

SOUTH NORTHANTS DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – VAL FURNISS

Thank you for your support and good wishes in the recent election – I am delighted with the result!

I will work hard to represent you at District as I have done and will continue to do at Parish level. I strongly believe that residents should have a say over how the village looks and feels. This would also apply to Overthorpe and Warkworth, two areas that I need to update my knowledge on as well. Some of you will already know I will always do my best to represent your views, even if they are not palatable to some, at every level.

I am proposing to have a 'surgery' twice a month at the Parish Meeting Rooms and dates and times will be displayed on the website and notice boards. Currently, I am contemplating the day to be Saturday and the time 2 – 4pm. Should this not fit in with your personal schedules, I am more than willing to meet you outside of these suggested times, just call to make a mutually convenient appointment. You are more than welcome to let me know any concerns or ideas you have and how we can address them together to get the best outcome.

For those of you who do not know me, I live in Middleton with my husband, my daughter and her family. I have been involved over many years with the Pre-School and Primary School. I also support the junior sports clubs and go to watch matches as often as I can. I have also had the privilege of working over many years with the Parish Council initially as a Councillor, then as Chair and currently as Clerk/RFO. I have seen many changes both in personnel associated with the Council as well as legislation. I will continue to work closely with your newly appointed Parish Cllrs in my dual roles. However, I recognise we will not be able to please all of the people all of the time but will do the best we can within parameters we are given, especially from a legal point of view always remembering we are a community.

My contact details are: 01295 713500 or nanaone@hotmail.co.uk

Val Furniss (Mrs)

District Cllr. – Middleton Cheney Ward, covering Overthorpe and Warkworth

Clerk/RFO – Middleton Cheney Parish Council

Parish Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7.15 pm except Bank Holidays when meetings are held on a Tuesday. Check notice boards for the Agenda and Middleton Cheney Village Website www.middletoncheney.org

The next issue of Cheney Chatter will be in September. Please send all articles before 14 August 2015 by post to Plumtree Cottage, 1 Rose Hall Lane, Middleton Cheney, OX17 2NQ or by email to angeladeary@gmail.com

Entries should be no bigger than half an A5 page.



Cheney Chatter

Issue 30
June. 2015

Middleton Cheney Newsletter

Hello! Summer will shortly be with us! A time for relaxation and more importantly time to soak up the sun. This is also the start of a new year for the Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those Cllrs that have served the community diligently during their time of office but who decided not to stand going forward. We now have a new team and I welcome those Cllrs fresh to the role and thank those that continue with the challenge.

Middleton, as we know, is a great place to live and work, where we hope residents feel valued. The Parish Council's concept for the village is to meet your vision and aspirations.

Having recently gone through the General and local elections and to paraphrase a famous sentence 'It's not my responsibility, it's not your responsibility, it's our responsibility', I believe this sums up the community spirit which we have in abundance in Middleton.

How do we achieve the long-term vision I mentioned above? The Council would like to develop, in the coming months, a Corporate Plan setting clear targets by which the Council's success or failure can be measured. Going forward, we have new Cllrs who will help facilitate and assist in achieving this strategy. Effective and timely communication at all levels will play an important part in achieving the vision for this village that is important to all of us.

Our aim, as always, is to get the right messages to the right people at the right time. We recognise each of our audiences has to be effectively targeted with the Council's key messages.

Ways to achieve this will be tried and tested approaches using our Notice Boards, clubs, the library, schools, etc and also now widely used social media. We will continue to engage, whatever communication tool we use, in meaningful dialogue with the community we serve in order to make informed decisions.

Effective communications will help improve customer care through stakeholders and staff having a better understanding of the Council's work and objectives. We recognise, however, we need to be careful and not raise unrealistic expectations.

For your further information, we will shortly have a new website. With this website, we will ensure that all residents know how they can access our services.

In addition, we will try and boost the image of the Council so that residents have greater 'ownership' of it. I believe residents must know what we do or can do for them as well as a realistic picture of what we can't do. Public consultations, when practical, will play a role in ascertaining the public's aspirations and expectations.

In short, we want to be seen as a progressive 'can do', value-for-money Council that is prepared to make things happen – but we need your help as Middleton is 'our village' and we all have a stake in it.

I would finally like to thank Angela Deary for kindly volunteering to keep this printed version of Cheney Chatter going.

Cllr. Alan Youel, Chairman,
Middleton Cheney Parish Council

MIDDLETON CHENEY CRICKET CLUB

President Mr Les Aris
Chairman Mr Andy Mayo
Secretary Mr Barry Hook
Treasurer Mrs Greta Haynes



Following on from last season where our 1st, 2nd, U13 and U11 teams all won their leagues, Middleton Cheney Cricket Club is looking forward to another successful season in 2015.

We again field three teams in the South Northants Cricket League, with the 1st team attempting to retain their Premier Division title, 2nd team playing in Division 2 and our 3rd team, who will play home games at Eydon, playing in Division 5.

We also field a team in the local midweek 20/20 league and again field teams at each junior age group (U11, U13, U15 and U 17) in the South Northants Junior League. We are still on the lookout for someone to take on the lead coaching role for Kwik cricket for our younger members. Anyone interested should contact Barry Hook on bargehook@btinternet.com or 07867 508053.

We are grateful to the support of the club sponsors for 2015, Hawkes Sports Ltd., Middleton Cheney Sports & Social Club, LAN3 Ltd., Roger Coy Partnership and Barwood Homes.

All club news, fixtures and results can be found on our website at www.middletoncheney.play-cricket.com/

MIDDLETON CHENEY AGE CONCERN – is for anyone over the age of 55.

We meet the first Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall, from 2 – 4pm. For £2, you can enjoy a freshly made tea of sandwiches, scones and cake, as well as a varied programme of entertainment. Bingo and raffle tickets are extra. If you, or anyone you know, would enjoy an afternoon out once a month, meeting new friends and old, come along. Transportation can be arranged at a minimum cost if you are unable to get to the Hall. If anyone can spare a couple of hours to help our older members enjoy their afternoon, please contact us.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

3 June Graham Sutherland. Talk with slides: ‘Drainpipes to Rock and Roll’
1 July Visit of Primary School children
5 August TBA
2 September Joseph and music.

MIDDLETON CHENEY W.I. – meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30pm.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

18 June Zena Skinner, ex-TV Chef, ‘Facing the Camera’
16 July Mrs Margaret Burgon, ‘ It could only happen at a wedding’
20 August Picnic to mark the 100th anniversary of the W.I.

GARDEN CLUB

The village Garden Club has a summer programme of visits and activities and a winter programme of monthly talks in the Library. Each year, members contribute to village ‘open garden events’, raising money for nursing charities, under the auspices of the National Gardens Scheme and Katharine House. Please support them, even if it is only to call into the beautiful garden at Peartree House, Glovers Lane, which is open just for tea and cake, for those who do not want to visit the other gardens. Note events in September too, which you might need to plan ahead for. Our aim is to encourage an enjoyment of gardens, so many of our activities are open to non-members.

Saturday 6 June, 9.30am – 12pm: Plants on the Verge – Garden Club members and villagers selling plants on the verge by the Chemist, raising money for Water Aid.

Wednesday 10 June: Sir Harold Hillier Garden – The eponymous Garden Centre founder. 180-acre garden created in the 1950s. Romsey day coach trip, open to non-members. Book via Margaret Finch (711100).

Sunday 14 June, 1 – 6pm: NGS Open Gardens – Open gardens in the village and teas at Peartree House, raising money for national charities.

Sunday 28 June, 1 – 6pm: Katharine House Festival of Open Gardens – Open gardens in the village and teas at Peartree House, raising money for Katherine House.

Wednesday 1 July, 6pm: Mill Hollow Barn Garden – 7-acre garden with ponds. Herbaceous borders, arboretum and contemporary garden. Sulgrave. Visit open to non-members. If you need location details or a lift, phone David Thompson on 711115.

Monday 20 July, 6.30pm. Plants for Difficult Places – Talk and tour of Preston Bisset Nurseries. Visit open to non-members. If you need location details or a lift, phone David Thompson on 711115

Saturday 12 September, 11 – 3pm: Flower & Produce Show – Traditional show of vegetables, flowers, home produce and crafts in the Village Hall. Schedule on the village website.

Saturday and Sunday 26/27 September: Great Dixter and Pashley Manor Gardens – Weekend away coach trip with overnight stay in Eastbourne. Open to non-members. Book through Martyn’s of Tysoe. Tel: 01295 680642.

Calling all 6 – 7 year olds...

Middleton Cheney Football Club needs YOU!



We are looking for new players... So if you enjoy football, want to have fun and learn new skills, please pop along to our training sessions every Sunday morning at 10 – 11am on the Middleton Cheney Primary School sport’s field. Please contact Guy Antony on 07884 311321 for any further details.

MIDDLETON CHENEY HISTORY SOCIETY – meets in the Library on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors always welcome. (£3).

Monday 22 June **The Holbeche Family of Warwickshire**, Laurence Ince. Including the Holbecks of Farnborough Hall.

Monday 27 July **900 Years of Mystery and Mayhem!** Richard O. Smith
Richard is a comedian and writer for Radio 4. This humorous talk is packed with history looking at student life in Oxford from the 13th Century.

Monday 24 August **The Quaker Clockmakers of North Oxfordshire**, Tim Marshall (with accompanying display of clocks). The Gilkes family of Sibford Gower and the clockmaking dynasty of Deddington. The history of Quakerism in North Oxfordshire is almost as long as Quakerism itself, arriving in Puritan Banbury in the 1650s.

Monday 28 September **The Empress Elisabeth of Austria**, Sue Edwards.
Discover her connections to Northamptonshire! Elisabeth was the wife of Emperor Franz Joseph 1 and thus Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary. Born into Bavarian royalty, Elisabeth enjoyed an informal upbringing before marrying Franz Joseph at the age of 16.

Monday 26 October **The Ubiquitous Green Man**, Dr. C. Harris.
Grotesques, Gargoyles, Medieval Beasties and Really Ugly Uglies. As many theories as people have tried to fathom out the meaning of The Green Man and his origins. He remains a mysterious enigma and conundrum.

MIDDLETON CHENEY PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Summer Fete Sunday 7 June, 12 – 5pm

Organized by the PFA, this is a fete for the entire village and as many local clubs, societies and businesses as possible are welcomed. A free arena for clubs and groups to showcase their activities will be available, together with stalls (£10 a pitch), a car boot sale (£7), a tug of war, children's races and many other things to see and do. Lynden Players will be supporting the event. The Social Club Bar will be open.

Why not come for the afternoon, have fun and bring a picnic?

Contact Caroline (01295710258) cmstacey50@gmail.com or

Adam adam.nadin@talk21.com



The village has two new PCSO's Graham Suppiah and Colin Brooks. Brackley Police Station front counter closed from 31 March 2015 as there were insufficient visitors for it to remain viable. The Safer Community Team consists of Sgt. Michaela Simons, four PC's and two PCSO's. The team works a variety of shifts and covers Brackley and 32 villages!

The children's home in the village will soon be celebrating their first year of being open. There has been a concerted effort by everyone. This has enabled the young people



to gain education either in local schools or college places. The Parish Council are delighted at how well all associated with the children's home have settled in as it is not always easy for anyone especially when moving away from friends and family and coping with all the challenges this entails. The good education they are receiving will provide the best possible start for their adult lives.

So what is life like at the children's home? Spring is upon us and this means gardening is being thought about and plants are going in. There are regular cookery days when young people are taught about healthy meals and how to prepare from scratch. If the plants succeed no doubt the vegetables will be used! Visits were arranged to Redwings Horse Sanctuary to learn about how horses are raised and cared for. They have also had an evening with creepy crawlies and small animals learning about habitats and lifestyles of creatures in the wild. Visitors to the children's home are always welcomed and over a cup of tea or coffee can find out what is being done to support the young people who will venture into the world at a younger age than most teenagers, so cooking, budgeting and cleaning skills are encouraged in readiness for this transition.

They had a recent Ofsted inspection and were found to be achieving improved effectiveness, which is the highest accolade they can achieve with an interim review. The Manager would welcome any feedback and is more than happy to discuss ways of getting more involved in the local community.

MIDDLETON CHENEY MASQUERADE SUMMER BALL 2015



Following the success of last year's Summer Ball another one has been arranged to take place on Saturday 5 September and once again it will be held at the Primary Academy on their playing fields. The event will be a Black Tie Masquerade Ball playing host to approximately 300 residents of the village. Profits raised this year will be split between Meningitis Now and four village organisations: Ma-Mites, Primary Academy Parents Association, Chenderit School Association and Age Concern. Entertainment will include a magician, a silent auction, a raffle, a DJ, a local band and a photo booth. The Committee would like to thank all sponsors to date who without their generous donations the event could not take place. There is still time to make a difference. If you would like to offer sponsorship, donations (no matter how small) or raffle prizes, please call Louise Gardner on 07916018001 or email gards7@sky.com

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The church now has a new Rector, Charles Jefferson, after a period of a year without a vicar following the retirement of the Rev. David Randell. The Revd. Charles Jefferson is living at the Rectory in Marston and is in charge of the six rural churches (Chacombe, Greatworth, Marston St. Lawrence, Middleton Cheney, Thenford and Warkworth) which make up the Chenderit Benefice, created in 2004. Charles may be contacted at the Rectory on 01295 712418.

If you have walked past All Saints you will have noticed the recent erection of highly visible safety fencing around one of the tombs in the churchyard. There are two tombs which are unsafe, so this fencing will remain in place until repairs are carried out. The Parish Council has passed maintenance responsibility for the churchyard on to the District Council.

STRAWBERRY FAYRE – Saturday 20 June 2 – 4.30pm

Stalls in and around All Saints Church and Church Lane, historical tours of All Saints and traditional teas in the Methodist school room. Our local W.I. will be mounting an exhibition in All Saints to commemorate the national Centenary of the W.I.

MIDDLETON CHENEY HEALTH WALKS

We *love* Mondays... Because we walk with the Middleton Cheney Health Walkers! Our Group walks each Monday morning usually starting from Londis at 10am. We sometimes take the bus or car-share to walk in other exciting places. Always check the Banbury Guardian Village News section for details of our next walk (a copy of which is available to browse in the Library).

The walk on the first Monday of the month is usually set at a sedate pace with no stiles. Walks later in the month are longer and involve walking on footpaths with some stiles. We finish our walks at a café or pub for well-deserved refreshment. Contact Monty on 711780 or Janine on 712408.

LIBRARY SUPPORTERS GROUP – is pleased to announce the next group of events being held to support your library and raise money to improve facilities. Tickets, full details and prices can be obtained from the library or the village web site (click Library Supporters). You can e-mail to reserve tickets at midlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Thursday 4 June at 7.30pm. Meet the Author. **Keith McClellan** will be talking about Creative Writing through to publication and will be of interest to potential authors as well as readers of good books.

Thursday 18 June 6.30 – 9pm. Valuation Evening. Bring along your antiques, collectables or quirky items for an up to date valuation by **Simon Davies**, Senior Valuer at JS Fine Art, Banbury. Plus fun competitions, with sponsored prizes and refreshments while you wait.

Thursday 2 July at 7.30pm. ‘Into the Breach’. Written, directed and acted by **Mark Carey** – “a remarkable one-man show”. This show will make you laugh, cry and enjoy a debate on Shakespeare.

Saturday 18 July at 2.30pm ‘Fashionable Stitches’. An illustrated talk by **Nicola Jarvis**, Artist/Embroiderer. This return visit will concentrate on her work with the fashion industry over the past decade.

17 – 20 August from 10 – 3pm at the Library and Chenderit School.

The Little Draw will start the build up to **The Big Draw** in October, the event that has won the library a National Award for the past two years. This year’s theme, ‘**Moving Pictures**’ – *Creative Images with Paper and Film* – will build on previous experiences. An event for all ages and the whole family.

Dates of events in the autumn, including Film Nights, will be available soon. Look on the village website or call at your library for details.

LYNDEN PLAYERS will be following their final sell-out performance of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* on 16 May with ‘Fawlty Towers’ in the Village Hall 28 – 29 August. Tickets include supper. This year’s panto will be *Hood* 10 – 12 December. An open read through will be held in Village Hall Wednesday 9 September – everyone welcome to come along and join in or just listen. Don’t miss full details in September issue of Cheney Chatter.

WAR MEMORIAL RESTORED

The World War One War Memorial in All Saints churchyard has been restored following a public appeal in 2014. Of the final cost of £12,000, half was raised through donations from villagers and half by grants from charities and local businesses. Villagers were particularly generous, given there were several other charity appeals during the year. Using her calligraphy skills, Chris Wells compiled a book of donors and a short history of the memorial to be kept in the church on a shelf made by Roger Solesbury.

The restored memorial contains one original stone, as the monument was badly eroded and many of the names were illegible. A rededication service took place on 14 May, an unseasonably wet and windy day, so proceedings took place mainly within the church. The service was conducted by the Revd. Charles Jefferson and Chris Bazeley. Over fifty primary school children sang a medley of WW1 songs. George Timms, nephew of William Timms, laid a wreath; William Timms died after the war as a result of his involvement and his name was added in restoration. David Thompson, chairman of the appeal and Freya Hanwell, primary school pupil, unveiled the memorial.

The 22 names on the memorial, now 23, were listed in the chronological order of their death. 14 of these men still have descendants living in the village. Nancy Long, President of the History Society, has recorded a history of every soldier and copies can be found in the church and the village library. History Society members also researched the details of 84 men who survived the war and returned to Middleton Cheney. It is thought that a total of 189 enlisted. Many have been difficult to trace as more than half of their service records were destroyed in September 1940 when a German bombing raid struck the War Office Repository in London. After the service there was an excellent tea provided in the church, organised by Barbara Charlesworth supported by a band of helpers.

Many thanks to all those contributed in different ways to keep alive the memory of those who died for us.