STORIES  
TOLD BY SIMON BRIDGE.**

**£7.50**

**ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY  
TRADITIONAL BAR  
TEA & COFFEE**

**HILL HOUSE HALL,  
TITLE RD, MIDDLETON, IPI7 3NF**

Saturday is sold out but there are a few tickets left for Sunday's performance.

## October Nature Notes

As autumn comes upon us, early mornings often carry heavy dew which settles on a myriad of spiders' webs. Spiders build web all year round but we never realise how many there are until droplets settle on the threads and allow them to be seen. It has been estimated that there could be in excess of two million spiders in an acre of rough grassland in autumn.

Webs allow spiders to catch prey without having to expend energy by running them down, thus it is an efficient method of gathering food. Constructing the web is in itself an energetically costly process because of the large amount of protein required, in the form of silk. However, after a time the silk will lose its stickiness and become inefficient at capturing prey. It is common for spiders to eat their own web daily to recoup some of the energy used in spinning, the silk proteins are thus recycled.

British spider webs fall into six main categories: orb, sheet, tangle, funnel, lace, radial and purse. The simplest are the tangle, which look like a haphazard array of threads – they often occur in houses and collect dust as they age. Funnel webs are a non-sticky, narrow silken funnels, providing the spider's retreat while it waits for prey, surrounded by large silken sheets. When built by the large 'hairy' house spiders the webs can obtain considerable size as several generations can refurbish the webs. These are what often people think of as cobwebs. Lace webs are similar to funnel webs in that they have a tubular retreat but instead of a surrounding silken sheet they have more loosely spaced threads that look more like lace, whereas radial webs have single lines of silk radiating from a silken tube. The lines function as trip wires to alert the spider hiding inside the tube to prey wandering past. Unlike most other web types that entangle prey, this one simply alerts the spider to its presence. They tend to hunt nocturnal insects such as moths as well as wasps and bees.

**Sheet webs** are thin sheets of silk that are spun between blades of grass or branches of trees and then a net of crisscrossing threads is built above the sheets. Here the spider clings to the sheet upside down while waiting for a meal. When an insect flies into the net, the spider runs up to the insect and pulls it through the webbing. Sheet webs are usually built by the Linyphiidae – the money spiders and the sheer numbers of webs visible on a dewy morning can be astounding.



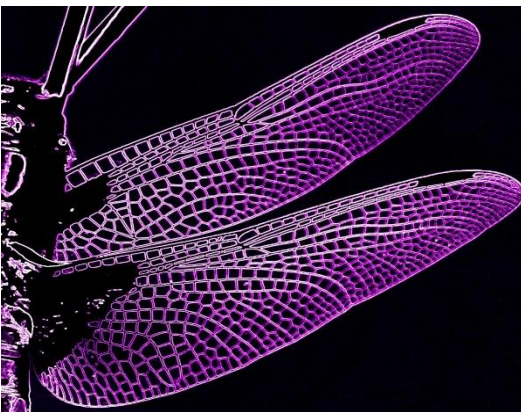
Orb webs are the most recognisable. Suspended vertically between branches of plants and trees the orb web structure is very efficient because it maximizes the surface area covered. Orb webs are often built in less than an hour and may be rebuilt daily. Threads of dry silk are extended from a centre point like the spokes in a wheel. These threads are not sticky, but sticky silk threads are added to connect the spokes and serve as the net to catch the insects that hit the web. These sticky threads are laid in a spiral pattern. After the web is set, the spider waits with its feet on the silk, feeling for the vibrations of caught prey. Some wait in the middle of the orb, while others wait at the edge along a trap line.

Peter Vincent



## The Wing Commander.

Dragonflies seem to be having a particularly good year in Middleton, perhaps something to do with some very unaccustomed weather in late spring and summer. Whatever, the magnificent little creatures seem to be everywhere, showing off their amazing stop-start, hovering, reversing, diving and climbing abilities quite apart from a tendency to pick a fight with any passing member of the same species. Their evolution on earth came before the dinosaurs; so as biological entities they have had plenty of time to perfect their flying skills. Their wings are truly objects of wonder. British dragon flies usually have transparent wings although world-wide, wings are often multicoloured. The wings are no more than a couple of inches long. They are held in two pairs and in damsel flies they are folded vertically over the back of the insect at rest, as opposed to being held straight out in the dragonfly as with an aircraft. The ultrathin transparent wings measure 2-3microns thick and are strengthened by a series of stiffening vein structures which allow variable shape and wing-profile, according to the stresses and demands of flight placed on the wing. To compare wing thickness with something human, our red blood cells measure 2microns in thickness. The dragonfly can control each wing independently in terms of its profile and the ability to produce lift. The really amazing feature is that each wing can be independently rotated at its root ie in its long axis. All this maneuverability comes under the command and control of the insect's tiny brain. How lucky we are to have this entertaining and fascinating creature to share our gardens.



A photo of a Middleton Moor broad bodied chaser dragonfly wing taken when it was resting on a reed. Colour altered to emphasise the wing structure and the arrangement of strengthening veins. The patterns of veins are symmetric when right wing is compared to left,



The owner of the wing shown above.

Ashley Brown



The Migrant Hawker spotted in our garden on Minsmere Rise...



...and a four spotted chaser seen on Darsham Marshes.

Steve & Bev Chamberlain



## Middleton Amateur Weather Station

## Rainfall Recordings

	1 year ago (2020)	10 years ago (2011)	20 years ago (2001)	30 years ago (1991)	Average (1991 – 2020)
February	85.5mm	52.0mm	94.0mm	31.0mm	50mm
March	24.5mm	8mm*	92mm	26mm	47mm
April	18mm	8mm	63mm	50mm	41.3mm
May	0.5mm	18mm	41mm	20mm	55.6mm
June	48mm	92mm	46mm	92mm	51.9mm
July	51mm	76mm	84mm	45mm	60mm
August	40.5mm	75mm	94mm	9mm	62mm
September	90mm	21mm	97mm	61mm	56mm
October	109.5mm	38mm	51mm	21mm	68mm

October

Driest year 1995 with 7mm

Wettest year 2000 with 157mm



### THE BELL INN MIDDLETON

OPENING HOURS  
TEL. 01728 648286

### BAR

MONDAY CLOSED  
TUESDAY 6PM – 11PM  
WEDNESDAY 12PM – 3PM / 6PM – 11PM  
THURSDAY 12PM – 3PM / 6PM – 11PM  
FRIDAY 12PM – 3PM / 5PM – 11PM  
SATURDAY 12PM – 3PM / 6PM – 11PM  
SUNDAY 12PM – 7PM

### FOOD SERVED

MONDAY / TUESDAY CLOSED  
WEDNESDAY LUNCH CLOSED  
WEDNESDAY EVENING 6PM – 9PM  
THURSDAY – SATURDAY 12PM – 2.30PM / 6PM – 9PM  
SUNDAY 12PM – 3PM

**FREE !!**

Drop-in coffee morning -  
continues Thursdays 10-11.30 am -  
Village Hall



All welcome for coffee/tea and  
cake.

Transport can be arranged if  
needed.

Contact Lesley 07970257329  
or Lynda 668977

Don't forget you can avail yourself  
of any of our new IT installations  
if you need to.

**The Bell Coffee mornings – every Wednesday  
10 -12**



# MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 7:00 PM VILLAGE HALL

## 1. Attendance and Apologies

### Attendees:

Cllr. Julian Cusack – Chair  
Cllr. Roy Dowding – Vice-Chair  
Cllr. Lesley Taylor  
Cllr. Steve Thorpe  
Cllr. Chris Reynolds  
Cllr. Colin Whitbread  
Cllr. Lynda Whitbread

### Apologies for absence:

Cllr. Dennis Peel  
District Cllr. Tom Daly  
District Cllr. Tony Cooper

### In attendance:

County Cllr. Richard Smith  
District Cllr. Russ Rainger  
Sharon Smith - Clerk/RFO  
7 members of the public

## 2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest None.

## 3. Public Forum

- a) The Chairman invited the members of the public present at the meeting to make representations to the Council during the discussion of specific agenda items.
- b) County Cllr. Richard Smith said he has attended many of the Sizewell C hearings online and he has been struck by how well prepared the Examining Authority is. They have read reports and are asking incisive questions of the applicant. During the previous round of hearings, EDF were not well prepared and they gave insufficient answers but they now appear better prepared and are heavily represented by legal advisers and experts. Cllr. Smith said the examination period ends on 14<sup>th</sup> October and there is all still to be fought for. Cllr. Smith praised the efforts of Stop Sizewell C and said they have raised the concerns of the community in a considered way. Cllr. Smith said that if Middleton cum Fordley Parish Council and Kelsale Parish Council wish Fordley Road to be closed then this will be hard to achieve as it will be a Highways decision. The Chairman replied that the Council had voted in favour of keeping Fordley Road open and it was Kelsale Parish Council's position to seek to close the road to prevent rat-running through its parish.
- c) District Cllr. Russ Rainger said he completed his induction and training only last week. He is now a member of the Licensing Committee.

## 4. Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
- b) The Council approved the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

## 5. Casual Vacancy

The Chairman explained that the Council has the power to co-opt a new member to fill a vacancy until the next election in 2023. The Chairman said that the vacancy was advertised on the noticeboards and that the Council had written to all residents, listed on the electoral roll, who live south of the B1122 (later confirmed as covering residents for Hawthorn Road, Trust Farm and Fordley Road only) and specifically invited them to apply. One resident, Graham Lacey, applied and was interviewed by the working group who were impressed by his skills and experience. Following the working group's recommendation, Cllr. Julian Cusack proposed that the Council co-opts Mr Lacey. Seconded by Cllr. Lynda Whitbread. All in favour. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was signed by Mr Lacey and witnessed by the Clerk and Mr Lacey joined the Council with immediate effect. Two members of the public, present at the meeting, complained that they had not received a letter inviting them to apply. Mr Lacey graciously stood down and the Council invited other members of the public to communicate their interest in being co-opted to the Chairman before the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to add the Casual Vacancy to next month's agenda.**

## 6. Sizewell C

Hawthorn Road - the Chairman said he had raised concerns with EDF as they had not directly engaged with residents and landowners in Hawthorn Road who will be severely impacted by the Sizewell Link Road. EDF said they would contact these residents but, to date, they have not done so.

The Chairman said he would reiterate the applicant's lack of engagement with significantly affected parties along the Sizewell Link Road if called to speak at the next Issue Specific Hearings on September 15th and 16th.

Fordley Road - the Chairman said the most contentious issue for the Parish continues to be Fordley Road. The Council has received representations from residents who would like the road to be closed and from residents who would like it to be kept open. The Council took the decision to support keeping the road open but when the Chairman raised this during a meeting with EDF on July 5th, they were adamant that they had examined the proposal and considered it a non-starter. The Chairman said that this remains EDF's stated position and it is exceedingly unlikely that they will put forward any further changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) application at this late stage. If the DCO is approved by the Secretary of State, EDF will have an obligation to build the Sizewell Link Road as set out in the DCO, subject to variations agreed with Suffolk County Council (SCC), which is the Highways authority. There may still be some room for EDF and SCC to agree changes to the design of the SLR therefore any lobbying now needs to be directed to SCC. The Chairman said he understood there is a group of residents who strongly want Fordley Road kept open but there is also another group who are concerned about rat-running, especially during a road traffic incident on the A12. One particular concern is that this could block access by emergency vehicles for considerable periods of time on many days during the construction period. Under the current road configuration (pre-Sizewell C) the Parish could possibly live with this existing problem (on a few days per year and for limited periods), but with Sizewell C traffic there is a greater likelihood of a road traffic incident and an increased risk of rat-running causing access problems to residents of Fordley Road. EDF say they will manage their own traffic to prevent diversions through Kelsale and Fordley, but other traffic will not be controlled by EDF and sat-navs may direct drivers along Fordley Road in large numbers. The Chairman said he understood the desire for connectivity in the Parish but that this must be balanced with the increased risk of rat-running and its impact on residents' health and security. In reply to a question from a member of the public, the Chairman replied that, if the DCO is approved as currently drafted, there will still be a southern access from the SLR to Fordley Road. The consensus in the Parish is that this is the worst scenario. EDF have been asked to reconsider this and their reply was to suggest that the Parish Council take it up with Highways. A member of the public said that he does not believe EDF will do anything not prescribed in the DCO therefore he asked if the Council should seek to have a Statement of Common Ground with EDF or was it the Council's intention to direct the community's lobbying to SCC. The Chairman replied that it depends on the stance that Highways will take post-DCO and whether they are empowered and funded to make changes. He said EDF are not expected to make any further changes to the SLR in the DCO and therefore the community's best hope is to engage with SCC about the design and layout of the route.

The Chairman proposed that the Council agrees to work with Kelsale Parish Council and to take expert and local advice to come up with a proposal to present to Highways which deals with the twin problems of connectivity and rat-running. Seconded by Cllr. Roy Dowding. All in favour.

It was therefore agreed that the Council resolves to seek agreement with Kelsale Parish Council to work on a joint proposal to SCC for a design change which would:

(a) Keep Fordley Road open for local non-SZC related journeys

(b) Remove or limit the impact of any use of Fordley Road as a diversion to avoid congestion on the A12 ('rat-running').

Cllr. Lynda Whitbread asked County Cllr. Richard Smith if SCC would accept a shared working group. County Cllr. Smith replied that the DCO has not yet been approved but we need to plan ahead. However, any plan would need to be legal and evidence-based to make changes. A legal order typically takes 18 months but there may be special circumstances set out in the DCO. Cllr. Smith suggested that we invite Steven Merry, the Sizewell C Highways representative, to a meeting with both Councils.

A member of the public asked if EDF deem that Fordley Road is capable of taking the traffic if there is an incident on the A12. The Chairman replied that EDF have not acknowledged that there will be any increased risk because, they say, they will manage their own traffic so that it does not add to the existing risk. A member of the public confirmed that there is an existing problem with rat-running in Fordley Road and if the proposed junction from the SLR remains then traffic will stop at the junction and back-up along Fordley Road. He said there are very few passing places and, as a resident of Fordley Road, he has experienced backlogs due to blockages on the A12. He said he considers this a severe and unacceptable risk to his life and property in an emergency.



**B1125** – a member of the public asked if the Council had contacted Westleton Parish Council about the B1125 junction with the SLR and the potential for rat-running there. The Chairman replied that he had made contact with Westleton and suggested that the Council seek to work with Blythburgh, Walberswick and Westleton Parish Councils about the wider network of roads from the north leading to the SLR/B1122. The Chairman said EDF's position is still that the B1125 junction to the SLR should remain.

**B1122** – Cllr. Roy Dowding presented the Council with proposals to improve pedestrian safety and vehicle access for the houses that front the B1122. The proposals, which include improved footpaths, a pedestrian crossing, gates at the approaches with a 20 mph limit applicable within them, permanent speed cameras and a realignment of the B1122, were drawn up by the B1122 Action Group following meetings with EDF. The Council agreed they needed more time to properly consider the proposals.

**ACTION: Cllr. Roy Dowding to circulate the proposals and plans for further discussion at next month's meeting.**

## **7. Recreation Ground**

a) The Council noted the annual play equipment safety inspection report and agreed to replace the posts supporting the cradle swings which are rotten. The Chairman said he had put in an order to Eastern Play Services Ltd to replace all four posts with steel ground fixings to prevent rot. The Council agreed that the other matters raised during the inspection did not require any urgent action at this time.

b) The Council agreed to consider the purchase of an awning to attach to the front of the pavilion.

**ACTION: Cllr. Chris Reynolds to liaise with the Community Council and seek quotes.**

c) Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that the replacement flooring for the pavilion has been ordered.

## **8. Parish Assets**

a) Cllr. Steve Thorpe suggested that new dog bins should be sited at the Village Hall, the Farm Shop and in Title Road. The Clerk advised that each dog bin will cost approximately £350 for supply, installation, licencing and emptying. It was agreed to further consider this when drawing up next year's budget. The Clerk said that East Suffolk Norse had advised that the broken lid to the dog bin in The Street cannot be replaced. The Council authorised expenditure of £174.65 for the purchase and installation of a new dog bin from East Suffolk Norse. The Council also agreed to instruct East Suffolk Norse to refit the dog bin at the junction of Back Road and Rectory Road for a cost of £64. **ACTION: Clerk to progress.**

b) The Council postponed consideration of ideas for using the telephone box until the next meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.**

c) The Council authorised repairs to the broken bench on the Green. **ACTION: Clerk to obtain quote.**

## **9. Highways/Footpaths**

a) It was agreed to inform Westleton Parish Council of the Council's concerns for public safety for users of a permissive path in Westleton parish. **ACTION: Clerk to progress.**

b) The Chairman reported that SCC, working with the Suffolk Ecology Team, had agreed to trial areas of highway verges which would remain uncut in the spring to allow wildflowers to set seed and spread. These Parish Wildlife areas include stretches of Littlemoor Road, Moor Road and Title Road in Middleton. SCC advised that these verges will be cut annually in the late summer or early autumn to manage growth and prevent encroachment into the highway and the Chairman said that Littlemoor Road has already been cut.

c) The Council postponed consideration of ANPR cameras on the B1122 until the next meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.**

d) Cllr. Lynda Whitbread, Cllr. Lesley Taylor and the Clerk agreed to progress downloading the data from the Speed Indicator Device. **ACTION: Cllr. Lynda Whitbread to arrange a meeting.**

e) Following a discussion, the Council proposed not to object or take further action if the owner of Fern Cottage on the Village Green carried out works to define the edge between the gravel garage access route and the Village Green with a soft, wooden edge.

It was noted that this was not consistent with the informal style of edging adopted elsewhere on the Green and that the Council's view is that there is no need for this work to be done. It recognised however that in this case a wooden edge of this kind had previously been permitted and therefore no objection would be made to its reinstatement by the present owner but that this was not a precedent for future owners of Fern Cottage.

## 10. Progress Reports

a) Village Hall – Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that she has applied for a further grant for the Drop-In Centre which will be decided in the first week of October.

Cllr. Chris Reynolds reported that the roofing contractor has agreed to safely dispose the asbestos within his original quote of £9,000 - £11,000. The Chairman said that fundraising and grants will be needed to fund this expenditure which will require the support of the Hall Management Committee. The Chairman explained that the Council is the Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall but it was not clear who had responsibility for the roof repair. It was agreed to obtain legal advice about the terms of the Trust.

**ACTION: Cllr. Julian Cusack to seek advice from Birketts.**

b) Hastoe Housing – Cllr. Lesley Taylor reported that her research had shown that the development is permitted under the Suffolk Coastal Exception Policy and that Gateway to Homechoice is the letting system utilised by the District Council which allows eligible people to bid for available properties. Cllr. Taylor summarised the allocation process, as set out in the s106 agreement, which states that each affordable dwelling must firstly be offered to an eligible person who has a local connection to Middleton, secondly to an eligible person from the neighbouring parishes and if no person qualifies under the first two categories then thirdly to those where letting would result in under-occupancy. This means that Middleton residents who bid to under-occupy would only be successful if the scheme has not been filled by eligible applicants under the first two categories. Cllr. Taylor said this was challenged previously by the Council and the District Council had confirmed by email that under-occupancy was permissible, however Cllr. Taylor is concerned that this permission was not appended to the s106 agreement and it may not be taken into account when the letting system deals with the allocation. Cllr. Taylor said she had written to the District Council asking for this to be written into the s106 agreement but she has not yet received a reply.

c) Summer Wine Group – Cllr. Colin Whitbread thanked the Council for the grant to commemorate the three founding members. The Summer Winers are carrying out clearing work on the Moor.

## 11. Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

The Council agreed to postpone consideration of a joint community event to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee until the next meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to add to next month's agenda.**

## 12. Finance

- a) The Council noted the latest financial position, including receipts.
- b) The Council approved the bank reconciliation for Quarter 1 2021-2022.
- c) The Council authorised the payments below:

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	Sharon Smith	£274.20	LGA 1972 s.112
Clerk's Expenses	Sharon Smith	£35.56	LGA 1972 s.111
Pavilion Electricity	British Gas	£22.64	LGA 1972 s.19
Pavilion Cleaning	Julian Cusack (Julia Gutunoiu)	£60.00	LGA 1972 s.19
Play Equipment Inspection Report	David Bracey	£120.00	PHA 1936 s. 87
Recreation Ground Mole Control	Gary Denny	£145.00	PHA 1936 s. 87
Insurance Premium	Business Services at CAS Ltd	£484.12	LGA 1972 s.111

## 13. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the correspondence received between 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

## 14. Items for the Next Agenda

- a) Casual vacancy
- b) Proposals for the B1122 including ANPR cameras.
- c) Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

- d) Village bus service.
- e) Telephone box.

### 15. Next Meeting

The Council agreed the date and time of the next meeting of the Council which is scheduled for Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.

.....

**Open Cribbage Evening – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 7pm – beginners /novices welcome, as are any new residents to the village who would like to play a few friendly games. (We have no league match that evening )**

**Contact Barbara if interested [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com)**



### Suffolk Coastal Petanque Memorial Triples Tournament

19<sup>th</sup> September – Carlton Park , Saxmundham

Richard, Jenny and Barbara took part in the above tournament last week which was held (and has been for several years with the exception of 2020) in memory of players from all our local teams who have passed away. It's a tournament with a difference as you don't enter as a team, but as individuals, and you get drawn with two other players – possibly whom you've never met before!

Out of a starting line -up of 22 teams we all ended up on a winning side! Barbara was with Ginny and Les and we ended up winning the Bronze final. Jenny's team with Baillie and Stefan won the Gold consolage (don't ask!) final, but Richard's team –with Steve and Lynn - were the outright winners of the whole day! Congratulations!!





## ADVANCE NOTICE !

(but it'll be here before we know it! )



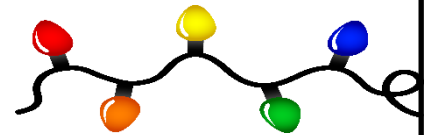
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## Diary Dates for 2021

### October

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Benefice Harvest Festival Service **11 am** on Theberton Hall Farm  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Mafafam ( Autumn Fayre) **12-3.30pm**  
Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting , Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> W.I. - Village Hall -7.15pm- Julian Cusack - Nature and Well-being.

### November

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Cribbage evening - beginners welcome -  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting , Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - **7.15pm**- Doug Bone -- Antarctica and me.

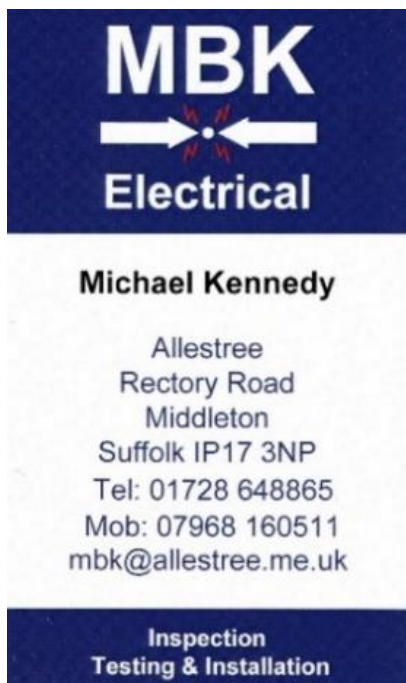
### December

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Santa Boules **10 am** Playing Field  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> MCC party (maybe)  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Parish council meeting , Village Hall **7pm**  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> W.I. Village Hall - A festive celebration.  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Charity Christmas Light Display, Suncot, Middleton Moor **6-8pm**



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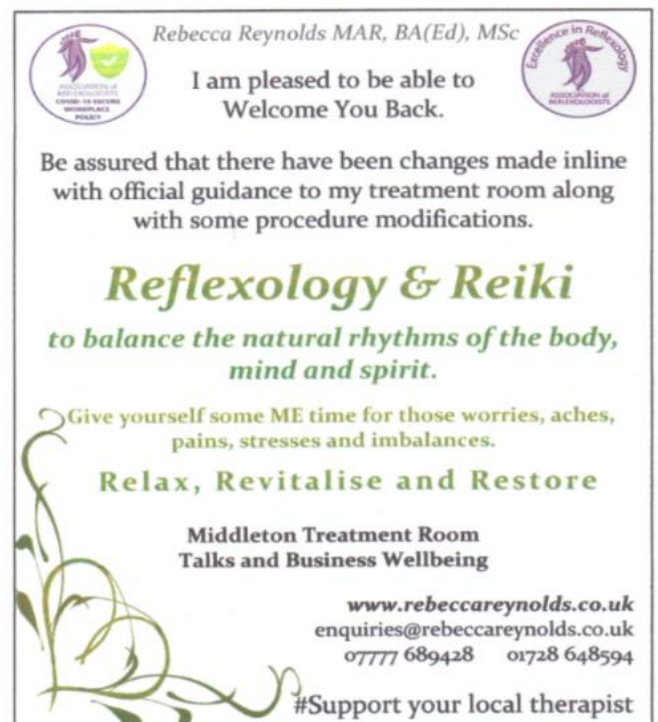


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**Michael Kennedy**

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