

Village Diary: March—May 2013

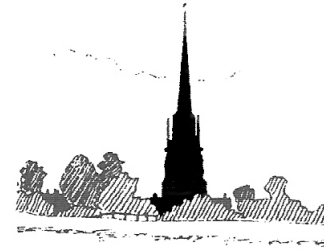
Parish Council Meetings (7.15pm): 4th March, 2nd April, 7th May.

MIDDLETON CHENEY VILLAGE WEBSITE - <http://middletoncheney.org>

Mar 3rd	All Saints / 2.30pm/ Stonework Talks / see page 3 for details
Mar 6th	Age Concern / 2pm / Village Hall / see page 6 for details
Mar 14th & 17th	Library events / see page 2 for details
Mar 18th	Garden Club / 7.00 / All Saints / see page 7
Mar 21st	W.I. / 7.30pm / Village Hall / see page 6 for details
Mar 23rd	Hannah's cake sale / see page 7 for details
Mar 25th	Hist Soc / Library / 7.30pm / see page 3 for details
April 3rd	Age Concern / 2pm / Village Hall / see page 3 for details
April 7th	All Saints / 2.30pm / Stonework talks see page 7 for details
Apr 13th & 24th	Library events / Library / see page 2 for details
April 18th	W.I. / 7.30pm / Village Hall / see page 6 for details
April 22nd	Hist Soc / Library / 7.30pm / see page 3 for details
May 1st	Age Concern / 2pm / Village Hall / see page 6 for details
May 8th—29th	Middleton Art Group / Annual Show / Limes Farm / see page 6
May 23rd	Library events / see page 2 for details
JUNE 2ND	VILLAGE FETE / PLAYING FIELDS / WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS

HAVE YOU MISSED ANOTHER GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICISE YOUR GROUP OR EVENT? THE CLOSING DATE FOR INCLUSION IN OUR SPRING EDITION IS FRIDAY 10TH May 2013

If you would like to include your event in this section please notify the Parish Clerk, call 713500 or email: clerk@middletoncheney.org.uk. Entries must be received from the organiser by the relevant copy date - they are not automatically rolled over to the next edition. The editors reserve the right to edit all material and every effort will be made to ensure that the information in this newsletter is accurate. We will endeavour to include all items submitted but occasionally space may be limited and your article may have to be included in the next edition.



**Cheney
Chatter**

**Issue 21
March 2013**

Middleton Cheney Newsletter

The Parish Council has seen many changes recently of personnel and Councillors who have either retired, found it difficult to combine work and family commitments with Parish work or found alternative employment. We wish them all well and thank them for the hard work and contribution they made during their time with us. It would be remiss of me at this point not to thank my fellow colleagues on the Parish Council and our paid employees for their help and the many extra activities they are willing to undertake to improve life in our village. I would also like to welcome 2 new Councillors, Mrs Caroline Stacey and Mr Christopher Palmer who will be joining us this month.

We have many unsung heroes who also need our thanks for their hard work and dedication to the village. Whether paid or unpaid the actions of many contribute to life in so many different ways all of which help to improve the way we live.

We will be seeking your thoughts on how best to develop a growth strategy to guide planning decisions and hence as some of you might know we are developing a Neighbourhood Plan. By participating, residents of Middleton Cheney will have more say in shaping and managing change for our village over the next 20 years. Why is it important? The approach that is taken to all future planning decisions will be judged against this document, this means new housing, employment, retail, leisure, community facilities, essential public services and transport will be shaped by what you tell us you want.

Last year was disastrous for the village as far as grass cutting due to excessive rain during the

'cutting season' and this led to numerous complaints by residents. Hopefully, this year with our new Contractor we will be able to keep on top of this but as you will appreciate have no control over the weather – let's keep our fingers crossed!

It is common knowledge that heart problems affect the young as well as the old no matter how fit you are as witnessed by the Bolton Wanderers footballer, Fabrice Muamba. I am pleased to say The Parish Council voted to purchase two Defibrillators for the village. A R Mills and the Chemist have agreed to have them secured to the front of their buildings. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking both on behalf of everyone in the village – hopefully they will never be used. The units will be fitted and information will be available shortly.

Finally, I would like to encourage more of you to join in on village projects – it is your village and your input is needed and would be appreciated. Meanwhile, if you have any concerns or suggestions please let me know via the Parish Office: 01295 713 500.

Val Furniss
Chair – Middleton Cheney Parish Council

The next issue of the Village News will be delivered in June. Please send all articles by the 10th May to the Parish Clerk by email: clerk@middletoncheney.org.uk or by post to the Parish Meeting Room. Entries should be no bigger than half A5 page.

Your local Scout Group needs a new Club Scout Leader. – Do you just want to relax or instead....

Have fun with young people who are eager to learn from you. Our current Cub Scout Leader has stepped down so the Cub Pack needs a new leader. Can you step up to the plate?



Cubs are aged 8 to 10 years 6 months and get up to all sorts of things. Cubs go camping, learn to light fires, archery and rifle shooting, go hiking, play games, and learn about the world around them and how to get on with others. They need one or more persons to lead them. You will not be alone – there are willing parents to assist the leader and other leaders in the Group to turn to for support. If you are an organised and enthusiastic type, up for an adventure and want to develop and share your skills, please contact the Group Scout Leader, Adrian Holloway on 07767 665 488 or email Adrian@hollo46.fsnet.co.uk. Sadly, the Cubs' Pack will have to close at Easter if we do not get anyone who is happy to help us.



Middleton Cheney Library Supporters Group - Future Events at the Library. Our film evenings are proving to be very popular and well attended, so booking in advance is recommended. Tickets are £6 which includes either popcorn or ice-cream and are available from the Library. Further information available at the Library.

- 14th March** - Film – Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy 7:30pm
- 17th March** - Car Boot & Book Sale - £5 per car, advanced booking at Library essential.
- 13th April** - Meet the Author – Fiona Joseph – 2.30pm. Adults £5/Child £2, includes refreshments. Fiona will be talking about BEATRICE: The Cadbury Heiress Who Gave Away Her fortune.
- 24th April** - Summer Baskets – Barn Farm Plants – 7.30pm - £7, includes refreshments
- 18th May** - Plant Fair – Village Green
- 23rd May** - Meet the Author – Melissa Mailer-Yates – 7.30pm – Adults £5/Child £2

Get involved at the library: The Library is a vibrant community hub for everyone to use and enjoy, but it needs your help! Did you know that lots of the community services above and beyond lending books rely on your support? Our dedicated, selfless and charming volunteers help to provide fun activities for families, local history clubs for research savvy bookworms, homework help for your people, business start up advice for aspiring entrepreneurs, rhyme time singing sessions for toddlers, job clubs for those on the hunt for a new career, and even help to keep the garden tidy. If you could help your library too, then come on , get involved! Ask at your library or go to: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/getinvolved.

Hannah's trip to Africa – On June 3rd Hannah Rumford, who lives in Middleton Cheney, is off to Africa to work for two months as a volunteer in a children's rescue and school centre. She is hoping to raise enough money to buy them an oven as they currently do not have one. With this in mind, Hannah and her grand-mother Jeanne Eley, are holding a coffee and cake sale morning at the Methodist Church school rooms on March 23rd from 10am to 12:30pm. Please go along and support this cause and enjoy a cup of coffee and some lovely cake.



Middleton Cheney Garden Club

- 18th March** AGM at 7.00pm and talk by Geoff Hodge at 7.30pm on Pruning Made Simple. To be held at All Saints Church.
- 15th April** The Modern Vegetable Potager by Howard Drury, Central TV Garden Time presenter. 7.30pm at All Saints.
- 18th May** Annual Plant Fair on the Village Green from 9am to 1pm
- 2nd June** Village Fete

For the Village Fete the Garden Club will be holding a Plant Swap Stall (bring a plant and take another one home with no money exchanged. They will also be inviting a range of charities to have Plant Stalls (selling plants to raise money for their various causes.

First Steps Group – is a friendly and welcoming group, free for all pre-school children and their parents/carers. We are based at All Saints Church and during each session we do singing, with lots of action songs, story time and the First Steps short prayer. There is also a different activity each week which encourages the children to be creative.

Refreshments are provided for both adults and children where you can have a chat and get to know new friends. We meet every Wednesday during term time from 2pm to 3pm. For further details please call Lynne on 07811 688 194 or Chris 01295



Your Safer Community Team

- PC1392 James Reid
- PCSO Clive Ashmore
- PCSO Scott Cochrane
- PCSO Charlotte Whitehead

Useful Contact Numbers:

- The Street Doctor 0845 6011113
- Untaxed Vehicles 0800 0325202
- Fly Tipping 01327 322322
- Stray Dogs 01327 322322
- Consumer direct 0845 4040506
- Police non-emergency 0300 0111222
- Free Home Fire
- Safety Checks 0800 3899950
- Abandoned vehicles 0845 6121999

Age Concern – Middleton Cheney – meets on the first Wednesday of every month in the Village Hall from 2pm until 4pm. New members over the age of 55 are always welcome to join us. We play a couple of games of bingo; have a raffle and usually a guest speaker. We have a tea of freshly made sandwiches, cakes and scones. Entrance fee is £2.00 but bingo and raffle tickets are, of course, extra.



Our programme for the next few months is

6th March Impromptu Singing Group

3rd April Easter celebrations, and guest speaker Nick King, Age UK, on benefit changes

1st May Annual General Meeting and members' craft display



Middleton Cheney Art Group. We will be holding our annual Art Exhibition at a new venue this year, Limes Farm at Farthinghoe from Wednesday May 8th to Wednesday May 29th. There is plenty of parking and it can also be reached on the 500 bus from the village.

The Exhibition will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sundays.

Our tutor, Caroline Chappell, teaches us once a week for three hours of painting, drawing and chatting. We have been in existence for six years and learn drawing, painting and mixed media techniques, as well as attending occasional one or two day workshops during the year.

We are a small friendly group, who also socialise for lunches and go on coach trips to exhibitions.

We hope that our loyal fans will support us as usual and visit our new venue. New visitors will be welcomed, as we enjoy the opportunity to show off our work, including some unfinished ones. Some of the works will be for sale and you might see something you like...If you are interested in joining us, information will be available.

Middleton Cheney W. I. – meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. 2012 was a good year and we welcomed six new members.

We are planning a visit to Bletchley Park on **11th May**. This costs £25 for the ticket plus transport and lunch. Please ring Linda Ayres if you want to come.

21st March Talk by Bill Davies on The Mary Rose Storey

18th April Talk by Gill Holt on Film and TV Dogs.

Dogs for the Disabled—the Banbury & District Supports are holding their Craft Fair on **Saturday 23rd March** at Carrus School, Overthorpe Hall. Stalls include books, toys, jewellery, wooden items and lots of lovely Easter gifts. Admission is £2 (to include a drink) Children under 12 are free. All profits go straight to help train even more dogs to help disabled adults and children. For more information call Yvonne on 711 180 or email info@dogsforthe-disabledsupporters.org.



Stonework Talks at All Saints. Our talks are proving very popular and are helping to raise money towards to maintenance of the church's crumbling external stonework. Talks are in the church; entry is £3 with refreshments available from 2.30pm. The talks, all given by villagers, are on a diverse range of subjects and reflect the speaker's life experience, interests and passions.

3rd March - VSO Volunteering in Papua New Guinea. N yu likum long Papua New Guinea dispinum? - Diana Selby.

7th April - The Wildlife of the South of England, from Kent to the Scillies. The journey of a wildlife photographer—Graham Soden.

Middleton Cheney History Society—Meetings are held in the Library on the fourth Monday of every month at 7.30pm. Visitors (£2) are always welcome. Our next talks are

25th March A day in the Life of Time Team. Anglo Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery specialist, Paul Blinkhorn is a familiar face on the Time Team TV programme where he has worked for many years as the pottery expert. Members can bring local pottery finds along. **22nd April** Ordinary progress Punishment and Praise by Chris Wells. 25 years of the Victorian Headmasters' comments from Middleton Cheney School log books.



Christian Aid Week—will be 12th to 19 May 2013.

Walking for Health - This year's leaders, Janine Burton and Paul 'Monty' Montague have devised the following programme.

1st Monday A street stroll. A gentle walk on pavements around the village.

2nd Monday 2-3 miles which may include gentle hills and stiles.

Monday 2 miles including moderate hills and stiles.

4th Monday 3-4 miles which may include steep hills and stiles. All walks will start at 10am from the High Street (Londis) and refreshments are available afterwards at The Butler's Pantry.

Occasionally the walks are out of the village involving a car share or bus to/from start/finish. This year, dogs on leads will be welcome on some of our walks. Details of each week's walk will be in the village section of the Banbury Guardian or call 711 780 or 712 408.

3rd



New Craft Club in Middleton—starting 19th March, with a Middleton venue. This is a monthly evening get together with refreshments for fellow craft minded folk of all ages and abilities. No experience necessary. Cost is £7.50 per class which includes material and refreshments. For more information and to book a place contact Lisa Barton on li-sa.barton@hotmail.co.uk.



Reminder for dog walkers.....

The 'Dog Poo Fairy' unlike the 'Tooth Fairy' obviously hasn't done what is expected!! Unfortunately, she doesn't work for the Parish Council so my only alternative is to remind dog walkers to use the 16 dog litter bins provided that can be found in various places around the village.



Over the past couple of weeks I have received complaints regarding dog walkers not disposing of their pets 'deposits' responsibly. You might think what I am about to say is incredible but there are a few owners who just leave the dog mess where it has been deposited and walk on or, even worse still, drag their dog along as they are eager, or so I have to believe, to get the walk over quickly - it is then spread along the pavement. I have also been told by parents that when they walk their children to and from school they are greeted by several fresh piles of dog mess that they have to dodge. I'm sure we all agree it is an unpleasant experience if you step in it.

The pavement between Brads and the Chemist had three deposits in one week. Dogs are wonderful companions for owners and part of the family at home but their dog's deposits are not good companions for others to take home either on their shoes, accidentally dropped toys or pram wheels! These deposits are or can be a danger to health especially for those under 5 years of age.

Most of you who are dog walkers do 'Bag it' and 'Bin It' and we thank you for that but there are still too many 'offenders'. Remember, there are no bad dogs, only bad owners! You may be interested in the following that I have found doing some research:



Why is dog fouling a problem?

Dog fouling is not only unpleasant it is dangerous. The biggest threat to public health from dog excrement is toxocariasis.

What is Toxocariasis?

Toxocariasis is an infection of the roundworm *toxocara canis*. The eggs of the parasite can be found in soil or sand contaminated with faeces and if swallowed, result in an infection that lasts between 6 and 24 months. Symptoms include eye disorders, vague ache, dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in extremely rare cases, seizures/fits. Often the eggs are ingested when passed to the mouth by the hands, but this can also occur through

contact with dogs or other inanimate objects including the wheels of toys and the soles of shoes. Infected soil samples are often found in play areas and as a result, Toxocariasis most commonly affects children between 18 months and 5 years.

Whose responsibility is it to clear away dog fouling?

It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any dog foul left by their dog. If you fail to clean up after your dog you can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice, or if the case goes to court a fine of up to £1,000.



The regulations state specifically, that being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the dog mess is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after your dog.

FinallyIf you do have a sighting of the 'Poo Fairy' on your walks you probably need a rest!

Seriously:

Please let's keep Middleton clean and fresh for all to enjoy.

The bins are emptied every week and are located at the following

- 1 Corner of Cheney Gardens and Chacombe Road
- 2 Stanwell Play Area
- 3 Chacombe Road opposite Glovers Lane
- 4 Entrance to Bull Baulk
- 5 High Street by the shops
- 6 Path from cemetery / Chenderit entrance to playing fields
- 7 Middleway by Dands Drive garages
- 8 Mansion Hill opposite bench
- 9 Mansion Hill in Vets' car park
- 10 Main Road by entrance to tennis courts
- 11 Village Green by entrance to Butchers Alley
- 12 Main Road by Telephone box
- 13 Astrop Road just before the bridge
- 14 Horton Close by the bypass walk
- 15 Main Road at the entrance to the fields opposite Washle Drive
- 16 Waters Lane junction with Slade Leas.

Val Furniss

Chair – Middleton Cheney Parish Council