

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Editorial

Firstly I have to say a BIG thank you to the individual folk who have so generously responded to my plea and donated to the Newsletter coffers, to those who donate regularly through the year, and also to MCC, the WI and the Parish Council for their significant donations to keep the newsletter going. THANK YOU, we can continue now for at least another year. I will prepare an end of year statement for the first edition in 2025.

December is upon us and the lights on the tree on the Green will go up shortly. Festivities are coming in a range of guises from Santa Boules to a talk on Dickens and Scrooge, the MCC Christmas Party, Vinyl night at the Bell, the WI party, Carol Service, Midnight Mass and Advent candle lighting at the church, Thursday Club lunch, and maybe even seasonal items at 'Squit Night'.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Newsletter team.

Any residents wishing to opt for a digital version of this newsletter can contact me on the email below.

Contributions for the next edition by email preferably as a WORD doc please, as usual to: barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com or dropped in to

6 Meadowview, Rectory Road, by **Tuesday 28th January**.

Please note there will not be a January edition as it would mean compiling and distributing between Christmas and New Year! No Fisherman either.

Spare paper copies will be in the church porch as usual.

Also to be found on the Parish website: www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk

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

### Thursday Morning VH Group



Don't forget the Thursday Coffee morning is extended to include soup and roll lunch for the winter months.

No need to book - just drop in to the Village Hall from 11 am for a warm welcome with a cuppa, followed by a hearty bowl of soup made by one of our volunteers. All welcome.



### **RACKFORD FARM CHRISTMAS TREES**

Free delivery to 5 miles  
Fresh cut traditional spruce  
6'-8' from £30  
Available from 1<sup>st</sup> December

**CALL JACK ON 01728 648 253**



*Wishing a Very Happy  
Christmas and New Year to  
all our friends in Middleton.  
Douglas and Sally Bone.*



In all 9 teams took part in the recent village hall quiz. Congratulations to the winning team –The Railway Children (no idea why they were called that!). Only 6 points separated the top 4 teams. The quiz raised around £450 for the village hall – thank you to everyone who took part or helped in any way. V.H. Committee.





## "Santa Boules"

**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND**

**Fun boules pairs competition for anyone to enter.**

**10.00 am start**

**Christmas jumpers/hats recommended (and thermals!)**

**Mulled wine & mince pies (and probably more!) £1 per person entry.**



Register interest on [Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:Barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com)  
(especially important for catering purposes!!!)



## Holy Trinity Church – Middleton cum Fordley **Dickens and Scrooge: The writing of a classic Christmas story**

An illustrated talk by

Mark Mitchels

**Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 7pm**

Silver collection towards church funds



# SING OUT!

## WINTER CONCERT

Musical Director – Gretel Dowdeswell

ST PETERS CHURCH  
YOXFORD

Saturday 7 December  
@ 7.30 pm



Entrance  
Free  
Donations  
to Charity

[www.singoutyoxford.co.uk](http://www.singoutyoxford.co.uk)  
[singoutyoxford@gmail.com](mailto:singoutyoxford@gmail.com)



Bodgit & Legit Promotions



# XMAS



# VINYL NIGHT

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December

At The Bell from 6pm.

Christmas greetings to all Middletonians!  
Terry and Rhonwen Lock look forward to hanging out  
in the jolliest village in Suffolk for fun, festive frolics!!







## MIDDLETON COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY



CHOICE OF MAIN MEAL, DESSERTS , CHEESE AND BISCUITS

FOLLOWED BY ENTERTAINMENT

FEATURING

"THE NORTH POLE SAXOPHONE QUARTET"

(INTRIGUED...?)

COFFEE/TEA AND MINCE PIE

CHARITY RAFFLE

Saturday 14th December – Village Hall

Welcome drinks – 6pm.

Tickets on sale £12.50 pp from Richard 648345 [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) and will require payment up front please. Cash (or cheque if anyone still has them) in an envelope with your contact details through the door at Threeways, The Street, or given in person. Please let us know at the time of booking of any special dietary requirements such as vegetarian, vegan, gluten free etc.

There will be some complimentary wine on tables, but feel free to bring your own if you wish. Beer and soft drinks also available.



### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Rather than take the usual 2 pages with the greetings this year, and trying to keep to 16 pages in total, I thought I would try dotting some around in the available spaces, so if you've requested one - happy hunting for it!!!!

*Wishing all my neighbours and  
friends in Middleton a very  
Happy Christmas.  
Carol Michel*



Jenny and Richard Turner wish all of their friends and acquaintances a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.



### HAPPY CHRISTMAS

from the Cooke family at Central House

We would like to wish our friends in Middleton and beyond **A Very Merry Christmas** and **A Happy New Year!**



[We are donating to Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY)]

# HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Holy Trinity Church would like to wish all our friends and neighbours in Middleton-cum-Fordley a Joyful Christmas and we join you in hoping for a Peaceful New Year With heartfelt thanks for your continuing support, both seen and unseen.

## Church Services during December

**Friday 20 December**

**6pm Carols on the Green**

on the Village Green (in the church if wet) 'mice' pies and mulled wine

**Sunday 22 December**

**11am Holy Communion**

**Tuesday 24 December**

**11.15pm Midnight Mass**

### **ADVENT: WAITING IN THE DARK**

'During Advent, we do not beat back the darkness. We acknowledge it. We wait within it. We listen to what it has to say.

We do not fight the lengthening nights—but in an act of daring vulnerability we welcome them. We slow down. We reflect. We rest. Because it is here, while all around us is darkling, that we can find the true meaning of light.' Gideon Heugh

A candle will be lit for an hour in Holy Trinity, Middleton church every Sunday during Advent between 6 and 7pm. It is hoped that it may offer a space for quiet reflection, an unhurried pause in the short days and long lists that lead up to Christmas. The hour will open and close with a poem from *Darkling: An Advent Journey* by Gideon Heugh but you are welcome to come and go as you please...

And, of course, people of any faith or none are warmly welcome

For further information contact Amanda Taylor: [ajt.opom@gmail.com](mailto:ajt.opom@gmail.com)

***The Benefice Advent service this month will be at St Peter's, Westleton on  
Sunday 1 December at 10am***

***For anyone who would like to attend church on Christmas Day, please see either The Fisherman  
or the Benefice website***

***<http://yoxmerebenefice.onesuffolk.net/church-services/> for details of available services across the  
Benefice***

### **Church Services during January**

**Sunday 19 January**

**11am Poetry and Pastry**

To welcome the new year together, please bring a poem, a prayer, some prose or perhaps a piece of music you have found inspiring and that you would be happy to read/play aloud (or to be read on your behalf) and, along with coffee and a croissant, we will look forward to sitting together around a table and sharing these

**Sunday 26 January**

**11am Holy Communion**

***The Benefice service this month will be at St Peter's, Theberton on  
Sunday 5 January at 10am***



## Christmas Events



Wishing all  
my lovely  
friends in  
Middleton a  
wonderful  
Christmas and  
see you all in  
the New Year.  
Yvonne xx



**Dickens and Scrooge:**  
**The writing of a classic Christmas story**  
An illustrated talk by Mark Mitchels (see main advert)



## Holy Dusters 🧹

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

4 December – Mark and Liz

8 January - Trish and Graham



## Christmas Clean

11 December 11-12pm

Please join us, mince pies for all comers...



Merry  
Christmas and  
Happy New  
Year everyone.  
Jim Adams



## Thought Poem for the Month

### Bird Psalm

By U A Fanthorpe

The Swallow said,  
He comes like me,  
Longed for, unexpectedly.

The superficial eye  
will pass him by,  
said the Wren.

The best singer ever heard  
No one will take much notice,  
Said the Blackbird.

The Owl said,  
He is who, who is he  
Who enters the heart as soft  
As my soundless wings, as me.

Wishing  
everyone  
a Happy  
Christmas  
and a  
Healthy,  
Happy  
New Year.  
Rita & Ian



## Our Remembrance Service 2024.



## WI News

On the 20th of November we held our AGM. Rita welcomed everyone to this meeting held in the afternoon at 2:30. Members had previously voted to change the November and January meetings to the afternoon instead of the evening; the concern was travelling in the dark on the winter nights. Lynda, our president until July and our secretary for the past year, read out the Annual Report for Middleton-cum-Fordley WI. The review of the year reminded us that we continue to help and support WI members and other members of the community with health and mobility issues. We take every opportunity to support local village social events run by the Middleton Community Council and continue to run stalls at the Village Fete and Autumn Fayre. The weather was against us on both occasions this year! We had a variety of fascinating speakers, arranged by Shirley and Rosemary. Over the course of the year a few topics we learned about were: forensics and crime, growing hemp, law and punishment and the true cost of fishing. We continue to support the Lighthouse Women's Refuge Charity in Ipswich with financial donations and gifts. This afternoon (and earlier) our members donated Christmas gifts for the women and children who will be at the Refuge at Christmas. The Committee Room at the village hall was filled with an amazing amount of presents ready to be transported to Ipswich. After the Review we had our election of officers: Rita is our president, Lynda is our secretary, Jenny is our treasurer. We hope that we can recruit more members to be on the Committee. After finishing the business side of the meeting we had, of course, tea and delicious cake ( 3 varieties from Bev and Pat!).

The December meeting on the 18th at 7:15pm will be our end-of-year celebration. There will be food and drink and entertainment from Martin and Annie who are Sizewell Gap musicians. Guests are welcome.

LV



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### **Parish Council Playing Field Survey**

"Middleton Cum Fordley Parish Council would like to thank all respondents for their time and contribution in completing the Resident survey of the Playing Field.

43% of recipients responded to the survey. Next steps include pulling together costs for the various proposed changes and improvements.

We have pulled out the following analysis: - "

The 2024 residents survey conducted by the Middleton Cum Fordley Parish Council gathered feedback from 52 respondents on the usage and potential improvements to the local playing field. The survey showed varied levels of engagement, with a significant number visiting the recreation ground regularly: 31% visited weekly, and another 26% visited daily. The main reasons for visiting included attending village events 80%, dog walking 59%, and using play equipment with children 46%.

When respondents were asked about desired changes or additions, top suggestions included the need for more rubbish bins 37%, train and station upgrade 42% and upgraded children's play equipment 44%. There was positive support for facilities promoting adult well-being, with 57% favouring adult exercise equipment and 53% supporting a trim trail.

A proposed nature-led rewilding area garnered considerable approval, with 69% of respondents backing it. Specific environmental enhancements suggested included bird boxes 88%, bat boxes, and bug hotels 80% each. Proposals for a dedicated and secure dog exercise area had mixed responses, with 38% in favour, alongside requests for additional dog waste bins 48%.

In terms of staying informed about developments, 65% of respondents expressed interest in being updated. The survey reflects residents' active interest in maintaining and enhancing the communal space to cater to a broad range of activities and user needs.



## December Highlights

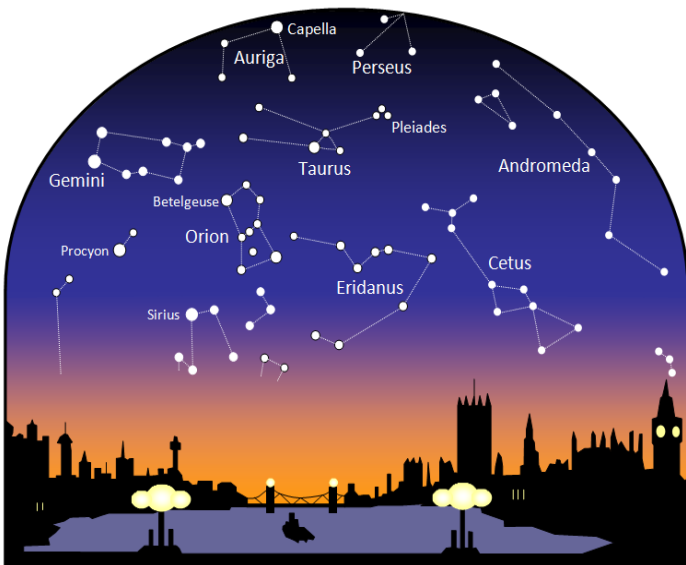
**Planets on View.** **Venus** is shining not short of its very brightest, out in the south western sky, setting at around 8.00 PM. On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December, Venus can be seen sitting next to the crescent Moon. Venus is one of only three celestial bodies to cast a shadow on earth, the others being the Sun and the Moon! **Mars** rises in the east at around 7.00PM. As the month progresses Mars will double in brightness, with its red/orange colour becoming very noticeable. **Jupiter** will be visible throughout the night as it tracks from east to west. It's extremely bright this month and will be at it's closest to the Earth on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Take a look through a telescope or binoculars for a glimpse of Jupiter's four largest moons. They orbit Jupiter relatively fast, so can be seen to change positions each night. It may be possible to pick out some of the cloud banding on Jupiter, but when Jupiter is so bright it can be quite a challenge to see them. **Saturn** is difficult to see now as it fades away into the SW, setting at around 11 PM.

**Constellations.** No one constellation to look out for this month, just look south on a clear night to see the winter constellations arcing across the sky. The most prominent of these is Orion, The Hunter, facing off to Taurus, The Bull, and accompanied by his hunting dogs, Canis Major and Canis Minor. Canis Major contains Sirius, which, after the Sun, is the brightest star visible from Earth, sitting just below and to the left of Orion. Gemini and Auriga are also high up in the southern sky. It's well worth a look through a telescope or binoculars at the sword of Orion, hanging below the three stars that make up his belt. The sword contains the Orion Nebula and will appear as a fuzzy area of light half way down the sword. The star Betelgeuse sits at the top left corner of Orion, and can be seen to be orange in colour, even with the naked eye. It is classified as a Red Giant star, and is believed to be approaching the end of its lifespan, due to its erratic brightening and dimming over the last few years.

**The Moon.** Known as the Cold Moon or Long Night Moon this month, enough said! Full moon occurs on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Look out for the moon sitting just above Jupiter on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Meteor Showers.** The Geminids peak on the 15<sup>th</sup>, but this also coincides with the full moon, which is practically sitting at the radiant of the shower in the constellation of Gemini, making observations all but impossible. But look a week before or after the full moon and you may be in luck.

**Santa Claus** Don't forget to follow Santas progress on Christmas Eve on one of the many tracking websites available. Apparently, his average speed to visit all the children around the world needs to be up around 3 million miles per hour, although obviously not between Leiston and Yoxford! Good job it's a magic sleigh.



December Night Sky looking South



Santa. Looking East at 10.30 pm Christmas Eve

*Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And thank you all for your wonderful support this year.*

*Brian.*



**'We wish all in Middleton a very Happy Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year! Love from Gilly & Sicunder'**



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. From us all at Watermill Farm.**






## December Nature Notes

The reason why our ancestors ate birds at Christmas was because both domestic and wildfowl were at their very best at this turning point of the year. Food, particularly in the wild, was much scarcer in the later winter months, so it made sense to eat fowl when they were fat and succulent. In fact, if any bird has a claim to being the original Christmas fowl, it was the swan – though not any old swan. Only six-month old cygnets, which had been fattened up in a separate pond from their parents on barley and grass, would fit the bill. Adult swan was too tough. These were Mute swans and are protected as wild birds now. It is illegal to keep or kill them, although, Fellows of St John's College Cambridge and members the Royal Family are legally allowed to eat unmarked swans. The Crown still retains the right to ownership of all unmarked mute swans in open water, but nowadays the monarch only exercises their ownership on certain stretches of the Thames and its surrounding tributaries. However, other landowners have been able to possess swans since the 15th Century, but only those of a certain income as ordained by the crown. This made swans a valuable commodity, with privately owned birds being given unique marks etched into the beak. Only marked swans could be eaten, and though swan for Christmas dinner fell out of fashion in the 1700's, that law that remained in place until 1998.

Mute swans are a familiar and impressive sight in Britain and despite their name have some distinctive calls. They are one of Britain's largest and heaviest birds, with a wingspan of up to 2.4 metres. Male swans are highly territorial and first threaten intruders, striking an aggressive pose with wings arched over their back, before charging at them to chase them off. Some birds stay in their territories all year, while others move short distances and form winter flocks. In cold weather, some birds arrive from Europe into eastern England

However, Mute swans are not the only species of swan that we have in Britain; every winter thousands of Whooper swans from Iceland and Bewick's swans from Arctic Russia migrate into Britain to spend the winter here. Both these species of swan are annual visitors to Suffolk, mostly on the coast and towards the Fens. Telling these two species apart can be tricky, and although the Whooper Swan is much larger, about the size of a Mute swan, this is often difficult to judge from a distance, with a longer neck. The best character to separate them is the colour and shape of the bill. Unlike the large orange bill of a Mute swan both Bewick and Whooper swans have black and yellow bills, but Whooper's have a larger more pointed bill with a large triangular patch of yellow, compared to the proportionally stouter bill with more black and less yellow of a Bewick swan.

A photograph showing a group of swans in a body of water. In the foreground, a large white swan with a long neck and a black and yellow bill is standing on a grassy bank. Several other swans are swimming in the water, some with their heads up and others with their heads down. The water is calm, and the background shows a grassy bank and some trees.

Peter Vincent

[illegible]

## EGGS

Sadly numerous boxes of eggs have been taken in recent weeks without payment from the honesty box in Rectory Road.

The owner is hoping this notice pricks a conscience somewhere.



Wishing all our friends a very  
Happy Christmas  
and a happy New Year.

From Colin & Lynda xx

Seasons Greetings and a very Happy New Year 2025 to all our  
neighbours, friends & acquaintances.

## Mandy & Steve



# Middleton Primary School

Taking in year Admissions  
Reception - Year 6



Contact us to arrange a visit to our school via  
01728 648 251  
[office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk](mailto:office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk)



[www.middletonprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.middletonprimaryschool.org.uk)

Ash Class had their 'Come and Share' session this half term and got to show their grownups their mathematical skills during their Woodland Adventure Scavenger Hunt. We had lots of fun cracking the woodland maths codes around the school.

To celebrate and warm up, we had hot chocolates during story time. We hope the grownups enjoyed this time with us.



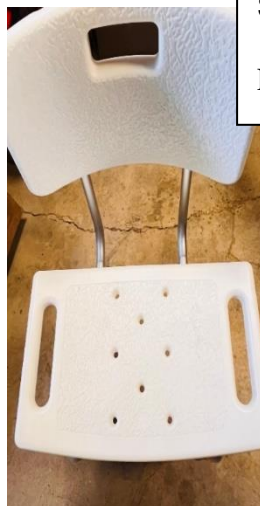
Spruce Class have been enjoying finding out about the planets in our solar system. We used playdough and our knowledge about fractions to compare the relative size of the planets.

Our Head Boy and Head Girl went to Pupil Parliament this week, they were learning about Net-Zero and Climate Change. The children are planning on presenting an assembly to their peers to share their knowledge on the matters.



SHOWER CHAIR :

Free to a good home. Mobile 07825 605420



Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year to all our friends in Middleton  
Renny and Mike



JULIAN AND FIONA CUSACK WISH ALL OUR  
FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS IN MIDDLETON A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.







**What to include:**

**Thermals, hats, gloves, scarves & fluffy socks**  
**Dried snacks; crisps, crackers, nuts & sweets**  
**Toiletries; toothbrush, roll-on deodorant, wet wipes**  
**Sanitary towels, tampons, panty liners & feminine wash**  
**Books, adult colouring books, pencils, pens & notepads**  
**Torch, hairbrush, comb, moisturiser & lip balm**

**What NOT to include:**

**Razors, tweezers & scissors**  
**Alcohol of any kind**  
**Drugs or medicines incl. paracetamol/ibuprofen**  
**Matches, lighters or flammable liquids**  
**Solvents including spray deodorant**  
**Easily perishable foods**  
**Please gift wrap your boxes in a manner that allows us to open them to check the contents.**  
**Tips can be found on our social media.**

**Drop off at The Railway Inn, Framlingham**

Susan Robinson is our point of contact for the village and there will be a collection point in the Church porch . [susanrobinson295@gmail.com](mailto:susanrobinson295@gmail.com)

As Christmas approaches and 2024 draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible privilege of being elected to serve as your Member of Parliament. It's been a remarkable year, and I've been truly moved by the spirit of community across our constituency.

This time of year reminds us of the importance of looking out for one another, and I'm especially grateful to our local charities and army of local volunteers whose dedication brings hope and light to so many lives. Since I was elected, I've had the privilege of visiting so many charities and organisations supporting our communities– and I'm both appreciative and inspired by your work and service to provide support to those in need.

I'm deeply thankful for the trust you've placed in me, and I look forward to working hard for you and representing Suffolk Coastal in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP.



Hannah, Charlie and Connie would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year!



Here's wishing a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our chums in Middleton.  
Nigel & Marilyn



## **Emergency Planning for the Village**

It was agreed at November's Parish Council Meeting to produce an Emergency Plan for the village, should it become isolated, due to flooding, snow, wind damage etc. To this end, the PC would like to set up an Emergency Committee and invite anyone who may be interested in becoming involved to make contact with the Clerk, [parishclerk@middleton.com](mailto:parishclerk@middleton.com), mobile 07510 155640, in the first instance.

Thank you.

Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council

## **Road Works and Road Closures**

How to keep up to date

[www.szcworkstracker.co.uk](http://www.szcworkstracker.co.uk) provides access to work being carried out in the local area. Contact may also be made with the SZC Community Relations Team, freephone 0800 197 6102.

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport) this link will take you to one.network, sign up here for notifications and view a live map of road works and closures.

Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council

### **MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2024 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 [parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com)".

#### **1 Attendance and Apologies**

##### **Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Michele Kendall

##### **Apologies:**

Cllr Lesley Taylor  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Steve Thorpe

##### **In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
District Cllr Sarah Whitelock  
(7.30pm – 8pm)  
Members of the public x 5

#### **2 Councillors' Declarations of Interest. None.**

#### **3 Public Forum.**

A member of the public from Fordley Road voiced their discontent at the current works being carried out by SCC Highways and follow up works by SZC, including the removal of trees on their property without their knowledge. Cllr Macdowell advised that the issue be raised with County Councillor Richard Smith, their elected representative.

District Cllr Whitelock reported the following:

East Suffolk Council has unveiled its plans for the kerbside collections of small electrical items in East Suffolk. The initial collections will begin later this month with the hope that 120,000 households in the local community will get behind its drive to recycle their electricals. The new kerbside collections will enable residents to leave small electrical items on top of their wheeled bins on their usual bin collection day and items will then be collected by the refuse crew and taken away for recycling. East Suffolk Council is encouraging residents to re-use, reduce and recycle this festive season to help keep costs down and help the environment.

A new 'Circular Christmas' campaign will promote shopping locally, sustainable gifting and recycling of festive waste from now until the New Year – to help people manage the expense of this holiday season and strengthen environmental awareness in East Suffolk.

Students at Alde Valley Academy in Leiston are benefitting from a new breakfast club, providing food ahead of the school day to help improve their concentration and wellbeing.

#### **4 Minutes**

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 October 2024.

b) Matters arising and Action Points

- Ownership of the Village Hall. The Parish Council is the Custodian Trustee of the Village Hall, which is registered in the name of the Parish Council. The management of the Village Hall is the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee.
- Cllr Cusack to arrange for cutting of the hedge at the burial ground c/f.
- 'Destructive' archaeological works. Concern over this matter has been raised by many within the village. It is understood that it was never intended that only archaeological works would be taking place at this time, but also clearing of the areas ready for construction works in Spring next year.
- Cllr Piercy has provided District Councillor Whitelock with information regarding Causeway Farm.
- The Clerk has provided a piece for the November newsletter re: Young People Taking Action.
- Cllr Macdowell is awaiting a response from SZC regarding signage at Trust Farm.

**5 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects**

The Clerk reported back from the October Sizewell C Main Development Site Forum.

- To date 9 vehicles have been provided with an identity sticker. It is understood that more will be added as HGV companies are employed.
- The latest on the SZC Link Road is continued archaeology.
- Sole use of Pontins, in Lowestoft, to take place in January 2025 with return to public use after the construction period. SZC staff will be bused to site from Pontins. The number of buses is currently an unknown.
- SZC are planning to improve frequency and volume of contact with town and parish councils by way of more detailed monthly bulletins.
- The Community Fund have met twice. £300,000 has been allocated to date (round 1), round 2 closed on 6 October with a decision being made in January. Round 3 will close on 19 January with a decision expected in April.
- SZC assured the meeting that they are 'spreading the word' regarding private renting, to prevent Leiston from being flooded.
- Drone footage was shown of the entire site, demonstrating the vastness and progress of the project. This can be viewed at the shop in Leiston.
- SZC are looking into an Observation Platform.
- SZC are moving towards an SMS system to advise of road closures (more suited to short notice closures).

Cllr Lacey reported back from the Northern Transport Meeting

- The biggest topic raised by many parish councils was the devastation caused by the 'archaeological' works.
- Housing grants, which are now available, come under two bands; Band 1 – grants up to £3,000 for minor works to create an extra bedroom and Band 2 – grants up to £7,000 for major works. Room(s) must be made available to SZC workers and rent collected.
- The drone footage (mentioned above) was also shared, with mention given at this PC meeting to the mass destruction.
- A request to have access to the detailed construction phase program was sought after the meeting, but no information was provided.
- EDF report that new rail links are progressing well.
- B1122 speed enforcement cameras should be in place by the end of Q1.
- B1122/25 junction speed limit. The request for the 500m distance between Yewtree Corner to the junction of the B1122/25 be changed from 60mph – 30mph was raised. This will be considered by SZC and the police.
- There will be two large compound areas in Littlemoor Road, both semi-permanent structures, to be used now and during the construction of the SLR.

Cllr Lacey offered his support for the next transport meeting.

Cllrs Macdowell and Thorpe met with the B1125 planners to discuss the footpath(s) and confirm that this is in hand.

A member of the public advised that they have, on more than one occasion, been denied access to Littlemoor Road. Cllr Cusack has experienced the same. It is understood that cleaning of the road takes place, for safety reasons, at the end of the day, however, refusal has been experienced in the morning. Littlemoor Road is the diversion route whilst Fordley Road is closed.

It was reported that the Nautilus Interconnector project is now going to connect into the Isle of Grain in Kent, rather than East Suffolk. This does not change the plan for a cable corridor through the Parish for the LionLink interconnector.

**6 Councillors Reports**

- a) Village Hall. No report
- b) Middleton Primary School. The meeting was advised that numbers are low at the school.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. No report
- d) Middleton Moor. The meeting was reminded that general management and maintenance of the Moor lies with the Middleton Moor Committee. A member of the committee has advised Cllr Cusack that the MMC would like to arrange for the clearing of shrub around two of the ponds. A quote has been received for 4/6 hours work @ £55 per hour, equating to approximately £300. This was agreed. **Action: Cllr Cusack to give the go ahead for the works.**
- e) Causeway Farm. It was confirmed at the meeting that the tenancy ends in Spring of next year, not October of this year, as previously advised. Following an informal conversation, SCC have reacted positively to the village's thoughts and ideas.

It is the PC's intention to acquire and develop Hastoe Field, representing 10 acres of land adjacent the recreation ground (totalling approximately 16 acres). A concept plan is available for viewing on the village website, with feedback already received. To purchase the field will cost approximately £100,000 with a further £50,000 anticipated for development. It is the PC's intention to put in a grant request to the SZC Community Fund.

It was agreed that a collective view from the village residents would aid the process, and another public meeting was suggested and agreed upon. This will take place in the New Year. It is anticipated that the grant submission will take place March/April time.

It was agreed by the PC to start the application process for the SZC committee fund, this will include the impact that SZC has and continues to have on the village; primarily loss of access to green space, public rights of way being diverted, crossing of the link road, Sizewell Marshes and the beach being inaccessible and the cutting down of trees at Kenton Hills. It will be easy to demonstrate the villager's access to health-giving green spaces and biodiversity has been limited by the project. Sarah Mortimer from the SZC Community Fund has offered assistance in completion of applications. As part of the process the PC must produce several documents, including a Safeguarding Policy and an Equality/Diversity Policy, which the PC do not currently hold. **Action: Clerk to produce these two policies.** As part of the funding offer, the PC must be able to demonstrate that the project can continue to operate beyond the funding period. To maintain the area, it is anticipated that we will need to employ a grounds person responsible for carrying out the initial setting up work and then maintaining the area in terms of hedge cutting, grass mowing, path clearing etc. This role would also include the maintenance of the recreation ground with the possibility of managing other areas owned by the PC in the village. This will also be represented in the bid for a grant. Beyond the three-year period, this cost will be added to the Precept.

Cllr Piercy offered to investigate other funding opportunities that may be put towards this project.

Cllr Whitelock requested that District Councillors be invited to the village meeting in January.

It was agreed to make Causeway Farm an independent agenda item at future meetings.

## 7 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) The Actual vs Budget Report for Q2 was approved.
- c) The following payments were authorised.

| Details                                | Payee                     | Amount  | Power           |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| Village Hall heating for meetings      | Rachael Salcombe (ratify) | £30.00  | LGA 1972 s. 111 |
| Payroll Services period ending 30.9.24 | SALC                      | £69.00  | LGA 1972 s. 112 |
| Overtime 20 hours @£16 per hour        | Rachael Salcombe          | £320.00 | LGA 1972 s. 112 |
| Hastoe Field Concept Plan              | Leiston Press             | £12.00  | LGA 1972 s. 142 |

**8 CIL Spending.** It was confirmed that CIL funds may be used for the Hastoe Field project. Cllr Cusack suggested that CIL also be used for the Church pathway costs.

**9 Village Path approach to Church.** Cllr Lacey has met, on site, with Nice Touch Landscapes and is awaiting a quote. A meeting with East Coast Landscapes is ongoing.

**10 Village Green Grass Cutting.** Cllr Piercy kindly offered to cut the grass one more time before Christmas. **Action: Cllr Piercy to find out who cuts the churchyard grass with a view to getting a quote for the village green.**

**11 Flooding/Maintenance/Emergency Plan.** Cllrs Cusack and Piercy attended the Emergency Workshop, presented by SCC, on 25 October. The PC have no statutory obligation to prepare an Emergency Plan, however, it is good practice to do so. The question was raised as to what the village would do if it were cut off and, in particular, the interim period before help could get into the village. It was agreed that the parish need to plan for such an event and that village residents need to be involved. An invitation will be put in the next newsletter inviting anyone who is interested in becoming involved with the Emergency Committee, to contact the clerk. **Action: Clerk to prepare a piece for the newsletter.**

## 12 Funding/Grant Opportunities. c/f

## 13 Correspondence.

- \* SARS, Suffolk's Emergency Medical Charity, donation request c/f.
- \* Upon request, it was agreed to donate £500 to the village newsletter. **Action: Clerk to make payment.**
- \* A member of the public has written to the PC regarding road closures and notification thereof. It was agreed that the PC would offer assistance to residents in setting up the SMS system (mentioned above) to personally receive notifications from SZC. Also, SCC Highways Department offer notifications of roadworks and closures; how to set up email notifications via One.Network go to: <https://one.network/custom/suffolk>

## 14 Items for Next Agenda

**15 Next Meeting.** The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10 December 2024, at 7pm, at the Village Hall.  
The meeting closed at 8:20pm.



**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF  
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2024

AT 8.20pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

**Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Michele Kendall

**Apologies:**

Cllr Lesley Taylor  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Steve Thorpe

**In attendance:**

Rachael Salcombe - Clerk  
Members of the public x 1

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

**Minutes**

a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 8 October 2024.

b) Matters Arising.

A Thank you letter has been written to David Bracey.

A minimum of 4 inspections of the recreation ground, per annum, is required (one of which must be an annual inspection).

Cllr Rowe has written an article for the newsletter providing an update and thanking survey participants.

CIL money may be used for improvements to the recreation ground.

Clerk reported back on the costs involved for new bins (see below).

**To review Safety Inspection Report.** October report approved.

**Correspondence.** No correspondence.

**Matters for discussion**

Playground Inspector. The Clerk reported that the search for an inspector is ongoing. **Action: Cllr Rowe to supply the Clerk with possible contacts.**

Survey. Next steps will involve sourcing high-level costs to inform later decisions. It was suggested and agreed that funding/grant options should become part of the Hastoe Field/SZC Community Fund bid and that this will be added to the agenda for the proposed village meeting in January. In the meantime, Cllr Rowe will pursue other grants, specific to bat and bird boxes, for example.

Sizewell C Grant – Adult Exercise Equipment. This will form part of the grant application mentioned above.

Zipwire. Cllr Cusack has been in touch with Ryan Finch who previously worked for Eastern Play Services, as part of the inspection team and whose experience lies in repairing and installing play equipment, he has also worked on Middleton Recreation Ground in the past. Mr Finch is now setting up his own business and has been invited by Cllr Cusack to submit a quote for removal and disposal of the zipwire. Quote, as follows:

£1110 for removal of the zip wire, safety netting and safety surface. Reinstate with soil and grass. Posts to be cut off at ground level. The quote was agreed. **Action: Cllr Cusack to advise accordingly.**

Discussions regarding a replacement for the zipwire continue. (Previous Minutes refer to the decommissioning of the current zipwire and the cost involved in purchasing a new one.)

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending. It was confirmed that CIL money may be used for purchasing play equipment.

Pavilion Pathway. It was suggested that a hard path from the car park to the pavilion, through the pedestrian gate would allow easier access during the winter months. This could be CIL funded, and it was agreed to seek quotes. It was confirmed that there is no heating in the Pavilion and that use during winter months would require the purchase of electric heaters (CIL funded also). **Action: Cllr Cusack to request a quote from Ryan Finch and Cllr Lacey to request a quote from Nice Touch Landscapes.**

Waste and Dog Bins. The Clerk provided costs, as follows:-

Topsy 2000, 90 litres. £292.32 + VAT, plus £250 + VAT for installation.

Glasdon 25 Fido Bin. £167.04 + VAT, plus £250 + VAT for installation.

It was agreed to purchase these items. **Action: Clerk to arrange purchase, delivery and installation of the bins.**

**Finance**

Trust accounts 2023/24 approved. The accounts have been independently reviewed by former parish councillor Roy Dowding who was thanked for his work.

**Items for the next Agenda.**

**Next Meeting.** Date of next meeting Wednesday 10 December 2024, to follow Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

## DIARY DATES 2024

### December

|                            |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>     | "Waiting in the dark" candle lighting, Holy Trinity <b>6pm-7pm</b>                    |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>   | "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b>                              |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Illustrated talk on Dickens and Scrooge by Mark Mitchels. Holy Trinity <b>7pm</b>     |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | "Santa Boules" tournament – Playing Field, <b>10.am</b>                               |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Vinyl Night – Middleton Bell from <b>6pm</b>                                          |
| Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>     | "Waiting in the dark" candle lighting, Holy Trinity <b>6pm-7pm</b>                    |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> | Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, <b>7pm</b>                                     |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>  | MCC Christmas Party –Village Hall                                                     |
| Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>    | "Waiting in the dark" candle lighting, Holy Trinity <b>6pm-7pm</b>                    |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> | WI–Village Hall - End Year Celebrations. Martin & Annie ~ Sizewell Gap- <b>7.15pm</b> |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>    | Carol Service, Holy Trinity, <b>6pm</b>                                               |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | "Waiting in the dark" candle lighting, Holy Trinity <b>6pm-7pm</b>                    |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Midnight Mass, Holy Trinity, <b>11.15pm</b>                                           |

### 2025

#### January

|                            |                                                              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from <b>8pm</b> TBC |
| Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, <b>7pm</b>            |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> | WI – Village Hall <b>2.30pm</b>                              |
| Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>    | Poetry and Pastry – Holy Trinity <b>11am</b>                 |



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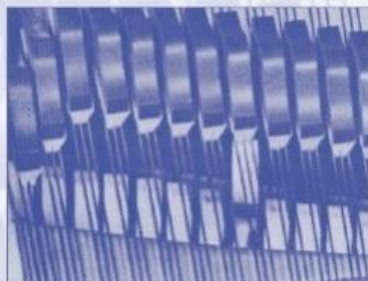
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#### Local artist

Paul is a British artist who paints primarily in oils. Currently based in London and Middleton, he also has connections to Jersey. [paulpodhorskiart.com](http://paulpodhorskiart.com) shows a selection of Paul's pictures. New images are uploaded as they are completed. Paul is happy to discuss commissions.

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