

Village Diary: December 2008

Parish Council Meetings (7.15pm): 1st Dec, 5th Jan, 2nd Feb, 2nd Mar

Dec. 3rd	Wed	Age Concern - Christmas Tea (NB. To qualify, you must have attended for 6 months previously). Bill Tustian will be playing the keyboard and singing. Please bring a gift costing no more than £1.00
Dec. 6th	Sat	Dickens Evening - "A Christmas Carol" - All Saints Church - 7.30pm Ticket enquiries 712431 Or 712558. Adults £6.00 Under 12s £3.00. Mulled wine & mince pies served in the interval
Dec. 10th - 13th		PANTOMIME - DICK WHITTINGTON by the Lynden Players. Box Office - Mr Barry Coles 712427
Dec. 13th & 14th		PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FLOAT - HO, HO, HO!!!
Dec. 21st	Sun	CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE - ALL WELCOME! FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES IN THE VILLAGE HALL...
Dec. 22nd	Mon	History Society 7.30pm - MC Library. Christmas Quiz & Social Evening
Jan. 7th	Wed	Age Concern - Local Railway Stations with Chris Bazely
Jan. 12th Feb. 6th	Mon - Fri	Chenderit School - Michael Heseltine Gallery - The photographs of Walker-Evans taken in the 1930's of the American Depression. (Also showing Sunday 18th, 25th Jan & 1st February)
Jan. 26th	Mon	Hist. Soc. 7.30pm - MC Library - The Great Central Railway in Northamptonshire
Feb. 4th	Wed	Age Concern - G & J Todd - A Pearly King & Queen with their Street Organ
Feb. 23rd	Mon	Hist. Soc. 7.30pm - MC Library. Industrial Revolution & Revelation in Middleton Cheney
Mar. 2nd Apr. 3rd	Mon - Wed	Chenderit School - Michael Heseltine Gallery - Dave MacKean - A retrospective exhibition. Comic graphics, paintings, photographs and more. (Also showing Sunday 15th & 29th March)

If you would like to include your event in this section please notify the Parish Clerk (Email clerk@middletoncheney.org.uk or call 713500). 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.

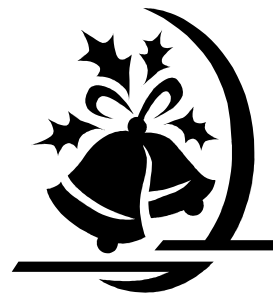


Cheney Chatter

**Issue 4
December 2008**

Middleton Cheney Newsletter

Welcome to the Christmas issue of Cheney Chatter.



The Parish Council would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

It is a time for meeting friends and relatives, spreading the joys of Christmas, and also thinking about those who are not as fortunate as others. I would like to extend an invitation to you all to join the Churches on their walk around the village on Sunday, 21st December when we will be singing carols, spreading joy and collecting for charity.

The grand finale will be in the Village Hall where I invite you to join me in mulled wine and hot mince pies and something for the children. We will also be entertained by Middleton's very own hand bell ringers with a Christmas medley. Please check posters and local press for times and route closer to the date.

Finally please remember stay safe over Christmas and if you know anyone who may be living on their own and lonely, why not pop round for a chat or invite them to join you for a while during the festive break?

John Rakestraw
Chairman
Middleton Cheney
Parish Council



The next issue of the Village News will be delivered in March. Please send all articles by February 14th 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.

THE PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FLOAT -will make its annual trip around the village on Saturday 13th December and Sunday 14th December. The door-to-door collection is Pre-School's biggest fundraiser of the year.



On Saturday 13th December the float sets off at 4pm from Cheney Gardens and will travel around the West side of the village: Stanwell, Chacombe Road, Archery Road, Bull Baulk, Glovers Lane, High Street, Queen Street, Astrop Road etc.

On Sunday 14th December the float sets off at 3.30pm from the Library and covers the East side of the village: Main Road, The Avenue, Dands Drive, Horton Road, The Washle, Thenford Road, Waters Lane etc.

Father Christmas and his little helpers will be delighted to collect letters from your children detailing all their Christmas wishes. Please ensure your child's **full name and address** are clearly printed on the letter and then they will receive a reply!



MIDDLETON CHENEY HISTORY SOCIETY was formed earlier this year for anyone interested in the locality and its people. To date we have been able to draw on material already available in the village archives and have discovered more about the English Civil War in Middleton (with the help of members of the Sealed Knot), the stories behind the names on our village war memorial, village pastimes and the origins of our road names; often with fascinating and entertaining input from our members. We are also interested in the

wider picture of our nation's history to see how local, national and international events may have affected our forebears in Middleton and elsewhere. With this aim in mind we have already booked a full programme of talks and activities for 2009, with a number of visiting history experts whose subjects will range from the history of Banbury Boatyard to the influence of the Railways on the local area; and from Drove Roads to Village Industries.

Our aim is to provide an informative insight to history in an informal atmosphere and everyone is welcome to join us on the 4th Monday of each month in the library, 7.30pm. - at present we charge £2.00 per meeting. Contact Chris 710076 or Nancy 711064 for more details.

The December meeting will take the form of a history quiz and is open to anyone who has attended the talks this year. We will provide the 'nibbles' but please bring your own drink and a glass! HAPPY CHRISTMAS to everyone and perhaps you will join us in the NEW YEAR?



LOOK AFTER YOUR PROPERTY THIS CHRISTMAS -

- Never leave presents on display in your car or at home
- Keep your purse or wallet out of pickpocket reach
- Keep your cheque book and cards separate
- Be cautious at cash machines
- Never leave belongings unattended in fitting rooms
- Use a timer switch to turn on lights etc when you are out
- Do not open the door to unexpected callers
- Postcode new gifts particularly electrical goods and bicycles
- Keep an eye out for your neighbours - ask them to do the same for you

DON'T TAKE RISKS AFTER PARTYING - GET A LIFT HOME!

When its bin day in the village, spare a thought for your neighbour's bins that are left on the kerbside after collection. This may be due to them working or being away for the day. Why not move it back near their house as bins left out on the path could make people aware that the property is empty and that gives them the opportunity to carry out a criminal visit.

With the festive season almost upon

us, we are being advised to recycle everything, but remember when putting out your cardboard for collection, make sure that any boxes from those expensive present are disposed of separately at the recycling centres. Leaving them out on the kerbside would show the thieves what new and exciting items have been added to your household this Christmas.

Need advice? We are here to help. Contact your Safer Community Team on Tel: 08453 700700

PC790 Martyn Dearsley
PCSO Suzanne Bourne
PCSO Clive Ashmore

Take care and be safe - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Useful Contact Numbers:

The Street Doctor	0845 6011113
Untaxed Vehicles	0800 0325202
Fly Tipping	01327 322347
Stray Dogs	0845 4040506
Consumer direct (DTI)	0845 4040506
Free Home Fire Safety Checks	0800 3899950
Abandoned Vehicles	0845 6121999

ALL SAINTS MIDDLETON CHENEY – BEFRIENDING GROUP

We are a group of members of All Saints Church interested in the welfare of all in our parish. We meet about once a month to identify and consider the needs of the Parish.



In our discussions we acknowledge the visiting done by so many who diligently look after friends and neighbours because of love and concern for them. Our remit is one of friendship and care.

Our main concern is to seek out those vulnerable people who are being missed because there is no obvious person available to make the visit, or no one has realised there is a problem. We would love to hear from anyone who might have an hour or two a week to spare and who would enjoy spending time talking to people who find it hard to get out, or being available to take someone shopping, or do small tasks that they are not able to do themselves.

If you are interested in joining our Befriending Group, or you know of someone who might benefit from our services please contact me, Alison Solesbury on 01295 710 316, Thea Jones on 01295 713 977 or Sally Sherriff on 01295 710 120.

MIDDLETON CHENEY VILLAGE HALL - is, a spacious building which is situated behind the village green and is signposted off the Main Road. The hall can accommodate 200 in the main room, 100 in the extension and 10 in the committee room and has a stage with dressing rooms. There is a large car park adjacent to the hall.



The hall itself comprises of two sections; a large and a smaller hall which can be divided off by folding doors. The floor is a sprung wooden floor; ideal for dancing. The building is equipped with a modern fitted kitchen, new appliances, a microwave, dishwasher, fridge/freezer, double oven and hob. There is a separate designated bar area.

Disabled toilet facilities are available. The building has the benefit of full central heating and is equipped with a loop system for those with impaired hearing.

The hall is currently the regular venue for short mat bowls, the W. I., Age Concern, Brownies and is the home for the local amateur dramatic group, The Lynden Players, whose stage productions are performed here.

The hall is available for hire for meetings, parties, dinners, dances, weddings, fairs and exhibitions. To find out more about our facilities and to make a booking please contact the booking secretary on 01295 7110 496

MIDDLETON CHENEY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Friday 5th December 2008 – Christmas Fair, 6pm - 8pm at the School - Please join us to hear the School Choir, visit Santa's Grotto, mulled wine, mince pies, Christmas crafts and enjoy the special entertainment from the Reptile-Man who will be showing all his different reptiles, plus lots more.

All money raised from our events is currently being put towards the proposed new playground equipment for the playing field.

Please note - as part of our **Eco-Schools Project** that we are now a collection centre for mobile phones, batteries and clean tin foil – all contributions are gratefully received.

THE GIRLS' BRIGADE - is a Christian youth organisation for girls of ages 4 – 11. A varied programme of fun activities is offered, designed to educate, challenge and inspire young girls in a safe environment of Christian teaching. Our interests for older girls range from dance, drama and sport to craft, outings and camp. Younger girls can join in singing games and dressing up through to cooking and painting, with trips to the park, zoo or farms.



Our meetings take place on Thursdays 6.15 – 7.30pm in the New Life Community Church (Baptist), Middleton Cheney. Call Janine on 710219 for further details

GIRLS ALLOWED – FUN, FRIENDSHIP & FAITH!

THE MICHAEL HESELTINE GALLERY - CHENDERIT SCHOOL

Did you know that there is a public art gallery in the village showing work by international, national, regional and local artists? The gallery is at the front of the school and open from 9am – 5pm on schooldays; it is also open Sunday afternoons from 2pm – 4pm.



The exhibitions and dates in the New Year are listed in the Village Diary (see page 8)

The Art Department runs evening classes every Tuesday from 7pm – 9pm. The next group features Pottery, Painting and Drawing and Digital Photography and will run for 10 weeks from 13th January 2009. £50 per adult (£40 concessions).

For further details or to join the mailing list phone 01295 711567



ANNUAL POPPY APPEAL

2008 marked the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War and as we remembered the young men who lost their lives so long ago and reflected on the losses today among those young people serving overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan - it was clear that the Two Minute Silence is still as relevant as ever. There has only been one year (1968) since the Second World War when a British Service person hasn't been killed on active service. People as young as 17.5 years can be sent into areas of conflict, so veterans are often much younger than people realise.

The British public holds great affection and respect for its Armed Forces. This was recently demonstrated at our village Remembrance Service, when members of both the youth and adult organisations present took an active part with readings and music. Who can forget the duet from Impromptu who sang the poignant, "Bring Him Home (...let him live)" from Les Miserables? The Poppy Appeal is your opportunity to show your support, so thank you to everyone in Middleton Cheney for giving so generously, as always and wearing your poppy with pride. This year we have raised a record total of **£2028.06p**

Did you know that the **PARKINSON'S SHOP** in Middleton Cheney is the only one in the country? Our very own, unique charity shop has been open for about 15 years and is organised by Peter Turner who has had personal experience of living with a loved one who coped with this very individual and progressive neurological condition. Peter is ably assisted by about 25 volunteers who sort and sell all donated items, whilst keeping their customers entertained with cheerful conversation as they do so. Clothing, bric-a-brac and books are all gratefully received and all the money raised is used for funding hospital visits, medical care, holiday breaks and theatre visits which help to make a difficult life more bearable. Next time you're passing why not give us a visit? You might find a bargain and you will be helping a very good cause. Have a good Christmas and perhaps we will be seeing you in the New Year...



(Please note – we are unable to accept electrical items or furniture)

THE ALZHEIMER'S CARERS SUPPORT GROUP - has a monthly drop-in

meeting on the first Monday of every month in the Parish Meeting Rooms from 10am until 12.30pm and Elizabeth Churchill, the Carer Support Worker for South Northants is there to help with any problems or enquiries. Her telephone number is 01280 823 769 Mob 07908 458042.



TAKE THYME – Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!



Were you one of the lucky people who attended the recent Take Thyme Cookery demonstrations by Nikki and Clare, with fashions by Ellie? All proceeds from the evening were donated to Katherine House Hospice and although you may have missed a great evening out, there is still time to shop at leisure for unusual Christmas gifts and jewellery whilst enjoying a relaxing refreshment break with your friends.



Our popular **Senior Citizen Lunches** (£5.00 for two courses – main course and pudding) will re-commence every Monday from the 12th January. There are two sittings; one at 12 o'clock and another at 1.15pm, with 12 places at each lunch. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

ARE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ADULT CARE SERVICES A MYSTERY TO YOU?



A group of us in the village were getting frustrated that we could not understand how the care services in the county were working – so we moaned and talked – and moaned and talked – but have now decided to take action. We have set up this group called the **Care Information Network** – and we are finding out what is going on – and building up our information to help all of us in the village. Our members are people from the village who kept on being asked questions to which we did not know the answers – but we are learning some of them – and we are

happy to share with you what we are finding out. We come from Age Concern, the Mothers' Union, All Saints and the Methodist Churches, the Parish Council and the Women's Institute. We also have a member who is a carer. We have met with District and County Councillors to learn about what they are doing; and with the Alzheimer's Society, and we are due to meet the library service to hear about their plans for an information service in the village. All this is to provide us with the information to help people better in the village who need to get a service and don't know where to start.

So – if you want to be part of our group – or you want help to know how to get a service you need – then get in touch. We will be pleased to hear from you.

Contact:
Bridget Robb
(01295 710 192) - or email
bridgetrobb@waitrose.com

