

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Editorial

Thanks to Ashley for one of this month's front cover photos entitled Badgers freely roam in Middleton at night. (Night camera August 2026) The eclipse photo is mine – the image projected onto a piece of white paper. Ashley's other two photos below were taken during the other massive local event in August, the Dunwich Fire, showing Holy Trinity church steeple silhouetted against the smoke from Minsmere and a dust devil rising above the fire site in a westerly wind.

With so many photos again this month I've had to go to 20 pages again but at least it shows what is going on in the village.

Contributions for the next issue can be emailed to barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road by **Tuesday 22nd September** please.

This (and past issues) can be found on the Parish website :

www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk

Donations may be made to:
HSBC Middleton Newsletter
sort code 40-28-33
account number 61054236



Coming soon – 15th September to be precise – free taster sessions in Boccia and New Age Kurling in the Village Hall. Intrigued – come along at 2pm and have a go! Contact Lynda thewhitbreads@gmx.co.uk



Buy The Bell Inn Campaign Update



Thank you so much for putting the wind under the sails of our campaign to buy The Bell Inn for our community. We really appreciate all your support, and we are on our way to reaching our target. We can't stop the momentum however, and our deadline of 20th September is not that far away.

The major news since the last newsletter is that we've achieved exempt charitable status, which means that we can now receive donations under the Gift Aid scheme. This is great news as it means that for every eligible £1 donated, we receive an extra 25p at no extra cost to yourself. We are one of only 3 organisations like us that have managed to achieve this (to our knowledge) and it's a big boost to our campaign.

Over 100 shares have now been bought, and the donations are flooding in. If you have pledged money and paid, thank you. If you have still to pay, then please consider doing this now as we need all the funds in as soon as possible.

For everyone that attended our Summer Soiree at Two Hoots on the 15th August – a massive thank you (see item below for more details and pictures) – it really was a perfect evening and one that we'll remember for a long time.

We are aware that everyone has been really rallying round to support our campaign and as a little thank you, we've decided to not charge people entry (previously £10pp, children free) to our Party in the Park on Sunday 6th September – see the advert and below for more details. We would like as many people as possible to come along and join in, so please bring yourselves, family and friends for what should be a fun afternoon. It is a fundraising event, so if you can afford to donate a little more or participate in the Auction, that's wonderful. We're in a donated marquee – thank you Kayleigh – so it will be a little like our very own afternoon festival in Middleton.

If you haven't supported us yet, please consider joining the village in its efforts by:

- **Buying shares and/or donating** – the easiest way to do this in by completing the forms on our website and making payments directly into our bank account.
- **Donating** via our Crowdfunder site – an easy way to encourage friends and family to support our campaign – the more people donate, the more it encourages others to do so.

Please share our news and ways of supporting us widely to your network of friends, family and colleagues. Every contribution matters and we still have around £50,000 that we need to raise. The links for buying shares and donating are on our website www.middletoncbs.org

You can also help by buying:

- **Raffle tickets** (£5 for a book of 5 tickets, 1st prize £500, 2nd prize £250, 3rd prize £100 with various local vouchers – the draw is on the 9th September so don't miss out);
- **Dogs of Middleton calendars**, featuring our very own canine superstars for £10 each. To buy raffle tickets or calendars see members of our committee, buy at the village fete or our events on the 30th August and 6th September or send an email to enquiries@middletoncbs.org.

We still have a number of donated paintings for sale – you can view them on our website and if you want to have a look in person just drop an email to enquiries@middletoncbs.org.

Future events

We've got some exciting events for you to come along to, enjoy and help us reach our target:

Party in the Park 2-8pm Sunday 6th September. Join us in our marquee for a fun afternoon with friends, our compered Auction of Promises and finished off by our very own Middletones band playing hits of the 80's (featuring Gillian, George, Harry and Glen). Bring your own picnic and chairs (some chairs will be on site) with drinks available to buy from the bar. Dancing will be encouraged and bring a torch as it might be dark on leaving.

Line Dancing with Zara at the village hall – 12-1.30pm, Saturday 31st October, £15 per person (all proceeds to the campaign). Ever fancied learning to line dance? Zara is a professional dance teacher and promises a fun filled hour where you'll learn the basics and then put your new skills into practice. Stetsons and boots optional – but highly recommended! Book your place by emailing enquiries@middletoncbs.org.

Our launch publicity

We had some great coverage of our launch online and in the printed newspapers the East Anglian Daily Times and the national Times (which was also picked up by other regional and syndicated news platforms). Gillian also was interviewed on BBC Radio Suffolk, who are following up the campaign in September. A shout out to Ed Halford, our village journalist who wrote the Times article and also helped us get the supportive quote from Ralph Fiennes, Charles Mackesy and Helen Atkinson-Wood.

Our launch date was unfortunately thwarted by the fire on Dunwich Heath, which was understandable as it diverted TV crews and journalists to Westleton covering a major and devastating event on our doorstep. That's how it works with the press – but we have received a number of donations and share purchases from people nationally who have read the stories, including one of £1,800 so thank you for everyone who turned up (twice in some cases) for the photo shoot outside the pub. It was all worth it!

Middleton villagers fundraise to buy The Bell Inn pub

2 HRS AGO BUSINESS



The Bell Inn, Middleton, where the locals are fundraising to buy the pub which is on the market. (Image: Lucy Taylor)



By Dominic Bareham
Reporter



Actor Ralph Fiennes rallies to save village pub

The Harry Potter star has teamed up with Blackadder actress Helen Atkinson-Wood and other pubgoers to buy the Bell Inn in Middleton for the community

thetimes.com



A flavour from the Soirée at Two Hoots on August 15th . Photos courtesy of Charlie and Nigel who sent many more that there wasn't room for but I've squeezed few more in towards the end of this newsletter!





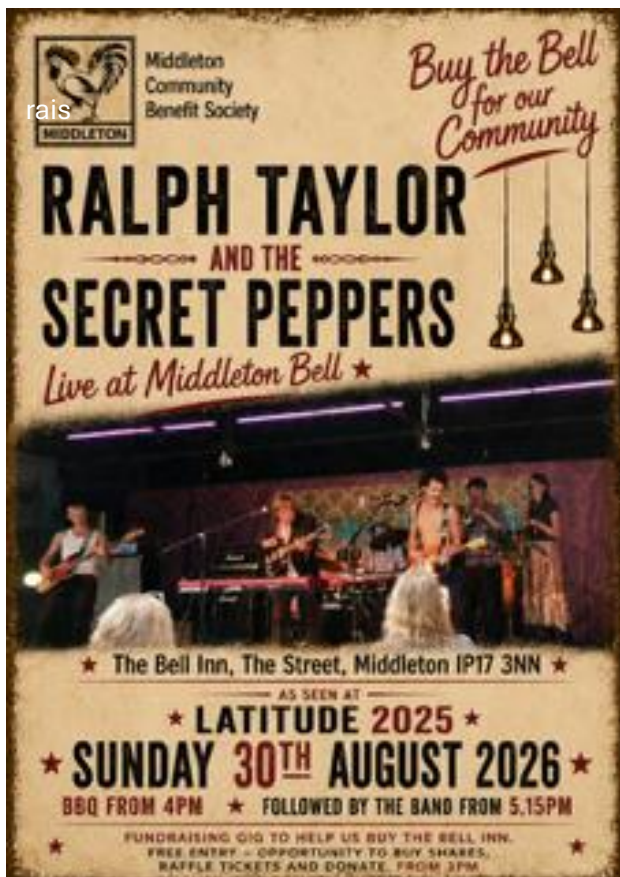
On behalf of the Middleton Community Benefit Society and everyone who helped make this happen, we would like to say a huge thank you for all the amazing prizes and promises donated to our Summer Evening Soiree, held on Saturday 15th August.

Special thanks go to Nigel & Marilyn, who very kindly allowed us to use their beautiful garden in which to host the event, and Peta & Alistair, who catered for 80 people, the most delicious food and canapes. You were amazing. Thank you to Hebe for entertaining us all at the beginning of the event so beautifully and our very jolly auctioneer James Durrant was courtesy of Clarke and Simpsons. We also must thank Westleton Parish Council for the use of their marquees and the labour provided alongside them. The evening was a huge success and we raised close to £10,000 which was much more than we had hoped for.

Everyone who attended expressed what a wonderful evening it was and how lovely it was to see the village coming together in support of our quest to save our pub that is such a vital part of our community.

Once again, many thanks. K.G. Hopefully the second one on September 6th will be just as successful.

DON'T FORGET THIS SUNDAY 30th AUGUST



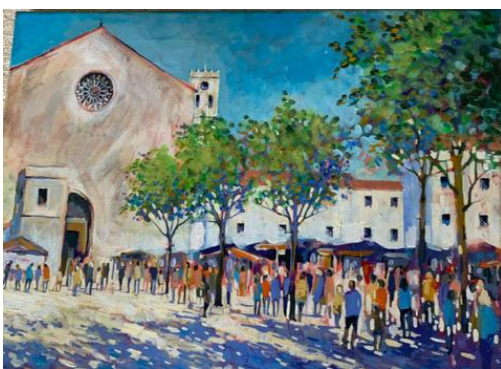
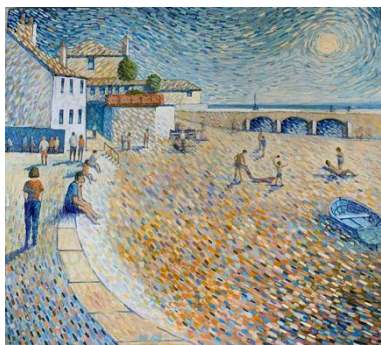
...and thank you to Nick and Pete playing as 'Loose Ends' for playing to a large crowd on Saturday 22nd and helping to raise more cash.





Village Picnic Auction of promises lots.

1	Aldeburgh Golf Club 9-hole River Course Voucher for 4	14	English Whiskey Company tour & tasting for 1 in Norfolk
2	Hands on Sheep Day with local Coloured Ryelands in Middleton	15	Jenny Merredew decorated Christmas Cake
3	Graham Cooke Piano Tune	16	Guided tour for 4 of private Victorian Garden in Theberton
4	1-hour private Pilates lesson with Victoria Hayden	17	Gillian Stacey 3 x 45min Piano Lessons
5	High Lodge, Hinton Archery Voucher for 2	18	Cinema, Aldeburgh 2 x tickets
6	Leiston Sports Centre Family Swim & Court Hire Voucher	19	The Next Loaf Breadmaking course online
7	Morpheys Yoxford Bag of Coal & Bag of Logs	20	Adnams Gin tour for 2 in Southwold
8	The Southwold Flower Company Voucher	21	Beach hut in Southwold for a day. Lucky Stone No.47
9	O & C Butcher Clothing Aldeburgh Voucher	22	Suffolk Escape Rooms Saxmundham Voucher
10	Salter & King, Butchers Aldeburgh Voucher	23	Cinema, Leiston 2 x Tickets
11	Introduction to lace making for 3/4 with Barbara	24	Inflatable 3-man Canoe with accessories – Only used once.
12	Mark Mitchels Handmade Wooden Boxes x 3	25	A no-churn ice cream making experience with Lynda
13	Peter Vincent 1-day local nature study & walk	26	Carl Jacobs Painting -Beach Scene }
		27	Carl Jacobs Painting - Polenca Old town } see below
		28	Sue Winslett screen print - Wild Meadow Study }



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ALSO IN SEPTEMBER:

# It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning

## and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer care better for everyone, whoever and wherever they are

Place: The Middleton Bell

Date: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2026

Time: 10-12 noon

Contact: [fiona.cusack@btinternet.com](mailto:fiona.cusack@btinternet.com)



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC20383



**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

## **Middleton Christmas Craft Fair**

**Saturday 7th November 11 am till 3 pm. Middleton Village Hall.**

If you are interested in having a stall at this event, please contact Angela or Lynda.

Contact details ~ Angela 07847 313407 or email [angie.james@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angie.james@hotmail.co.uk)

Lynda 07890 067054 or email [lynda@thewhitbreadfamily.co.uk](mailto:lynda@thewhitbreadfamily.co.uk)



There are signs that the Summer Winers have been busy lately! The church notice boards have been replaced and the playing field one restored. Thanks chaps.



# HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

## Church Services during September

**Sunday 13 September      11am      A contemplative hour**  
with a nod to 'Together, we are Listening'

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/exploring-faith/our-bishops/together-we-are-listening/>

**Sunday 27 September      11am      Holy Communion**

*The Benefice Services this month will take place at 10am on Sunday 6 September at St Peter's,  
Yoxford*



## Village Harvest Festival Lunch at Holy Trinity Church

**Sunday 11 October 12 for 12.15pm**

**further details to follow in October Newsletter**

## Forest Church: Wander and Wonder

August saw the very first Forest Church service at Holy Trinity. We had 11 folk meet together to experience nature-based spirituality, most for the first time. Forest Church has seen growth in both the UK and the USA (where it is called Wild Church), as more and more people find they have their most meaningful spiritual experiences in nature. The gathering started under the trees at Holy Trinity and then moved to the even taller trees at Marsh Acre. We spent time listening to studies and stories of the wonders of nature; we took time to pay attention to our surroundings, as well as appreciate the beautiful landscape in which we live. Overall, it was a peaceful, joyous and meaningful experience.

David Burgess

## A Thank You to the Summer Winers

A special thank you to the 'Summer Winers' who cleared the saplings that had invaded the western corner of the churchyard; as well as some thick brambles that had overrun one of the graves. And, our thanks too, for supplying and fitting the smart new noticeboards in the porch. What kind fellows they are!

## Gravestones

Sadly, with the hot dry weather we have experienced, several of the headstones in the graveyard have started to tilt. Unfortunately, one near the lych gate entrance, has reached a point where it is possible it could fall. We will try to contact the family and ask if they would like to reinstate it. In the meantime, we will need to take action and lay the headstone flat, in order to prevent any possible accidents. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.



## Holy Dusters 🙏

2 September – Chris and David  
7 October - Nicola and Margaret  
11 November - Paul and Amanda  
2 December - Camilla and Val

23 September – Mark and Liz  
21 October - Trish and Graham  
25 November – Rob

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none.

## Thought for the Month

‘If your life is only about things that can be measured, it will always be limited; if your life is about the immeasurable, there will always be abundance.’

Gideon Heugh

## A QUICK UPDATE FROM THE B1125 ACTION GROUP

Following our most recent meeting & discussions with SZC, we have been promised modelling (which we believe should have been part of their due diligence) to show exactly how long it will take to use the A12>B1122>SLR (when built) compared to using the B1125. We continue to chase SZC and their modellers KMC Transport Planning Ltd for this information on pretty much a daily basis and would like to say we will have something to report on this very soon...

In the meantime we continue to pressure SCC, ESC and Suffolk Constabulary for sensible speed restrictions and enforcements to make the B1125 a safer road and our MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter's online campaign - [www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org/b1125ratrun](http://www.jennyforsuffolkcoastal.org/b1125ratrun) is putting pressure on the decision makers to act sooner rather than later. Please add your name to the campaign if you have not already done so.

Many thanks, as always, for your continued support  
**B1125 Action Group**



## Carpet Bowls

Fancy giving it a go? Come along to the Village Hall on Thursday evenings 6.30 and try your hand (literally!) Starts 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Beginners welcome - tuition given if required or if you've played before you might teach us a thing or two!!!

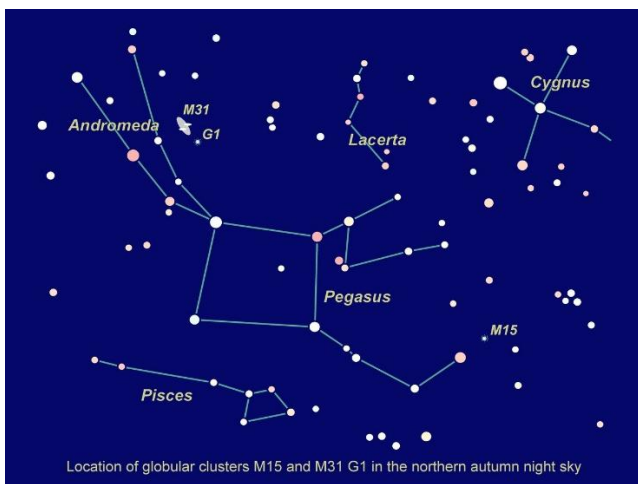
We do play in a local league but that hasn't recommenced yet.

## Middleton Dark Skies

### September Highlights

**Planets on View.** **Venus** is still visible in the western evening twilight, setting at around 8.00pm. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> Venus will be at its maximum brightness. **Mars** rises at around 1am in the constellation of Gemini, shining at roughly the same brightness as the two main stars of Gemini, Castor and Pollux. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, Mars, Castor and Pollux will be in line with each other. A brilliant **Jupiter** rises at around 3am in the constellation of Cancer. **Saturn** rises at 8.00pm and tracks across the southern sky for most of the night.

**Constellations** The **Plough** (part of the Great Bear) is almost directly North and down towards the horizon, while **Cygnus** having been overhead for most of the summer, is now starting to slip down towards the SW. This month sees the winter constellations start to push in from the East, with the **Pleiades** and **Taurus** rising at around 10.00pm, but some of the summer ones are still there and as the nights are drawing in fast, these are becoming easier to see. **Andromeda** and **Pegasus** dominate the southern sky with the distinctive W shaped **Cassiopeia** almost overhead, if slightly north.



Andromeda and Pegasus

Starlink satellite 'train' prior to separation spread

**The Milky Way.** Running from the NE to the SW and arching directly overhead, this almost cloud like structure is a magnificent sight in the dark skies above Middleton. The Milky Way Galaxy contains between 100 and 400 million stars and it is calculated that there may be just as many planets within it.

**The Moon** Known by the name of The Harvest or Corn Moon this month and will be full on the 26<sup>th</sup> when it will be just to the right of the planet Saturn.

**Meteors** On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup>, you may catch a few meteors from the strangely named 45P-ids meteor shower, the radiant of which is just below the Square of Pegasus out towards the SE.

**Artificial Satellites.** Plenty of these to see, perhaps too many, just stand out for 30 mins or so and you should be able to spot several moving across the sky. They usually move from the West to the East, but there are also several that move South to North/North to South. Some satellites move in small groups or in a line, so always fun to watch out for these. You may also notice the occasional flash or flare up of light as the sun is reflected from the solar panels on some of the larger satellites.

**Note** On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month, the nights become longer than the days!!

## September Nature Notes

Leeches are commonly perceived negatively due to their blood-sucking behaviour, though in Britain, only one rare species can penetrate human skin. The majority of leeches are predatory, while some species feed on decaying matter. Belonging to the phylum Annelida, the same as earthworms, leeches bodies have true segmentation. However, unlike earthworms, leeches have a fixed number of body segments, totalling 34 from hatching. They possess both an anterior and a posterior sucker, which are disc-shaped and crucial for locomotion and feeding. The posterior sucker primarily aids in movement, while the anterior sucker is used for feeding and securing a host. These adaptations, in conjunction with their muscular bodies and developed sensory systems, enable leeches to pursue prey effectively, as they are all predatory or parasitic carnivores.

In Britain, there are 17 species of leeches, mainly found in ponds, streams and rivers, with one species being amphibious and a few are marine species. Leeches range in size from 10 to 100mm in length, but some can extend up to six times their normal length. They have flattened, segmented bodies that are generally dark in colour but can change slightly to blend in with their surroundings. Each terminal segment is equipped with attachment suckers and a brain. The head segment is smaller than the posterior segment and features three blades with teeth forming a Y-shaped jaw. It uses the sucker to attach to prey and then deploys the proboscis with teeth to begin feeding, while expressing an anticoagulant to prevent blood clotting. The type of prey food is specific to the species, with some feeding on small invertebrates such as snails, insect larvae or worms, while others prey on amphibians, fish and mammals. Leeches can consume up to five times their own body weight before detaching when sated. Identification of leech species is commonly based on the head shape and arrangement of eyes, which can vary from one to eight pairs. Although leeches have limited vision, they are highly sensitive to touch. They move in a distinctive looping manner and are adept swimmers, using undulating movements for propulsion. Leeches are hermaphroditic, possessing both male and female reproductive organs, but they can also reproduce sexually, with some species exhibiting specific breeding seasons. The interval from mating to egg-laying varies among species. Young leeches develop within eggs contained in cocoons, with the number of eggs per cocoon differing by species. These cocoons are typically laid on surfaces either submerged in water or just above the water line.



The Medical Leech (*Hirudo medicinalis*) is the most known leech species in Britain, being the largest of the freshwater varieties. Historically, leeches were used for bloodletting and treating infected wounds, with documentation of their medicinal use dating back 2,500 years. Due to their medical applications, the Medical Leech has been extensively harvested in the past and is now found in only localized areas in Britain. However, they are farmed to supply a small-scale resurgence in modern medicine.

Peter Vincent

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2026 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

"Please note that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider adding additional items suggested by residents to future agendas. If you would like to make such a request or contact the Parish Council on any other matter, please do so via the Parish Clerk on [clerk@middletonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@middletonparishcouncil.gov.uk)".

- 1 **Election of Chair.** A permanent Chairperson was not elected. Cllr Chris Reynolds signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office for the period 8 July 2026 to 9 September 2026. Councillors will be elected monthly until the role of Chairperson is filled. A Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be completed each month, as advised by SALC (see MPC Minute 13, Correspondence, Wednesday 11 March 2026).

A Vice Chairperson was not elected.

2 **Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Chris Reynolds (acting Chair)  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Ian Widginton  
Cllr Steve Thorpe

**In attendance:**

County Councillor John Matthews  
Parish Clerk  
Members of the public x 4

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Michele Kendall

3 **Councillors' Declarations of Interest.** None.

- 4 **Public Forum.** A MoP thanked the parish council for their efforts in securing a SZC grant to fund the new playground equipment at the recreation ground. Enquiry was made as to the ongoing maintenance of the new equipment and at what cost. It was confirmed that the equipment is under warranty and that there are funds available from the grant to keep up with any maintenance. Following this the equipment will be maintained financially under the precept, as with previous years.

It was confirmed, upon enquiry, that the current SID is broken. **Action: Clerk to make enquiries with previous councillor for key location to allow for removal and disposal.**

County Councillor John Matthews was welcomed to the meeting and gave a brief insight into his new role and acknowledged the problems faced by local villages including energy projects and new bin collections. An opportunity was made to enquiry after the progress of Causeway Farm. Cllr Matthews was unfamiliar with this matter. **Action: Cllrs Thorpe and Piercy to arrange a meeting with Cllr Matthews to advise on Causeway Farm/Hastoe Field.**

5 **Minutes**

- a) The Council approved the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 10 June 2026.

b) Matters Arising and Action Points

- \* Cllr Thorpe has received a reply from Hastoe Housing Association, stating that they would not represent their tenants regarding the field and proposed new build because they felt it more appropriate that the tenants themselves write their objections/support. There is, however, a housing officer, who would be happy to speak to the tenants about any concerns they may have. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to supply the clerk with the housing officer's email address to be shared with the Hastoe Field tenants.**
- \* Hugo Fox confirmed that a zip folder can not be uploaded to the village website and suggested that the photos are uploaded to the gallery. **Action: Clerk to upload footpath images to the gallery on the village website.**

- \* It was confirmed that Thorington Theatre will cut and bale the moor. Date to be confirmed. It was reported that dog walkers are not clearing up after their dogs on the moor.
- \* The Debit Card Policy has been put on the village website.
- \* The clerk is in receipt of answers to the vanESSA project communication received from ESC.  
**Action: Clerk to forward to ESC.**
- \* Suffolk In Blooms Campaign. An application has been made. If successful we will receive 250 bulbs.
- \* MPC will pay for 4 people to take part in the first aid training.
- \* A PDF cockerel image was sent to ESC but this was unsuitable. The date has now passed for sending another image and therefore the bike station will be represented by words only. **Action: Cllr Rowe to source a cockerel image that may be used on future publications.**

- 7 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.** The current issue on SZC is the closure of Pretty Road and the imminent closure of Hawthorn Road, just off the B1122 on 10 August. The former is currently causing a lot of rat runners along the latter, which is single track, numerous unsighted bends and the surface breaking up. The new signs at each end reading 'Not suitable for diverted traffic' does not appear to be working.

SZC offered to close Hawthorn Road early. The residents were informed and invited to comment, with four responding that they would like an early closure, but with continued access. This has been shared with SZC, but no response yet. Residents are concerned about the new dead-end effect on bin collections and deliveries. These issues will be raised this evening at the Main Site Forum in Leiston, along with the long-requested meeting with SZC, SCC and Theberton PC.

The Lionlink Consultation started on 7 July and finishes on 5 August. It was noted on documentation received by MPC that the 'Westleton area' was most likely to be affected by Lionlink. This is incorrect and needs addressing. It was further noted that maps provided by Lionlink are inaccurate. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to raise a complaint that Middleton are not listed as an affected area and to source accurate up to date maps.**

It was agreed that when the Lionlink public enquiry takes place, MPC should make representation to the inspectors for compensation, as we are responsible for managing the moor.

- 8 Causeway Farm/Hastoe Field.** Matters concerning the proposed community woodland were raised in terms of cost and maintenance, and whether there is an appetite in the village for this, given the time it will take for the woodland to mature. The need for / importance of footpaths was also mentioned. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to liaise with Cllr Piercy.**

The slurry tanks are still being monitored, and the underground tanks are still being investigated. The Nest Farms on the village hall field is still progressing and is not impacted by the announcement from SCC that the land would not be sold but leased.

- 9 The Bell Inn.** It is understood that the Middleton Community Benefit Society has been registered. Over £140,000 has been raised to date in donations. An initial Business Plan will be produced to give information to those considering purchasing shares. The official launch date is 23 July 2026, and further fundraising events will follow. It is hoped that £450,000 will be raised, to include working capital. It is understood, but this does need to be confirmed, that one does not have to be a village resident, nor a UK citizen to purchase shares.

- 9 Village Website Revamp** c/f

- 10 SID.** Westleton's SID will be in place next week. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to advise Clerk of date for insurance purposes.** The purchase of our own SID was discussed. **Action: Clerk to source SID availability for the village.**

- 11 Noticeboard.** The meeting was advised that arrangements for the repair of the door have been made.

## 12 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. Nothing to report.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Lines will appear on the recreation ground, ready for sports day.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. The B1125 Action Group have a meeting with MP Jenny Riddell-Carpenter on 17 July to discuss the oak trees and rat running.
- d) Middleton Moor. A MoP advised that professional advice from Barnes regarding the pond has recently been sought. Works would include drainage, removal of bull rushes, willow, silt and trees. However, it is thought that this will not be approved by Natural England. Barnes estimate for the works is £15,000. Contact has been made with SZC for the possibility of a community grant, with advice to make an application, although at this meeting it was suggested that the SZC Environmental fund may be more appropriate. The meeting was reminded that MPC are in receipt of a quote from Barry Day and Sons dated 2024, to carry out drainage, scraping and disposing of silt for £4650.00. It was agreed that competitive quotes need to be sought.

It was agreed that a suitable methodology should be provided to Natural England, that complies with the terms of our agreement with them. **Action: Cllr Cusack to write to Natural England referencing our agreement and including Barnes' methodology.** It is anticipated that the works will be carried out towards the end of the year.

## 13 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) The following payments were authorised.

| Details                           | Payee                             | Amount  | Power           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| NI Contributions P30 Q1           | HMRC                              | £181.12 | LGA 1972 s. 112 |
| Internal Audit Service 2026       | SALC                              | £502.80 | LGA 1972 s. 111 |
| Data Protection Fee (DD 19.07.26) | Information Commissioner's Office | £47.00  | LGA 1972 s. 111 |

The clerk confirmed that the insurance for the recreation ground play equipment has been removed from the Trust insurance and now forms part of the Parish Council insurance, as has been the practice in previous years.

The meeting was advised that an invoice has been received for village green grass cutting this year. Five cuts charged at £45 per cut. Last year each cut was paid at £40. **Action: Clerk to enquire why there has been an increase.**

- 14 Website Accessibility Statement.** As part of this year's audit, MPC were advised that our website accessibility needs to be tested. The clerk advised the meeting that Hugo Fox carried this out, on our behalf, and we received a score of 8/9 out of 10. The Statement has been updated accordingly and uploaded to the village website.

- 15 Correspondence.** The meeting was advised of the new HMRC Mileage Rates.

- 16 Items for Next Agenda.** None

- 17 Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF  
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2026  
AT 8.40pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Chris Reynolds (acting Chair)  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Michele Kendall

**In attendance:**

Parish Clerk  
Member of the public x 1

**2 To receive declarations of interest and to consider requests for dispensations.** None.

**3 Minutes**

Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 10 June 2026.

Matters arising.

- \* Insurance cover is now under MPC, not the Trust.
- \* MCC have agreed to replace, and pay for, the rotten wood surround the boules pitch, with steel. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to research quotes and advise MCC.**
- \* A new oven has been purchased for the pavilion.

**4 To review Safety Inspection Report.** Report received and noted.

**5 Pavilion**

- a) Pavilion cupboard. A quote has been received in the sum of £649 for materials and labour. The meeting was advised that two heat alarms still need to be purchased, one for the kitchen and one for the hallway, this was agreed. **Action: Cllr Reynolds to order.**
- b) Solar Panels/British Gas. Connecting solar panels to the smart meter and query on invoice amounts both remain ongoing. The meeting was advised that there is a nationwide problem whereby there are too many solar panel users and not enough businesses wanting to purchase the power. This problem is specific to commercial/non-residential organisations. East Green, who installed the pavilion solar panels, have recently started a brokerage operation whereby they undertake to secure power purchase agreements for their clients. The meeting was further advised that there is a nationwide exercise going on to update all smart meters to half hour readings, resulting in a more intelligent tariff. British Gas plan to roll this out in August, which may explain the problems that MPC are experiencing.

British Gas do offer a higher rate than their competitors and it was therefore agreed to give them until September's meeting to resolve their problems, following which consideration may be given to the East Green service.

**6 Finance**

The following payments were approved.

| Details                               | Payee                 | Amount  | Power          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|
| Advertising in July's Tide Magazine * | Leiston Press         | £37.80  | LGA 1972 s.137 |
| P30 Q1 Income Tax – Pavilion Manager  | HMRC                  | £135.00 | LGA 1972 s.112 |
| Oven – Currys                         | Parish Clerk (ratify) | £314.00 | LGA 1972 s.137 |

\*It was agreed at this meeting to pay for advertising in the August publication also.

**7 Correspondence.** None.

**8 Matters for discussion.** The clerk advised the meeting that British Gas are now asking for pavilion meter readings to be provided. It was agreed that the clerk will forward meter reading requests to the pavilion manager for action.

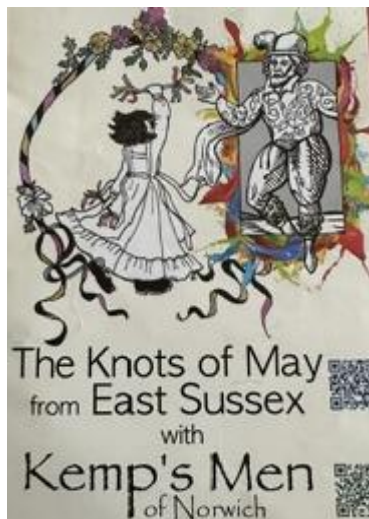
9 Consider Items for the next Agenda. None.

10 Next Meeting

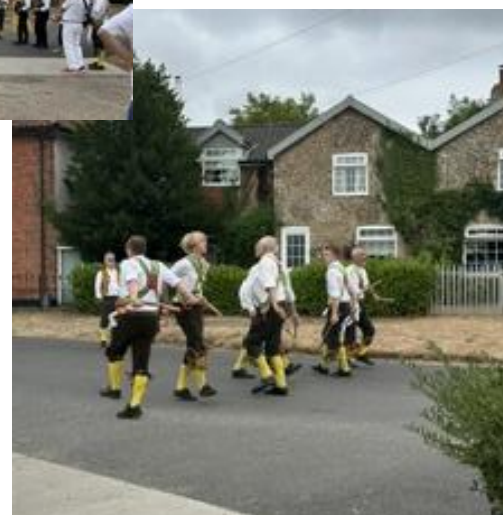
Agreed for Wednesday 9 September 2026 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

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For those that missed it we were entertained on 15th August by two sets of dancers that meet up and tour this area every summer.



WANTED

Self-employed cleaner 2hrs per week £40

Someone local from Middleton or Westleton

All cleaning supplies provided.

Contact 07305 786904 (daytime only please)

Thermalite Blocks

We have approximately Thirty 100mm (100 x 440 x 210mm) Thermalite blocks left over from a building project. They are stored with a makeshift top cover to keep them clean.

Free to whoever wishes to collect.

Steve - Manor House

0794 1144293

A few more photos from the Soirée:





MIDDLETON-CUM-FORDLEY

AUTUMN FAIR

Celebration of Food & Music

AT THE BELL INN MEADOW

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

12 NOON- 3PM

FOOD & GAMES FOR ALL

CONKERS, PUMPKINS, APPLES, HATS, WELLIES

MUSIC WITH RANDOM BLUES BAND

Join in the fun and creativity by entering our prestigious

APPLE PIE COMPETITION



**You can hire
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MIDDLETON-CUM-FORDLEY

AUTUMN CELEBRATION OF FOOD & MUSIC

Join in the fun and creativity by entering
our prestigious

APPLE PIE COMPETITION

No set recipe,
Only Apple as fruit ingredient,
Pastry top & bottom,
Upto 12" diameter

ALL ENTRANTS WELCOME - ANY AGE

Saturday 10th October

At The Bell Inn Meadow

Entries to be in 12:00 -12:30



DIARY DATES 2026

August

Saturday 29th
Sunday 30th

Annual Village Fete - Live music from Silmor - Playing Field **2pm**
Festivities **from 3pm** with BBQ and Live music from Ralph Taylor and the Secret Peppers at The Bell

September

Thursday 3rd
Sunday 6th
Tuesday 8th
Wednesday 9th
Tuesday 15th
Saturday 19th

"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Village party in the park - Live music with The Middletones – picnic / 2nd auction event – **2pm**
Crib season starts
Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Taster Boccia and New Age Kurling - Village Hall **2pm**
Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**

October

Thursday 1st
Saturday 10th
Sunday 11th
Wednesday 14th
Saturday 31st

"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
MCC Autumn Fayre
Village Harvest Festival Lunch, Holy Trinity **12 for 12.15 pm**
Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
Line Dancing with Zara at the village hall – **12 - 1.30pm,**

November

Thursday 5th
Saturday 7th
Wednesday 11th

"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Christmas Craft Fair – Village Hall **11am – 3pm**
Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

December

Thursday 3rd
Saturday 5th
Saturday 5th
Wednesday 9th
Saturday 12th

"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**
Santa boules – Open tournament - Playing field **10am**
Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**
Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**
MCC Christmas Party

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