

# MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



## NEWSLETTER

December 2025



## Editorial

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, the MCC Christmas Party, Vinyl night at the Bell, the last WI party, Advent, Carol Service and Midnight Mass at the church, Thursday Club lunch, and maybe even seasonal items at 'Squit Night'. Thank you to all our contributors over the past year – both literary and financial! Both are much needed to keep the newsletter going.

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

Contributions for the first issue of 2026 can be emailed to [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Rd by **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January please.**

Also to be found on the Parish website: [www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk](http://www.middletoncumfordley.org.uk)

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

## RECENTLY ...

### Beaux Belles Boules

With promotion to the next tier of the summer league it was decided we needed to extend the pitch a little to bring it into line with others. Thanks to the hard work of various members (someone has gone awol from this photo!) and generous donations from individuals, the Community Council and the Bell management we have extended, replaced the wooden surround and put a top dressing on. A big thank you also to Nobby and Robert for assisting with the initial digging which made it a lot easier.



## ANNUAL VILLAGE HALL QUIZ

Thanks very much to all who came and valiantly took part in the recent quiz. Congratulations to 'Hymns and Hearse' the winning team. Thank you to all soup makers, helpers and question setters – particularly Rob who answered the call in the newsletter for volunteers. £370 was raised for Village Hall funds. 😊



### Middleton Remembers...

The annual service of remembrance along with the reading of the roll of honour of the Middleton men who fought in both World Wars.

19 are named from between 1914 and 1918

5 are named from between 1939 and 1945



Reiko's concert review is included in the Church pages.







## LITERARY EVENING AT THE BELL



On Thursday 20th November (St. Edmund's Day) we were treated to a plethora of readings and poems from a wide variety of authors. Richard and Jenny kicked off with an extract from *Beowulf* - in old English and a modern translation simultaneously!

The montage shows the other participants – in no particular order - some reciting from memory others reading. (Hopefully I haven't missed anyone inadvertently). A very entertaining hour.



## **“Santa Boules”**

**SATURDAY 6<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)



## **MIDDLETON COMMUNITY COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**CHOICE OF MAIN MEAL, DESSERTS , CHEESE AND BISCUITS**

**FOLLOWED BY “YOUR OWN ..., YOUR VERY OWN,  
LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT !! ”**

**COFFEE/TEA AND MINCE PIE  
CHARITY RAFFLE**

**Saturday 13th December – Village Hall**  
**Welcome drinks – 6pm.**



**£12.50 pp** for residents which includes the meal and entertainment. **Tickets on sale NOW** from Richard 648345 [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) and requires 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. Alternatively scan the QR code to pay online or contact Barbara for the BACS details.

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.**

### **MCC Children's Christmas vouchers**

**Are there any new children resident in the village ? Any age from 0 – 18 ?**

**The Community Council gives each child a One4all voucher in lieu of the party we used to have (as there's not enough of you!) Please let Barbara know on [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) by 1<sup>st</sup> December .**





**17<sup>th</sup> of December**  
**3:15pm till 4:30pm**

Joining forces: Y&P PTA AND MIDDLETON PTA  
Invite you to our

# Christmas Fair

fun for the whole family

Crafty student gifts, scrumptious cakes, and cozy hot cocoa! Dive into games, unleash your inner artist with gingerbread decorating, indulge at the sweets stall, try your luck with raffles, and so much more!

**Santa will be joining us!**  
(A gift for every pupil)




**YOXFORD VILLAGE HALL**


Are you looking for a nurturing, community-focused school for your child starting Reception in September 2026? Or thinking about a mid-term move? Come and see what makes our small village school so special!

We're inviting families to our open mornings – a chance to experience our friendly atmosphere, meet our dedicated staff, and see how we support every child to thrive in a warm and welcoming environment.

 Friday 9th January 2026 10am-12pm

 Middleton Primary School, Rectory Road, Middleton, Saxmundham, IP17 3NR

As a small school, we offer a close-knit community where every child is known and valued. Whether you're planning ahead for Reception or considering a mid-year transfer, we'd love to show you around.

 To arrange your visit or learn more, call us on 01728 648251 or email [office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk](mailto:office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk)



## Middleton Primary School Open Mornings

~~Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 10am -12pm~~  
~~Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 1pm -2:30pm~~  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 10am -12pm**

- Tour our school
- Meet the staff

Applications are open now and close on 15 January 2026  
Call: 01728 648251 or  
email: [office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk](mailto:office.middleton@consortiumtrust.org.uk)





THE  
**BELL INN**  
MIDDLETON



# FESTIVE SAMPLE MENU

two courses

£30.00

three courses

£36.00

## STARTERS

### Jerusalem Artichoke Velouté

truffle cream, confit egg yolk & toasted hazelnuts

### Seared Hand-Dived Scallops

cauliflower purée, crispy pancetta, raisin & caper dressing

### Gin-Cured Salmon

pickled cucumber, horseradish crème fraîche & rye bread

### Pigeon Breast

garlic fèves, crispy bacon, redcurrant jus

### Pressed Game Terrine

cranberry gel, toasted brioche, winter salad

### Goat's Cheese & Fig Tart (v)

balsamic glaze, rocket & candied walnuts

## MAINS

### Pan-Seared Fillet of Beef

braised short rib, dauphinoise potatoes, cavolo nero, red wine & bone marrow sauce

### Roast Suffolk Pork Belly

crackling, apple purée, mash, buttered kale & cider jus

### Ballotine of Norfolk Turkey

filled with chestnut & truffle mousseline, confit leg cromesqui, heritage carrots, sprouts à la crème & red wine jus

### Pan-Roasted Halibut

crushed Jerusalem artichoke, wilted spinach, champagne beurre blanc

### Pie of the Week

mashed potato, seasonal vegetables, red wine jus

### Wild Mushroom Wellington

black garlic purée, glazed roots & Madeira reduction

### Roast Saddle of Venison

parsnip purée, salt-baked beetroot, spiced red cabbage & bitter chocolate sauce

### IPA-Battered Haddock

Koffmann's chips, malt vinegar, tartare, pea purée

## DESSERTS

### Dark Chocolate & Blood Orange Délice

candied zest, pistachio ice cream

### Clementine Posset

champagne jelly, candied zest, almond tuile

### Sticky Toffee Pudding

butterscotch sauce & vanilla ice cream

### Suffolk Cheese Selection

chutney, celery & crackers

*We make every effort during kitchen preparations to prevent allergen contamination in all dishes, including vegetarian options, but we cannot always guarantee this. Allergen information is available on request.*





## **THE BELL INN MIDDLETON**

OPENING HOURS

TEL. 01728 648286

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec till 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2025**

### **BAR**

MONDAY CLOSED

TUESDAY CLOSED LUNCH & 6PM - 11PM

WEDNESDAY 12PM - 3PM & 6PM - 11PM

THURSDAY 12PM - 3PM & 6PM - 11PM

FRIDAY 12PM - 11PM

SATURDAY 12PM - 11PM

SUNDAY 12PM - 7PM

### **FOOD SERVED**

MONDAY – THURSDAY CLOSED (EXCEPT SQUIT NIGHT)

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12PM – 2.30PM / 6PM – 9PM

SUNDAY 12PM – 4PM

**CHRISTMAS OPENING 24<sup>th</sup> Dec till 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026**

### **BAR**

CHRISTMAS EVE 12 PM – LATE

CHRISTMAS DAY 12 PM – 2 PM

BOXING DAY 12 PM – LATE

SAT 27<sup>th</sup> 12 PM – 11 PM

SUN 28<sup>th</sup> 12 PM – 7 PM

29<sup>th</sup> Dec - 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026 12 PM – 11 PM

### **FOOD SERVED**

CHRISTMAS EVE 12 PM – 2.30 PM & 6 PM – 9 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED

BOXING DAY 12 PM – 2.30 PM & 6 PM – 9 PM

27<sup>TH</sup> SAT / 28<sup>TH</sup> SUN AS NORMAL

29<sup>th</sup> Dec - 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026 12 PM – 2.30 PM & 6 PM – 9 PM

**7<sup>th</sup> Jan – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan KITCHEN CLOSED WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

**BOOKING ADVISABLE, PLEASE MAKE US AWARE OF ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS WHEN BOOKING.**



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November ...**

**SILMOR**

**Unfortunately due to illness in the band this is postponed .**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December...**

**SQUIT NIGHT**

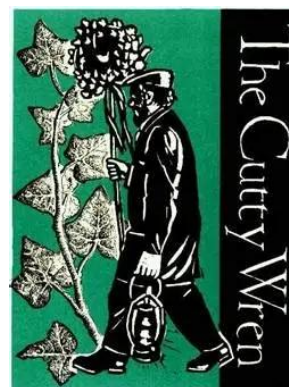
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December...**

**VINYL NIGHT**



**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**CUTTY WREN...**





## **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.**

ADVENT: Waiting in the Dark 🕯

Sunday 7 December 5-6pm

Sunday 14 December 5-6pm

Sunday 21 December 5-6pm

A candle will be lit for an hour in Holy Trinity church each Sunday during Advent between 5 and 6pm. Richly appreciated and enjoyed by those who attended last year, it is hoped that, once again, it may offer a space for quiet reflection, an unhurried pause in the short days and long lists that lead up to Christmas. Trusting once more that poetry can help us fathom the depths and inhabit the tensions of Advent's inherent paradox, this hour of silence will open and close with a poem from *Waiting on the*

*Word* by Malcolm Guite. Do 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)

### **Church Services during December**

**Tuesday 23 December**

**6pm Carol Service**

*Please join us for mince pies and mulled wine after the service*

**Wednesday 24 December**

**11.15pm Midnight Mass**

The Benefice Advent service this month will be at All Saints, Darsham on  
Sunday 7 December at 10am

For anyone who would like to attend church on Christmas Day, please see either The Fisherman or the Benefice website for details of available services across the Benefice:

<http://yoxmerebenefice.onesuffolk.net/church-services/>

### **Church Services during January**

**Sunday 11 January**

**11am Poetry and Pastry**

Please join us for the first Poetry and Pastries of the new year. Whether a regular or giving it a go for the first time, you will be warmly welcome. Simply come along with 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 have read on your behalf) and, along with coffee and a croissant, we will sit together around a table and share these.

**Sunday 25 January**

**11am Holy Communion**

***The Benefice service this month will be at St Peter's, Theberton on  
Sunday 4 January at 10am***







## Reiko Fujisawa concert

The dreadful weather that started the day on Sunday turned into a sunny afternoon in time for another wonderful classical piano concert given by Reiko.

This was the 3rd year that Reiko has generously given her time to play in Holy Trinity and on this occasion she was the sole performer playing a selection of wonderful pieces by Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin and a piece by one of Japan's celebrated composers, Toru Takemitsu, which was beautiful.

The church was full and the audience thoroughly enjoyed every piece, after several rounds of applause we were treated to an additional piece by Chopin bringing this wonderful recital to a close.

Thank you Reiko & David and also thanks to Paul for overseeing this special afternoon.

It truly was a most enjoyable time.

Rita



## Holy Dusters 🙏

10 December – Rob

7 January – Mark and Liz

4 February – Nicola and Margaret

11 March – Val and Camilla

3 April – Christine and David

17 December - Christmas Spruce

21 January - Paul and Amanda

18 February – Trish and Graham

25 March – Rob



New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

## Thought Poem for the Month

### Robin's Round

UA Fanthorpe

I am the proper  
Bird for this season -  
Not blessed St Turkey,  
Born to be eaten

I'm man's inedible  
Permanent bird.  
I dine in his garden,  
My spoon is his spade.

I'm the true token  
Of Christ the Child-King:  
I nest in man's stable,  
I eat at man's table,  
Through all his dark winters  
I sing.



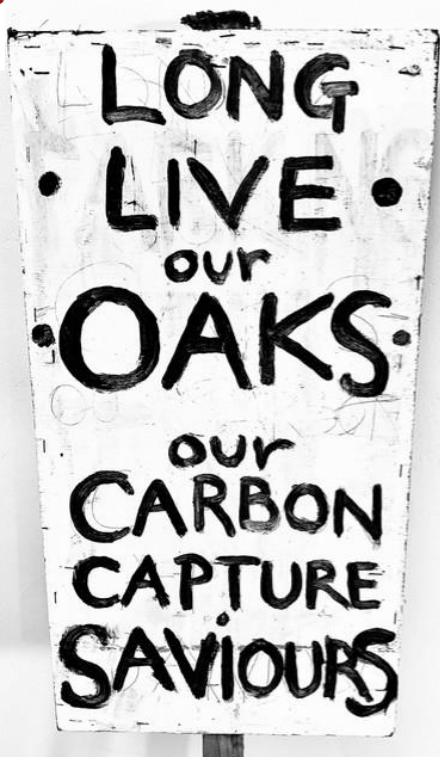


### Christmas Spruce!

17 December 11-12pm

Everyone welcome, mince pies for all comers...





Placard courtesy of Helen Gilbert.

As promised, this is a short update from behind the scenes of the *"Save the Middleton Oaks & Stop our Heritage Coastline from becoming a rat-run"* Campaign ... snappy huh?!

I am incredibly pleased by our amazing success, having now saved at least five within the line of seven Middleton Oaks from the jaws of Sizewell C's relentless machinery. The campaign has segued into a mission to **stop** SZC from building an extension of the B1125 to join directly into the Sizewell Link Road (SLR) - thereby saving the remaining 2 oaks, preserving the B1125 as our Heritage Coast Road (reducing speeding and improving safety) and not enabling its use as a RAT RUN - both during the lengthy construction of SZC and as its legacy.

Our 150+ year old oaks are indeed the majestic sentinels and carbon capture saviours along this rural B-road and if this campaign is to continue to be successful, it needs to focus on stopping the B1125 from turning into an impossible rat-run (way worse than it ever was for SZB or indeed A) along this heritage coastline.

Unfortunately I have to confess to burnout from spearheading this campaign up to now, so I've had to make some difficult decisions about how we can be more strategically effective; maximum impact from minimum effort - so I will be cutting back on certain things. However, together with a couple of determined locals, we are working away behind the scenes, looking into the detail of what has had most success (in terms of forcing SZC and SCC Highways to listen to our community's concerns). We plan to call on as many people as possible to join another event with press attendance to make our voices heard before it is too late and construction of the extension of the B1125 to join the SLR together with felling of the 2 oaks still in their sights, starts. Details will follow in the New Year.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP RIGHT NOW -

- Spread the word to all your friends, neighbours and local businesses. Ask people to join onto my Mailing List ([mobilemandy@me.com](mailto:mobilemandy@me.com)) so that I can direct information quickly & easily (remembering there is no Middleton Newsletter in January).
- Do you/someone you know have contacts with anyone in the media who you could persuade to publicise this story further? We have a 'Press Release/Info Sheet' you can use so let me know.
- If you attend any of the Forums, might you be happy to offer a short synopsis (*just highlighting any issues relevant to the Middleton Oaks/B1125 Extension/B1125-B1122 Junction, not everything!*) that could be shared to the Mailing List afterwards for those unable to get along?

Mandy



**Christmas Greetings** – thank you to all those of you who have sent in messages and given a donation – it is a great help to know the finances are looking a little better than a few weeks ago! I sincerely hope I haven't forgotten anyone, there were so many this time!!!



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



Wishing all our friends in Middleton a  
very  
Merry Christmas and a happy New  
Year.

Colin & Lynda



*A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
to everyone in Middleton.  
Simon and Jane*



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



'Seasonal Greetings to all our friends and acquaintances in  
Middleton'.  
Richard and Jenny Turner



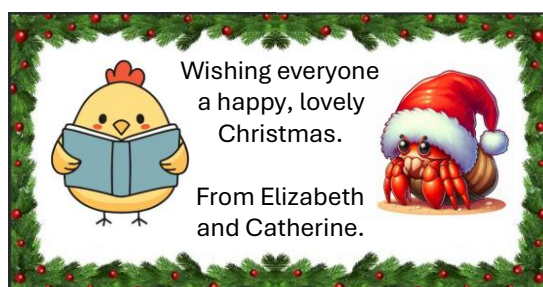
Merry Christmas and A Happy New  
Year to all our friends in Middleton  
Renny and Mike



Merry  
Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year.  
From all at  
Watermill  
Farm.



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



Seasons Greetings

A happy & healthy

New Year

The (Badingham) Girls





'We wish everyone in  
Middleton a very happy  
Christmas and New  
Year!  
Love Gilly & Sicunder'



Wishing you *all* a  
very Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy and Healthy  
New Year.  
Barbara & Brian



A very Merry Christmas  
to everyone.  
Brian N



Dearest Middleton friends and neighbours  
We wish you joy this Christmas  
and in the year to come  
from Amanda & Paul  
and us all in The Old Post Office



**HAPPY CHRISTMAS to you all**

from the Cooke family at Central House

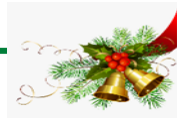
We would like to wish our friends in Middleton and  
beyond **A Very Merry Christmas** and  
**A Happy New Year!**



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



"Doug and Sally Bone wish all  
their friends in Middleton a very  
Happy Christmas and all the best  
for 2026"



From Fiona and  
Julian Cusack  
wishing our  
friends and  
neighbours in  
the village a  
Merry Christmas  
and prosperous  
2026.



Seasons Greetings to  
everyone  
from Mandy & Steve!



Wishing you all a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.  
Love from Gillian & Tim



To everyone in this  
very dear village -  
Here's to a Happy  
Christmas & a  
good and healthy  
New Year.  
Irene Ralph





Middleton-cum-Fordley WI

It is with deep regret and much sadness that after 102 yrs in Middleton we have had to make the difficult decision to close our WI in March 2026.

We were ready to close in March of this year but with an addition to officer numbers on committee we were able to continue, however, with a decline in membership, which means less revenue to provide a good level of speakers at our meetings, and with all the officers now wishing to stand down, we have had no alternative after consulting our members and receiving their unanimous vote of agreement, we will be closing.

Thank you for all the support received by our village over the years, thanks also to the many members past and present who have served on committee and members who have been part of our friendly group.

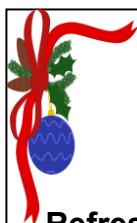
We will miss joining in the various village events we have supported over the years with our cakes, preserves and plant stalls, not forgetting jam! and of course we will miss meeting up with many friends made, but sadly we have come to the end of the road.

I personally have been pleased to be a member for over 35 yrs and have enjoyed the friendship, and support when needed, by a great many ladies/friends over these years. It was a privilege to be voted in as President some years back which gave my confidence a boost, a role I didn't think I could do at the time, but the WI movement aims to help women achieve what they think isn't possible and together with the confidence members had in me I did it and benefited from it, for this I thank the WI.

Rita  
President  
On behalf of the committee & members.



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**Middleton Christmas Craft Fair**  
**Saturday 29th November 2025**  
**Village Hall**

**Refreshments ~ Competitions ~ Raffle ~ Mulled Wine**

**As well as our talented varied crafters ~**

**Fudge maker, handmade glass,  
cards, Handmade crafts, gifts for the  
kitchen, festive artefacts, fabric gifts,  
Christmas decorations, vinyl  
wrapped beakers and lace making.**

**We will be welcoming local artist Diane  
Humphrey and  
Photographer David Calvert.**

Supporting the Middleton Community

**RACKFORD FARM CHRISTMAS  
TREES**

**Large 7' to 10' Norway Spruce  
Christmas Trees will be  
available at Rackford Farm from Dec.3rd.  
Reasonable prices.**

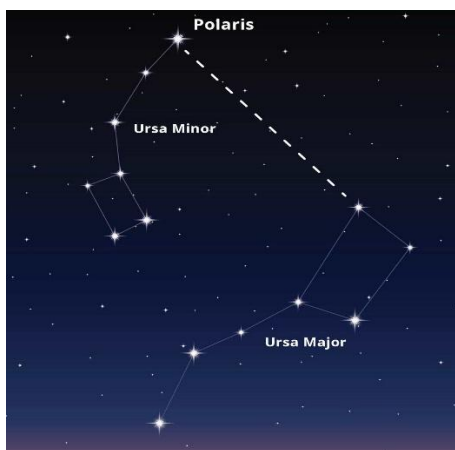
**CALL JACK ON 01728 648 253**



## December Highlights

**Planets on View.** Only a couple of planets of note are on view this month, as both **Venus** and **Mars** are lost in the glare of the Sun. **Jupiter** rises into the eastern sky at around 6.00pm, sitting almost directly below the stars Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini. Jupiter is always worth a look at through a pair of binoculars, as it is often possible to pick out up to four of its main moons, Europa, Io, Ganymede and Callisto. A small telescope might also reveal Jupiter's cloud belts. **Saturn** sits out towards the southwest after sunset, binoculars will reveal the planet to be slightly elliptical in shape, this effect being caused by Saturn's rings.

**Constellations** With the winter constellations now well in place and darker skies, it's worth just spending 10 minutes or so taking a look out for the more observable ones. Looking north at around 10.00pm the most obvious one will be **The Plough**, although it is actually part of the constellation **Ursa Major** (The Great Bear). The seven stars that make up The Plough shine brighter than the dozen or so stars that make up the rest of the constellation. The Plough resembles a large saucepan, which this month will be seen with the 'handle' hanging down below the 'pan'. Slightly to the west of The Plough is **The Little Bear** (Ursa Minor), which contains the star **Polaris**, otherwise known as the Pole Star, around which all the other stars appear to rotate. To locate Polaris and therefore The Little Bear, use the two 'pointer' stars in the 'pan' of The Plough. Moving further west, and more overhead is **Cassiopeia**, which is usually described as looking like a large **W**, but at this time of year it is upside down, so look for a large **M**. The **Milky Way** runs through the length of Cassiopeia, and if you follow it down towards the NW horizon, you will come to four bright stars that make up a large triangle. These stars are part of the constellation of **Cygnus**, and form the wings and tail of the swan, the head now being below the horizon. Directly west is the square of **Pegasus**, although in its current position it's more of a diamond than a square. The square is big, taking up a large area of the sky, so should be fairly easy to spot. Dominating the southern skies are the constellations of **Orion** and **Taurus**, both of which are worth a look through binoculars. The top left star of the 'body' of Orion is the red supergiant **Betelgeuse**, its red colour being visible to the naked eye. This star is pulsating, constantly changing shape and size, leading to speculation that its core is close to collapsing, which will eventually lead to the star imploding and then immediately exploding to become a Supernova (although if and when seen from Earth, it will be 500 years after the actual event!). The three stars that make up **Orion's Belt** are easy to locate, all three being of a similar brightness, as well as forming an almost straight line. Just below the belt are a group of stars that make up **Orion's Sword**, although binoculars will reveal one of these stars to be a misty patch, which is in fact the **Orion Nebula**. The head of **Taurus** (The Bull) is made up of stars forming a distinct triangle, although binoculars will reveal this area to be one large star cluster made up of over a hundred stars. **The Pleiades** star cluster sits just to the west of the head of Taurus and does not require binoculars to be seen, although binoculars will reveal that the cluster is made up of over a thousand stars. Moving to the east can be found the constellation of **Gemini**, which conveniently has a very bright **Jupiter** for company. Immediately above Jupiter, and as the month progresses forming an obvious line with it, are the two main stars of Gemini, **Castor** and **Pollux**. The remaining stars of the constellation are a little indistinct, but can still be made out with the naked eye.



Ursus Major and Minor



Orion



**The Moon.** Known as the Cold Moon or Long Night Moon this month, with the Full Moon occurring on the 4<sup>th</sup>. It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Supermoon of the year, so if the skies are fairly clear, torches will not be needed walking home from this month's Squit Night. **Moon Trivia**....27 Apollo crew (Missions 8,10,11-17) have travelled to the Moon, although only 24 individuals (3 went twice), with 12 astronauts walking on the surface. (11,12,14-17)

**Meteors.** The **Geminids** occur on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup>, and with the Moon not rising until around 1.00am, it will be a good night to see the best shower of the year. If you locate **Jupiter** shining brightly in the eastern night sky, that is where the meteors will appear to originate from.

**Santa Claus** The late evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> will be the best time to try and observe a fast-moving Santa, as the Moon will have set well before midnight making viewing conditions ideal this year. Leaving out a sherry and some mince pies should increase your chances of catching a glimpse of Santa. (Oh, and a carrot or two).

Brian Near



### Brian also sent this in:

Just published is the latest update about current and upcoming Sizewell C works and how those projects might affect you. You can read the blog here:

<https://www.szcworkstracker.co.uk/project-update-november-2025/>



Charles has sent information on the next road closures:

Date	Location	Daytime / Night time closure	Works
Ongoing to January 2027	Abbey Lane, Leiston	Full closure	Green rail route and MDS Roads.
From 17 Nov	Littlemoor Road, Middleton	Full closure	Sizewell Link Road
17 Nov to 31 Jan	Buckleswood Lane	Full closure	Green Rail Route ESW Diversion
5 - 8 Dec	A12 Northbound	Full closure	Yoxford Roundabout
8 -11 Dec TBC	B1122 at Yoxford	Nighttime closure	Yoxford Roundabout
12 - 15 Dec TBC	B1122 Abbey Road/ Lovers Lane junction	Full closure	Main Dev Site and Green Rail Route
15 - 18 Dec TBC	B1122 at Yoxford	Nighttime closure	Yoxford Roundabout
19 - 22 Dec TBC	B1122 Abbey Road/ Lovers Lane junction	Full closure	Main Dev Site and Green Rail Route
Late Jan - Mar TBC	B1125 Middleton to Westleton	Full closure	Water Main, Essex and Suffolk Water

The latest information, abnormal load movements, and further details can be seen at [www.szcworkstracker.co.uk](http://www.szcworkstracker.co.uk)

If you have any questions please call 0800 197 6102 or visit the Sizewell office on Leiston High Street.





## December Nature Notes

Of all the owls, tawny owls are the most likely to be seen or heard in your garden. They are particularly vocal during the winter months, when they are busy defending their territories in readiness for their early start to the breeding season. Tawny owls are a reasonably large owl, brown in colour with black eyes and lacking the ear tufts seen on some other owl species. During the daylight hours they remain in cover up against a tree trunk and only occasionally pestered by scolding songbirds. The commonly heard female contact call is a shrill, 'keewik' but the male also has a quavering hoo...ho, ho, hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo song.

Although it is believed tawny owls have exceptional night vision, its retina is no more sensitive than a human's. Rather, it is the asymmetrically placed ears that give the tawny owl excellent directional hearing. A passage through the skull links the eardrums and small differences in the time of arrival of a sound at each ear enables its source to be pinpointed. The tawny owl's hearing is ten times better than a humans, and it can hunt using this sense alone in dark woodland on an overcast night. The beating of raindrops makes it difficult to detect faint sounds, and prolonged wet weather can lead to starvation if the owl cannot hunt effectively.



Tawny owls pair off from the age of one year, and stay together in a usually monogamous relationship for life. They are very early nesters, and having established breeding territories from November onwards, and will start to lay eggs from late February. The nest is typically in a tree hole where it can protect its eggs and young against predators. An established pair's territory is defended year-round and maintained with little, if any, boundary change from year to year. Young birds often starve if they cannot find a vacant territory once parental care ceases. The fluffy young can sometimes be found on the ground below the nest site; unless the chicks are actually under threat from a predator it is best to leave them be. They are surprisingly agile and are able to climb back up the trunk to reach the nest hole. Tawny owls are fearless in defence of its nest and young and will strike for the intruder's head with its sharp talons. Because its flight is silent, it may not be detected until it is too late to avoid the danger. Dogs, cats and humans have been attacked, sometimes without provocation. The tawny owl hunts almost entirely at night, watching from a perch before dropping or gliding silently down to its victim, but very occasionally it will hunt in daylight when it has young to feed. This species takes a wide range of prey, mainly woodland rodents, but can take mammals up to the size of a squirrel or young rabbit, birds, and even earthworms and beetles. The tawny owl is associated with wisdom due to its nocturnal nature, which symbolizes knowledge and insight, and its role in folklore and literature is as a symbol of intelligence. Its silent, observant, and thoughtful behaviour has led to it being seen as a wise, quiet guardian of the night.

Peter Vincent





## **MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025  
7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

"Please note that the Parish Council will be pleased to consider adding additional items suggested by residents please do so via the Parish Clerk on [parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkmiddleton@gmail.com)".

### **1 Attendance and Apologies**

#### **Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Michele Kendall

#### **Apologies accepted for absence:**

Parish Clerk

#### **In attendance:**

Members of the public 60+

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

### **3 Public Forum**

- Cllr Cusack advised the meeting that Ian Lewis has been successfully appointed as a new council member.
- It was agreed to donate £20 to the Royal British Legion for a poppy wreath. **Action: Clerk to make donation.**
- The new gravel path to the church is unsuitable and it has been agreed, upon the advice of the contractor, to apply a resin spray to stabilise. **Action: Clerk to instruct Nice Touch Landscapes accordingly.**

### **4 Minutes**

The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 October 2025.

### **5 Sizewell C Update.** The meeting was provided with a presentation from SZC giving an overview of where the project stands today. The presentation included a CGI animation showing future road layouts, including the SLR. This presentation, along with the slides that followed are all available for viewing at the SZC office in Leiston, and it is understood that these will also be provided directly to the parish council.

Following the presentation, SZC responded to questions from the public, including issues around the felling of trees, the SLR, changes to the DCO, road closures, rat run traffic, conduct of delivery drivers, vehicle identify, vehicle/road monitoring and road signage, High Lodge accommodation and Wi-Fi broadband. Where SZC were unable to provide answers on the night, assurance was given that answers will be sought and provided forthwith.

It is understood that SZC will also be providing answers to the pre-submitted questions in due course.

Thanks were given to SZC staff and parish residents for attending the meeting.

### **6 Agree a date for the Finance Working Group Meeting, Budget 26/27.** Subsequent to the meeting a date has been arranged for Tuesday 2 December at 2pm.

### **7 Agree and re-adopt Safeguarding and EDI policies.** The policies were agreed and re-adopted. **Action: Clerk to forward to SZC Community Fund and upload onto village website.**

### **8 Consider items for Next Agenda**

### **9 Next Meeting.** Agreed for Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.





MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF  
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025  
AT 8pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Michele Kendall

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Parish Clerk

**In attendance:**

One member of the public

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

**3 Minutes**

Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 8 October 2025.

**4 To review Safety Inspection Report c/f**

**5 SZC Community Fund**

A positive response has been received for the application submitted. **Action: Cllr Piercy to circulate SZC follow up questions to the parish council for comment.**

**6 Running of pavilion review**

It was confirmed that the pavilion manager will attend December's Trust meeting.

**7 Correspondence.** None

**8 Matters for discussion**

Works on the pavilion, following the flood, have now been completed.

**9 Consider Items for the next Agenda.** None

**10 Next Meeting**

Agreed for Wednesday 10 December 2025 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service  
Safety Advice



**Home Fire Safety Visits**

Did you know that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service offer **FREE Home Fire Safety Visits**? These visits are designed to help you identify potential risks in your own home, tailored to you and your own individual circumstances. If eligible, we can also provide and fit smoke alarms (including alarms for people with hearing impairments), as well as carbon monoxide alarms. To book, scan the QR Code, visit <https://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc/> or contact our Business Support Team on **01473 260588**.



If you have an open fire, don't forget to get your Chimney swept!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our **FREE Older Driver Workshops**, where our experts will share valuable information about how your risk on the road changes as you age, tips on staying safe on the road, other options apart from driving, and more. There are workshops available around the county. To sign up for one of these free workshops, please either visit EventBrite and search for **Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service Road Safety** or call our Business Support on **01473 260588**.

**Older Drivers Workshops**





# FROM FACES TO HORIZONS

AN EXHIBITION OF LANDSCAPE AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
MIDDLETON BASED PHOTOGRAPHER  
DAVID CALVERT FBIPP FRPS



4th-10th December 2025  
Aldeburgh Gallery  
High St, Aldeburgh, Suffolk



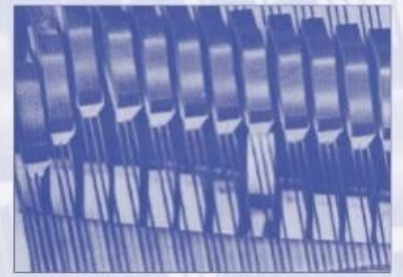
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## Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Safety Advice

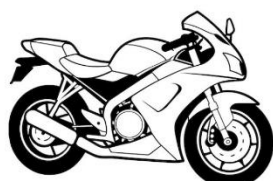


For the motorcyclists amongst us, we run our **FREE Biker Down** workshops covering what to do if you come across a motorcyclist who has been involved in a road traffic collision, casualty care and the science of being seen. There are workshops available around the county. To sign up for one of these free workshops, please either visit EventBrite and search for **Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service Road Safety** or call our Business Support on **01473 260588**.

Did you know that Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service offer **FREE Spark Education Sessions** to schools, home educated children and youth groups? We cover topics such as Fire, Road and Water Safety as well as Arson, Hoax Calls and Urban Exploring. To book, scan the QR code or

or contact us on

[FireEducation@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:FireEducation@suffolk.gov.uk).



**SPARK**

SUFFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EDUCATION





## DIARY DATES 2025



### November

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Craft Fayre – Village Hall **10.30 – 4pm**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

Live music with 'Silmor', The Bell from **8pm POSTPONED**

### December

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

"Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

'Santa Boules' Festive fun at the playing field **10.00 am**

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

Benefice Advent Service, Darsham **10am**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

Advent – Waiting in the dark – Holy Trinity **5-6pm**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

MCC Christmas Party **6pm**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

Advent – Waiting in the dark – Holy Trinity 5-6pm

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

WI – Village Hall , end of year celebration. **7.15pm**

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

Advent – Waiting in the dark – Holy Trinity 5-6pm

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Carol Service, Holy Trinity **6 pm.**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

Midnight mass **11.15pm**

### January 2026

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**10am** Benefice Service, Theberton

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

**11am** Poetry and Pastry – Holy Trinity

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

**11am** Holy Communion



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 [middletonpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:middletonpavilion@gmail.com)

 Middleton Pavilion, Suffolk



### 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.



