

MIDDLETON CHENEY ART GROUP

Annual Art Exhibition Chacombe Village Hall, Thorpe Road, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 May 10am – 5pm. Plenty of free parking or take the 500 bus from Banbury or Brackley. Free entry. Tea/coffee and cake available, enabling you to relax and discuss the exhibition. Some artists will be painting or drawing in the hall and members of the group will be available to answer questions and help. Art work and cards for sale. We hope that regular fans will continue to support us and new visitors will come to see what is on show. Everyone welcome.

MIDDLETON CHENEY AGE CONCERN

Meets on the first Wednesday for every month 2–4pm in the Village Hall, has been running in the village for a number of years and has about 50 regular members. Anyone over 55 years can join, but despite best efforts to encourage new members, numbers are falling. We desperately need younger people to come and help the elderly of our village, especially on the committee. If we are unable to get help we are in danger of having to close the club down, leaving a lot of lonely people. If you can come and help, please come along any first Wednesday and see what we do, or call Bernie (710851) or Carolyn (07591 504873)

➤ See Village Diary in middle pages for full list of events

MIDDLETON CHENEY TENNIS CLUB

Did you know Middleton Cheney has a tennis club? We are a small friendly club located at the Sports and Social Club, Astrop Road (next to football pitches/cricket field) and can be accessed via the club car park or the footpath from Main Road. The new season commences in April, when adult club nights will be held from 6pm Monday, Wednesday and Sunday. We welcome all standards, playing either socially for fun or more competitively in one of Banbury League Teams. Our Registered Junior Coach, Michael Hodson, also holds Junior coaching sessions throughout the year. For more information see the Middleton Cheney Tennis Club website.

CRICKET CLUB

The cricket season is fast approaching! We have a very exciting few months ahead, fielding three senior and four junior teams – U11, U13A (Year7), U13B (Year 8) and U15. New players always welcome at any age. Pre-season indoor nets for junior teams at Chenderit 6–8pm on 7 and 14 March, seniors 21 and 28 March. Regular weekly nets will be announced at signing-on night 3 March (from 7pm at the Sports and Social Club) when our new Club Kit will be available for purchase.

We currently don't have the resource to run a Kwik Cricket team but would love to. Volunteers for a couple of sessions most welcome! We also need an umpire for 1st and 2nd team matches from last weekend in April until first weekend of July, paid at a rate of £50 per match. If you know of anyone who wants to spend the afternoon in the midst of the action (and knows the rules!) please get in touch. Please come and support us this season – full fixture list on the website www.middletoncheney.play-cricket.com

Any enquiries, please contact Josh Nadin on 07885 787083 for Senior Teams and Nicky Trower on 07826 915888 for Junior Teams.



CHENEY CHATTER

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As a Council, our aim is to provide residents with the service they have come to expect. The current financial climate means we have to be careful over the management of our affairs; we monitor expenditure and closely examine how and where we spend the money – your money and mine! I am grateful for the help given to me as Chair and the way in which Councillors and staff work together as a team.

We encourage residents to use the Parish Office as a focal point where concerns, observations and suggestions can be dealt with and progress monitored. Your comments should be addressed to Council as a whole and not an individual Councillor, as the Council is collectively responsible. Councillors carry out their duties voluntarily and although Council has the power to pay allowances we

decided not to many years ago. Through a range of discretionary powers we provide and maintain services such as allotments, play equipment, benches, cemetery, litter bins etc. We act based on differing needs of the whole community, e.g. representing local interests (i.e. planning applications); supporting organisations with grants where we can.

We also publish a quarterly newsletter distributed to all households (Cheney Chatter), maintain a website that is growing with information every day, maintain a Facebook page and a Twitter account and maintain two notice boards. You could say our mission statement is to secure and maintain the best possible services and environment for the community. Enjoy the Spring months.

**Cllr. Alan Youel, Chairman
Middleton Cheney Parish Council**

MIDDLETON CHENEY PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

will not be holding a Summer Fete this year but will be organising a Junior Fun Run on the Playing Fields on Sunday 9 July. Save the date! There will be jumping, crawling and lots of obstacles to make it a good fun run with medals and certificates. Refreshments available. Watch out for further details closer to the time. It should be great fun.

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

The next issue of Cheney Chatter will be in June 2017. Please send all articles before 12 May 2017 by post to Plumtree Cottage, 1 Rose Hall Lane, Middleton Cheney, OX17 2NQ or by email to angeladeary@gmail.com. Articles should not exceed 175 words. Events will be included separately on Village Diary pages.



LYNDEN PLAYERS

Drinking with Angelika

8 – 13 May 2017, 7.30pm

Tickets on sale soon (£10 adults, £8 concs)

www.lyndenplayers.com

First performed by Crazyhouse Productions in Margate in 2010, the Lynden Players are incredibly proud to bring this poignant

new musical to Middleton Cheney. The show follows a group of strangers who find themselves brought together in a run-down bar in the middle of nowhere on the coldest Christmas Eve since 1963. As questions arise about the reasons why they've been brought together and why they cannot simply leave and return to their everyday lives, shocking truths are revealed and secrets thought buried forever are brought to the surface. This show may not be suitable for very young children.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Afternoon tea and show – Saturday 19 August, 2pm.

Supper and show – Friday 18 and Saturday 19 August, 7.30pm

Auditions will be held Sunday 2 April from 6.30pm in The Barn at The New Inn. If you are interested in being part of this production, please email Nikki at nikkibith@hotmail.com or Ben at tutt_81@hotmail.com who will provide you with more details and the relevant audition material.

PERMISSIVE BRIDLEWAYS – now known as PERMISSIVE PATHWAYS

The application for grant funding on behalf of Middleton Cheney Parish Council and Chacombe Parish Council received formal approval from South Northants Cabinet on 16th January. A five year agreement, running from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2021, has been drawn up between the landowner and Middleton Cheney Parish Council for residents using this fantastic facility. I know many residents have continued to use the facility and the landowner has been kind enough to allow this to continue while formalities were being agreed. Enjoy!

Val Furniss, Clerk/RFO, Middleton Cheney Parish Council

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14 – 20 MAY

This year the emphasis is on helping displaced people across the world – an opportunity to help people who have been forced to leave their homes because of war and are desperately trying to make a life for themselves and their families in new surroundings. During Christian Aid Week there will be a house to house envelope collection, a sponsored walk, a bread and soup lunch, quiz and a Christian Aid service. Last year Middleton raised £3,581 – it would be great if we could do that again. People often ask about how money donated to Christian Aid is spent, so come and hear about this year's project 'Everyone should have a safe place to call home'. On 29 April in All Saints Church, a film will be shown showing people whose lives have been turned around by the work of Christian Aid. Posters and leaflets available and worksheets for children. Refreshments available.

MIDDLETON CHENEY LIBRARY SUPPORTERS GROUP

This award-winning group offer a wide range of events to make broader use of the library and raise funds to improve facilities. Prices, tickets and further details of all our events are available from the Library. You can also buy your tickets online. If you are unable to get to the library during opening hours, visit www.ticketsource.co.uk/MCLSG view the events, book your tickets and print them off, or have them posted at a small extra charge. We now use the new projector, computer and screen, installed with money from the Postcode Lottery and our funds. If you have attended our events, you will have contributed. Thank you.

We have three very different films during future months: *Bridge of Spies* in March, *High Society* in April and *Youth* in May. We then start planning for Autumn. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. Victor Ince will be talking about the history of Upton House on Friday 24 March; Matt Armitage will be talking about Tooley's Boatyard & the Oxford Canal on Thursday 27 April (revised date); and Martin Edwards will talk about his role as a First Responder in the village on Thursday 25 May. On Sunday 14 May from 2 – 5.30pm we present, by public demand, 'The 2nd Great Tiddlywink Challenge', sponsored by Dawns Flowers and other local businesses. Lots of prizes to be won. All ages welcome – make this event one for your family. Save the date for our major October event – Thursday 5 October, 6.30 for 7.30pm, Chenderit School, Illustrated talk by Chris Beardshaw, Garden Designer, TV & Radio Personality and Multi RHS Gold Medal Winner, introduced by Lord Heseltine. There will also be a book signing, exhibition to view and a pay bar. Full details in next Cheney Chatter.

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES: MON/TUES/THUR/FRI 2-6PM, WED/SAT 10-2PM, SUN 11-2PM



See the Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events

GARDEN CLUB

On Monday 24 April Lynn Taylor of Springfield House, Middleton, will talk about the restoration of her house and garden. Some of you may have visited Lynn's garden last June and it will be interesting to hear about her work so far and plans for the future. The Plant Fair from 9.30am – 1pm on Saturday 20 May is a great opportunity to buy a wide range of plants from local nurseries at competitive prices. A coach trip to the new RHS Flower Show, Chatsworth, is planned with Martin's of Tysoe Saturday 10 June and 'Plants on the Verge' (by the pharmacy) will be on Saturday 17 June from 9.30am to 12 noon – donations of plants greatly appreciated. New members welcome – contact Janine on 712408.



See the Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events

CRAFT FAIR

Easter Sunday 16 April 11am–4pm. Middleton Cheney Village Hall. A chance to support local craft workers by buying unique crafts and gifts direct from the makers. Art, bags, bee/bug houses, candles, cards, crochet, cushions, jewellery, knitting, metalwork, pottery, handmade rugs, textile gifts and wooden items, plus delicious cakes and light lunches. There will be a free to enter Easter Egg Colouring Competition for three age groups up to 15 with Chocolate Egg prizes. Entry Adults £1 –includes donation to Katherine House Hospice.

ARTWEEKS 13: 21 May 2017

Artists and craftspeople in North Oxfordshire and the borders of Northamptonshire will be opening their studios and putting on exhibitions. This annual arts event, the biggest in the country, introduces the public to makers in their workplaces. Jewellers and wood workers, painters and printmakers all take part. Buying direct from the artist makes a piece very special, but artists often put on workshops and special demonstrations too and some offer tea and cake! Middleton Cheney artist Caroline Chappell will be opening her studio in Chacombe Road and the Heseltine Gallery, Chenderit School will be holding its Annual Open Selected Art Exhibition during Artweeks. Free festival guides giving details of opening times for all sites across Oxfordshire will be available from mid-April at Middleton Cheney Library, Banbury Museum, The Mill Arts Centre and other public places as well as online at www.artweeks.org

MIDDLETON CHENEY FOLK DANCE CLUB

“Fun, fun, fun, great to learn something new” and “Warm friendly group most welcoming” are just a couple of the comments made. Is this something that would interest you? If so, please come along. No need to worry, if you don't have a partner there's always someone to dance with. We meet the first Friday afternoon 2–4 pm and the third Wednesday evening 7.30 – 9.30 pm of every month at the Sports and Social Club, Astrop Road. Diane and David Morgan teach us the dances and provide live music. Admission £3. Details: Avis Gallagher (710875) or Diane Morgan (811414).

MIDDLETON CHENEY PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS TEAM UPDATE

We have been working hard to secure grants for improvements to Astrop Road and Stanwell Drive play areas and are thrilled to announce we have secured £40,000 from South Northants District Council, £10,000 from Tesco Bags for Help and the Parish Council has put £20,000 towards the project. We are very grateful to these funders and others for supporting our project and are really excited that this means we can now move forward. The designs from our preferred supplier will be on display in the Parish Meeting Rooms: 13, 14, 15 and 17 March from 10–5 pm and Saturday 18 March 2–4 pm. Please come and have a look. We have enough money to fund the play equipment but are still working on finding funding for a skate ramp. We know this was very important to many young people in the village and it has not been forgotten. Keep an eye on our Facebook page, the Parish Council website and Banbury Guardian for further updates.

MIDDLETON CHENEY HEALTH WALKS

Walking is great exercise and great fun, so why not join us on Monday mornings. We take different routes each week, so it's best to check the village news section of the *Banbury Guardian* for details (a copy is always in the Library) or telephone Janine on 712408.

MIDDLETON CHENEY W.I.

Meets on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30 pm. in the Village Hall.

 See the Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events

ALL SAINTS CHURCH would love to welcome you to our beautiful church. Details of services can be found on the church noticeboard and website www.chenderit-c-of-e.org. All services at All Saints are at 10.30am. We do not have a Rector at present, so all enquiries for baptisms, weddings or funerals should be made to Rev. Simon Dommett on 01869 810903.

ALL SAINTS COFFEE MORNINGS

The church continues to be open 11am–1pm every Wednesday. Prayer is available if required. Donations may be left for the food bank. Do come along to meet and chat over a cuppa.

FIRST STEPS

Wednesdays 2–3pm in term-time. All 0-5 yr olds, their parents, grandparents, friends or carers are welcome to join us to learn about Jesus. With stories, songs and activities.

 See Village Diary for Easter at All Saints, including Messy Church, Palm Sunday 9 April 3–5pm

LADIES CLOTHES SALE FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK

Thursday 30 and Friday 31 March from 12–3pm and 6–8.30pm at The Barn, The New Inn. Please come along for a drink, natter and find a new item for your wardrobe. Donations of new or gently worn clothes for the above event will be gratefully received. Contact Helen on 712073 or 07795196306 or helen.h.harman@hotmail.com

MIDDLETON CHENEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Meet monthly on fourth Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Library. New members and guests always welcome, please contact Chris Wells on 710076.

 See Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events



MIDDLETON – THE SUNFLOWER VILLAGE

The Garden Club is proposing we, as a village community, grow a sunflower in our gardens or pots as an easy way of uniting the community and lifting summer spirits. Easy to come by, there are over 150 varieties available, from small to tall, with differing flower heads, petal shapes and in a range of colours. All the big flower seed companies sell sunflowers, with a wide range available in garden centres - you can even pick up a packet of seed from the supermarket – and children love growing them! Sunflowers grow best in full sun and make good cut flowers, lasting about two weeks. For those who like competing, there will be two competitions: ‘The tallest sunflower’ (a judge will come and measure your sunflower) and ‘Best sunflowers in a pot’ at the village Flower and Produce Show. You can share photos of sunflowers when they are at their best on Middleton Cheney News and Views – or share some of the disasters if you dare! We have been good at developing the scarecrow competition – let's have a go at growing sunflowers too. **Happy sunflower growing!**

POPPY APPEAL

The new edition of the Royal British Legion WW1 Centenary Poppy Pins (1917-2017 enamel) have been delivered. If you would like to obtain one (for a donation) they are now available from the Dolphin Inn or please contact your village honorary organiser (711064). As always – your support is much appreciated.

Village Diary March – June 2017

1 March, 2-4pm, Village Hall	Age Concern. 'Impromptu' singing group
3 March, 2-4pm, Sports & Social Club	Folk Dance Club
3 March, 7pm, Sports & Social Club	Cricket Club signing-on night
7 March, 6-8pm, Chenderit School	Cricket Club. Pre-season indoor nets (Juniors)
9 March 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group. Film showing <i>Bridge of Spies</i>
14 March, 6-8pm, Chenderit School	Cricket Club. Pre-season indoor nets (Juniors)
15 March, 7.30 – 9.30pm Sports & Social Club	Folk Dance Club
21 March, 6-8pm, Chenderit School	Cricket Club. Pre-season indoor nets (Seniors)
24 March, 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group. Victor Ince, 'The History of Upton House'
27 March, 7.30pm, Library	History Society. Speaker David Thompson. The Secrets of the Walled Garden.
28 March, 6-8 pm, Chenderit School	Cricket Club. Pre-season indoor nets (Seniors)
30 – 31 March, 1-3pm and 6-8.30pm at The Barn, The New Inn	Ladies clothes sale for Cancer Research.
2 April, 6.30pm, The Barn The New Inn	Lynden Players. Auditions – <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>
5 April, 2-4pm, Village Hall	Age Concern. Pets.
6 April, 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group. Film showing <i>High Society</i>
7 April, 2-4pm, Sports & Social Club	Folk Dance Club
9 April (Palm Sunday), 3-5pm All Saints Church	Messy Church
14 April (Good Friday), 11am All Saints Church	Easter Garden
14 April (Good Friday), 7.30pm All Saints Church	Easter Vigil
16 April (Easter Sunday), 10.30am All Saints Church	Holy Communion
16 April, 11am-4pm, Village Hall	Easter Craft Fair. Entry Adults £1
19 April, 7.30 – 9.30pm Sports & Social Club	Folk Dance Club

20 April, 7.30pm, Village Hall	W.I. Bill King. The Glenn Miller Story.
24 April, 7.30pm, Library	History Society. Speaker Mark Davies. Daniel Harris, Oxford Gaoler Extraordinaire! 1761-1840 Governor of County Prison at Oxford Castle.
24 April, 7.30pm, All Saints Church	Garden Club. Speaker Lynn Taylor. Restoring Springfield House & Garden.
27 April, 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group. Matt Armitage – Tooley's Boatyard and the Oxford Canal
29 April, All Saints Church	Christian Aid. Informative film.
5 May, 2-4 pm, Sports & Social Club	Folk Dance Club
8 – 13 May, 7.30pm, Village Hall	Lynden Players, 'Drinking with Angelica'.
11 May, 7.30 pm, Library	Library Supporters Group. Film showing 'Youth'
13 – 21 May, Artweeks	Caroline Chappell Open Studio Chacombe Road
13 – 21 May, Artweeks Chenderit School	Annual Open Selected Art Exhibition Heseltine Gallery
13 – 14 May, 10-5pm Chacombe Village Hall	Art Exhibition. Middleton Cheney Art Group
14 – 20 May	Christian Aid Week.
14 May, 2-5.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group. The 2nd Great Tiddlywink Challenge
17 May, 7.30-9.30pm Sports & Social Club	Folk Dance Club
18 May, 7.30pm, Village Hall	W.I. Resolutions, followed by Ken Nokes. Shoes & Leather
20 May, 9.30am-1pm, Village Green	Plant Fair
22 May, 7.30 pm, Library	History Society. Speaker to be confirmed
25 May, 7.30 pm, Library	Library Supporters Group. An Evening with Martin Edwards

USEFUL NUMBERS

C.A.B. Consumer Helpline: 0345 4040506
 Drivewatch: 0845 6121999
 Electricity: Power Cuts/line damage 105
 Environment Agency: 0800 807060
 Gas Emergency: 0800 111999
 HS Helpline: 111
 Pest Control/Environmental Health:
 01327 322322

Planning, Heritage & Conservation:
 01327 322322
 Police non-emergency: 101
 Police emergency: 999
 Sewerage (Thames Water) inc. leakage:
 0800 3169800
 Street Lighting & Cemetery: contact Parish
 Clerk 713500