



PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2015

MIDDLETON, NORTH RUNCTON & EAST WINCH

YOUR CHANCE TO COMMENT ON LOCAL PLANS

Update by Chairman of North Runcton and West Winch Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

It has been a couple of issues of this newsletter since I last reported progress on the North Runcton and West Winch Neighbourhood Plan. We are now nearing a very important stage in the evolution of this document and it will be essential that all residents and stakeholders comment on the plan in coming weeks.

A draft Neighbourhood Plan can now be seen on the North Runcton Parish Council website <http://northrunctonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/latest-draft-of-neighbourhood-plan>. We have recently had an independent review of this document from an experienced planning examiner. His comments will allow us to finalise our 'Pre-submission' draft on which we will then commence a 6 week community consultation process in February or March. All residents are strongly urged to comment at this stage. We will publicise dates for exhibitions in the coming weeks (I know I have said that before – but it's true this time!). In the meantime, if you have any comments or queries, please ring me on 01553 840284.

It is also important to remember that the Borough Council are presently consulting on the '**Site Allocations and Development Management Policies**' Pre-submission document. This document, if adopted later in the year, will join the BCKLWN Core Strategy to become the 'Local Plan' until 2026. It is very important that residents read it and comment on it by **Monday, 23 February**. The important pages for West Winch and North Runcton are 104-120. (The relevant pages for Middleton are 296-298).

The Borough-wide plan should be seen as a strategic level of planning for the area – where the intention is still to have 1600 new houses and a new primary school in North Runcton and West Winch by 2026, with substantially more development to follow in later years. The Neighbourhood Plan gives us a chance to make the Borough (and developers) agree to more detail on how those plans come forward.

Other news. The road capacity study undertaken by Mott Macdonald appears to recommend that a short section of the A47 on the approach to Hardwick Roundabout should be widened to dual carriageway. This is deemed necessary to accommodate the extra traffic expected from the Hopkins development site and the proposed A10 relief road. Substantial alterations to the Hardwick roundabout are also recommended.

The timetable for a decision on the Hopkins outline planning application at Constitution Hill has been extended to next month but may be extended again.

We have learnt that Zurich Land are very unhappy about part of their landholding to the south-west of West Winch being excluded from the BCKLWN strategic development area and intend to contest this decision.

Please keep an eye on the Parish Council websites for new information.

Richard Morrish

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED PLEASE

The Middleton Community Car Scheme is partly funded by the Parish and Borough Councils to assist Parishioners, who have no transport of their own, to get to the Hospital, a Doctor or a Dentist for essential appointments.

There is a Co-ordinator and at present, five drivers, using their own vehicles, to ferry people to and from their destination.

With people living longer and the growth of the community, the demand for volunteer's time is increasing. Ideally, drivers would only be asked to be available once a week for an hour. The current demand is for up to five trips per week. This is partly due to the non-availability of some of the volunteer drivers.

There is a petrol allowance for the drivers. There is also the experience of meeting and helping fellow community citizens, which is uplifting and sometimes quite funny. The drivers feel that they are really putting something back into the community for living in such a nice area.

Would you be prepared to help out to relieve the pressure on the existing drivers and more importantly, help our community? We would not like to see this great system fold.

Please contact Colin Skipper on 01553-842448 if you can help.

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU

At the May Elections, Middleton Parish Council will have vacancies for two Parish Councillors. It will also need to elect a new Chairman.

Over the past four years the Parish Council has;

- Successfully lobbied the Highways Agency for the installation of the Pedestrian Crossing on the A47
- Obtained funds to install speed reduction gates and purchased a vehicle activated speed warning sign
- Set up a Community Oil Purchase Scheme
- Started a major project to significantly upgrade the equipment on the Playing Field

Without a full complement of Councillors it will be very difficult to maintain our recent levels of activity and the Council's ability to make a difference in the Community will be significantly restricted.

So if you can spare a few hours a month to help improve your Community please consider standing as a Councillor. You only need two other residents to support your nomination.

If you are interested in standing please contact our Clerk Kate Senter on 01553 841387 or middletonparishcouncil14@gmail.com who will make sure you receive all the necessary information.

For an informal chat about what being a Parish Councillor involves please call our current Chairman Mark Fuller on 01553 841549.

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East Winch Village Hall

2014 was a good year at East Winch Village hall. Our regular clubs continue to thrive and we have added two more weekly clubs during the course of the year. For those of you who do not know much about our hall, the weekly schedule is as follows:

Monday

Pat Lowing's Keep Fit for the over 55s is enjoyed by ladies from East Winch and surrounding villages. Offering light exercise to music, the class runs between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Please call me if you would like any further information.

Tuesday

Our long established Mother and Toddler Group meets every week at 9.30am and is a good way for you and your child to enjoy fun and games and to make friends if you are new to the area. Please call Louise on 07824 997973 for more information.

Our **new Line Dancing** class run by the Sutton Streamliners meets between 2.00pm and 3.00pm every Tuesday and goes from strength to strength. Line dancing is a great deal of fun, surprisingly good exercise and much enjoyed by all who presently attend. The class is for absolute beginners and, again, call me if you would like more information.

Another **new** club every Tuesday is **Jenny Thornhill's Country and Western evening**. The club meets between 8.00pm and 11.00pm so if you are interested come along to enjoy a social evening listening and dancing to live music. Call Jenny on 07837 306621 if you would like to know more.

Wednesday

Our Short Mat Bowls Club has been meeting for many years now. A very enjoyable social evening with light competition and refreshments. Please call Jan Robertson on 01553 841309 for more information.

Friday

The National Childbirth Trust meets every week at 10.00am for two hours. Mums and small children make friends and have fun and games. Please call in at the hall if you are interested.

East Winch village hall is here for you to enjoy any of the above clubs and also if you wish to book your own special event.

Chris Williams
01553 842453

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

William George Nichols

Died 30 January 1915



Lance Corporal 6965. 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment. Killed in action in France and Flanders. Aged 30. Born in Swainsthorpe, Norfolk. Enlisted in Norwich. Son of William George and Mary Ann Nichols; Husband of Annie Elizabeth Nichols of North Runcton.

Editor's Note: The tribute above to William Nichols, is the second in our series to remember local people who died 100 years ago in World War 1. This information came from the Roll of Honour for the North Runcton War Memorial re-dedication service on 9 August 2014.

The first tribute to William Chapman was published in the August/September 2014 edition. That material, together with some of the front page article about the World War 1 centenary, was kindly provided by local historian Chris Dixon who has researched those named on the Middleton War Memorial.

Further tributes to local people who made the ultimate sacrifice will be published as closely as possible to the 100th anniversary of their death. If you have any local or family stories about World War 1 that you would like to share, please let me know.

ORGANIST NEEDED

St Mary's Church, Middleton is still looking for someone who would be willing to play either the organ, or the electronic piano, on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at the 11:15 am Holy Communion services. Payment of expenses can be negotiated. If you can help, please contact Mrs. Joan Van Dyke on 01553 840716.

5 – A – TIME – QUIZ (answers on Page 15)

1. Trains from King's Lynn go to which London terminus?
2. There are two card shops in the High Street. One is Clintons, what is the other?
3. Mountain warehouse has moved. What has replaced it?
4. What, according to the sign, is West Norfolk's greatest treasure?
5. What is "Pearl River" known for?

DOG FOULING !!

There are either dogs running loose in Middleton or inconsiderate owner(s) with their animals on leads but standing by and letting the dog(s) foul the graves in Middleton Churchyard.

This offensive action has happened twice now on my Daughter's resting place. My Family and I ask the offender(s) to have more consideration and prevent this happening in future.

Mervyn Wiles



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NORTH RUNCTON LINK TO FIRST WORLD WAR CONTROVERSY

A new controversial book, which tackles cowardice in the First World War, has strong connections with the Parish.

Author Steve Dunn's latest biography, *The Coward? The Rise and Fall of the Silver King*, examines the life and career of Admiral Sir Ernest Troubridge, who during the first few days of the war opted to retreat and let his enemy escape.

Troubridge had strong connections with North Runcton, having grown up with his grandfather Daniel Gurney at North Runcton Hall – a magnificent house designed by the noted architect Anthony Salvin - from the age of five, after his parents died. The Gurneys were a powerful family of English Quakers who established the Gurney's Bank and had a major influence on the development of Norfolk. And the Troubridge family connections with North Runcton extended beyond the Admiral and his mother. His elder brother Thomas married Laura Gurney, the daughter of old Daniel's son Charles, who became Lady Troubridge.

“Troubridge has fascinated me for many years,” said Steve. “Was he a coward who avoided a fight, or a hero who put aside empty patriotism to save his ships and their sailors? At the time the Navy and its First Lord, Winston Churchill had no doubts that he was a coward and made sure he never commanded at sea again, while his wife chose to abandon him in favour of her lesbian lover.”

Troubridge – a rising star of the British Navy – initially signalled his intention to engage the German battle cruiser *Goeben* in the Mediterranean. He then suddenly changed his mind and turned his vessels away, allowing the German ship to escape to Constantinople. His inexplicable decision not only dominated the rest of his navy career, but also his life, as well as playing a vital role in bringing Turkey into the war on Germany's side.

What made Troubridge's decision even more significant was that the First World War was just beginning and notions of bravery, patriotism, and duty were paramount. Not surprisingly, the story of his court martial and subsequent social and naval disgrace was and remains a complex one.

Continued on Page 6

MIDDLETON PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

A47: The Council was very disappointed to receive from the Highways Agency the outcome of the speed limit review on the A47 through the village. The key paragraph from their letter was as follows: "Norfolk Constabulary has made it clear it would not support a speed limit reduction and the speed limit review also concludes that a speed limit reduction is not appropriate. I therefore regret to inform you that we do not intend to reduce the 40 mph limit at Middleton or change its current extents." If you would like to see the full text of the letter and the report of the Review please visit the village website or contact the Clerk.

Playing Field: The Council have now received quotations for the work necessary to create a new Car Park area and provide a space for play equipment at the front of the Village hall. The costs quoted were considerably higher than anticipated and would reduce significantly the funding available for new equipment. The Council remain fully committed to the project but will now, as a matter of urgency, explore other options which will maximize the funds available for new equipment.

Broadband Box: Blackborough End: Norfolk County Council made it clear to the Council that they were not prepared to consider relocating the Box without a full contribution to the costs involved (estimated to be around £ 5000). It was also confirmed that the only other option would be the complete removal of the box. In view of this the Council felt it had no alternative but to accept the location of the box and agreed to press the County Council to provide some screening.

20mph warning signs: The Council has agreed to purchase two 20 mph signs which will be fitted to the posts containing the flashing warning lights on School Road. The signs will be displayed at school opening/ closing times.

Hill Road: The Council agreed to apply to the County Council's parish partnership Scheme for funding to create an informal path (known as a trod) which would run from the end of the pavement on Hill Road to the A47.

Budget 2015/16: The Council has approved a budget which does not change the precept and as a result of changes in the tax base residents will notice a slight reduction in the amount of Council tax paid to the Parish Council.

Parish Council Chairman: The current chairman Mark Fuller has advised the Council that he will not be standing in the May elections and will step down from the Council after the April meetings.

HELP TO PRESERVE MIDDLETON MOUNT

By Caroline Davison

What does the Norfolk Archaeological Trust *do*? That is a question I've been asked many times since I took up my new role as Director of the Trust. My answer is that the Trust has been quietly acquiring, protecting and conserving sites and buildings of archaeological and historic interest in the county for over 90 years.

Early successes included saving significant buildings from demolition such as Pykerell's House, Norwich (one of the few thatched houses still left in the city); Greenland Fishery, Kings Lynn; and Bishop Bonner's Cottage, Dereham - despite setbacks caused by fire and bomb damage during the Second World War.

From the 1980s the Trust focused on archaeological sites in rural areas that were under increased threat from levelling and ploughing. As a result, we currently manage some of Norfolk's most significant archaeological sites, including Caistor Roman Town, Burgh Castle Roman Fort; St Benet's Abbey, and Middleton Mount.

All the sites managed by the Trust are open to the public for no charge during daylight hours, and interpretation has been installed to enable visitors to understand the story of each place. Despite this, the Trust remains unknown to many people.

I'm hoping that over the next few years this will change. In future there will be more ways for local people to get involved in helping the Trust to manage and conserve a site that they treasure. At Middleton Mount there will be an opportunity this coming spring for local people to help repair the steps on the mound - full training will be provided. If you would like to be kept updated on this and other Trust volunteering opportunities please email me at carolinedavison@norfarchtrust.org.uk and I'll add you to my mailing list. I look forward to hearing from you!

East Winch Parish Council Meeting - 5 January 2015

Paths. Keith Harrod reported that, following Robert Wilson's letter saying that he would welcome email contact from people who would still like to walk on land to the north of the A47, he, Keith, had collected replies from 41 people who were not on the internet and had forwarded their details to Mr. Wilson. Later in the meeting, there was a query from a member of the public about notices posted round the village by Wilson Farms. Nell Steele said they were notices under Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980; that the purpose of them was to prevent any new paths being created by the public, and that she did not think they affected the possibility that the paths which had already been used for 20-30 years could become rights of way by application to NCC.

The impassable state of the footpath, a right of way, between the A47 at West Bilney and the East Walton Rd, has been reported to NCC but nothing has been done. Apparently NCC sends the work to the Borough Council. Cllr. Moriarty suggested the PC writes to Elizabeth Nockold at the Borough Council comparing the disproportionate investment in the sports facilities in Lynn with the lack of any decent funding for local paths.

Trod to the Post Office. Mr. Wallace of Norfolk County Council Highways had estimated that a trod to the post office, which should be kerbed, would cost £32,400. Even if the Parish Council were to apply for and receive 50% funding from NCC, and even if the project was carried out in 2 stages, the cost would be well beyond the Parish Council's budget. It was decided not to apply for funding, but instead to investigate whether there were charitable trusts who would be able to help to a greater extent.

Other village matters. Highways have cleared overgrown hedgerows where reported, and had mended the edging round the manhole cover where the path runs from Gayton Rd to Town Close. Mr Bland was to be asked to keep the seats clean as well as looking after the bus shelter. The flashing speed sign was damaged when thieves stole the battery, as the box holding the battery was cut open. The clerk reported that Westcotec, the supplier, do not at present have a replacement. There have been a spate of battery thefts from local speed signs, but nowhere else. Westcotec believes that the thief must be someone who dislikes speed signs! The grass on the playing area, and round the village generally, hasn't been cut. The clerk will follow this up.

Borough Council's Site Allocations Policy. The Borough Council's document proposes that the line of bungalows in Gayton Rd should be continued, and that 10 more houses could be built there, including 2 affordable houses. The PC broadly approved this proposal.

Precept. It was decided to keep the precept at its present level of £10,000.

Next Meeting: Monday, 2nd March at 7.30. **Nell Steele, Chairman**

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Admiral Troubridge - Continued from Page 4

"We all make tough decisions but even if we get them wrong, we generally get a chance to move on from our mistakes" said Steve. "But for Troubridge there was no coming back from his and rather than facing up to a negative press and constant rumours he left Britain for France, where he died in 1926." After his death, the Gurney family placed a memorial to him in All Saints church.

"It wasn't any easy book to write because when I started I didn't have much sympathy for the man. But as I found out more about him I realised that his story was much more complicated than simply whether he was a hero or a villain. I have tried to be fair – in the end it's up to readers to decide what sort of character he was."

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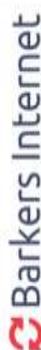
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OVER THE GARDEN FENCE with Steve Donoclift

Last time I wrote I was wishing you all a merry Christmas. Well here we are again and as I write to you all the weather is cold! "Well what do you expect" I hear you cry, it's February 2015.....

Don't get too comfy in front of your fires, thinking there is absolutely nothing to do outside, there is loads to be getting on with, so wrap up warm and get some fresh air.

At this time of year it can be very cold, but with the ever increasing daylight hours you will find some early blossom such as apricots, nectarines and peaches will need protecting. February is a great time for preparing vegetable seed beds and pruning hardy evergreen hedges. It's also a good time to regenerate some of your old deciduous hedges, such as blackthorn and Hawthorn, remember to wear gloves, blackthorn can cause nasty little cuts

Our winter birds find it very tough this time of year, so please feed them. It is also a great time to check and clear your existing bird boxes or make some new ones, once up it won't take time for an interested party to fly over and take a look.

Something a little different now. I wished you all a happy new year in the last article, but let us all spare a thought for our loved ones who are no longer with us. For me 5 years has gone so fast, we also have new folk who have come to live here who have also lost loved ones. Let's consider them. Help them if they need it (as I was helped) ask if they are OK, it doesn't take a lot!!

So take care, I must go, and I shall see you all very soon.

Steve

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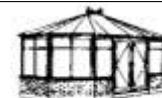
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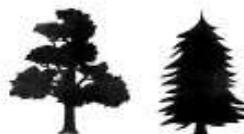
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SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

This issue sees the return of business advertising to the Parish News. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our advertisers for their support. Although the preparation and distribution of the Parish News is done on an entirely voluntary, unpaid basis, the revenue from advertising is essential to cover our printing costs.

We also hope that the inclusion of advertising in the Parish News makes it easier for our readers to find local businesses and services on which you may need to call. Advertisers like to know where their business comes from, so if you respond to an advert, **please mention that you saw it in the Parish News.**

For all enquiries about advertising your business in the Parish News, please e-mail parishnewsadverts@gmail.com or call me on 01553 849725.

Chris Hudson, Editor

THANK YOU FROM ST MARY'S PCC

To all the flower arrangers, clock winders, magazine collators and distributors. To the people who help with fund raising, who keep the churchyard tidy and who cleaned the church last year. To all the people who have helped us in any way during 2014 - THANK YOU.

I was unable to send you all a Christmas card last year, but you were not forgotten. We wish you all a very happy and healthy 2015.

Carole Millen, PCC Secretary

MESSY CHURCH

What is Messy Church? Messy Church is a Worship Service for families. It takes place in the Scout HQ, North Runcton, with activities and a meal. It will include: story telling – singing – drama – craft/art activities to participate in together as a family. A hot meal, for a small charge, will be provided for everyone who attends. The whole experience is guaranteed not to be boring as there are no long-winded sermons! No one will disapprove of children making a noise as messy Church is a form of church designed for all ages from babes to pensioners that involves creativity, celebration, hospitality and the chance to ask questions pertaining to the Christian Faith. If you have attended and enjoyed worship services such as the Christmas Crib Services at either Middleton or West Winch then this is something for you. Don't miss the opportunity. To book places or for further information please contact: The Reverend Riaz 841519 or John Turner 840589, or just come along to our next gathering on **Friday 13 February at 4.30pm.**

MAPPING LENT

There will be a benefice Lent Course called Mapping Lent starting at 7 pm on the following dates. Feb. 23rd in West Winch Church Hall, March 2nd in Church Farm Middleton, March 9th West Winch Church Hall, March 16th Church Farm Middleton and March 23rd West Winch Church Hall.



Mothers' Union News

Middleton Mothers' Union meetings are usually held at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month (except January, March and August) at Church Farm.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 12th February at 7.30 pm at Church Farm**. Our guest speaker is Mrs Mary Riaz who is going to share with us information about her life in Pakistan. We look forward to spending time with Mary and welcome any new members who are interested in joining us.

In March we recognise the **Women's World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March** and this year we hope to hold our service in West Winch Church at 3.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join with us for this truly international day of prayer.

The Cameo Cafe continues to be held in the village hall on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. This is an opportunity to come and meet your neighbours and enjoy a cup of tea and some friendly chat. Please drop in to meet us and watch the carpet bowls!

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy new year.
Gill

Leziate, Ashwicken & Bawsey WI Leziate Village Hall

Meetings are held on 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm except July & August when social outings/lunches are arranged.

Come and join our friendly group for a sociable afternoon with refreshments. We have a varied programme of meetings for 2015 with interesting speakers, competitions, outings & refreshments. Please have a few taster visits before you decide take up membership - we are sure that you will enjoy your visits.

17 February: Speaker - Gill Southgate - Guide Dogs for the Blind

17 March: Speaker - David Brooks - River Police - Ex-diver

For more information please contact Janet Eason 01553 841514 or Ali South 01553 841267.

Leziate, Ashwicken & Bawsey WI

Table-top Sale Saturday, 7 March 10am-2pm Leziate Village Hall

Free admission. Refreshments available, parking & toilet facilities.

If you would like to sell your wares, table-hire is £5.

To book a table please call asap Janet 01553 841514/Ali 01553 841267.

Nar Valley Ornithological Society (NarVOS)



Indoor meetings at the Barn Theatre, Sacred Heart Convent School, Swaffham. Access and parking from Sporle Road.

Operation Turtle Dove

with Simon Tonkin

Tuesday 24th February, 7.30pm

We welcome naturalist Simon Tonkin back to NarVOS. He co-launched Operation Turtle Dove which is a project designed to reverse the dramatic decline in the European Turtle Dove population. Simon works for Conservation Grade who, along with partners RSPB, Pensthorpe Conservation Trust and Natural England are trying to address the various issues affecting this iconic bird, such as loss of habitat, hunting and disease.

Urban Birding

with David Lindo

Tuesday 31st March, 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome David Lindo of TV fame to NarVOS for the biggest event in our calendar, namely this talk from the Urban Birder. David describes himself as: "A broadcaster, writer, naturalist, photographer, public speaker, tour leader and oh, I have been known to do the odd bit of birding!" We hope you can join us for what promises to be a fabulous evening.

Visitors most welcome. Admission £2 on the night if you are not a NarVOS member. For more information about this meeting or NarVOS call Ian Black on 01760 724092.

Would you like to publicise your local event in the Parish News?

If so, please send details by e-mail to: editorofparishnews@gmail.com or by phone on 01553 849725. The deadline for the April/May issue is Friday, 13 March.



MIDDLETON & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

On the 10th of January Lilian Fisher, John Moran and I attended the Norfolk RBL County Conference in Norwich. I am pleased to announce the Middleton & District Branch came away with two awards. One was for Progress and Efficiency over the past year, small branch, we came runners up behind Old Catton.

We were also the winners for the most improved war memorial with the memorial at North Runcton. Although we collected the trophy, it was down to the hard work of David Skerritt, Richard Markham and Lilian Fisher and the financial support of the local villagers and businesses that led to the memorial being renovated. So the award is dedicated to all of you.

Our February Evening Buffet will be on the **18th February at the William Burt Centre, West Winch, 6.30 pm for 7 pm.** Please book tickets for this by 16 February by contacting Lilian Fisher 01553 841852 or email: lilianfisher@talktalk.net.

For those of you that have never attended one of our buffets please come and enjoy and evening with us, all are welcome. Not only do we provide you with a full buffet but also wine and or soft drinks are all included in the ticket price of just £6

Our 2015 Agenda/Events list is now live on www.britishlegion-middleton.co.uk.

Lunch Club usually meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at Middleton Hall Golf Club at 12 for 12.30pm. For further details contact Olive Turpin 840623.

Lonely? Housebound? New to the village?

We are a group of people from St. Mary's Church Middleton who are willing to offer company and support. If you would like one of us to visit you, please contact Joan Van Dyke on 840716. If you live in North Runcton, please phone Wendy Galley on 840344 and somebody from West Winch Church will visit you.

CARPET BOWLS



Carpet Bowls has a growing following in Middleton and the sessions are open to players from North Runcton as well. Join us at the Village Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. Please wear soft flat shoes. More details from Club Secretary, Mick Porter on 841427.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB



If you are 50+ you will be most welcome to join in the activities of the Friendship Club, which meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Middleton Village Hall.

4 February: Bingo and Bring & Buy

4 March: Beekeeping - Talk by Kate Sayers

Further details from John Turtle (840280) or Pauline Crump (840053).

Middleton Badminton Club. Play badminton most Monday evenings (not Bank Holidays) at the Village Hall from 7pm to 9pm. The club is friendly and always welcomes new members. Contact Nigel Gray (01553 841541) for more information.



Cameo Café

Cameo Café is held at the Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 2.30pm till 4.30pm. The Café is supported by members of the Middleton Mothers' Union to provide an opportunity for people of all ages to call in for a "cuppa" and cakes or biscuits and to enjoy some friendly company. Carpet bowls is also played and new players, including beginners, are most welcome. Refreshments are free but we are grateful for donations towards the running costs.

The **Community Car Scheme** is to help villagers who have no transport, who are elderly or disabled to attend at local doctors' or dentists' surgeries, opticians, health clinics or to keep hospital appointments. A small charge is made to cover petrol expenses. If you require help or further information, or if you wish to volunteer help in any way, please contact Colin Skipper on 842448.

Church Services in February and March

Sunday, 1 February

10.00 **W Winch** Benefice Eucharist

Sunday, 8 February

9.30am **W Winch** Holy Communion

10.30am **E Winch** Morning Worship

11.15am **Middleton** Holy Communion

3.00pm **N Runcton** Holy Communion

Sunday, 15 February

9.30am **W Winch** Holy Communion

11.15am **Middleton** Morning Worship

11.15am **E Winch** Holy Communion

3.00pm **N Runcton** Evening Worship

Wednesday, 18 February - Ash Wednesday

6.00pm **W Winch** Benefice Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Sunday, 22 February

8.00am **W Winch** Holy Communion

10.30am **E Winch** Morning Worship

11.15am **Middleton** Holy Communion

3.00pm **N Runcton** Evening Worship

Sunday, 1 March

10.00am **W Winch** Benefice Eucharist

Sunday, 8 March

10.00am **E Winch** Benefice Eucharist

Sunday, 15 March

8.00am **W Winch** Holy Communion

10.00am **Middleton** Benefice Eucharist - **Family**

Service for Mothering Sunday

Sunday, 22 March

8.00am **W Winch** Holy Communion

10.30am **E Winch** Morning Worship

11.15am **Middleton** Holy Communion

3.00pm **N Runcton** Evening Worship

Sunday 29 March - Palm Sunday

10.00am **N Runcton** Benefice Eucharist, with reading of Passion Gospel

Thursday, 2 April - Maundy Thursday

7.00pm **W Winch** Benefice Eucharist with Washing of Feet

Friday, 3 April - Good Friday

3.00pm **N Runcton** Benefice Eucharist: Stations of the Cross

Saturday, 4 April - Holy Saturday

8.00pm **W Winch** Benefice Eucharist - Lighting of the Easter Fire

Sunday, 5 April - Easter Day

9.30am **W Winch** Holy Communion

10.30am **E Winch** Holy Communion

11.15am **Middleton** Holy Communion

3.00pm **N Runcton** Holy Communion

A short Morning Prayer Service is held each Wednesday morning at 9.30am in Middleton Church.

Bible Study - People from Blackborough End, East Winch, Gayton and Grimston meet on Wednesdays at 7pm at each others' houses. For further details, contact Nell Steele on 01553 840814.

CHILDISH WAYS

by Rev. Riaz Mubarak

"I get bored — Jesus doesn't get me things..." was what my seven-year old daughter's friends complained! The child is father of the man according to the poet William Wordsworth. Even senior citizens are liable to retort in the same vein!

Just as our atheist friends enjoys asking the well-worn question: "if there is a God, why is there so much suffering?" To which the answer is: "if there is a doctor present, why does the patient still suffer?"

The child in us expects God the Father to be a nine-to-five dad stretching the overdraft for trivial gifts! So, God is expected to be a giver of real-time human wishes, rather than the wise Father who determines the timing and choice of our needs. He is neither cheap entertainment, nor the CEO of Santa Inc. God ensuring our needs rather than meeting our greed is not proof of His absence, but of His almighty and loving presence. When our earthly fathers defer or refuse a wish, their existence remains untouched!

"When I was a child, I spoke like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways..." Corinthians 13:11-12a.

God may bless you all.

Riaz

EASTER GARDEN

There will be a family service in Middleton Church on **GOOD FRIDAY at 10am** where the children are invited to bring a bunch of small flowers for the Easter garden, which they will help to make. Afterwards we will hear the Easter story, sing some Easter songs and finish by enjoying hot cross buns. Please join with us on this special occasion.

5 – A – TIME ANSWERS (from Page 3)

1. King's Cross
2. Card Zone
3. JD King of Trainers
4. Lynn Museum
5. Chinese food.

PARISH CONTACTS

CHURCHES:

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Riaz Mubarak 01553 841519 E-mail: rev.riaz.mubarak@gmail.com

Middleton St Mary's

Churchwardens: Mrs J Van Dyke 840716 and Mr E Boon 840320

PCC Secretary: Mrs C Millen 840705 **Treasurer:** Mr C Reeks

North Runcton All Saints'

PCC Secretary: Mrs Jane Byrne 840207 **Treasurer:** Mrs P Stafford Allen 841687

East Winch All Saints

PCC Secretary: Mrs J Weavers 840510 **Treasurer:** Mrs W Smith 842281

PARISH COUNCILS:

Middleton (www.middleton-news.co.uk)

Clerk: Mrs Kate Senter Tel: 841387 E-mail: middletonparishcouncil14@gmail.com

Councillors: Chair: Mr M Fuller 841549; **Vice Chair:** Mr M Porter 841427;

Mrs E Barclay; Ms A Ingamells; Mr R Smith; Dr D Taylor; Ms V Ward; Mr M Wiles; Mr S Wood.

The Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) in the Village Hall at 7pm from October to March and at 7.30pm from April to September.

North Runcton (<http://northrunctonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>)

Clerk: Rachel Curtis Tel: 673043 E-mail: northrunctonparishclerk@outlook.com

Councillors: Chair: Mr R Morrish Tel: 840284; **Vice Chair:** Mrs A Towler;

Mr J Fuller; Miss K Fuller; Mr B Houchen; R Markham; Mrs G Sergeant; Mr P Yallop.

The Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.45 pm at the Village Meeting Place.

East Winch (www.eastwinchandwestbilney.co.uk/parish-council)

Clerk: Bob Pannell Tel: 775724 E-mail: bob.pannell1@btopenworld.com

Councillors: Chair: Mrs N Steele; **Vice Chair:** Mr K Harrod;

Mr R Bettany; Mr R Cox; Mr A Hopher; Mr N Velzeboer; Mr A Wilson

The Council meets every other month, normally on the first Monday of the month, at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Borough Councillors: Paul Foster Tel: 840917 & June Leamon Tel: 761892 (West Winch Ward); James Moriarty Tel: 01760 755623 (Priory Ward)

Other Contacts:

Badminton Club	Mr N Gray	841541
British Legion	Mr J Kirk	01945 430109
Car Scheme	Mr C Skipper	842448
Carpet Bowls Club	Mick Porter	841427
Friendship Club	Mrs P Crump	840053
Lunch Club	Olive Turpin	840623
Middleton Village Hall	Mrs P Petch	842149
Mothers' Union	Mrs G Boon	840320
N Runcton Village Meeting Place	Rachel Curtis	673043

Editor: Chris Hudson; E-mail: editorofparishnews@gmail.com or call 01553 849725

Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor.

The deadline for the next issue (April/May) is Friday, 13 March.