

Village Diary: March 2010 - May 2010

* Parish Council Meetings (7.15pm): 1 Mar, 5 Apr, 3 May, 7 Jun. *

Mar. 13th Sat	A NIGHT TO REMEMBER !!! - Top West-End Artist, Ian Casey comes to Middleton Cheney Village Hall! See newsletter article for ticket details etc.
Mar. 15th Mon	Garden Club - All Saints Church - 7.30pm - Wildlife, Friend or Foe? - Tony Clear
Mar. 23rd Mon	Hist Soc - 7.30pm - MC Library. A Soldier of the Great War. Regimental & Local History of the Ox, & Bucks Light Infantry by Dino Lemonofides
Apr. 7th Wed	Age Concern - Village Hall 2pm - Easter Extravaganza and a visit by the Brownies
Apr. 19th Mon	Garden Club - All Saints Church - 7.30pm - Growing Vegetables in Containers by Robert Longstaff
Apr. 26th Mon	Hist Soc - 7.30pm - MC Library. The Life & Times of the Culworth Gang. David Hewitt tells the history of a notorious band of thieves in the 1700s
May 5th Wed	Age Concern - Village Hall 2pm - AGM and Quiz. Mr. Oxford playing the keyboard
May 8th Sat	GARDEN CLUB - ANNUAL PLANT SALE - VILLAGE GREEN - from 9.00a.m. onwards
May 9th Sun until May 16th Sun	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - Poverty, Let's End It! Please give generously. Small amounts bring massive changes to many, many people.
May 19th Mon	Garden Club - All Saints Church - 7.30pm - New Trends in the Garden World by Peter Toms of Farnborough Nursery
May 22nd Sat until May 29th Sat	ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION - Parish Meeting Room. See newsletter article for details of times etc.
May 24th Mon	Hist Soc - 7.30pm - MC Library. The Witch Trials of Salem, Massachusetts (1693). Richard Middleton, a society member shares his extensive research
Jun. 2nd Wed	Age Concern - Village Hall 2pm - Pudding and Pie with Mrs. Ilya Harvey

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 9
March 2010

Middleton Cheney Newsletter

HAPPY SECOND BIRTHDAY!!



I hope that everyone is still enjoying receiving the Cheney Chatter and finds it useful. Do let us know if there is anything you would like to see included, either once or on a regular basis.

Following January's snow falls which lasted longer than most people wished, the Parish Council would like to know what sort of problems you encountered and how you feel we could help. We can then build up a key strategy and hopefully be better prepared next time.

We are particularly interested in anyone who lives in the village and owns a 4 x 4 which they would be happy to use to help in such a situation. Obviously, these vehicles would not be used without your consent and you would be the driver. We just need a list of names and phone numbers of people we could call upon to help out.

Anyone with a particular skill which could be useful if the village were cut off is also asked to come forward and register with the Council. We need people willing to help in a crisis, such as medical help, driving skills, digging out, chain saws, collecting and delivering prescriptions, collecting shopping from the local shops, checking on neighbours etc.

All your details and information would be held in confidence in the Parish offices and would only be used by the clerk and the emergency planning committee when

necessary.

I would like to thank all our responsible dog owners for picking up after their pets. However, there are still too many careless dog owners in the village and it seems that the snow was covering up a lot of problems. Now that it has gone our village is being covered by something a lot worse. It is not difficult to "grab it, bag it and bin it" and this is in fact the law. If caught, the fixed penalty cost is £75 and can go up to £1,000 in some cases. At the moment it costs the Parish Council about £ 10,000 a year to empty dog bins and collect litter.

The Parish Council will be putting up several extra bins in the Spring and there will be a map on the website and the notice boards asking for suggestions for suitable sites. Please let me know where you would like them. Let us try and keep our village as clean and litter free as possible.

Caroline Stacey - Clerk.
Middleton Cheney
Parish Council



The next issue of the Village News will be delivered in JUNE. Please send all articles **by noon on 14th May** 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.

FIRST RESPONDERS – Volunteers are required for a new project. We are setting up a Community First Responders team to work with the Ambulance service in Middleton Cheney.



First Responders are members of the general public who live locally and in most cases have no medical training. This is how it works. The responder on duty would be contacted by the emergency services and dispatched to the casualty. Being local they can attend quickly and give emergency help with cardiac arrest, chest pains, breathing difficulties, choking, epileptic seizures, diabetic emergencies and

unconscious casualties. An ambulance would always be dispatched to the casualty.

All the on-going costs, training, mobile phones, oxygen cylinders etc would be supplied and the cost covered by East Midlands Ambulance Service. The Parish Council would have to buy a defibrillator. This service has been tried in other parts of the country and been shown to save lives. The EMA would also undertake the enhanced CRB check for each volunteer.

Volunteers must be over 18 (able to drive) have their own transport, either car or motor bike, and willing to be on call within the village for perhaps one 24hr period a month. Of course the more people we have the less time you would be on duty. Please give your name and contact details to the clerk either by email or letter at the Parish Meeting Rooms. This really is a worthwhile project and saves lives.

VACANCY FOR YOUTH WORKER - Middleton Cheney Parish Council are looking for a locally based youth worker. The position is paid and is initially for a 3 month contract (with a further 6 months by arrangement).

You will be heading up a team of volunteers to set up and run our new youth club whilst developing new opportunities for our young people. This may well involve securing further funding – knowledge of the funding system would be advantageous. You will also be required to carry out some detached work within the village. Hours are negotiable from 4 to 6 hours per week but will include some Saturday evenings.

Salary will be dependant on experience and qualifications. Please forward your details to Caroline Stacey via email on clerk@middletoncheney.org.uk

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>

TAKE THYME CAFÉ - ACOUSTIC EVENINGS - Our springtime, friendly musical evenings continue with...

23rd March - Vicki Swan and Jonny Dyer
 20th April - Kirsty MaGee and Mat Martin
 25th May - Kreg Viesselman

For more details please contact 711444 or email takethymecafe@hotmail.co.uk

MIDDLETON CHENEY LIBRARY - EVENTS

Friday March 5th - 10.30-12.00am -Illustrated talk - Desert Trek:Sinai to the Red Sea. £1.00 per person. Limited places so please book at the library - tel: 710796

Saturday April 24th - 11.00-1.00pm - Is Your Voluntary Group in shape for 2010? Drop in Session - Advice and Guidance from South Northants Volunteer Bureau.

1st Wednesday of each month - 3.30-4.30pm - Chatterbooks - If you enjoy books and are in Year 4, 5 or 6 and want to join in the fun contact the library. Different themes each month.


Homework Club for 8-12 year olds. Library staff will be on hand to help students access and research information for their homework using a variety of media. Print outs will be free. Please contact the library to sign up and find out more.

For information on all our activities and events contact 710796 or email midlib@northamptonshire.gov.uk

POTHoles – remember to report these directly to **STREET DOCTOR** on 0845 601 1113 or online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk and remember to take note of the reference number they will give you, in case we have to chase them up. Don't expect someone else to have done it already. The more people pestering, the quicker the job will get done!!

All faulty **STREET LIGHTS** should be reported directly to the clerk on 01295 713 500. Please quote either the number on the lamp post or the number of the house nearest the lamp post for easy reference. Thank you.





Consumer direct (DTI) 0845 4040506
 Free Home Fire Safety Checks 0800 3899950
 Abandoned Vehicles 0845 6121999

Useful Contact Numbers:

The Street Doctor	0845 6011113	Your Safer Community Team
Untaxed Vehicles	0800 0325202	PC790 Martyn Dearsley
Fly Tipping	01327 322347	PCSO Clive Ashmore
Stray Dogs	0845 2300226	PCSO Charlotte Whitehead

1st MIDDLETON CHENEY BROWNIES have 3 vacancies for girls aged 7 – 10 years. We meet on Mondays in the Village Hall 5.45 – 7.15. Please phone Kay Stevens (Tawny Owl) on 712051.



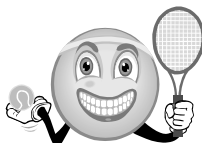
JUST KIDZ - the village drama group for young people aged 8 – 15 years will be presenting "Bugsy Malone" – the musical in June this year – so make a note to keep 10th, 11th and 12th free.

AGE CONCERN - in Middleton Cheney meets on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month in the Village Hall from 2 o'clock until 4 o'clock. New members over the age of 55 are always welcome to join us. We play a couple of games of bingo, have a raffle and usually have a speaker. We enjoy a tea of freshly made sandwiches, home made cakes and scones.



Entrance is £1.50 but bingo and raffle tickets are, of course, extra.

TIME 4 TENNIS - As spring is rapidly approaching do you fancy a game of tennis? Middleton Cheney Lawn Tennis Club always welcomes new members - both adults and juniors.



For further details contact - John 712474 or Lyn 710472

THANK YOU!

BECCA & SAM would like to thank all their friends and family for helping to make our joint 40th Birthday Party on Saturday 6th February a really special night for us! To all those who gave up their time, energy and artistic talents in making the village hall so beautiful before the party and in entertaining us on the night! Not to mention the sweeping, washing and general clearing up of the post-party debris! And of course to everyone who joined us to fill the hall and dance the night away! We were so touched to see so many of our friends there enjoying themselves! Extra thanks too for all your wonderful flowers, bottles of bubbly and other gifts. Having had to cancel the original party date because of the snow in January, it was certainly worth the wait! Our deepest thanks and love to you all!



EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

2nd April - Good Friday - 10.45am Easter Garden Service at All Saints Church
- 12 noon Chapel open for

Meditation, followed by a service at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church.

- 7.30pm Evening service at All Saints

4th April - Easter Sunday - 10.45am Family Worship at All Saints and also at the Methodist Church



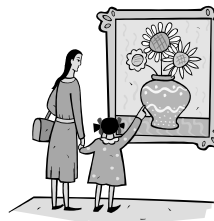
A NIGHT TO REMEMBER !!! - Top London West-End artist comes to Middleton Cheney. The fabulous Ian Casey is taking a night off from his hectic west-end schedule to bring some of his favourite show tunes and rat-pack style numbers to our village hall on **Saturday 13th March**.



Tickets are available from Take Thyme and from Becca Casey 713749 and Kay Stevens 712051. They cost £10.00 (concessions - £8.00) and include a full tapas-style supper, with all profits going to renovate the village hall. A licensed bar will be available.

THE MIDDLETON CHENEY ART GROUP - will be holding their annual Art Exhibition in the Parish Meeting Rooms in Middleton Cheney from Saturday 22nd May to Saturday 29th May. It will be open from 11am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sunday and 12 noon to 5pm on Monday to Friday.

The Art Group has been in existence for three years and the group meets once a week for three hours of painting, drawing and chatting. Caroline Chappell, our tutor, teaches mixed media drawing and painting techniques. She recently organised a coach trip to the Van Gogh exhibition in London. Everybody had a great day and we plan to do something like that again!



We are a small friendly group, who also socialise with each other. We would be delighted to see as many visitors as possible and people will be on hand to answer questions. Some of the pictures will be on sale - cash or cheque only.

Please come for a visit, as we would like an opportunity to show off our work.

THE MALVERN SPRING GARDENING SHOW - Chacombe villagers extend an invitation for you to join them on a coach trip to the Three Counties Showground in Malvern on **Saturday 8th May**, where they will be celebrating 25 years of turning styles and trends into achievable gardening. Creativity and inspiration start right here - stunning show gardens, a spectacular RHS Floral Marquee, Chris Beardshaw scholarship gardens and sensational shopping. PLUS splendid 25th Anniversary celebrations to include 'An Anniversary Garden', Birthday Celebration Cake, Guest celebrities and so much more. This show is a plant lover's paradise, with literally thousands of beautiful blooms on sale from the country's finest nurseries.

There will be a pick up from Middleton Cheney - please phone Mrs Betty Ware on 710455 for more details, cost, time etc. or to book your seat (s).



A report by our intrepid village explorer - Jane Bullock



I DID IT...! - and lived to tell the tale. The Sinai Desert Trek was awesome in every respect but I have to say that I have 'gone off' sand in a big way and if anyone had told me what I would be doing I might not have gone!!!

We walked for miles and miles on deep, soft beach type sand; climbed many steep dunes; scrambled up many rock faces and then, promptly, climbed down again from as high as 700ft; picked our way through shaley, stony wadis [dry river beds]; climbed up rocky gorges strewn with boulders and picked our way through the Coloured Canyon where the gap between rock faces was sometimes only wide enough for one foot at a time. We slid under, climbed over and round boulders of varying sizes at many different levels and generally saw the terrain from every angle!!

We slept in Bedouin tents, which are rather like draughty bus shelters without fronts [men and women all together] and watched shooting stars in cloudless skies in absolute silence, unless someone was snoring of course!!



The food was a mix of Bedouin and Egyptian and was very good although none of us knew what to make of the spaghetti soup that appeared for breakfast one day! The Bedouin made bread fresh for each breakfast and supper on open fires which was just wonderful.

Our leaders and support team were magnificent, unobtrusive but always there to give us confidence. We also had an armed policeman with us 24/7 and three security guards with machine guns!! Well, we were in complete wilderness for five days and when the occasional Bedouin appeared 'out of the ether' and merged back into it you realised that if anyone wished us ill they could easily have done it.

I have been quite overwhelmed by everyone's generosity. The final Fund total for the South Northants Side-by-Side project will be very close, if not at, £8,000 for which I thank you most sincerely. This is before Gift Aid is recovered. It will be well used to help people with Dementia and their carers locally.

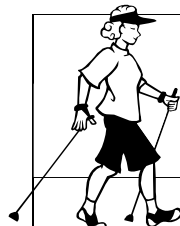


I also want to thank you all for what you have done for me personally. Your support for my challenge has been very affirming for me in this first year since Paul, my husband, moved into permanent care. I have felt very supported by you all and am most grateful for that.

**STOP PRESS FOOTNOTE - Jane thought she would struggle to raise the £1,220 that she needed to join the trek. In fact she raised an amazing £8,750!
A brilliant result.**

If Jane's story (previous page) has inspired you to 'get active' then read on...

MIDDLETON CHENEY HEALTH WALKS - Largely as a result of the enthusiasm of our founding walk leaders, Angela & Roy Clements, the village walks continue to go from strength to strength, with over 150 participants signed onto the local scheme. These walks are part of the South Northants 'Walking for Health' programme.



The various length walks are intended to improve stamina and lead to better health. All are of a social nature and refreshments are available afterwards if required. The different grades of walk are held on the following days of each month:-

1st Friday (4-5 miles - Leader - Roy) - 10.00am:
Meet near the Red Lion; refreshments at The New Inn

2nd Monday (1.5 - 2 miles - Roy) - 10.00am:
Meet near the Red Lion; refreshments at Take Thyme

3rd Monday (3 miles - alternately Roy/Monty) - 10.30am:
Meet near The New Inn; refreshments at the New Inn

4th Monday (1.5 - 2 miles - Leader - Monty) - 10.00am:
Meet at the Village Hall; refreshments in Parish Meeting Room

For further details of any of the **above walks** from Roy on 710143 or Monty on 711780.

Later in the spring, **starting on Wednesday, 12th May at 2.00pm**, it is intended to start monthly, 30 minute, 'Rehab Walks' around the pavements of the village organised by leaders, Janet & Len. These new shorter walks are for those who find the 1.5 - 2 mile walks, (which may involve footpaths across fields and a few stiles), too arduous. They will also be suitable for anyone recuperating from illness. Carers and friends are welcome. These walks will start & finish at the Library which will kindly be open for refreshments afterwards. Please contact 0794 644 8622 for more details if required.

MIDDLETON CHENEY GARDEN CLUB - Once Spring comes, we break out into the open. A further bulb planting expedition is in view, as are our coach visits further afield to grander gardens, Trentham and Hyde Hall.

Our annual Plant Fair will take place on the 8th May on the Middle Green in Middleton. Given its popularity in previous years we expect to have even more growers and plantsmen with their stock of new plants and replacements for Winter losses.



We plan to include craft attractions and to be fuelled by the WI Cake Stall. Like the plants, the cakes sell out early so we should be ready for action by 9 a.m., then through to early afternoon. For further details contact Maggie Smith (710252)