

MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



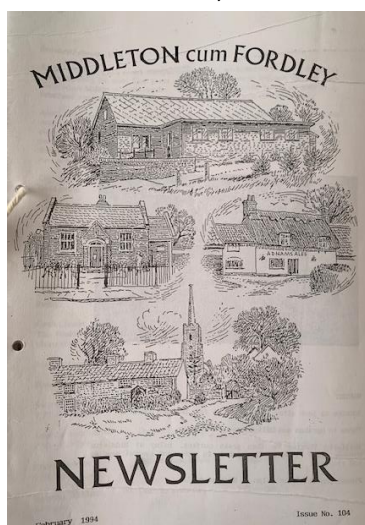
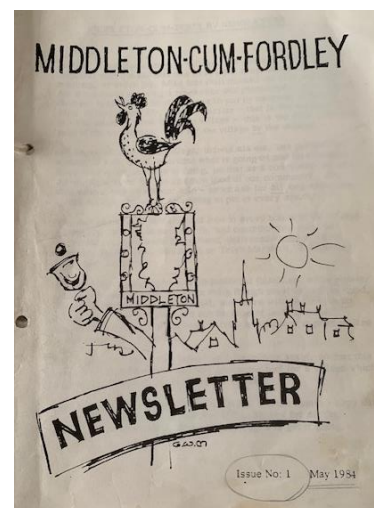
BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY NEWSLETTER !

NEWSLETTER

July 2024

Editorial

Yes – believe it or not the Newsletter has been around for 40 years! The first edition was produced in May 1984 (I had planned to mention it last month but ran out of space !!) with the hand drawn cover shown here. It has the initials GWM so I am presuming it was drawn by the late George Miller who lived in Fletcher's Lane. This cover was in almost continual use, with the exception of a few Christmas specials, until February 1994 when it was superseded by the one I believe to have been drawn by the late Robert Strand, formerly of The Glebe, but if I am wrong please let me know. I couldn't find any initials on this one. This remained in regular use until I took over in 2013 when editor Carol Barrier sadly passed away. I now try to find a photo (or drawing) each month which represents something that has happened in the village (with the exception of last months tree!!)



On the next page I have highlighted some of the articles from the first 2 editions – interesting that things haven't changed all that much. Incidentally the Village Archive has a copy of every single edition printed for the past 40 years. I should probably work out what issue number we are now on and print it on as Carol did.

Any new residents wishing to opt for a digital version of this newsletter you 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 23rd July**.

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

Also to 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



As a family plus one we are taking part in this years' **EACH Piglet Run** in mid July. Team **MuddyPrem SecondGen**.

As some will remember, the boys ran it last year with Angus and enjoyed the water, mud, obstacles and pride of completing. This year they have the older Reynolds to cajole along! I'm not a natural runner and much prefer dancing, but EACH is definitely a good reason to try...

<https://eastangliashildrenshospices.enthuse.com/pf/muddyprem-secondgen>



Thank you to all who supported the MCC mid-summer outdoor quiz on Saturday, and to Peter for being quizmaster. The winning team this time were "The Locksmiths". Congratulations to them. A total of £91 was raised.
Thanks everyone . MCC

Middleton -cum-Fordley Newsletter, 1st Edition extracts

MIDDLETON-CUM-FORDLEY NEWSLETTER

At last, a newsletter for the Village - for those to whom this is a surprise, may we say that this first issue came about at a public meeting, at which Mr. Mike Marshall mooted the idea and asked for a volunteer - having a typewriter and photocopier, Mrs. Carol Barrier responded. So this comes to you by courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Marshall and Mr. & Mrs. Barrier - that is the work put into it - the contents come from the village - this is the most important part of the newsletter. It is for the village by the village.

All organisations in the village, individuals etc. can put forward a point of view to tell everyone what is going on and let everyone know what everyone else is doing, so that as a community we can all work together for the common good of our community. But this cannot happen without help - so we ask for all organisations in the village to give us something to put in every month.

The newsletter will be delivered free to every house in the village on the first Friday of each month, and contributions must be received one clear week beforehand, delivered either to Carol Barrier, Pennyfields, Middleton or Trish Marshall, 2 Causeway Cottages, Middleton.

We hope that photographs will be published (black and white please) - correspondence may ensue - one thing though must be kept in mind. This will not be a political animal, and there will be as such no editor - only the odd word left out because of lack of space. All contributions will be printed in full, and those who print it, are not responsible for content.

So we hope you enjoy this issue - and contribute again, so that this newsletter will be successful and give some fuel for a village which we believe is united, friendly and successful.

Remember - publication date first Friday in each month - copy date seven days before, and by word of a P.S. thanks for all the contributions this month, which has managed to get it going.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A SHORT HISTORY OF MIDDLETON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Autumn 1968

A meeting was held in "The Limes", Rectory Road - six people were present. As a result of this meeting, a house to house survey of the village was made, the results showed that people were interested in the following activities:- Horticultural Society, Youth Night, Tennis, Bowls, Football, Bingo, and an afternoon for the elderly. This resulted in a village meeting being called in the School, and the Middleton Sports and Social Club was born in January 1969. At this meeting the Parish Council agreed to hand over the responsibility of the Playing Field, and the Trustees of the Mens Club agreed to hand over the use of the Club Room to the Sports and Social Club.

As the Mens Club Room was in a sorry state, the first job was to renew part of the floor, clean and redecorate the interior, remove a hedge, clear and level the ground. Nineteen people helped with interior work and eighteen with the exterior work.

At the first AGM in March 1969, Forty people were present. A talk was given by a representative of the Community Councils for Suffolk Association, and as a result the meeting unanimously decided to join the Council - so the Middleton Community Council arose from the Sports and Social Club.

A weekly subscription of 6d (2½p) was to be collected from all members to help with running costs. (It is still only £1.20 per annum).

In Spring 1969 it was decided to hold monthly socials and to have a stall at the Community Councils for Suffolk Fete - "Spirit of Suffolk" held at Haughley Park. A coach was hired for the day and return tickets cost 6/6d for adults and 4/4d for children. (32½p and 21½p.) A good day was had by all.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Middleton-Cum-Fordley W.I.

16th May at 7.15 p.m.

AGM Resolutions by Miss Houghton

Competition: 3 shortbread biscuits

Summer Outing

A date for your diary: Wednesday 15th August to Cambridge Botanical Gardens and shopping, or Cromer and Felbrigg Hall.

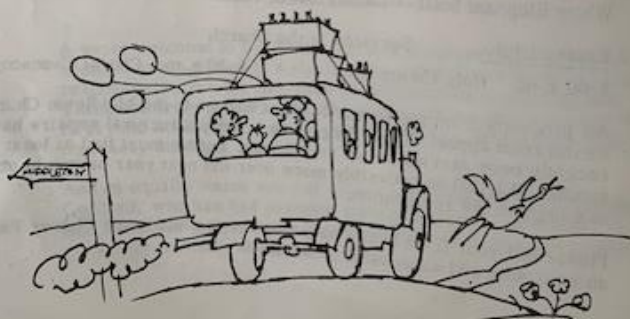
Further details later.

Suffolk Show Coach

(Organised by Mrs. Collett of Westleton W.I.)

There will be a coach to the Suffolk Show on Wednesday 30th May (the first day of the show). The cost will be approximately £1.35 per person. Pick-up and return home times will be notified later.

Contact: Mrs. Strand, Westleton 435 or Mrs. J. Reed, Westleton 403



MIDDLETON CHURCH

Middleton Church Flower Festival - Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July

This year, in addition to the traditional display of flowers in the Church, we hope to arrange the following events:-

Saturday 30 June

(Church open until 6.00 p.m.)

10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Stalls on the Green (If wet, in the village Hall)

Brownies & Guides - Raffle (Draw at 4.00 p.m.) - Cakes
Produce - Potplants - Bottle Stall - White Elephant Stall
Secondhand Books.

Display of Historic Bicycles on the Green
Craft Display in the Methodist Chapel
Art Exhibition at the Old Rectory - Including pictures for sale
(Also open on Sunday, 2.00 - 4.00 p.m.)

Barbeque and Disco on the Green (From 7.00 p.m.)

The stalls will be organised by the following people who would be very grateful for any gifts for their stalls:-

Raffle - Mrs. Giblin Cake Stall - Mrs. Holliman and Mrs. Strand
Ice cream and soft drinks) Mrs. Diane Newstead
Brownie and Guide Stall)
Bottle Stall - Miss Doreen Keeble Book Stall - Mrs. Macdowell
White Elephant Stall - Ladies Darts Team

Sunday 1 July

Services in the Church

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion 6.30 p.m. Choral Evensong

All proceeds from the flower festival will go to the Middleton Church Restoration appeal Fund. Urgent and costly structural repairs have recently been carried out in the Church, but we must find at least another £12,000 and possibly more over the next year or two in order to complete the restoration.

Please tell your friends and help to make the Middleton Flower Festival an enjoyable and successful occasion.

THE MIDDLETON CONSERVATION CORPS

The Middleton Conservation Corps was founded just one year ago, and contrary to our Parents beliefs, is not just an excuse to get dirty each weekend!

We are a group of volunteers who devote most of our Sundays helping to preserve the country side in Middleton, and neighbouring villages. As examples of our work, we care for the fir trees in the burial ground, look after a roadside nature reserve, and have helped in the rebuilding of the cliff steps at Minsmere.

One of our favourite jobs is pond cleaning, and we have tackled one this winter. The ponds have been neglected as they are no longer needed on farms. By clearing the banks of trees and such obstacles, and allowing the light in, we hope to bring the ponds to life. With these trees on the bank, leaves fall into the pond, which also need to be removed (this is the best part of the job!) In larger projects such as these, we work beside the Suffolk Conservation Volunteers and the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation, as we do not have the manpower (or volunteer power) to cope.

There are many more projects in view for the next few months, and our two main problems are lack of time and lack of numbers, but what we lack in these, we certainly make up for in enthusiasum.

Contact: Matthew Baldry (Westleton 296)

MIDDLETON BADMINTON CLUB AND SPORTS CLUB

Mini Fete - 28th May 1984 - 2.00 p.m.

At: Vistina Lenta, Back Road, Middleton (By kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Birkes)

Stalls - Raffle - Balloon race - Music etc.

The Middleton Badminton Club have had another good year. We will still be meeting in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Fridays all Summer.

MIDDLETON FOOTBALL CLUB

Middleton Football Club, who play at Junction Meadow, the home of the Leiston St. Margarets Club, have once again been enjoying a good season.

After a poor start to the league programme, things have gradually improved, and with a win against Solebay in the last league match, could well see Middleton runners up in the league.

Once more the cups have started to come our way, having already won the E. A. Brown Trophy against the league winners 3-0.

Sunday 6th May, Solebay have a 2-1 lead in the semi-final of the Jack Powley Trophy, that we intend to pull back, and to reach the final for the second year running, as this trophy is played over two legs.

On Sunday 13th May, the Saints once again will be our opposition in a cup final, the Blyth Cup which is a new trophy for the league, will be at stake.

Contact: Dennis Bryant (Westleton 357)

YOGA CLUB

The Yoga Club meets every Monday at 1.30 p.m. in the Village Hall (Club Room). If you are interested contact:

Mrs. Ringwood (Westleton 621)



St Peter dropped his keys in surprise when he was told that a duplicate key to Heaven had been made. Where his keys fell, cowslips grew.

MIDDLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL

After a week of rain and damp conditions, the sun shone on Tuesday 24th May for the children of Middleton School, and their annual Maypole dancing on the village green. A large audience saw the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mrs. Collicott, crown the May Queen, Karen Olsen, and then the celebrations began.

The girls looked very pretty in their long dresses, aprons and white cotton hats and the boys very smart in long trousers, white shirts and black jackets. They gave a marvellous performance of dancing, singing and poetry, accompanied by either a record player, or the headmaster, Mr. Kelly, playing the Melodeon. All the children participated, and all gave a very professional performance, and obviously enjoyed themselves.

All credit must be given to the teachers and children alike, who only had about three weeks to prepare their dances and songs. Everyone will be looking forward to next years May Day celebrations.



The first edition also mentions the mobile library service, the horticultural show, the fete, The Methodist Chapel and the Bell Darts club.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

This is NOT a taxi service, but in case of an EMERGENCY the following Middleton residents have indicated that they are willing to help if available:

Middleton-cum-Fordley Community Council
invites you to have some fun with fellow villagers

Join in the fun by coming along to

Village Summer Boules

Saturday 13th July

Prompt start at 10:00am

Boules pitch at The Recreation Ground



No experience necessary - it's all just for fun.
Make up a pair or join one on the day. £1/player
jenricht@btinternet.com



MIDDLETON SCHOOL PTA

Summer Raffle

To be drawn 6pm on Friday July 5th
at our Family Summer Picnic

Tickets from School, PTA, Parents, The Bell



Concerts at Cratfield 2024

Chamber Music in East Suffolk



SUNDAY 30 JUNE 3PM

JENNIFER PIKE violin
JEREMY PIKE piano
Mozart, Ravel, Pike, Grieg

SUNDAY 14 JULY 3PM

JENEBA KANNEH-MASON piano
Scarlatti, Chopin, Still, Liszt, Prokofiev

SUNDAY 28 JULY 3PM

MELIORA COLLECTIVE septet
Sibelius, Coleman, Montgomery,
Koechlin, Mozart, Ligeti

SUNDAY 11 AUGUST 3PM

TIM POSNER cello
MISHKA RUSHDIE MOMEN piano
Beethoven, Fauré, Saint-Saëns

SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 3PM

FITZWILLIAM QUARTET
Shostakovich, Dilnot Johnson, Mozart

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 3PM

HEATH QUARTET
Haydn, Williamson, Bosmans, Korngold

St Mary's Church, Church Road,
Cratfield, East Suffolk, IP19 0BU
www.concertsatcratfield.org



FITZWILLIAM QUARTET



MISHKA RUSHDIE MOMEN & TIM POSNER



HEATH QUARTET

SING OUT!
Community Choir
**10th Anniversary
Concert**
13 July 7.30
**ST PETER'S CHURCH
YOXFORD**
Musical Director
Gretel Dowdeswell
Free Admission



NO – your eyes do not deceive you, this lady *is* playing a saw with a bow.
Unfortunately I do not know her name but she came to the last Squit night at the Bell. As always – anything goes at Squit Night.

Middleton Open Gardens, June 2024

This year was a battle of gardens versus cake. It seems that Middleton Open gardens event is not only famous for the beautiful and varied collection of gardens but also the opportunity of enjoying delicious cakes. By 3pm on the Sunday afternoon we were down to our last slice of chocolate sponge. Fortunately, however, we were still able to offer a delicious cream tea right up until the last guest had gone. A great tribute to our valued and talented cake makers, many of whom bake and donate every year. We thank them for their generous contribution.



As always, we welcomed visitors from far and wide to see the 15 gardens taking part this year, including the impressive Fordley Hall and the beautifully designed courtyard garden at Fuchsia Cottage on the green; all the gardens offer different visions and something for all tastes. The feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive, citing the warm and enthusiastic welcome they received and the gardener's knowledge and willingness to share their plans and ideas.

New for this year, we introduced the idea of a creative cornucopia at the Village Hall. We wanted to trial this as a way of encouraging visitors to the gardens on the other side of the village.

We approached people in the village to ask them if they would consider being part of this project and are grateful to those who gave their time so willingly.

This included photography by Amy Heather and Mark Mitchels, vintage and collectables by Sarah Atkinson, ceramics by Peta Northcote-Green and Jean McIntosh, etchings by Caro Halford and artwork by Christine Bryant and Jack Stephenson. We were fortunate also, in being able to offer plants for sale, provided by 'Katie's Garden'.



This little project appears to have had the required effect, as the gardeners on Mill Street and surrounding areas reported many more visitors this year.

Many people took the opportunity to visit the church where the village florists had been hard at work, creating a beautiful show of summer colour. The school children built an exhibition around the D Day landings that complemented the informative display which Mark Mitchels had created in the church porch. Those that were interested in our church history were also able to enjoy hearing about it from a knowledgeable member of the church community.



This event is the major fundraiser for our village church and will help towards essential repairs. We are pleased to say that again the event raised more than we had hoped. The total is estimated at £4,000.



£600 will be donated to Suffolk MIND, whose mission it is to 'make Suffolk the best place in the world to talk about and take care of mental health'. And £200 to the Project40seven (based in Leiston), who 'provide a space and that offers positive ways to engage and help with our local community'.

We would like to thank all those who helped make this event such a success, whatever part you played, we very much appreciated it; this coming together is a strong reminder of what makes Middleton the supportive community that it is.

Christine Burgess, co-ordinator, Middleton Open Gardens.



At our June meeting we welcomed Malcolm Knott, retired barrister and judge, to speak on "A Lifetime in Law". At 16 in 1956 he joined a family law firm in Enfield as an office boy where after doing 5 years of Articles he became a solicitor doing mainly conveyancing and divorce cases. He continued his career in the Midlands in Tamworth where he dealt with serious crime cases. He recalled a vicious murderer who was convicted of blasting the mother of his girlfriend (the intended victim) with a sawn off shotgun. Malcolm said he regretted in this case that capital punishment had been abolished 2 years earlier. In 1964 he went back to London to a firm in the West End. He remembers a client, Mary Land, who was arrested and fined many times under the Fraudulent Mediums Act for the crime of telling fortunes and trying to contact deceased persons for their loved ones. His next career move was to become a barrister. The main crimes that went before a Magistrates court at that time were shoplifting, unlicensed street traders and prostitution. There was an efficient system: call police, arrest, prosecute, sentence. After a time he moved to the Crown court. At Lewes Crown court he defended a sad woman who had under extreme circumstances smothered her crying baby. He gave a speech in mitigation. The Judge was compassionate in his sentencing. Malcolm recalled that in his time, barristers had politically incorrect nicknames for all the judges and would hope to get a good one to hear their cases.



With time Malcolm became a judge himself and found the skillset very different: barristers must talk, judges must shut up and listen! He found judging to be easier. He was in charge of the court and could control things. Out of court though, many hours were spent writing up notes. With any problems he could call on other judges for advice. One case he recalled was when he gave a death sentence to a dangerous dog not on a leash who had attacked a person. The case was appealed on technicalities so many times right up to the House of Lords and it took such a long time that the dog was so old it was no longer dangerous!

After about 20 years in the Crown and County Courts, Malcolm became a lecturer at the College of Law in Bloomsbury. More than half the students were young women which was nice to see. It was only in 1922 that Ivy Williams was the first woman to be called to the Bar. He loved the enthusiasm of his pupils for law but knew how hard it would be for them just starting out to get their career going. Malcolm summed up his long career as fun with the bonus of making good lifelong friends.

July 17th will be our annual Garden Party in our President's garden. We hope for summer weather!

LV

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To all visitors to our beautiful heathland, we kindly ask that you keep your dogs on a lead from March to August to help protect our precious ground-nesting birds. Over recent years, the numbers of these birds have declined significantly, and one of the key threats to their survival is disturbance during the breeding season. Ground-nesting birds, such as skylarks, nightjars, and meadow pipits, build their nests on the ground, making them extremely vulnerable to disturbances. When dogs are allowed to roam freely, even the most well-behaved pets can unintentionally scare these birds, causing them to abandon their nests and leave their eggs or chicks exposed to predators and the elements.

Unfortunately, there have been instances where some local dog walkers feel entitled to ignore or even remove signs, allowing their dogs to run free. This behaviour is not only irresponsible but also detrimental to the fragile ecosystem we are striving to protect. Such actions show a disregard for the collective efforts of our community to conserve wildlife.

By keeping dogs on a lead during these crucial months, we can create a safer environment for these birds to breed and raise their young. This small act of responsibility can have a significant positive impact on their populations, helping to ensure that these beautiful species continue to thrive on our heathland for generations to come.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in supporting efforts to protect the delicate wildlife of our heathland. Together, we can make a difference. Let us all respect the guidelines and shame any behaviour that threatens conservation efforts. Thank you for your support.

N.B. (reported to the Editor) Perhaps the owner of the dog off the lead on the recreation ground that reportedly bit an adult quite badly a couple of weeks ago should pay heed too.

HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

Church Services during July

Sunday 21 July

11am Morning Prayer

Sunday 28 July

11am Holy Communion

*The Benefice service this month will be held at All Saints' Darsham on Sunday 7 July at 10am
Please come along*

PCC Members

Rita Pateman – Churchwarden tel: 01728 648377

David Burgess

Jenny and Mike Hemming

Camilla Sim

Margaret Taylor and Paul Taylor (elder!)

Amanda and Paul Taylor

June at Holy Trinity Middleton

Together with the village it serves, June has been a ‘life in all its fulness’ month for Holy Trinity with the church displaying a D-Day Exhibition in the Church Porch, kindly put together for us all by Mark Mitchels, and hosting something different every week. The sunny and sociable Open Gardens weekend was followed on 8 June by our second Pop-up Brunch; back by popular demand, this time around the smell of sizzling bacon and fresh coffee, the sound of jazz and happy voices tempted thirty-five people and three hungry dogs to join us. At one stage there was standing room only so, hereafter ... we will simply lay an extra table. The weekend of the 15th saw our fourth ‘Poetry and Pastries’. This is a gentle reflective gathering where we suggest people bring a poem, a prayer, some prose or perhaps a piece of music they have found inspiring and that they would be happy to read/play aloud (or to be read on their behalf) and, together with coffee and a croissant, we gather round a table to share these. We brought the month to a close with a more traditional Holy Communion service led by Rev Tim, within it an opportunity to give thanks for all that June had held for our church and our village.

Thank You

Holy Trinity PCC would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the Open Gardens Weekend the wonderful success that it was, a lovely community event.

We are truly grateful to you all

Rita

Church Warden

D-Day

As mentioned above, Holy Trinity commemorated D Day with a very informative and interesting display in the church porch, courtesy of Mark Mitchels. It was much admired by visitors to the church and during our Open Gardens weekend.

Rita

Church Warden



New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none

10 July: Amanda and Paul

14 August: Mark and Liz

11 September: Val and Camilla

16 October: Trish and Graham

24 July: Rob

28 August: Amanda

25 September Nicola and Margaret

Thought for the Month

'The night is past...
Again, hope dreams itself awake...
And, after all, we have
A garden in our minds.'

Wendell Berry

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## Reiko Fujisaka: Piano Trio Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Middleton 3pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October



We are delighted to share the news that, following last year's wonderful concert, Reiko Fujisawa has offered to perform in the village again this autumn. Reiko is, of course, Middleton's own internationally renowned concert pianist (see brief biography below and on her website: [www.reikofujisawa.com](http://www.reikofujisawa.com)) and she delighted a full-to-bursting Holy Trinity Church last October with a mesmerizing concert with her long-time collaborator, the violinist Ofer Falk. This year's concert will see Reiko play alongside Matt Denton (violin) and Emma Denton (cello), who are both members of the celebrated Carducci String Quartet ([www.carducciquartet.com](http://www.carducciquartet.com)). The concert will explore the relationship between music and nature with music from Beethoven, Schubert and Dvorak and aims to inspire audiences to admire the beauty and importance of the natural world from a fresh perspective.

The concert will take place in Holy Trinity Church at **3pm on Sunday October 20th**.

As last year, Middleton residents will have 'first refusal' on tickets so we are publicising this early in our newsletter before we advertise further afield.

Ticket prices are set simply to cover costs (not least hiring and moving a Steinway piano – and once again we are hugely grateful to our own Graham Cooke for him offering his considerable expertise in tuning it for Reiko!) and will be available for just £17.50. These can be reserved by emailing Paul Taylor (from The Old Post Office) on [taylspaul@gmail.com](mailto:taylspaul@gmail.com). Paul will then contact you with payment details. Tickets will be allocated on a strictly first-come-first-served basis. The concert will be opened up to non-Middleton residents from August 1<sup>st</sup> and – as last year - we expect very strong interest, so if you want to be sure of reserving a place for this very special occasion then do contact Paul asap.

*Reiko Fujisawa fuses the sensibilities of a musician raised in the Far East who trained in the West. She appears at prestigious venues and festivals all over the UK and overseas including Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, King's Place, Stoller Hall, Brighton Festival and Hebden Bridge Piano Festival, and was a featured artist at the Japan 2001 Festival. Reiko has broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and her recordings include an acclaimed CD of music by Bach, Beethoven and Schubert, which The Arts Desk found "irresistible". Her recording of Bach's Goldberg Variations also received a glowing review from The Record Geijutsu, Japan's equivalent to The Gramophone, describing it as an "unpretentious, clean and refreshing performance with a refined dignity".*



## Middleton Dark Skies

### July Highlights

**Planets on View** With the exception of Saturn, all the naked eye planets on view this month are still rising in the east before dawn. Jupiter, which is the brightest of them all, rises at around 1.30 am, some 30 mins after Mars. The pre-dawn sky (3am) on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of the month, sees Mars and Jupiter joined by the waning crescent moon, along with the Pleiades, (also known as the Seven Sisters star cluster). Saturn rises at around 11 pm, so may be difficult to pick out until it is higher in the sky. On the 24<sup>th</sup> it will be sitting to the right of the moon.

**Constellations.** Like Cygnus last month, this month's constellation has the Milky Way as a back drop. Cassiopeia is another easy one to spot, consisting of eight stars, although it is the five bright ones that form the distinctive 'W' shape. The constellation is sitting out towards the northeast and is probably best observed after 10 pm towards the end of the month, when the evening sky will be that much darker than at the beginning.

The Milky Way runs through Cassiopeia from one end to the other, and this is the time of year when it practically runs directly from North to South, arching almost directly overhead. On a clear moonless night, it can very likely to be seen as soon as you step outside, but stay out for 15-20 mins, giving your eyes time to adjust to the dark, and it will become an amazing sight from one horizon to the other, only disappearing into the light pollution at either end.

Although not a constellation, it is worth looking out for the 'Summer Triangle'. This consists of the three brightest stars from the constellations of Aquila, Lyra and Cygnus. It is practically overhead at this time of the year, and if you have ever sat out on a summer evening around dusk, these are very likely to be the first stars that appear high up in the sky as it gets darker. These three stars have almost the same brightness, so stand out quite nicely from the surrounding stars.



**Cassiopeia (and the Milky Way)**



**Summer Triangle**

**The Moon** The name of the moon this month is Buck Moon, due to the growth of the bucks' antlers, or Thunder Moon, due to the summer thunderstorms. (more rain!) Full moon this month is on the 21<sup>st</sup> and, as is normal for this time of the year, will track low down across the southern sky. The moon rises with Mars and Jupiter early in the month, as it will do at the end of the month. (albeit before sunrise).

**Meteor Showers** A couple of showers to look out for, both occurring at the end of the month. These are the **Alpha Capricornids** and the **Delta Aquariids**. Not many an hour forecast and the Delta Aquariids are quite faint, but the Alpha Capricornids are known for producing slow moving fireballs, usually yellow in colour, so could be worth a look, especially as there will be little interference from a late rising moon this year. Both showers peak on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Space Station** A few passes in the first half of the month that are at a 'reasonable' hour if you want to try a catch a glimpse. (the space station is usually first visible about 10° above the horizon).

8<sup>th</sup> 11.32 – 11.39 pm. Moving from SW to E. Max height 45°

9<sup>th</sup> 10.44 – 10.50 pm. SW To E. Max height 30°

10<sup>th</sup> 9.56 – 10.01 pm. S to E. Max height 20° so quite low.

10<sup>th</sup> 11.31 – 11.38 pm. W to E. Max height Overhead.

11<sup>th</sup> 10.43 – 10.50 pm. SW to E. Max height 45°

12<sup>th</sup> 9.55 – 10.01 pm. SW to E. Max height 45°

12<sup>th</sup> 11.31 – 11.37 pm. W To E. Overhead.

Data on passes generally only made available for those 2 to 3 weeks ahead.



## July Nature Notes

The Common, or Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) is one of the most well-known, and well recognised plants in Britain, and wisely too as the nettles' sting is capable of inflicting an uncomfortable rash on the unwary or foolhardy. Each sting is made of one very large stiff cell, supported on a cushion of smaller cells (which provide flexibility), making a hair that is specialised for delivering a small dose of a combination of several irritating chemicals under the skin. The end of the hair has a minute rounded tip, but this breaks off at the slightest touch leaving a sharp end like the point of a syringe needle. The silica strengthening makes it capable of puncturing the skin, and allows the cell contents containing the toxins to penetrate the wound.

The flowers of Stinging Nettles are inconspicuous since pollination is carried out by wind and there is no need for showy petals to attract insects. The strings of flowers hang near the top of the plant where they catch the wind. Plants are either male or female, and since they spread by the growth of rhizomes, a large patch may be of one sex only. You may have to go some way to find plants of the other sex. Nettles have a specialised mechanism for launching their pollen. The tiny male flower is encased in four sepals which stay sealed even when the anthers mature. The anther stalks keep growing within the sealed bud, gradually building up a pressure which finally is released explosively, sending a puff of pollen into the air. This often happens on a warm day, and the 'pop' can just be heard if you are close enough. The female flowers are the minute with bristly white stigmas, exposed to pick up the pollen in the wind to achieve fertilisation.



Stinging Nettles are important ecologically, supporting a whole community of insects. They are the chief component of the diet of several moths, and the exclusive food plant for the caterpillars of the Peacock, Comma and the Small Tortoiseshell butterflies. Although nutritious, it is not widely eaten by either wildlife or livestock, presumably because of the sting. The Stinging Nettle thrives in damp, nutrient-rich soils, but can colonise a wide range of other habitats. It spreads by abundant seeds and also by rhizomes. It is able to survive and re-establish quickly after fire and often becomes overwhelmingly abundant beside streams and rivers, where fertilisers and topsoil washed down from farmland create ideal conditions. In areas of poor soils Stinging Nettles are an indicator of previous habitation since they occur where ground has been disturbed and is rich in nitrogen and phosphorus.

In addition to the common Stinging Nettle which is a perennial there is an annual nettle called the Small Nettle (*Urtica urens*). This is a weed of cultivation probably brought here during the Iron Age. It is common on the fertile light soils such as found on the Suffolk Sandlings. While the Small Nettles does sting another species the Fen Nettle (*Urtica galeopsifolia*) does not. Unlike most other nettles, fen nettle has no stinging hairs or very few, instead being covered in fine, dense, non-stinging hairs. It has longer leaves than the Stinging Nettle but otherwise looks similar and grows in damp places such as fens or riverbanks.

Peter Vincent

|||||

I would just like to say a really big thank you to all my 'Middleton' friends for my birthday card and wishes, the beautiful earrings, orchid and garden token.

They are very much appreciated, and I will enjoy them all very much.  
Thanks again, Jenny T.

## MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024 AT 7pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

### 1 Attendance and Apologies

#### Attendees:

Cllr Lesley Taylor- Vice Chair  
Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Chris Reynolds

#### Apologies:

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Michelle Kendall

#### In attendance:

Rachael Salcombe – Parish Clerk  
District Cllr Sarah Whitelock (7.10pm-7.30pm)  
Three members of the public

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

### 3 Public Forum. A member of the public addressed the council requesting that representation be made to Suffolk County Council Highways Department regarding road signs, in particular, diversion signs. It was agreed that signage is poor in the area, often ambiguous, out of date and obscured by vegetation. Problems also include new road layout signs that have been up for 15 years, and a flood sign still present after 10 years. The member of the public was asked to email his thoughts/findings to the clerk, so that a letter of complaint may be prepared.

A second member of the public acknowledged and thanked the PC for the speed limit reduction on the B1122 to 30mph. However, it was felt that because of this, some drivers have become frustrated and are overtaking vehicles, thus the road remains as dangerous as before. Cllr Macdowell confirmed that average speed cameras are scheduled to be erected at the Yoxford turnoff, through to the new entrance to SZC. It is, however, an unknown when these will be up and running. The member of public informed the PC that he had spoken with SZC directly who advised him that traffic will be regulated by the local police and that no average speed cameras will be erected. Cllr Macdowell advised that there is no question that this will happen, and it was suggested, perhaps, that there is a lack of communication between colleagues at SZC. Cllr Macdowell will raise the matter again at the next Transport Forum. Cllr Macdowell also advised that he is in possession of maps that indicate the locations of the speed cameras, should anyone wish to view them. Cllr Whitelock also offered to bring this matter up at the next SZC top team meeting in July.

Cllr Whitelock shared key elements from the latest ESC report.

- Feed the bees campaign is being extended.
- A booklet has been produced (as a direct result of the energy projects in the area) to address mental health within the Ward. These will be made available in libraries, GP surgeries and other public places. Training is to be made available also. There will be a leaflet drop through every household in the Ward providing key information about the booklets and access via a QR code. This initiative has been paid for by Community Partnerships and more booklets are available upon request to Cllr Whitelock. **Action: Clerk to upload contents onto village website.**
- ESC now has access to £500,000 to aid those affected by flooding, in the future.
- Parking for residents in Leiston has been reduced from £600 to £300 per annum. Parking has become a premium since the arrival of SZC workers, who will eventually make use of the park and ride once it has been built.
- A new litter campaign has been launched; Keep Suffolk Beautiful – East Suffolk is amazing. Due to lack of funding, kits are being offered to volunteer groups to address their own particular neighbourhoods.

A member of the public advised that he belongs to a team of eight volunteers who help keep the village tidy along the highways, but raised concerns about whether this is permitted as he has received conflicting information. Cllr Whitelock offered her card and suggested that the concerns are emailed to her, and she will seek advice.

### 4 Minutes

- a) The Council approved the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14 May 2024 and the Annual Parish meeting held on 14 May 2024.
- b) **Matters arising and Action Points**
  - Removal of Stop SZC signs c/f.
  - The go ahead for pond works has been given. This work will fit in with the Great Crested Newt lifecycle. Notice will be given to Cllr Taylor when works commence. This will be the first of yearly maintenance works.
  - Advertisement for a Moor Maintenance contractor was published in the May newsletter.
  - PC objections to proposed Eco-camping Planning Application submitted to ESC Planning Department.
  - Flowerpots behind the water pump on the Moor c/f.
  - Agreed requested name change for the path approaching the church has been advised to the Church Warden.

### 5 Sizewell C

- Cllr Macdowell to request the slow down zone to be extended past Thatched House.
- Concerns were raised that due to the 30mph speed limit on the B1122 traffic will increase on the B1125.
- It was agreed that the 24-hour notices given by SZC for wide load notifications is not sufficient, especially as the loads are going to become more frequent, heavier and slower mover. The impact will be felt further during harvest time with multiple tractors on the B1122.
- Cllr Lacey is continuing to meet with Cllr Weaver from Kelsale PC to discuss Fordley Road speed limit, signage for passing places and HGV signage. Sugar Beet lorries, which have to use Fordley Road highlights the problem. Although it was agreed that EDF should absorb the costs, in the first instance a joint letter will be sent to Cllr Richard Smith, cc Steve Merritt, at Suffolk County Council.

**Action: Clerk to put all wide load notifications onto the village website.**



6 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall. No report.
- b) Middleton Primary School. No report.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. No report.
- d) Middleton Moor.  
Substation. c/f  
Pond. There is an £800 grant for the year for the Moor from Natural England, this will cover the cost of the yearly maintenance of the pond. External areas on the pond also need work as currently unattractive.  
Moor Maintenance. There has been no response from the advertisement in May's newsletter. Contact has been made with acquaintances provided by the Summer Winers, but interest is for the hay only and not the overall maintenance. Nonsuch Farm have provided a proforma, detailing a 5-year contract/rental agreement, this would involve bailing and removing the hay at no cost to the PC, with all other works to be charged at £150 per day for labour plus basic tools and £50-£75 for mechanical support. The work is anticipated to be two days per year. The PC have ringfenced funds of £3,000 for the Moor (Rural England). It was agreed to pay for this year's work out of these reserves, following which the cost will be built into the budget/precept. Nonsuch Farm is an organic farm and therefore the PC would need to obtain a Soil Association Certificate meaning that, as landowners, we would need to agree to work organically. **Action: Cllr Taylor to write to Nonsuch Farm to request a quote for a 5-year fixed contract.**  
  
It was agreed that the Moor Management Group should be kept informed of the progress made regarding the Pond maintenance and the management of the Moor. **Action: Cllr Taylor to email the Moor Management Group accordingly.**
- e) Causeway Farm. The expectation (subject to confirmation from Suffolk County Council) is that the farm is to be lotted up. It is anticipated that the PC will be offered some input before this idea is made public.

7 Village Green Group

Grass Cutting. Compliments have been received and the village green group would like to keep grass cutting on a regular basis. Wildflower sowing was unsuccessful, although there are now plants in pots. It was agreed that cutting of the village green grass needs to be budgeted for (average 2 cuts per month for 6 months @ £20 per cut = £240), in the meantime, it was agreed to try and source a volunteer (equipment is available). **Action: Clerk to put an ad in the next newsletter.**  
  
The Summer Winers are historically thanked for their work in the village by way of a donation in the sum of £250. It is believed that this was omitted this year and needs to be rectified. **Action: Cllr Cusack to make enquiries regarding annual donation and possible volunteer(s) for grass cutting.**

8 Finance

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

| Details                   | Payee            | Amount  | Power          |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------|
| Website Domain Charges    | IONOS            | £12.00  | LGA 1972 s.142 |
| Clerk Overtime – May 2024 | Rachael Salcombe | £112.00 | LGA 1972 s.112 |

It was agreed to put the static speed camera back on the agenda as it was felt that the camera will not now be needed on the B1122 due to the average speed cameras imminent arrival, but may be needed on the B1125, as it is felt that the traffic will increase on this stretch of road.

- c) Annual Accounts for the financial year 23-24 approved.
- d) Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) of the AGAR approved.
- e) Accounting Statements (Section 2) of the AGAR approved.
- f) Certificate of Exemption approved.
- g) Exercise of public rights period agreed as 14 June 2024 to 14 July 2024
- h) Internal Audit Report for 2023-2024 reviewed.

**Action: Clerk to upload Internal Audit Report, AGAR and Exercise of public rights date on village website. Clerk to send Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor.**

9 Administration

Data Protection Officer. The PC were advised that a DPO is not a requirement of the PC because we do not process sensitive personal data on a large scale, however we do need to have a named Data Controller, typically the clerk, and this was agreed. **Action: Clerk to update Information Protection Policy, adopted 13/3/18 from Data Protection Officer to Data Control Officer.**

10 The Bell

Nomination for listing as an Asset of Community Value was submitted to ESC on 6 June 2024. ESC has written, in return, requesting a satellite image showing property boundaries. **Action: Cllr Rowe to source and advise Clerk.**

11 Village Path approach to Church

The contractor who quoted for the works is no longer available. **Action: Cllr Piercy to supply the Clerk with details of other possible contractors.**

12 Flooding/maintenance/Emergency Plan. See 5. SZC above.

13 Correspondence.

An email has been received from the Church Warden regarding the Mill Street road closure on 31 May that obstructed the weekend's scheduled Open Gardens, resulting in extra logistic work for the organisers. **Action: Clerk to write to SCC, Highways requesting that warning be given in the future.**

**14 Items for Next Agenda**

**15 Next Meeting**

The date and time of the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9 July 2024, at 7pm, at the Village Hall.  
The meeting closed at 8pm.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024  
AT 8pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Lesley Taylor – Vice Chair  
Cllr Graham Lacey  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Giles Piercy  
Cllr Katheryn Rowe  
Cllr Chris Reynolds

**Apologies:**

Cllr Julian Cusack  
Cllr Steve Thorpe  
Cllr Michelle Kendall

**In attendance** Rachael Salcombe – Clerk

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

**3 Minutes**

- a) Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 14 May 2024.
- b) Matters arising. The booking form for the pavilion has been revamped to include no bouncy castles.

**4 To review Safety Inspection Report.** May report approved.

**Correspondence.** No correspondence.

**5 Matters for discussion**

Survey. Forty replies have been received out of the 120 issued. Cllr Rowe has collated paper surveys for door-to-door delivery. Cllr Taylor will distribute in the Moor area, Cllr Thorpe to distribute along Reckford Road, Cllrs Rowe and Kendall to deliver along Mill Street, through the village to Rectory Road and Cllr Piercy to deliver along the Causeway.

Software will be used to coordinate the responses, and thus inform the way forward. It is hoped that this information will be ready for July's meeting. Cllr Rowe reiterated the commitment to keep residents informed of ideas and proposals extracted from the surveys, creating a short list of ideas to present for further comment.

Signs (recreation ground rules/guidelines). It was agreed to put this on hold until the collation of the surveys have been considered and final choices made for the recreation ground.

Dog fouling along the path that runs around the perimeter of the recreation ground was raised, with the suggestion that signs are put in place. It was decided, in the first instance, to contact a resident on Back Road to seek agreement for the erection of appropriate signs. **Action: Clerk to contact resident seeking agreement to put up signs to use the dog bin situated at the entrance of the recreation ground.**

Picnic Benches. The Summer Winers are in the process of constructing the benches.

**7 Items for the next Agenda.** No items.

**8 Next Meeting**

Date of next meeting Tuesday 9 July 2024, to follow Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council**  
are looking for Volunteers to cut the village  
green on a regular basis, during the growing  
season.

(Equipment is available)

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk

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

mobile 07510 155640





## DIARY DATES 2024

### July

Thursday 4th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm  
 Tuesday 9th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm  
 Saturday 13th Summer boules tournament, playing field, 10am  
 Wednesday 17th WI – Garden Party (Venue TBA)

### August

Thursday 1st "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm  
 Saturday 24th Annual Village Fete, Playing Field, 2pm

### September

Thursday 5th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm  
 Tuesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm  
 Wednesday 18th WI – Village Hall - 'Blood, Sweat & Fears' Mary Newton Pathologist

### October

Thursday 3rd "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm  
 Tuesday 8th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm  
 Saturday 12th MCC Autumn Fair,  
 Wednesday 16th WI – Village Hall – 'The True Cost of Fish', Andy Malcolm ~The Fishermen's Mission  
 Sunday 20th Reiko Fujisaka: Piano Trio Concert at Holy Trinity Church, **3pm**

### November

Thursday 7th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm  
 Tuesday 12th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm  
 Wednesday 20th WI – Village Hall - Cheese and Wine evening + AGM

### December

Thursday 5th "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from 8pm  
 Saturday 7th "Santa Boules" tournament – Playing Field, 10.am  
 Tuesday 10th Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, 7pm  
 Saturday 14th MCC Christmas Party –Village Hall  
 Wednesday 18th WI–Village Hall - End Year Celebrations. Martin & Annie ~ Sizewell Gap musicians  
 Friday 20th Carol Service, Holy Trinity, 6pm  
 Tuesday 24th Midnight Mass, Holy Trinity, 11.15pm

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