

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE 100 YEARS OLD?

Two of our residents, George Emmerson and George Haigh, have been sharing their experiences with the BBC and will be appearing in an hour-long Panorama Special presented by Joan Bakewell in October. Exact date to be confirmed at time of going to press but check BBC1 schedules in October to catch this fascinating and enlightening documentary featuring two of our oldest villagers.

MIDDLETON CHENEY CHURCHES

ALL SAINTS CHURCH is looking to assemble a new bell-ringing team. Bell-ringing takes place the first Thursday of every month 7.30pm. Contact Richard Solesbury-Timms on 01295 712431 or 07456 716031 or email richardsoltimms@gmail.com if you are interested.

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.

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.

Special Events

27 September 5.30pm: Open Meeting re: proposed Girls Brigade, or Boys Brigade with girls affiliated, to gauge support and identify potential leaders.

1 October 10.30am: Harvest Service.

12 November 10.30am: Remembrance Day Service.

18 November 2pm: Home at Christmas. A fund-raising, flower-arranging demonstration by Margaret White. Interval refreshments tea/coffee/wine on sale. Entry £5. Advance tickets from Margaret (710054) or on the door.

For further information on services, please contact Bridget Robb 710192 or Mike Wilks 711516 or visit www.chenderit-c-of-e.org

Open meeting at Middleton Cheney Primary Academy.

A meeting for anybody interested in the future of the Parish Church Sunday 17 September 2–4pm. With limited congregation numbers, the church is running at an unsustainable annual operational deficit. It also faces major challenges with the building; the roof leaks requiring urgent, costly repairs and some utilities, such as the heating system, need updating. There are big questions which need to be addressed. How can this fine building be preserved and how might it provide a space in which a greater range of community activities can take place? These are not issues that can be resolved by the current congregation on their own. Local churches do not receive any subsidies, either from the central church or from government. Come along to the meeting and share your views. If you cannot attend, perhaps comment on Facebook.



CHENEY CHATTER

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First it's my pleasure to welcome a new Councillor, Mark Allen, who was co-opted on 19 June – we now have nine Councillors. For those unaware, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7.15pm and are open to the public. The agenda for each meeting can be found on the village website and noticeboards three working days before a meeting is held: www.middletoncheney.org.uk

Should you wish to ask the Parish Council any questions or raise any points with us, 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting are set aside for this purpose – you are welcome to attend. We often talk about responsibilities so I'll just clarify what the Parish Council is NOT responsible for. We are not responsible for Education, Social Services or Highways – these responsibilities lie with County. Neither are we responsible for Planning, Refuse or Housing – these sit with District. Nor are we responsible for shops, the Village Hall or the Playing Fields as these are independently managed.

So what is your Parish Council really there for? Unlike the other two tiers of Local Government (District and County), it is the smallest unit and closest to residents. It is therefore the best platform to ensure that, as far as residents are concerned, things get done! Unlike the other two tiers of Council the Parish Council is not party political. That's not to say we don't have political allegiances, but these never surface at our Council meetings.

Moving on – we have had a real flush of grass and hedgerow growth recently and, hopefully by the time you read this, we will have got to grips with it. A gentle reminder: as a householder you are responsible for cutting back your hedge and/or vegetation to your boundary to allow free movement by cars and pedestrians. Please make a special effort to look and check that any vegetation is not impeding progress for passers-by. Thank you.

Clr. Alan Youel, Chairman
Middleton Cheney Parish Council



CRAFT FAIR 8 October 11am–4pm Middleton Cheney Village Hall

A chance to support local craftworkers by buying unique crafts and gifts for you, your family and friends direct from the makers. Art, bags, bee/bug houses, candles, cards, crochet, cushions, jewellery, knitting, pottery, handmade rugs, textile gifts and wooden items, plus delicious homemade cakes and light lunches. There will be a free Colouring Competition for children. Entry £1 which includes a donation to Katherine House Hospice.

The next issue of Cheney Chatter will be in December. Please send all articles before Friday 17 November 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.

MIDDLETON CHENEY POPPY APPEAL

To the memory of the fallen and the future of the living.

Poppies were one of the few signs of life in the aftermath of the devastation of WW1 which was largely fought in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and northern France. The Royal British Legion promotes the welfare and interest of current and former members of our armed forces, helping families cope with the loss of loved ones, help at home to adapt to independent living, recovery centres for injured personnel, money and careers advice and residential care and it needs support

The Poppy Appeal will run from Saturday 4 November – Saturday 11 November (Armistice Day), followed by Remembrance Sunday on 12 November, the memorial day observed by the commonwealth of nation member states since the end of WW1 to remember the members of the armed forces who have died in the line of duty. I would like to thank Nancy Long, who took over as poppy organiser from Ann Bidwell in 1999, for her devotion and dedication to the cause for the past 18 years.

Please check your local press in October. If you would like to help with collection in your street/locality please contact Richard Solesbury-Timms on 01295 712431 or 07456 716031 or email richardsoltimms@gmail.com

MIDDLETON CHENEY HISTORY SOCIETY

Our autumn programme offers plenty to occupy a dark evening – join us at the Library on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

➤ See Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events

Exploratory Archaeological 'Dig' in N. Middleton Cheney – September

With the support of the History Society and the United Charities there will be an opportunity to join an initial exploratory excavation in what has been termed 'Walnut Tree Field' adjacent to the Banbury/Welsh Lane. Field markings from a 1940's air photograph suggest a significant settlement with enclosure ditches and possible round structures. The dig, like 'Timeteam' will be for three days, mid to late September, when the field has been cropped and made ready. The dig will be fully supervised and no previous experience is required. There are a range of tasks to suit all ages. If you are interested please contact Bob Hunter on 01295 712265 or email Brian Goodey at brian.goodey@btinternet.com leaving contact details so you can be contacted when dates are confirmed.

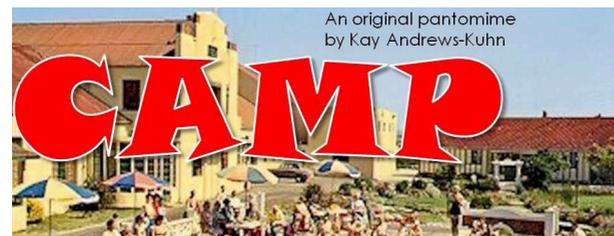
MIDDLETON CHENEY HEALTH WALKS

Don't make a fuss, come and walk with us... the Health Walking group go on walks each Monday, differing in length between two to five miles. Check details in the Village section of the Banbury Guardian (copy available in the Library) on Facebook, or phone Janine on 712408. We also want to organise some shorter street strolls, so if you would prefer to come on walks taken at a very gentle pace around our lovely village, give Janine a ring on 712408.

MIDDLETON CHENEY W.I

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

➤ See the Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events



LYNDEN PLAYERS

present

CAMP

14–16 December 2017

Tickets on sale soon

Lynden Players present their 2017 pantomime *Camp* set in the early 1970s when hair was long, platform heels were high and flares were wide. The action takes place at Sandy Shores holiday camp, a family business struggling to survive. The highlight of the season is the grand talent contest, which attracts a young man who wants to be a star and with him a mysterious stranger who may not be all he seems. Banish the winter blues with a summer holiday this December. Join the Lynden Players at Sandy Shores for a show packed with laughs, songs, romance, mystery and nostalgia which is completely, overwhelmingly, undeniably CAMP!

GARDEN CLUB

Have you picked up the schedule for the annual Flower and Produce Show? 11am–4pm 16 September, in conjunction with the Village Hall Open Day. Free entry, refreshments by W.I. Schedules available at the Parkinsons Charity Shop, Church Lane, then bring entries to the Village Hall on 16 September 8.30–9.45am. We look forward to lots of entries – without you there is no show! Village Sunflower Section – there are many opportunities for entries in this new section – photos, plants in pots and tallest one measured. Call Janine Burton on 712408 to arrange a date for measuring your sunflower.

The Garden Club has joined with Library Supporters Group to present Chris Beardshaw – 100 Plants that Almost Changed the World, on 5 October. Tickets have sold out – ticket return list at the Library. Garden Club talks begin at 7.30pm, normally on the third Monday of the month. Annual club subscription £12; entry fee to each talk £4. Watch out for interesting meetings in 2018, plus lots more, including pop-up gardens. Come and join us, you do not have to own a garden to enjoy them and you certainly do not need to know much about gardening – we are all learning.

➤ See Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events

USEFUL NUMBERS

C.A.B. Consumer Helpline	0345 4040506
Drivewatch/Abandoned Vehicles	0845 6121999
Electricity – power cuts/line damage	105
Environment Agency	0800 807060
Gas Emergency	0800 111999
NHS Helpline	111
Pest Control/Environmental Health	01327 322322
Planning, Heritage & Conservation	01327 322322
Police non-emergency	101
Sewerage (Thames Water) inc. leakage	0800 3169800
Street Lighting & Cemetery	Contact Parish Clerk 713500

CHACOMBE (formerly Middleton Cheney) ART GROUP

Proudly present their second annual Art Exhibition at Chacombe Village Hall, Thorpe Road, Chacombe, 10am–5pm, Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October. Free entry and parking or take the 500 bus from either Banbury or Brackley. Come and see our original work, meet some of the artists and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and cake. Artworks and cards available for sale.

'Amazing talent'.... 'totally yummy'... just a couple of comments from last year's exhibition, so don't miss it this year! Look forward to seeing you there.

DOGS FOR GOOD

Autumn Fair at the Frances Hay Centre, Blacklocks Hill, OX17 2BS. 7 October 11am–3pm. Goods from local crafters, tombola, teas, jams and scrummy cakes. Come along and start your Christmas Shopping at our first event in the refurbished Training Hall at Dogs for Good.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2017

Shoeboxes bursting with joy

A shoebox wrapped in cheery paper and filled with small gifts is probably the first and only Christmas present needy children around the world will ever receive. Samaritan's Purse run this project annually. Please help us support it by making up

shoebox(es) of goodies – perhaps team up with family, friends or colleague – it's easy and rewarding!

Information leaflets, including a list of suitable items and how to do your box, can be found at the Library and the Butler's Pantry, which are also 'Drop-Off Points' for completed boxes during normal opening times. Alternatively please call Mary Phipps on 712894 or Carol Souch on 521605.

Join our 'Wrap & Fill' sessions, with coffee/tea, cake and chat to enjoy. Saturday 14 and 28 October and 11 November, 9.30am–2.30pm, Methodist Schoolrooms, Queen Street, OX17 2NP. We welcome contributions of goodies, empty shoeboxes, wrapping paper and money donations toward the £5 project cost to get each box to a needy child.

Final date for dropping off completed shoeboxes – Saturday 18 November.

MIDDLETON CHENEY AGE CONCERN

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month 2-4 pm in the Village Hall. Entertainment, a raffle, a quick game of Bingo plus tea, sandwiches and cake. Anyone over 55 years is welcome to come and join us or just pop in and see if you would like it.

➤ See Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events

VILLAGE NETWORKS – Advice and support driven to your door!

Money advice, computer training, job-seeking advice and support, volunteering opportunities, pensions guidance and specialist debt counselling advice and help. 11.45am–2.30pm on 11 October, 15 November and 6 December, near The Butlers Pantry, High Street.

CRICKET CLUB

So the cricket season has now been and gone! The 1^{sts} and 2^{nds} had a very successful first year in the OCA, both top of their respective divisions at the time of writing, with promotion firmly on the cards. The 3^{rds} made a wonderful start, winning five out of their first nine matches and will hopefully finish mid-table. Well done to all the senior teams. We were thrilled with the number of players in the junior section this season – a pool of 16 from which to choose U11s and 25 boys playing between the two U13 teams. All four junior teams really performed: the U11s and U13Bs finished a very respectable mid-table, the U13As had a great season, just missing out on the County Finals and finishing runners up in their league and the U15s (all U14s!) had their first season in the Oxfordshire league – a tougher standard, but with some good performances they did well to finish third.

Many thanks to the managers who made this season possible – Russ O'Donnell, John Loman, Andy Mayo, Polly Knight and Andy Cross. A special mention for Craig Merry and Andy Mayo, recently honoured at the Northants Recreational Cricket NatWest Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards. Craig received 'Heartbeat of the Club 2017' for his unrelenting work behind the scenes; Andy received 'Lifetime Achiever' for being an absolute stalwart of the Club for 45 years, playing for and captaining every junior and senior team, holding every senior office on the committee (often two at a time) and being groundsman for the past 20 years. Congratulations to them both.

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 to view the events, book your tickets and print them off, or have them posted at a small extra charge.

Our first event for the autumn will be on Friday 1 September, when Mervyn Benford, a founder member of the Milestone Society, will give an illustrated talk 'Another Milestone'. A major autumn event has sold out – there is a waiting list at the library for any returned tickets to the Chris Beardshaw talk on 5 October. A private view of an exhibition of Drawings, Paintings & Prints by John Sprakes ROI RBA MAFA at the Heseltine Gallery, Chenderit School, will be held on Friday 15 September 6.30–8.30pm, tickets free from the Library. The exhibition will run from 16 September – 15 October. John will give a talk/demonstration in the gallery from 1.30–4.30pm on Sunday 1 October.

The Big Draw is here again, the theme 'Living Lines: An Animated Big Draw'. This is your chance to learn new skills in arts & technology as part of this national event. Open to all. Details at the Library. James Hornsby returns Sunday 29 October at 7pm, with a new one-man show, a presentation of Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' – his shows usually sell out, so book your ticket early. The year rounds off with a 'Grand Beetle Drive' including mulled wine and mince pies on Friday 1 December 7.30pm. Events beyond these dates can be found on the village website www.middletoncheney.org.uk click Community then Library Supporters.

➤ See Village Diary in middle pages for programme of events including Film Nights

Village Diary September – December 2017

1 September, 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group 'Another Milestone', Mervyn Benford
15 September, 6.30pm (Private View) 16 September – 15 October Heseltine Gallery, Chenderit School	John Sprakes (ROI, RBA, MAFA) Exhibition of drawings paintings & prints Library Supporters Group
16 September, 11am – 4pm, Village Hall	Flower & Produce Show and Village Hall Open Day
17 September, 2–4pm M.C. Primary Academy	Open Meeting re: All Saints Church
21 September, 7.30pm, Village Hall	W.I., 'The Wartime Housewife', Biff Raven Hill
21 September, 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group film showing <i>Viceroy's House</i>
25 September, 7.30pm, Library	History Society, 'Roman Gladiators' Talk with costume and artefacts
27 September, 5.30pm, All Saints Church	Open Meeting Girls/Boys Brigade
1 October, 10.30am, All Saints Church	Harvest Service
1 October, 1.30–4.30pm, Heseltine Gallery, Chenderit School	Library Supporters Group Talk/demonstration by John Sprakes
4 October, 2–4pm, Village Hall	Age Concern, Harvest Festival
5 October, 7.30pm, Chenderit School	Library Supporters Group/Garden Club. An Evening with Chris Beardshaw
7 October, 11am–3pm Frances Hay Centre	Dogs for Good Autumn Fair
8 October, 11am–4pm, Village Hall	Craft Fair. Entry: Adults £1 inc. donation
8 October, 3–5pm, All Saints Church	Messy Church with Harvest theme
11 October, 11.45am–2.30pm, The Butler's Pantry	Village Networks
13 October, 7pm, Primary Academy	Library Supporters Group, The Big Draw Launch Disney Evening with M.C. Singers
14 October, 9.30am–2.30pm Methodist Schoolrooms Queen St	Operation Christmas Child 'Wrap & Fill' session.
14-15 October, 11–1pm and 1–3pm. Library & Primary Academy	Library Supporters Group, Arts Activities Exploring Animation
14-15 October, 10am–5pm Chacombe Village Hall	Chacombe Art Group Art Exhibition Free entry and parking.
16 October, 7.30pm, Library	Garden Club talk, 'Labour Saving Gardening' Philip Arbury

19 October, 7.30pm, Village Hall	W.I. Annual Meeting, ' Photography – Point & Shoot'. Paul Howard
23 October, 7.30pm, Library	History Society talk Lunacy & the Victorian Asylum', Cathy Smith
28 October, 9.30am– 2.30pm Methodist Schoolrooms, Queens St.	Operation Christmas Child, 'Wrap & Fill' session
29 October, 7pm, Library	Library Supporters Group, Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' One Man Show by James Hornsby
1 November, 2–4pm, Village Hall	Age Concern, Remembrance.
4 November – 11 November	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
9 November, 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group film showing <i>La La Land</i>
11 November, 9.30am–2.30pm Methodist Schoolrooms, Queens St.	Operation Christmas Child, 'Wrap & Fill session
12 November, 10.30am, All Saints Church	Remembrance Day Service
15 November, 11.45am–2.30pm, The Butler's Pantry	Village Networks
16 November, 7.30pm, Village Hall	W.I., Tears of a Dragon, Frances Benton
18 November The Butler's Pantry & Library	Final date for dropping off completed shoeboxes
18 November, 2pm, All Saints Church	Flower arranging demonstration. Entry £5.
20 November, 7.30pm, Library	Garden Club talk ' London's Secret Garden', Irene Page
27 November, 7.30pm, Library	History Society talk, '1066, The Butler's Pantry & the Myth of Simon de Chenduit' – some of the origins of Middleton Cheney. Dr Keith Busby
1 December, 7.30pm, Library	Library Supporters Group, Christmas Event 'Grand Beetle Drive'
4 December 7.30 pm Library	Garden Club. Talk ' The Garden, a Natural History Paradise'. Paul Williams
6 December, 11.45am–2.30pm, The Butler's Pantry	Village Networks
6 December 2-4 pm Village Hall	Age Concern. Christmas Meal
9 December 3 pm All Saints Church. Suggested donation £5 per family. Interval refreshments.	Carols Singalong. Traditional carols by M.C. Singers and hand bell ringers.
14 – 16 December Village Hall	Lynden Players Pantomime 'Camp'
21 December 7.30 pm Village Hall	W.I. Crochet Evening