



# PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY & MARCH 2021

MIDDLETON, NORTH RUNCION & EAST WINCH

## Middleton Primary Academy News

Since the start of the new school year in September, things have been very different for us here at Middleton School.

We have held a virtual Christmas nativity, created bubble groups and one-way systems, and now we are all learning how to embrace remote learning. Our school remains open for vulnerable children and children of key workers, and our wonderful staff are juggling teaching in class and via zoom. It's been a learning experience for us all!

As you might have seen in the national news, many schools have faced issues with families not having enough devices to facilitate remote learning. We had some very kind local residents donate their unused devices to us, including laptops and iPads, which we have been able to issue out to our families to help them access learning. Thank you for your kind donations.



Our new nursery opened in September and offers places to 3- and 4-year-olds. We have been thrilled with the response to this and it's been fantastic to welcome new children into our school. We look forward to more children joining us as we expand.

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The latest "lockdown" made it impossible for us to distribute printed copies of this edition of the Parish News. So if you are reading this, you must be doing so via the "online" version placed on the Parish Council websites.

The rollout of the vaccination programme offers renewed hope that some form of normal life can be resumed before too long. See Page 3 for how to access the latest NHS vaccine myth-buster. We will, of course, resume distribution of printed copies as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, stay safe and get vaccinated as soon as you can!

*Chris Hudson, Editor*

# EAST WINCH NEWS

## East Winch RSPCA Wildlife Hospital

Hit by the double whammy of Covid lockdown and Avian flu, the hospital looks like Fort Knox. Their telephone recording says that they cannot accept wild animals from members of the public at the moment, so people should consult a vet if they find an animal in need of care. Other queries need to be made to RSPCA head office.

## East Winch Church and the Gayton Benefice

Very sadly, all churches are shut for worship, though East Winch and North Runcton will be open for private prayer every Wednesday from 10-12. An informal recorded service including material for children will appear on YouTube twice a month. The next one will be on 14th February. Find it under Middlewinch Worship Services.

We are attempting to put on a more formal service by zoom for the benefice. Please would anyone who wishes to be emailed about this contact Rev. Riaz.

## Friends of East Winch

Just before Christmas, Father Christmas roared all round East Winch in the dark, on an ancient tractor. Reindeer needed servicing? Sweets were distributed, and the dark was brightened by fun for everyone.

## Felling in Bilney Woods

The Forestry Commission has notified the Parish Council that they will start felling in February - probably about 20th.

Two areas are to be felled: A block on both sides of the Denton's Farm track just before you reach the houses, and a strip along the southern edge of the forest following the lower path. It looks as if, during the 6 weeks when felling will take place, that all the forest west of the newly shingled fire route will be off bounds. The right of way to Denton's Farm will remain open.

I am told that the Denton's Farm patch is likely to be dealt with first, though that may change as soil conditions vary.

*Nell Steele*

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## Middleton Parish Council Chairman's Report

By Mick Porter

Our local MP James Wild has agreed to attend a meeting to discuss the junction of Station Road and the A47. For obvious reasons this cannot take place whilst Covid19 restrictions are in place.

The Parish Council (PC) website is being developed. This website will be dedicated to Parish Council information. The Chairman's report will also be available in the Parish News.

The telephone box in Blackborough End is awaiting an estimate to repair the door hinge. After the hinge is repaired, the PC has decided it will be used a CD/DVD and book exchange.

There are two vacancies for Parish Councillors, anyone interested is requested to contact the Parish Clerk on 07747 828683.

The Parish Clerk has contacted the Woodland Trust and it has been agreed that the Trust will supply saplings for planting in the playing field.

Again, there is a mole problem at the playing field, it was agreed to contact the mole contractor to reduce the incidence of mole damage.

Over the past year the PC has had problems with Barclays Bank which is unresolved the PC has therefore agreed to transfer accounts to another bank.

## East Winch Parish Council Meeting 14th December 2020

By Nell Steele

Having been unable to meet for months, the Council at last met at Middleton Village Hall, East Winch hall being closed. Unfortunately, due to lockdown, we will not be able to meet again for the foreseeable future, and discussion has been by email. Anyone with matters to consider should contact the clerk, Bob Pannell, whose contact details are on the last page of this magazine.

At the meeting, the Council welcomed two new councillors, Mr Andy Bellehouse and Mr Sam Adkin. We are delighted to have increased our numbers, and there is still room for two more.

During the meeting, we discussed various ways in which funds could be used for the benefit of the village. This conversation is ongoing, but soon we will need to establish how much we are likely to be spending, as that will affect the precept; the sum raised annually from Council Tax to fund the Parish Council. Possibilities included making a trod along Common road through the common; providing dog poo bins at the entrance to Bilney woods (though this will require the consent of the forestry Commission) and further down the bridle path to Blackborough End, though both these need the agreement of the Borough Council; getting another flashing speed sign, though putting one up on the A47 is the responsibility of Highways England, so we can't do that; and assisting the Friends - probably to a small degree - to get new playground equipment.

## CORONAVIRUS VACCINE MYTH-BUSTER

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is the largest in the history of the NHS. If you have any questions about the progress of the programme or the safety of the vaccine (see example question on right) our local Norfolk and Waveney NHS Clinical Commissioning Group has created a "myth-buster".

You can read the latest version of the myth-buster at their website using the following link:

[www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/publications/documents/224-covid-19-vaccination-mythbuster/file](http://www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/publications/documents/224-covid-19-vaccination-mythbuster/file)

**I can't take some medicines because of my beliefs or dietary requirements. What are the ingredients of the vaccine?**

The Covid-19 vaccine does not contain any animal products or egg.



## “Moving on”

Life moves on despite lock-down. The hours of daylight are longer now, snowdrops and aconites are in flower, older people have received vaccines, houses are extended or put up for sale. All of these are signs of ‘moving on’.

The church year is moving on too. In January, during Christmas and Epiphany, we were celebrating Christ coming as the Light of the World for all people. The 2nd February, the Feast of the Presentation or Candlemas is the day in the church year for taking ‘one last look back to Christmas and turning towards the cross’. By the time you read this, Pancake Day and Ash Wednesday may be over and Lent will have already started. Ash Wednesday this year is the 17th February and Easter will be early in April. Time moves on!

Jesus had been born in Bethlehem and was a refugee in Egypt as a baby, although he grew up and lived in the north at Nazareth in Galilee. After his baptism in the Jordan and his time of temptation in the Judaeian wilderness, he returned to Galilee but he didn’t go back to living in Nazareth. He knew the time had come for him to ‘move on’, to start to proclaim his message – “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near”. (See *Matthew 4, verses 12-23*)

Peter and his brother Andrew, and James and his brother John, had always lived down near the lake. They were fishermen and no doubt thought they always would be. Then Jesus invited them to come and follow him. They were being called to ‘let go’ and ‘move on’. The qualities of perseverance, patience and courage that they had needed on the lake would continue to be of value when they ‘moved on’ to their new task of sharing with Jesus in bringing good news to people. God can always use people’s past experience in his service but he uses it in new ways.

‘Moving on’ doesn’t always mean a change of location. After the death of a loved one or the breakdown of a relationship, there comes a time when the bereaved person has worked through the shock, anger and disbelief often associated with loss and is able to ‘move on’, to set about building a new life for him or herself. All this takes time. How long it takes will vary and can’t

be hurried, but being able to ‘let go’ is often an important part of that ‘moving on’.

Whether we are young, old or in-between, we are all called to ‘move on’. It is very easy to get stuck in a rut and ‘moving on’ can feel risky, so we put off doing anything. I’m a great procrastinator! Sometimes we allow our hopes and expectations to die or don’t think we can make a difference. Maybe we no longer believe that things can change for the better. Perhaps we fail to recognise or even expect to see God at work in the world.

Has our understanding of God changed during the past year, a year like no other? Do we see our relationship with God moving on? Is our prayer-life growing and developing? Are these questions we ever ask ourselves?

If any of our answers are in the negative, is there something we could do to help ourselves ‘move on’, if that is what we want to do? We are all different, so how we might move on is bound to vary. It may involve talking with a friend we trust or putting aside a short time each day for silence or prayer.

There are many ways in which we can ‘move on’ whatever our age. A lot of people in their nineties are young at heart. If we are only ‘growing older’, we are in trouble. We need to not just be ‘growing older’ but to be ‘older and growing’, taking risks, trying new things and making new discoveries.

Jesus calls each one of us to ‘move on’, to repent and change. That can mean like the hiker pausing, looking at the map to check where we are and realigning our compass before setting forth. Peter, Andrew, James and John were not sure exactly where they would be going with their new friend, but they were prepared to let go of their old way of life and to ‘move on’ when Jesus called.

Many people are still sitting in darkness, but *the True Light is already shining* and Jesus invites each one of us to move forward in His Light into his kingdom.

How, I wonder, will you and I move on in 2021?

*Heather*

# CHRISTMAS POSTSCRIPT

Although a bit late for Christmas 2020, we are pleased to publish Nell Steele's poem inspired by the vision of Santa on his tractor when visiting East Winch in the time of coronavirus. We really couldn't wait until next Christmas to share it with you. Thank you Nell.

## 'Twas the night before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas we dashed into town.  
My sacks were all empty because of lockdown.  
A free parking space could nowhere be seen -  
We eventually lit on a nice bit of green.  
Dasher galloped me fast to the nearest toyshop -  
They were just about shutting and caught on the hop.  
We cleared all the shelves with might and main  
And with 'Merry Christmas!' careered off again.  
Where next? There's a bookshop just to the right;  
Children's books! Now what a wonderful sight!  
We carted them off and pushed on through the crowd,  
Buying all we were able while time still allowed.  
But back at the green, how our spirits were damped -  
Some beastly old warden had got the sleigh clamped!  
Rudolph said he'd explained, but the old man was barmy.  
Fancy a fellow who couldn't understand Sami!  
We were well over time and had to get back,  
But Prancer was having a panic attack!  
While I was soothing her, had an idea -  
Since the sleigh had no wheels, we could swiftly get clear!  
We flew into the air, just a bit lopsidedly,  
The weight of the clamp made it awkward, decidedly.  
Now for the chimneys - hard to find nowadays  
As householders use ecological ways  
Of heat, leaving hearths for the old and romantic.  
I tried a letterbox once - and it drove me frantic!  
Throughout the long night, we stopped on each roof,  
Noisier than usual - this is the truth -  
The clamp banged down hard wherever we landed,  
But at least the babes didn't wake empty handed.  
Exhausted, I dreamed of a lovely long sleep,  
With an extra thick eiderdown below which to creep,  
And reached for the aspirins: my headache was vast,  
When Comet yelled out, "It's the last house we've passed!"  
At my sleepy command up the reindeer did bound,  
Sprinkling asp'rins wide in the heavens around,  
And I remembered to shout as we drove out of sight,  
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Nell Steele

### **WEST NORFOLK RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION (MAGPIE CENTRE) NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

West Norfolk Riding for the Disabled is to hold its Annual General Meeting via Zoom, at 7.00 pm on **Tuesday, 23 February**. All are welcome, but to register your interest, please visit our website: [www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk](http://www.rda-westnorfolk.org.uk), and you will be sent the code which will enable you to access the meeting.



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## NORTH RUNCTON ART GROUP



The Art Group is not currently meeting due to Covid & health concerns of the members.

However, if you would like any information about the Group please contact Janet 01553 841514.

## HOW TO REPORT FLY TIPPING

The Borough Council is responsible for dealing with fly tipping and have a new on-line reporting system. To report an incident of fly tipping, please use the following link:

<http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=21512>

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## NORTH RUNCTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Copies of the minutes from North Runcton Parish Council meetings are available on the website:

[www.northrunctonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://www.northrunctonpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk).

However, if you would like a paper copy sent in the post then please contact Rachel Curtis – Clerk to North Runcton Parish Council  
Tel: 01553 673043.

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# PARISH CONTACTS

## CHURCHES:

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

### Middleton St Mary's

**Churchwarden:** Vacant

**PCC Secretary:** Vacant **Treasurer:** Mrs Christine Minister 840559

### North Runcton All Saints

**Churchwarden:** Mary Angelina 841519 and Mr K Matthews 842265

**PCC Secretary:** Mrs Ann Matthews 842265 **Treasurer:** Mrs Maggie Challis 842540

### East Winch All Saints

**Churchwardens:** Mr S Dale 630167 and Mrs W Smith

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

## PARISH COUNCILS:

### Middleton ([www.middleton-news.co.uk](http://www.middleton-news.co.uk))

**Clerk:** Elaine Oliver Tel: 630655 E-mail: middletonparishcouncil14@gmail.com

**Councillors:** **Chair:** Mick Porter 841427; **Vice Chair:** Val Ward;

Mrs M Applegate; Mrs E Barclay; Mr C Samuels; Mr R Smith; Mr J Tolley; Mr M Wiles; Mr Z Wiles Van Dyke.

The Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) in the Village Hall at 7pm.

### 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:** Miss K Fuller;

Mr J Fuller; Mrs L Gunn; Mr B Houchen; Mr L Stevens; Mrs K Williams; 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](http://www.eastwinchandwestbilney.co.uk/parish-council))

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

**Councillors:** **Chair:** Mrs N Steele; Mr S Adkin; Mr A Bellehouse; Mr M Place; Mr N Velzeboer; Mr A Yarham

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

**Borough Councillors:** West Winch Ward: Simon Nash (01553 811200) & Peter Gidney (07885 258450). Gayton & Grimston Ward: Michael de Whalley (07770 273903) & Colin Manning (07885 258392)

## Other Contacts:

Badminton Club	James Williamson	01485 600946
British Legion	John Collier	01553 842566
Car Scheme	Colin Skipper	01553 842448
Carpet Bowls Club	Peter Wall	01553 840471
East Winch Village Hall	Amanda Hart	01553 841236
Lunch Club	Olive Turpin	01553 840623
Middleton Village Hall	Mrs P Petch	01553 842149
Mothers' Union	Gillian Boon	01553 840320
N Runcton Village Meeting Place	Rachel Curtis	01553 673043

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

**Advertising Manager:** David Gager; E-mail: parishnewsadverts@gmail.com or call 01553 278402.

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

**The deadline for the next issue (April/May) is Friday, 12 March.**