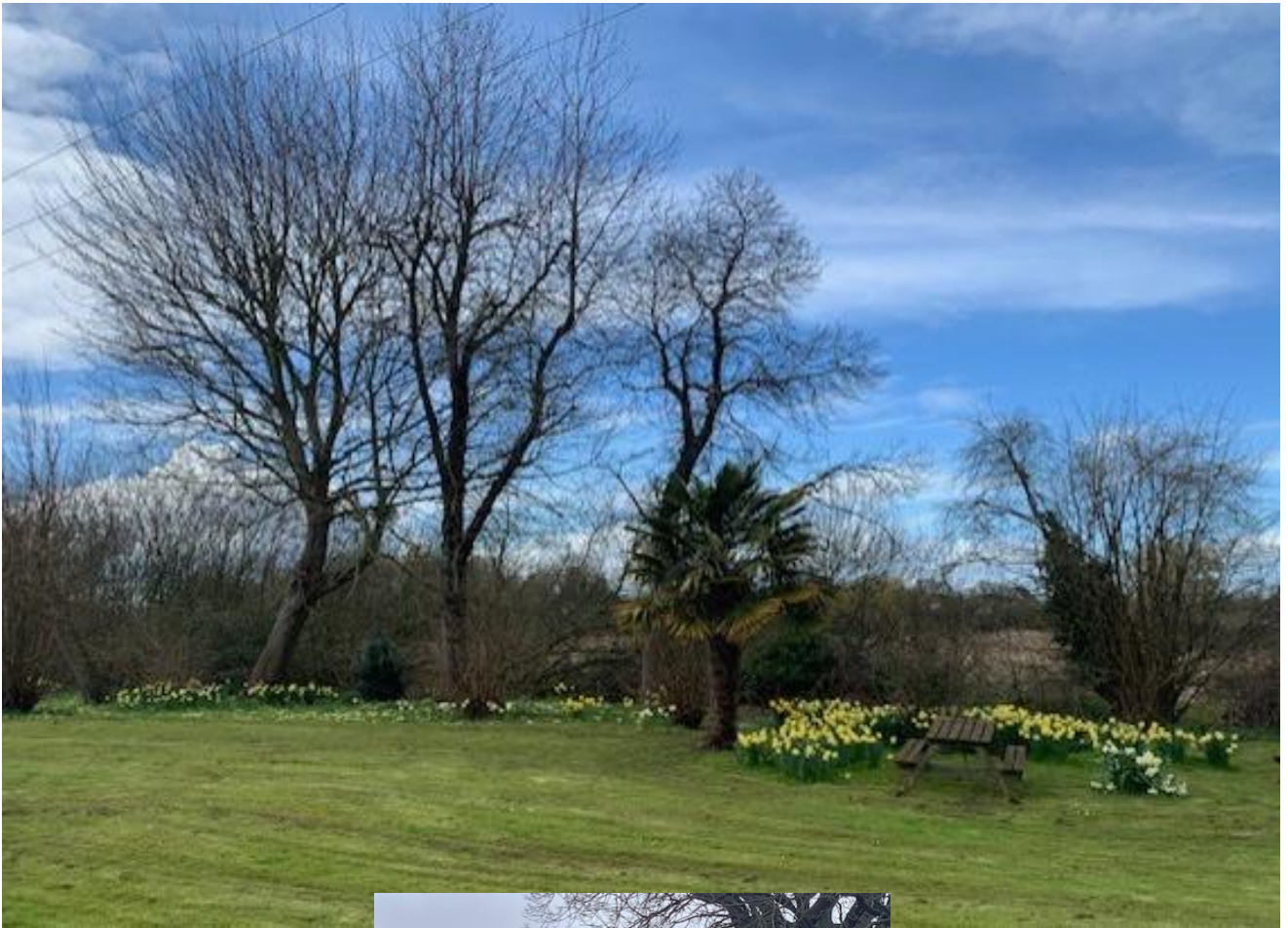


# MIDDLETON - CUM - FORDLEY



## NEWSLETTER

April 2026

## Editorial

Will March 'come in like a lion and go out like a lamb' I wonder? This was my proverb from last month - and judging by today's weather (Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>) it doesn't feel like its going out like a lamb! Far from it. Nevertheless Spring seems to be here - looking around at the wonderful arrays of daffodils, primroses, magnolias and forsythias in bloom to name a few. Very pretty.

Great news from the PC and Recreation ground group that the new play/exercise equipment is all ordered and hopefully in for the summer.

We have adverts for events in April and some advance notices for May and onwards. Quite a range.

Contributions for the next issue can be emailed to [barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.barker.t21@btinternet.com) or dropped in to 6 Meadowview, Rectory Road by **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April** please. **PLEASE try to adhere to copy dates! I do have a deadline at the printers to meet.**

This (and past issues) can 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

## “Procrasti-knitters and sewers”

Do you have a project to finish? Are you about to start one? Do you need space to spread out or help getting started? Come and join us.

We will initially meet on the last Tuesday of each month – commencing March 31<sup>st</sup> from 2pm. It will be very informal, with tea and cake, though we will have to charge £3 per head to cover hall hire, electricity etc.



Christine Bryant .

cb4art@gmail.com



**EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- **Digital Archive of Hinkley Point C Excavations**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4xrwb5mx>  
Cotswold Archaeology have made available online the whole digital archive of their excavations at Hinkley Point C in Somerset from 2009 to 2016.
- **Medieval Activity around Leiston Abbey: Sizewell C excavation insights**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4r8kzxb>  
This free online webinar on 29 April from Oxford Cotswold Archaeology discusses archaeological findings surrounding the 12th-century abbey discovered during Sizewell C excavations in Suffolk.



IMAGE: © Oxford Cotswold Archaeology

Thank you Mark for passing this on for those interested in the archaeology going on at the moment. This is an online lecture (free) on 29<sup>th</sup> April .

<https://tinyurl.com/4r8kzxb>

( Information taken from April's edition Of "Current Archaeology" magazine.)

# Your Village Recreation Ground

As you are all aware, we were granted funding from SZC Community Fund in February and now we have managed to begin the next phase of installation. Here are some of the changes you will see over the next few months:

Solar panels have been installed on the Pavilion. Our Fitness area for over 14s has been ordered and items are currently being produced. Our choices were based on our village dynamics, advice from a Sports scientist, other equipment available locally and villager responses - wooden cardiac, balance and strengthening equipment is to be situated at the far end of the field to enable a brisk warm-up walk and to follow current siting legislation. Each piece of equipment will have examples of exercises. Children's play equipment is on order and will include multifaceted climbing frame, swings, balancers, musical play and a zip line. A wooden MUGA-style football goal was a popular item and will also be installed to encourage multi-age activity. The basketball equipment is also to be revamped.

There is to be a new container to be placed next to the current one, enabling the Community Council to organise and store equipment more effectively for village events. Most of the installation works will be happening over May, so that, by the Summer, we can all enjoy and make the most of our space.

Thank you



## Middleton Pavilion

For your relaxation, parties and sports events

Contact: [Middletonpavilion@gmail.com](mailto:Middletonpavilion@gmail.com)

 Middleton Pavilion, Suffolk



## Clocks Forward!

**28th March 2026** is clocks forward once again and we will be celebrating the imminent spring as we have many times before with a session of traditional music and song in the Middleton Bell!

From 7:30pm in the bar.

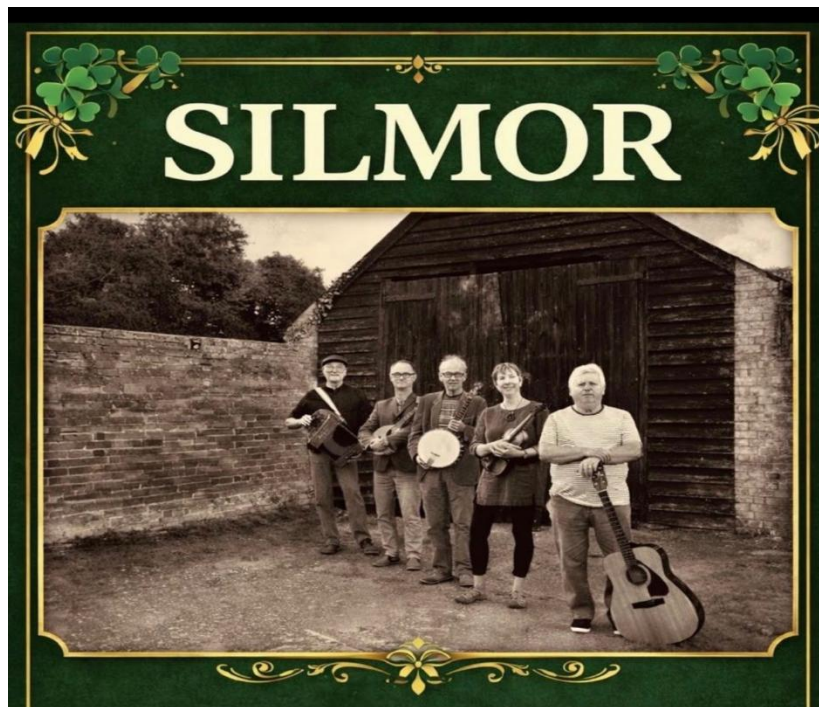
Please contact Tim Hannon for more information

[Tim.hannon@btinternet.com](mailto:Tim.hannon@btinternet.com)



**Live music at The Bell – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April - from 8pm**

**with ...**



Middleton-cum Fordley Community Council  
presents an entertaining talk by local resident

**Chrissie Beveridge:**

Award Winning Film Make-Up Artist

**LIFE ON THE FILM SET**

**Middleton Village Hall**

**Saturday 18th April - 7pm start**

Cheese & Wine Refreshments

Entry is free, but donations are gratefully received

Licensed bar  
Soft drinks/tea  
coffee available  
also.

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A TALK**  
**Living well with Alzheimer's**  
**With Peter Berry**



**Time: 2.30pm**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Location: Holy Trinity Church, Middleton**



**Refreshments will be available**



**\*There will be an opportunity to buy our books\***

**All donations to Alzheimer's Research UK**



**Cratfield  
Young Artists  
At Middleton**

*Showcasing the next generation  
of top rank professional musicians*

**Sunday April 19 at 3pm**

**Scott Storey, *viola*,**  
**Archie Bonham, *piano***  
*Programme:*  
*Mendelssohn, Clarke,*  
*Schumann, Bloch*



**Sunday May 10 at 3pm**



**Lumas Winds**  
Beth Stone *flute*  
Ewan Millar *oboe*  
Rennie Sutherland *clarinet*  
Florence Plane *bassoon*  
Benjamin Hartnell-Booth *horn*  
*Programme: Mozart,*  
*JS Bach, Bernstein, Bozza,*  
*Coleman, Beamish*

Tickets £17.00 from

[www.concertsatcratfield.org](http://www.concertsatcratfield.org)

Holy Trinity Church, Middleton, East Suffolk, IP17 3NW

**!!SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**Saturday 2 May 2026**  
**ART AFFAIR**

**Celebrating the creative talents of local people!**

Whatever your level, whether you are just starting out on your artistic journey or you are more experienced, we would love to hear from you if you would like to showcase, sell or even demonstrate your work.

To include all disciplines including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, ceramics, to name but a few.

The event will be held in Yoxford Village Hall.

**To book, please contact**  
**[Suffolkartaffair@gmail.com](mailto:Suffolkartaffair@gmail.com)**

# HOLY TRINITY – MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY

## Church Services during April

Sunday 5 April Easter Day  
Sunday 26 April

11am Holy Communion  
11am Holy Communion

*The Benefice Service this month will take place at 10am on Sunday 12 April in St Peter's, Yoxford*

*Please See The Fisherman for information about Services across the Benefice during Holy Week*

**POETRY IN THE PORCH** will continue into Easter Week; the final poem will be posted on  
**Saturday 11 April.**

**With heartfelt hopes for a joyful Easter to you all – may it be so**

## Upcoming Events at Holy Trinity Church Save the date!

- Sunday 12 April, 10-11.45am, Spring Pop-up Brunch (see details below)
- Sunday 19 April, 3pm, Cratfield Young Musicians at Middleton (tickets £17 from [www.concertsatcratfield.org](http://www.concertsatcratfield.org))
- Sunday 10 May, 3pm, Cratfield Young Musicians at Middleton (tickets £17 from [www.concertsatcratfield.org](http://www.concertsatcratfield.org))
- Friday 19th June, 7pm, Jorge Jimenez violinist with harp accompaniment (further details to follow)
- Sunday 5 July, 2pm, Peter Berry talks on Living with Alzheimer's

## HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Holy Trinity Church, Middleton APCM will be held on  
Thursday 14 May at 2.30pm in the church  
Everyone is welcome

## New Cards Available

By kind permission of David Calvert Photography, we have three beautiful new cards on sale in church



**The Spring 2026 Pop-up Brunch**  
**Sunday 12 April, 10-11.45am**  
**Holy Trinity Church**

Pretty sure we are most of us up to speed with these now but ... for any of us who have missed them or have recently arrived in Middleton and are wondering what they are about, they began with a desire to make more use of our lovely old church and, wondering how to complement and collaborate with the other good things going on in the village, realising that we were missing having somewhere - in walking distance - to read the papers, solve a crossword, maybe catch up with a friend while enjoying coffee and a sausage roll or a bacon bap on a Sunday morning...

Hoping their might be simnel cake too, so please join us...

**Any time between 10 and 11.45am**

If you have any questions about this event, or would like a lift, please contact Amanda Taylor: 07990 602 563 or [ajt.opom@gmail.com](mailto:ajt.opom@gmail.com) or Camilla Sim: 07740 427414 or [camillasim9@gmail.com](mailto:camillasim9@gmail.com)



**Thought Poem for the Month**

A poem by Evangeline Paterson to bring Poetry in the Porch to a close.  
The gaps are as the poet wrote them. If you read it aloud observing them, the effect is rather wonderful.

and that will be heaven

and that will be heaven  
at last the first unclouded  
seeing

to stand like the sunflower  
turned full face to the sun drenched  
with light in the centre  
held while the circling planets  
hum with utter joy

seeing and knowing  
at last in every particle  
seen and known and not turning  
away

never turning away  
again

---

 **Holy Dusters** 

3<sup>rd</sup> April – Christine and David

15<sup>th</sup> April – Amanda and Paul

New dusters always welcome, of all faiths and none.

## WI closure

The 18th March was the final meeting of our village WI. with the majority of our members in attendance.

We met, as ladies over the past 102 years have met, in the village hall with our Advisor attending, as is required, I signed the closing paperwork and it was then time for some lovely cakes and tea.

Our ladies sat and chatted, reluctant to leave it seemed, with laughter as there always was in our group and whilst we were sad to let go of our WI having given it 1 more year, we knew it had run its course due in the main to a reducing membership and dare I say... an age issue on the whole of most of us! It needed young blood and energy that I/we once had.

I need to clarify that whilst we have closed, from our point of view, we have actually been 'suspended' and this will stay in place for 3 years in case anyone wishes to start it up again. After the 3 years it is officially closed - so still a glimmer of hope it might resume with new people moving into the village during that time..

Thank you to our members for all their support and the friends we have made along the way of which there are many, not to mention the village support.

We sang the WI anthem one last time, I removed my Presidents brooch, which all Presidents have worn with pride and it was farewell for now.

Rita

### Polite Request

Please can a polite request be put in the Newsletter, to ask people not to light bonfires in the middle of the day. (Have waited all this time to hang washing out)! DC



### Obituary

Sadly another passing to report this month. Mark Kitson – known to us all as 'Blue' – who lived on Middleton Moor for a while several years ago now. Many may remember him doing rabbit skinning, pheasant plucking and similar 'gamey' activities at one of our earliest Autumn Fayres. Most will know him for the blue tattoos! His wake was held at Sax. E.S.M.Club on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Middleton Dark Skies

### April Highlights

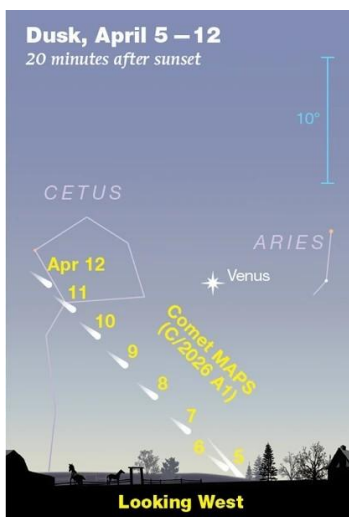
**Planets on View.** Only a couple this month. **Venus** is sitting high in the western evening sky, setting at around 11.00 pm. It is unusual this month, as it can be seen against a completely dark sky, instead of the usual evening twilight or dawn sky. Towards the end of the month Venus will be at its brightest, outshining everything in the night sky, bar the Moon. **Mars** is still lost in the evening twilight. **Jupiter**, as it has been for several months now, is camped out in the constellation of Gemini, sitting just below the stars Castor and Pollux. Like Mars, **Saturn** is lost in the evening twilight.

**Constellations.** **Cygnus** (the Swan, also known as the Northern Cross) reappears in the NE this month, rising steadily until it is practically overhead during the summer months. In Greek myth, Cygnus and his friend Phaeton were involved in a chariot accident, where Phaeton died after falling into a river. Cygnus tried to recover his friend from the bottom of the river, but was unable to do so. He made a bargain with Zeus to transform him into a swan so that he could retrieve the body, which he did, but as part of the bargain he was to remain a swan. Zeus rewarded him for this by placing him in the sky as the Cygnus swan constellation. **Leo** (the Lion), with **Virgo** (the Virgin) sit out towards the south with the two brightest stars of these constellations, Regulus and Spica, joining with Arcturus, in the constellation of Boötes, to form a bright triangle of stars in the southern sky. **The Plough** (or Big Dipper), is practically overhead this month, and easily recognised from its seven stars forming the shape of a large saucepan.

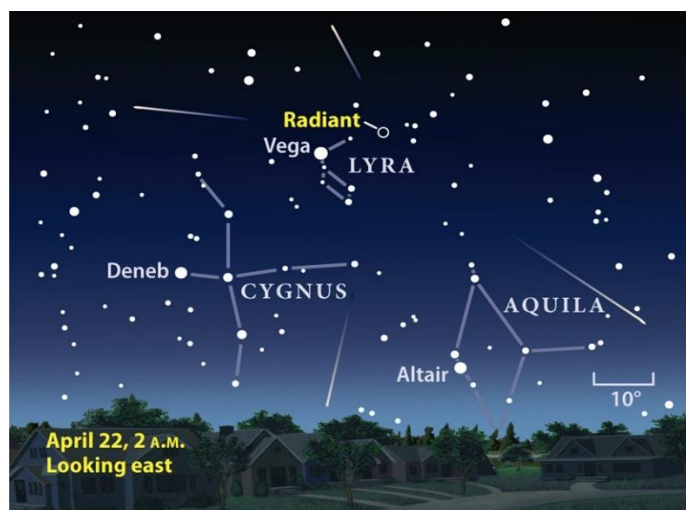
**The Moon.** The names of the Moon this month are linked to the spring in the Northern Hemisphere, such as Grass Moon and Pink Moon (after early spring flowers). Full Moon this month will occur on the 2nd. Watch out on the 19<sup>th</sup> for the crescent Moon sitting just above the Pleiades star cluster (binoculars will help with this), Venus is also sitting close by. *Note: A New Moon is not visible, as it is almost directly between the Earth and the Sun, so has its illuminated side facing away from us. It does however show itself as a silhouette during a solar eclipse.*

**Meteors and Comets.** The Lyrids meteor shower puts in an appearance during the early hours of the 21<sup>st</sup> -23rd. The Moon sets at around 2am, so interference from moonlight may well be a factor before that time. The radiant of the shower rises in the NE, with the constellation of Lyra (the Harp), at around 11.00 PM. The rate is likely to be 10-15 per hour, but this would be in all directions from the radiant. These are fast and bright meteors, and will occasionally leave a trail behind them.

Comet C/2026 A1 MAPS will pass behind the Sun on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month, and if it survives may become visible in the western twilight. Not only has it to survive, but it must also brighten enough to be visible. If it does survive, it will be below and to the left of the planet Venus and rising higher in the sky during the following days, although fading as it gets further away from the Earth.



Comet C/2026 A1



Radiant of the Lyrids Meteor Shower.

**Artificial Satellites.** With over 15,000 satellites in orbit now, 12,000 of which have been launched in the last six years, there are plenty to see. There are more and more ‘constellations’ of 3 or more satellites in low earth orbit, so look out for several moving across the sky, either following each other in a line, or in a group.

**Easter Sunday.** The date for Easter Sunday is determined by the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox on 21<sup>st</sup> March, with the first Sunday after the Full Moon becoming Easter Sunday. Accordingly, the earliest Easter Sunday can be is the 22<sup>nd</sup> March, assuming that a Full Moon occurs on that day, and that the 22<sup>nd</sup> is a Sunday. The latest that Easter Sunday can be is the 25<sup>th</sup> April, when the first Full Moon after the Spring Equinox occurs on the 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Brian Near

\*\*\*\*\*

### Middleton Village Hall

At the recent Village Hall Committee meeting an idea was discussed about a free taster session for “New Age Kurling” (yes with a K and no ice involved!) and Boccia. This would be run by a group called ‘ActiveLives’ . Enquiries have been made for after Easter so if you’re interested/intrigued to know more ‘watch this space’ !

Also we had an enquiry about the table tennis table, which although hasn’t been used for some time the committee felt that perhaps it was because not many people know it is there!

It could be used on one – off occasions or if anyone wishes to start up more regular sessions it would be included in the hall hire charge. Contact [jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com) for more information on available bookings.

Perhaps also, new people to the village might not realise what activities do already happen in the hall - we currently have :

Pilates on Monday and Friday mornings, Quilters once a month on a Wednesday morning,

Open house free coffee mornings every Thursday, art club on Thursday afternoons,

Carpet bowls on Thursday evenings.

Starting this coming Tuesday are the new group of ‘Procrastiknitters’ - see earlier advert.

The Parish Council meet once a month on a Wednesday evening, so there are currently vacant slots which could be used. Let us know if you have an idea of another activity.

[jenricht@btinternet.com](mailto:jenricht@btinternet.com)

=====



**Date for your diary**  
**MIDDLETON OPEN GARDENS**

  
**6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**(11 am - 5pm)**

The preparation for this popular event has now started - Showcasing both formal and informal gardens, within Middleton village, we aim to offer something for all who appreciate the beauty and joy of the country garden

There will be an arts/craft/vintage and plants/flower stalls at the pub barn and wildlife activities in one of the gardens.

Serving refreshments at the pavilion all day

Fund raising for Holy Trinity Church, Middleton, also this year supporting the East Anglian Ambulance and Project40seven

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**Locally based Maintenance Company**

**Repairs & maintenance to all types of property**

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## April Nature Notes

Woodlands are noted for their spring flowers and in April the flora of Suffolk woods will be at its richest. During spring, the increasing levels of light foster plant growth, making it crucial for these species to grow, bloom, and set seed before the summer foliage of trees blocks sunlight from reaching the flowers on the forest floor.

The occurrence of this rich spring woodland flora is no accident. The plant species in these areas are shaped by the continuity of the woodland, and their survival hinges on the cycles of light and shade typical of both managed and natural woodlands. Woodland plants such as Bluebells, Primroses, Violets, Wood Anemones, and Ransoms depend on the shade provided by trees for their sustenance. Extended periods of shade inhibit the growth of tall grasses and other non-woodland plants that might otherwise outcompete these less vigorous woodland species. Many of these plants are regarded as key indicators of ancient woodlands - areas that have been continuously wooded since at least 1600.



A succession of woodland flowers unfolds throughout spring, starting with the bright yellow Lesser Celandines, which capitalize on the limited early spring light by fully opening their petals in sunlight and closing them when shade or clouds obscure the light. Following them are Primroses, which, although often found in ditches and other habitats, are originally woodland plants and thrive abundantly in many woods. Dog Violets display a spectrum of colours from white to bluish-purple, typically blooming by mid-April, while the similar Early Dog Violet flowers earlier, in March. Ransoms, or Wild Garlic next comes into flower. These have a cluster of white star-shaped flowers and on mass the powerful smell of garlic. Then comes the Wood Anemones. The flowers of the Wood Anemone are unusual, in that they have no petals, only sepals, which are white in colour. These are followed by the familiar Bluebells, which can become abundant in certain woods, creating dense carpets. Notably, Britain is home to half of the world's population of these iconic violet-blue flowers. Before summer arrives, herbaceous plants such as the delicate green-flowered Moschatel - known as 'Town Hall Clock' due to its flowers facing outward in four directions, resembling the four faces of a town clock - along with the white flowered Stitchwort, blue Bugle, and Yellow Archangel, will also emerge. In the ancient woodlands of the west of the county, one may find plants such as Herb Paris, with its understated green flowers blooming among Bluebells and Primroses, as well as Suffolk's county flower, the Oxlip. Oxlips are a native perennial that resemble a large cowslip but with the pale yellow colour of a primrose. The 'False Oxlip,' a Cowslip x Primrose hybrid, is commonly found where these species coexist, and are typically larger plants with upright flowers. Woodlands are also the habitat for a number of spectacular orchid species such as Purple Helleborine and Greater Butterfly Orchid, unfortunately these are rather rare, although the Early Purple Orchid is still quite common and is present in a few local woods.

Peter Vincent



**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026 AT 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 Steve Thorpe (Chair)  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Michele Kendall  
Cllr Ian Widgington  
Cllr Giles Piercy

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Julian Cusack

**In attendance:**

Parish Clerk  
Members of the public x 3

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

**3 Public Forum.** A member of the public, present at this meeting, has written to SZC regarding issues along the B1122 that have been outstanding for several months. The planned next step is to advise SZC that contact will be made with the EADT if they continue to fail to meet their promises.

County Councillor Richard Smith will be retiring in May of this year.

**4 Minutes**

a) The Council approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 February 2026.

b) Matters arising and Action Points

- \* SCC have been contacted requesting that the rubbish at Causeway Farm be removed.
- \* A link was placed in the village newsletter for reporting problems to SCC Highways.
- \* The updated Mandate was submitted to HSBC. See below for further information.
- \* ESC has been advised of MPC's no objection to planning application DC/26/0353/FUL.

**5 Causeway Farm.** A care farm outside of Framlingham has expressed interest to SCC to establish a care farm on the site. Upon enquiry by the care farm, it is understood that SCC are planning to sell the farmhouse as a separate dwelling and will be looking for planning permission to build houses on the existing footprint of the barns and are, therefore, not interested in a care farm on this site. However, there may be an option to establish a care farm on another site within the village. SCC have been contacted by MPC voicing disappointment that, despite our meeting with them in January, they continue to leave MPC and village residents 'out of the loop'. As a result, MPC will be meeting with SCC on Monday 16 March 2026 for a thorough update, including plans for Hastoe Field. Concerns regarding the condition of the site was raised by a member of the public. This will be raised at the meeting on Monday with SCC.

**6 Sizewell C and other Energy Projects.** The Lionlink consultation process has now finished. MPC have submitted their own input. Cllr Macdowell has written to our MP regarding the lack of coordination between the different energy projects and a case study about how Lionlink is proposing to a) go through the parish on a brand-new route or b) along the SLR, which MPC believes to be the better option.

Two main local activities regarding SZC are Friday Street and Yoxford roundabouts, both of which are due to be open at the end of the month. In the meantime, both have overnight weekend closures. Pretty Road will now be closed at the end of April, rather than March. B1122 works start after Easter (exact works are unknown and enquiries will be made by MPC).

MPC attended a joint parish council meeting last week to speak with SZC regarding a letter that was written by the parishes detailing concerns of the residents along the B1125. It was confirmed that SZC will not put in speed cameras along the B1125. SCC Highways confirmed that they will not reduce the 50mph speed limit. A speed indicator device would need to be funded by MPC, including installation and maintenance. The clerk has contacted SCC Highways regarding this matter but is yet to receive a reply. **Action: Clerk to chase a response.** In the meantime, the question was raised as to whether MPC could borrow Westleton PC SID. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to enquire.**

MPC are in receipt of an email from village residents regarding tree cutting on their property as part of a new footpath being installed by SZC. It was agreed that the problem needs to be understood in more detail. **Action: Cllr Thorpe to contact SZC for further information.** **Action: Clerk to advise owners of MPC's intentions.**

## 7 Emergency Planning Group – c/f

## 8 Councillors Reports

- a) Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Kendall will attend the March meeting.
- b) Middleton Primary School. Cllr Kendall had a successful visit with the headteacher.
- c) Highways, footpaths and trees. SZC will be putting in extra footpaths along the B1125 towards the end of the year (although it is understood that they are behind schedule). Questions regarding this will be raised at the next SZC Community Forum. Enquiry was made regarding the spreading of ashes under the Sycamore tree on the Moor and this was approved by the owner.
- d) Middleton Moor Management Group. Works are planned on the two ponds either side of the entrance to Moor House.

## 9 Finance

- a) The latest financial position was received and accepted by all.
- b) Bank reconciliation for Q3 was noted and accepted by all.
- c) The following payments were authorised.

Details	Payee	Amount	Power
Toner Giant, printer drums, ratify	Parish Clerk	£119.00	LGA 1972 s.111
Overtime for February 7.5 hours	Parish Clerk	£144.90	LGS 1972 s.112

The clerk confirmed that she is now a signatory on the parish account. On the back of this, arrangements will be made for the telephone banking service and a debit card (upon enquiry, a credit card is not offered by HSBC for parish councils). Following verbal agreement from Cllr Cusack, the clerk, as a signatory, will now be able to make herself the primary user. This was also agreed by the councillors at this meeting. As the primary user the clerk will be able to make larger payments in a single transaction. To date payments for the recreation ground purchases are being made piecemeal, which is both clumsy and time consuming. **Action: Clerk to carry out the process to become the primary user on the account.**

## 10 Administration. The following documents were re-adopted by the PC.

- a) Model Standing Orders
- b) Financial Regulations
- c) Internal Controls – c/f to April. **Action: Clerk to update in line with NALC/SALC guidelines**
- d) Code of Conduct
- e) Risk Assessment
- f) Asset Register – solar panels added

**Action: Clerk to upload re-adopted documents onto village website.**

## 11 Agree engagement of SALC for 2025/26 audit.

It was agreed to employ SALC to carry out the internal audit, at a cost of £189 exc. VAT.

**12 Planning Application.** DC/26/0489/FUL. To extend existing annex to create a second bedroom and larger living space. Also to install PV panels on front and south-east roof slopes. Tollgate, Middleton Moor. MPC support this application.

**Action:** Clerk to advise ESC Planning.

**13 Correspondence.**

- It was agreed that Cllrs Macdowell and Thorpe will meet independently to complete the Suffolk Highways Town and Parish Council Survey on behalf of MPC.
- It was agreed to meet on Tuesday 17 March, 7pm, in the village car park to consider Planning Application DC/26/0548/TPO. 1no. Beech – Overall crown reduction by 2 metres and remove 2 stems. **Action:** Clerk to produce an Agenda.
- The clerk advised the meeting, upon enquiry with SALC, that should MPC find themselves without a chairperson, protocol is to elect a chairperson at the beginning of each meeting (to run for one month) whereupon a Declaration of Interest is completed each time. (This document does not need to be shared with ESC but is kept by MPC).
- MPC are in receipt of correspondence from a village resident regarding existing and future works to their property. Clarity regarding the works has been provided and it was agreed at the meeting that the residents (at their suggestion) write a piece for the next village newsletter with an update. **Action:** Clerk to supply newsletter contact details.
- It was agreed to pay SALC for 6 months payroll ending 31 March 2026. **Action:** Clerk to make payment.
- The meeting was advised that the current tenants of The Bell Inn are going into liquidation, and that Adnams are planning to sell the pub. It was agreed to write to Adnams to advise that the pub is listed as an asset of community value. This will give an opportunity for the village, should they so choose, to think about whether we would want to raise money to take ownership of the pub. **Action:** Cllr Piercy to compose a suitable letter (to be signed by Cllr Cusack).

**14 Items for Next Agenda.**

**15 Next Meeting.** Agreed for Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 7pm, at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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**MIDDLETON CUM FORDLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS SOLE TRUSTEE OF  
THE MIDDLETON RECREATION GROUND TRUST  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026  
AT 8.15pm AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**1 Attendance and Apologies**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Steve Thorpe (Chair)  
Cllr Charles Macdowell  
Cllr Chris Reynolds  
Cllr Kathryn Rowe  
Cllr Michele Kendall  
Cllr Ian Widgington  
Cllr Giles Piercy

**Apologies accepted for absence:**

Cllr Julian Cusack

**In attendance:**

Parish Clerk  
Member of the public x 1

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

3 **Minutes**

Minutes approved of Trustee Meeting held on 11 February 2026.  
Matters arising. The clerk was unable to transfer SZC Funds from current account to savings account. However, it was agreed that at the rate of expenditure for the recreation ground items this action is obsolete.

4 **To review Safety Inspection Report**

The latest report has been received and noted. (09.02.26, Visual Report.)

5 **SZC Community Fund.** The adult and child equipment will be delivered and installed in approximately 8 weeks. Playdale have requested confirmation that there are not any services running under the proposed locations of equipment. This is being investigated by the pavilion manager, and it was confirmed that electricity and gas are clear but still waiting to hear back about water. The pavilion facilities will be made available to the installers of the equipment.

Cllr Piercy reminded the meeting that a baseline survey, in line with the grant offer, needs to be carried out. This will be discussed further with the pavilion manager, with an update provided at April's MPC meeting. Thought will also need to be given to the use of funds to promote the recreation ground. It was agreed to put a piece in the village newsletter advertising the pavilion. **Action: Cllr Piercy to liaise with the pavilion manager regarding a baseline survey.**

The meeting was advised that a (locked) cupboard is needed in the pavilion to enclose meters/converters and store cleaning equipment. Cllr Reynolds offered to carry out the works for a fee.

Regarding the solar panels that are now installed at the recreation ground. The clerk has experienced some difficulty in supplying the information that British Gas are requesting to link the solar panels with our British Gas account. Several attempts have been made to provide photos of meter readings and serial numbers etc, but these attempts have been returned as incorrect. Consequently, we are not yet being paid for the power we are collecting. The question was raised as to whether MPC should seek a different supplier. **Action: Clerk to chase a response from British Gas regarding how much is paid per KW and to make comparisons with other suppliers.**

6 **Fire Safety Certificate.** Cllr Widginton carried out a fire assessment at the pavilion. There are two outstanding issues that were noted; PAT testing needs to be carried out on all portal appliances and an electrical safety certificate for electrical installation, both of which are a requirement of the insurance policy. (PAT testing needs to be carried out yearly and the electrical safety certificate every 5 years.) The current fire extinguisher is 10 years old and has reached its recommended lifetime and as such needs to be replaced. It was questioned whether the current size of fire extinguisher is correct. The assessment also advises that the pavilion should have a heat detector over the cooking area and a smoke detector in the hallway leading to the WC area (both battery operated). **Action: Cllr Reynolds to speak with an electrician to carry out PAT testing and produce an electrical safety certificate, and to also source suitable heat and smoke detectors. Action: Clerk to seek advice regarding the fire extinguisher from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service.**

7 **Correspondence.** It was agreed to pay Alde Electrical Services Ltd the sum of £120.00 for checking the re-installation of electrical appliances following the flood and the installation of a new motion light sensor at the pavilion. **Action: Clerk to make payment.** It was agreed to pay the pavilion manager for 7.45 hrs work undertaken outside of the April to September contracted hours. **Action: Clerk to make payment.**

8 **Matters for discussion.**

9 **Consider Items for the next Agenda.** Marketing plan for the pavilion.

10 **Next Meeting**

Agreed for Wednesday 8 April 2026 to follow on after the Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.



# DIARY DATES 2026

## March

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 'Clocks Forward' – traditional music and song at The Bell Inn from **7.30pm**

## April

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Live music at The Bell with SILMOR – from **8pm**  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Day Holy Communion -**11 am**  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Pop-up Brunch in Church **10-11.45am**  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> MCC present 'Life on the Film Set' a talk by Chrissie Beveridge , Village Hall **7pm**  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Cratfield Young Artists concert in church **3pm**  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion **11am**

## May

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Cratfield Young Artists concert in church **3pm**  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Village Hall Committee AGM **7pm**  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Parochial Church Meeting **2.30pm**  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> MCC AGM **7pm**

## June

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Sat/Sun 6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> Open Gardens  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Concert by Jorge Jimenez – violinist – in church **7pm**  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> MCC midsummer quiz

## July

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Peter Barry talks on 'Living with Alzheimer's' **2pm** in church  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Summer boules open tournament, Playing Field **10am**

## August

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Fete - Playing Field **2pm**

## September

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**

## October

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Autumn Fayre  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

## November

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**

## December

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> "Squit Night" – live music at The Bell – from **8pm**  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Santa boules – Open tournament - Playing field **10am**  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Vinyl Night at the Bell from **6pm**  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting , Village Hall, **7pm**  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> MCC Christmas Party



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