

Village Diary: December 2009 - February 2010

Parish Council Meetings (7.15pm): 7 Dec, 4 Jan, 1 Feb, 1 Mar.

Dec. 4th Fri	Primary School Christmas Fair 6pm-8pm. Stalls, fun and games and meet Father Christmas
Dec. 12th Sat	All Saints Church - "Welcome to Christmas" Flower arranging demonstration. Tickets £3.00 to include a glass of wine & a mince pie.
Dec. 12th & 13th	PRE- SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FLOAT - HO, HO, HO!!!
Dec. 10th - 12th	PANTOMIME - FRANKENSTEIN THE PANTO, Box Office - Mr Barry Coles 712427. £6.50 Adults / £5.50 Concessions
Dec. 20th Sun	CAROL SINGING AROUND THE VILLAGE - ALL WELCOME! FOLLOWED BY MULLED WINE & MINCE PIES IN THE VILLAGE HALL (MEET LONDIS 6PM.)
Dec. 21st Mon	Garden Club - All Saints Church - 7.30pm - Christmas Event - Includes a talk by Peter Toms on Teddy Bears
Jan. 6th Wed	Age Concern - Village Hall 2pm - Picture Framing with Ruth Edwards
Jan. 18th Mon	Garden Club - All Saints Church - 7.30pm - How to be a 21st Century Gardener - Tim Walker from Oxford Botanic Garden
Jan. 25th Mon	Hist Soc. - 7.30pm - MC Library. A Village in Wartime. Denis Reader an ex-RAF serviceman tells the story of Chipping Warden Airfield in World War Two. Visitors welcome £2.00
Jan. 26th Tues	Take Thyme Folk Eve - 7.30pm - Jess Morgan - Booked tickets only
Feb. 3rd Wed	Age Concern - Village Hall 2pm - Terry Andrews Entertainer
Feb. 15th Mon	Garden Club - All Saints Church - 7.30pm - Foliage Plants by Janet Cropley
Feb. 22nd Mon	Hist Soc. - 7.30pm - MC Library. AGM followed by "Ghost Stories of Middleton Cheney." (all story contributions gratefully received)
Feb. 23rd Tues	Take Thyme Folk Eve - 7.30pm - Andy Whittle - Booked tickets only

THIS NEWSLETTER CAN ALSO BE VIEWED ON OUR WEBSITE - <http://middletoncheney.org>

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 8
December 2009

Middleton Cheney Newsletter



As we reach the end of a particularly successful year for our village it is perhaps time to thank everyone who has been involved in the many and varied events that have taken place in 2009. A very full programme including a Music Festival, a Village Fete, Month of Madness, Strawberry Fair, Art Exhibition, Flower and Produce Show and Village Hall Fun Day to name a few; and whilst all this was going on, our many clubs and organisations were doing their very best to involve their members in a wide variety of interests and activities throughout the village. Winning the County Village of the Year Competition (large villages) was the icing on the cake! Well done and thank you to the whole community.

It is with great sorrow that I have to inform you that Terry Stacey has sadly

passed away. Terry was invited by the Parish Council to act as our Responsible Finance Officer and it was his experience and understanding of financial rules governing local councils that enabled him to put the parish of Middleton Cheney in a fine monetary position. As a result of Terry's hard work during his time in office we have not raised the parish council tax bill, which is good news for everybody. His expertise and friendship will be sorely missed. I am sure you would all like to join me in wishing Caroline and the family well during this sad time.

Please take care of yourselves and each other at this special time of year - with best wishes for a ...

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

John Rakestraw
Chairman
Middleton Cheney
Parish Council



The next issue of the Village News will be delivered in March. Please send all articles **by 12th February** 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.

MIDDLETON CHENEY PRE-SCHOOLCHRISTMAS

FLOAT - will make its annual trip around the village on Saturday 12th December and Sunday 13th December. The door-to-door collection is Pre-School's biggest fundraiser of the year.



On Saturday 12th 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 13th 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!

“WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS” - We would like to extend an invitation for you to join us for a Christmas flower arranging demonstration given by Margaret White which will take place on the 12th December 2-4pm. Enjoy a glass of wine and a mince pie and enter our raffle. Proceeds will help to fund the year-round flowers in the church. Tickets are £3.50 each from Madge Geary, Margaret White and various village shops displaying the poster

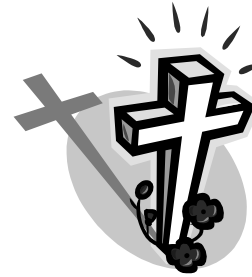


PRIMARY SCHOOL - PARENTS ASSOCIATION - FAIR - Friday 4th December

from 6 - 8pm. Craft Stalls, Family Photographer, Jewellery and Children's Entertainer. Visit Father Christmas in his grotto. Demonstration of Christmas wreath making by Barn Farm Plants. Refreshments including mulled wine and mince pies (of course!), and a Bar for the grown ups. Don't miss this great evening out. Happy Christmas everyone...!



THE LYNDEN PLAYERS - CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME - Will take place on the 10th, 11th and 12th of December this year at Middleton Cheney Village Hall. It's Frankenstein THE PANTO and it will be DEAD funny! Book your tickets at the box office on 01295 712427 - £6.50 for Adults and £5.50 concessions. Be there for a Monster of a Christmas Panto! (Please note -Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a responsible adult during the whole performance)



POPPY APPEAL 2009 - Thank you to everyone in Middleton who bought a poppy during Remembrancetide. Sadly, this year the conflict in Afghanistan has highlighted the fact that it is also important that we remember those who survive especially those who have returned to cope with devastating injuries - mental or physical. Their lives are changed forever and we must not let them down - your donation has ensured that they receive the help they need. **This year we raised £ 2038.69p in Middleton Cheney**



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

SEASONAL TIPS FROM THE POLICE

A few tips to help keep you safe from crime
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

Take care and be safe, we wish you a crime free Christmas from the Northamptonshire Police



Useful Contact Numbers:

The Street Doctor	0845 6011113
Untaxed Vehicles	0800 0325202
Fly Tipping	01327 322347
Stray Dogs	0845 2300226
Consumer direct (DTI)	0845 4040506
Free Home Fire Safety Checks	0800 3899950
Abandoned Vehicles	0845 6121999

PC790 Martyn Dearsley
PCSO Clive Ashmore
PCSO CharlotteWhithead

CO-OP PHARMACY- Michelle, Claire and the team would like to remind everyone that we offer free blood pressure tests and medication reviews in our private consulting room. We give confidential advice on minor ailments for adults and children and try to take the pressure off the surgeries at this busy time of year. Many conditions can be self-managed with over the counter treatments so ask us first before calling the doctor.



Our prescription collection scheme now covers Horsefair, West Bar and Hightown surgeries and we collect every Tuesday, so just ask and the surgery will put your prescription in our folder. This helps us manage our workload and stock levels more effectively.

Please order your prescriptions now for over Christmas as it is our busiest time of year. Many of you have three month repeats so check now if you will need anything. Late night opening until 6.15pm every Thursday and we are open on Saturday 9.00-1.00pm.

TAKE THYME - FOLK EVENINGS - Great evenings of song and entertainment will be taking place, from 7.30 - 9.30pm on Tuesday evenings - 26th January (with Jess Morgan) and on the 23rd February (with Andy Whittle). Tickets are £8.00 per head and supper is included. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment - tel. 711444.



Our popular Senior Citizens Lunches are still available every Monday (£5.00 for a main course and dessert). There are two sittings; one at 12 o'clock and another at 1.15pm. Why not meet up with your friends and have a great social lunch with delicious food?

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that we offer an extensive menu of party food available for all occasions. Please call in for further details.

MIDDLETON CHENEY METHODIST CHURCH - Are you looking for a venue for a children's birthday party or meeting? Have you remembered that the Methodist Schoolroom and well equipped kitchen are for hire? Tables and chairs are included in the cost of £7.50 per hour. Please contact Mrs. Barbara Webb on (01295)710390 for details and bookings.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARISH MEETINGS TAKE PLACE ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. THEY ARE ALSO ADVERTISED IN THIS NEWSLETTER; ON THE NOTICEBOARD OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY (TOGETHER WITH THE AGENDA), AND ON THE MIDDLETON CHENEY WEBSITE. THE MINUTES CAN BE READ IN THE LIBRARY ITSELF OR ON THE WEBSITE <http://middletoncheney.org>

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL - A coach trip has been organised from the village, so come and join us on Saturday 19th December. The programme is crammed full of popular Carols, favourite festive songs and your chance to SING... SING... SINGALONG for great Christmas family fun. The outing includes a ride along Oxford Street to see the Lights. Departing from Middleton Cheney 1.30pm (return approx 8pm). Tickets cost £33.50. For further information please contact Mrs Reeve on 711657



CHRISTMAS PAST IN MIDDLETON CHENEY - "At Christmas the bell-ringers used to go to the church at five o'clock in the morning and ring the bells until six, before going to work. They used to do this for a number of weeks before Christmas, for advent. My father told us that Father Christmas lived up with the bells, it never occurred to us to question this, we just accepted it. We used to write proper letters to Father Christmas and give them to Dad to take to the church. We'd hang our stockings by the fireplace, not in the bedroom - we daren't have him (*a man*) in the bedroom!

I remember one particular Christmas morning, my Dad was up early, getting ready to go to work to tend his horses and he heard me and my sister talking. 'Be quiet!' he said, 'He's coming...'

We hid under the bed clothes and Dad must have got a stick and rattled it up the chimney, so we'd think that Father Christmas was on his way down. 'He's gone' Dad called. 'He's gone over the fields to Purston!' We'd look in our stocking and there'd be an apple, an orange and a few sweets and always a doll. My sister always had the same as me. If we were very lucky there would be a new school bag or satchel.

My Father used to go and muffle the bells ready to ring the old year out at the end of December. He had to climb up the bell-tower to do this. Then the bell-ringers rang a muffled peal. Come midnight he'd go up the bell tower again, take off those muffles and they'd ring the new year in...!"

(Extract from an account by Annie Seeney born 1900 - died 1991)

CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Dec. 13th	6pm	- Nine Lessons and Carols	-	All Saints Church
Dec. 18th	7pm	- Carols & mince pies	-	Methodist Church
Dec. 20th	6pm	- Carols around the village	(details page 8 - village diary)	
Christmas	4pm	- Crib Service	-	All Saints Church
	Eve	7pm	- Carol service with drama presentation	All Saints Church
		11.15pm	- Midnight Mass	All Saints Church
Christmas	10am	- Christmas Family Worship	-	Methodist Church
	Day			

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH US THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST



HISTORY SOCIETY - WANTED - GHOST STORIES! - Now that we have reached the season of dark nights and huddling round a cosy fire this seems like a good time to discover if there are any ghost stories associated with our village. So far we have just two but are convinced there are more out there waiting to be recorded. If you can help with this project please send your ghostly tale (anon if you wish) to Middleton Cheney History Society via clerk@middletoncheney.org.uk or drop a written copy in to the Parish Meeting Room. If we receive enough replies we will be pleased to share the stories with you at a later date.



“DON'T MISS THE BUS!” – This project has recently been set up by The Towcester Partnership to support the young people of the district. One of the problems in South Northants is that it is so rural it is very difficult for young people to get anywhere especially if they don't have their own car. So actually going out to see them with a facility like this is really going to build bridges. 'The Bus' can provide great opportunities for young people to meet for both social and leisure activities.



Fully fitted out to provide a safe meeting place for all 13 - 19 year olds, 'The Bus' has been modified to contain six Mobile Broadband Laptops, Electronic Games Consoles, TVs, CD and DVD Players, Radios and also comes with a supply of Books and magazines. The Double Decker ex band coach is believed to have been used by pop stars such as Kanye West and Shanai Twain, to list a few and has travelled all over Europe and Russia... The Double Decker Coach also features a fully fitted kitchen area, office and quiet lounge making the vehicle multi functional and the key focus at events. 'The Bus' can also supply impartial advice, information and workshops on issues relating to young people. These can include Healthy Lifestyles, Bullying, Self Esteem, Careers, Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health.



The Bus will be supervised at all times using qualified Youth Workers and Volunteers - so parents do not worry!

'The Bus' will be in Middleton Cheney on the following Fridays - December 4th & 18th / January 8th & 22nd / February 5th, 19th & 26th. SEE YOU THERE...!

MIDDLETON CHENEY AGE CONCERN - If you are over 55 you are very welcome to join us at 2 pm in the Village hall on the first Wednesday of each month. We are always pleased to see new members and hear new ideas; our aim is to promote the well-being of all older people and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. Our full programme of meetings includes music, talks, entertainment or slides on a variety of subjects, followed by a delicious afternoon tea. The cost per meeting is £1.50 and this includes a free raffle ticket. For more details please contact 710369.



The **POPPY CALLS** service aims to help give veterans and members of the ex-Service community the freedom to stay independent in their own homes. It is available in a number of counties and will be expanding nationally during 2010. This scheme is designed to offer help with awkward jobs such as minor repairs, or fitting essential devices such as smoke detectors and care phones.

Poppy Calls is offered to beneficiaries who qualify for assistance under The Royal Charter, which includes those who have served in the Armed Forces and their widows or dependents.

Services are already available in **Northamptonshire** and Poppy Calls have a centralised call centre which handles all the fitter appointments and ensures a consistent standard of service across the country. Contact them on 01480 478031.



SINAI DESERT TREK - ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY CHALLENGE - Jane Bullock has just returned from the adventure of a lifetime. Her challenge was to Trek 80 kms in 5 days with Bedouin tribesmen through the Sinai Desert in Egypt and her aim was to raise funds for a new service in Northants to be run by the local Alzheimer's Society. Jane has been astounded by the support from so many people in our village and will be telling us her story as soon as her feet stop aching! In the meantime can we ask that you return sponsorship money and smartie tube collections as soon as possible (before Christmas please). It's not too late to sponsor Jane and you can contact her via justgiving.com/janebullock or tel. 711531



BADMINTON CLUB - Are you interested in joining your local Badminton Club? Come and get fit and have some fun. We meet on Monday evening from 7pm until 9pm in Chenderit School Sports Hall. All levels are welcome. For more information please contact Helen Harman on 01295 712 073.

MIDDLETON CHENEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - Why not make it YOUR New Year's Resolution to join us? We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have speakers on topics of interest to our members together with mid-summer and Christmas socials. We also arrange visits to places of interest; the most recent one being to Westonburt Arboretum to see the autumn colours. For any information please contact Gillian on 713151.

