

Summer 2020



Middleton News

• COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF MIDDLETON-ON-SEA •

THANK YOU

TO THE

NHS

Key & Essential Workers

Parish Council Volunteers

You stay at home Heroes

*During this Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic
and continue to:*

**STAY
ALERT**

**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**

**SAVE
LIVES**

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Coronavirus COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT UPDATE

A Community Support Pack and Flyer was distributed to 3,000 homes and businesses in the parish in the first week of April 2020. This was Stage 1 of the Community Support Project and volunteers were sought to assist in the delivery of these documents to residents.

When residents received the Community Support Pack and Flyer the Parish Council requested volunteers for **STAGE 2** of the project.

STAGE 2 required volunteers to assist the Parish Council in supporting its residents in the parish, there were also local resident groups that were in the process of setting up their own support for their residents but we wanted to make sure that all residents received the Community Support Pack to enable them to either volunteer or request some form of support.

The Parish Council were offering support to all residents who were either self-isolating, vulnerable or just staying at home so that the risk of catching the Coronavirus was limited.

- **PICKING UP SHOPPING ,PICKING UP MEDICATION**
- **MAKING A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL** – This area of support has not been requested as often as we expected and I would ask if anyone knows of someone who would like a Parish Council volunteer to make contact to her/him then please contact the Parish Clerk on 01243 585262 or email mospc@btconnect.com.

The Parish Council have so far received 50 volunteers to carry out the support requests from residents. At the time of writing this article the Parish Council have received 82 requests for support, 36 for shopping, 43 for collection of prescriptions, 2 friendly phone calls and 1 collection of dog medication from the vets.

The Parish Council also received from the Dementia Support Charity 50 activity and well-being packs which provide useful information on Coronavirus and the activity packs contain crosswords, word search, jokes, puzzles and short stories, these have been delivered to a number of houses/homes and will pass the time for those people that are self-isolating and staying at home.

So we have the volunteers, its volunteers are making the project work, hopefully residents that have requested and received the support in one form or other are also pleased, so those of you who have not yet contacted us but are in need of support then just contact the Parish Clerk and let us make your life easier so you can keep safe and we can remove the risk you face by not staying at home.

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MIDDLETON - ON - SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report for the Parish Council Year 2019/2020

This is my seventh report as Chairman of Middleton-on-sea Parish Council and this year's report is dominated by the catastrophic Covid 19 pandemic.

You're Parish Councillors: Mike Davies, Paul Harris, Mrs Christine Johnson, Graham Jones, Colin Mansfield, Mrs Nicky Mills, Alan Newton, Mrs Jacky Pendleton, Kevin Shepherd and myself along with our Parish Clerk Joe Lake all hope that you are safe and well and that you are coping with the challenges that social distancing and self-isolation brings.

Whilst none of us know what the future holds, what we have learnt is that it is more important than ever that we continue to support one another as much as we can. To this end the Parish Clerk and Councillor Mrs Christine Johnson, our Parish Emergency and Resilience Officer, produced a very comprehensive pack of information which was delivered to every household in the village. This pack aimed to support and steer residents through this difficult time by providing them with lists of key contacts, resources and useful information that they could turn to when they needed it. The feedback received from residents following the distribution of this pack confirmed that it was a much needed and a worthwhile document. But we could not have delivered it to all households without the help of all those who volunteered. So a big "Thank You" goes to all our volunteers who have helped residents formally through the Parish Council and also to all those residents who have helped neighbours informally by doing a bit of shopping, picking up a prescription or by just being there at the end of the phone or computer when they are needed. Middleton and Elmer have proved they can cope during these difficult times. Not only have residents stepped up to the mark, but so have our local shops. All those who could stay open have continued to provide residents with a lifeline of local services. By staying open our local pharmacy, post offices, food shops and our hardware store all meant that residents did not have to travel out of the village for their essential needs - they could stay home, stay safe and protect the NHS. We are of course mindful of all those local shops and business who could not stay open and we hope that residents will continue their local shopping to help sustain all commercial enterprises in the village once the pandemic restrictions are eased.

Middleton Parish Council, through the work of a small committee made up of Councillor Graham Jones, Councillor Mrs Nicky Mills and the Parish Clerk, has

also produced a new on-line web site which can be viewed on <https://middleton-on-sea-pc.gov.uk> and we hope you will frequently visit the site. Because of the need for social distancing at the present time Parish Council meetings cannot be held - but the work of the Parish Council still goes on. All agendas and minutes of the various Parish Council's committees will be posted on this site in future so that you can keep up to date with what is happening in your village.

continued on next page

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M-O-S Parish Council - Chairman's Report

For those who do not have access to a computer these agendas and minutes will continue to be placed on the notice boards around the village. Remember the Parish Council is here to help you and provide you with the information you need. If you can, do look at the web site first. If you need help or do not have a computer then contact the Parish Clerk. And if you are interested in the workings of the Parish Council or would like to join the Parish Council then come along to our meetings when they start up again.

Here is a short summary of how the Parish Council has worked on residents behalf during the past year. Members of the Development Control Committee, Councillors Mike Davies, Paul Harris, Graham Jones, Mrs Christine Johnson, Alan Newton and chaired by Kevin Shepherd met every two weeks until 4 March 2020, after that the Committee considered applications individually and reported their views back to the Parish Clerk. In total 42 applications were considered by the Committee. There was one application (M/80/19) which was extremely important to residents and this was objected to by the Committee. This was an application for a Care Home off Silver Birch Drive and permission was eventually refused by Arun District Council's Development Control Committee.

Members of the General Purposes Committee, Councillors Mike Davies, Mrs Christine Johnson, Graham Jones, Kevin Shepherd and chaired by Mrs Nicky Mills met three times before meetings had to be curtailed due to the pandemic. Unfortunately this curtailment meant that the Community Speed Watch initiative could not continue, although it is hoped it will start again as soon as is practically possible. Councillor Terry Claxton who resigned from the Parish Council at the beginning of the year had been instrumental in setting up Speed Watch and her work and ability to conceive and then push through projects to their successful culmination over the past twelve years will be greatly missed by us all.

This Committee also organised the Village Gateway signs on the Yapton Road at Comet Corner. It is hoped that similar signs will be erected on the Middleton Road near the Flansham roundabout in the near future. Our Tree Warden, Councillor Colin Mansfield, along with Councillor Mrs Christine Johnson organised the planting of a group of trees on the land at Cootes Lane opposite St Nicholas Church and again it is hoped that more areas of tree planting will be identified throughout the village

to help us in combating climate change.

Our Parish Land and Property Committee, Councillors Mike Davies, Graham Jones, Alan Newton, Kevin Shepherd and myself, and now chaired by Mrs Christine Johnson were able to keep Shrubbs Field open to walkers throughout the pandemic crisis, although dog walkers have been asked to keep their dogs on leads, and the children's playground had to be closed. It is hoped that some new playground equipment will be installed once the crisis is over as this is an area which is greatly used by residents' children.

Another new asset is the notice board outside the Jubilee Hall which has been refurbished by the volunteering help of resident Carl Smith and will help us provide much needed space for notices of wider interest to residents which cannot be fitted onto our other noticeboards. If you have a notice of communal value then do contact the Parish Clerk to see if it can go on this board.

Finally, as Chairman I would like to register my personal thanks to Councillor Paul Wotherspoon who resigned from the Parish Council in the summer of 2019. I am sure all Parish Councillors and indeed many residents will wish to join me in acknowledging the enormous contribution that Paul made both to the work of the Parish Council and indeed more widely to the residents of Arun as an Arun District Councillor. Paul joined the Parish as a Councillor in May 1987 and went on to become Chair of the Council in May 1999. His impressive knowledge of the local area, being Middleton born and bred, along with the high esteem with which his colleagues at Arun held him, both helped to ensure that the needs and views of residents of Middleton and Elmer were never side-lined. His work on the Parish Council and his enthusiasm for local government will be greatly missed. But his and Councillor Mrs Terry Claxton's resignations mean that there are two vacancies on the Parish Council. If you would like to find out how you can make a contribution then do contact the Parish Clerk.

I am sure that the year 2020 still has a lot to offer us all and that hopefully we will look back on this period of enforced isolation as a period of reflection on what matters most to us and I am sure we will all agree that if we had to be isolated anywhere in the world then Middleton and Elmer is where we would want to be.

Shirley Haywood



NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The new dedicated Parish Council website is now live and the new website address is
<https://middleton-on-sea-pc.gov.uk>

Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic the company that approves domain names was in lockdown with employees working from home and this delayed it going live earlier, the new website address is now approved and live.

So please open the link above and take a look, you will find it is packed with information, here is a brief look at what is available

Home Page – Local News, Upcoming Events, Weather information and other information.

Upcoming Events – List of events with details on when and where.

Picture Gallery – Local pictures

Notices – How to find out about rubbish/recycling collections, reporting crime, reporting issues to West Sussex County Council and Arun District Council

Parish Clerk Contact Details – full contact details

Middleton-on-Sea – History of Middleton-on-Sea Past and Present and also Village Pond & Green.

Parish Council – Who we are and what we do, Pictures and profiles of your Parish Councillors

Documents – Agendas, Minutes for Full Parish Council and Sub-Committees, Minutes from 2017 to date, Plans Policies and Procedures and latest Planning Applications

Our Community – Support your local businesses shows local companies and what they do, Bus Timetables for 600 and 700 buses, Local Churches, Local Clubs and Societies, Village Hall, Community Speed Watch, Walks in Middleton-on-Sea and other areas, Youth activities.

Calendar of Events - same as Upcoming Events

Middleton News – Latest and past editions

Phone Numbers – Useful phone numbers for

contacting local services.

If you are a business, club, society and would like to be added into the website or would like your event to be included on the website please contact:

The Parish Clerk on **01243 585262**
or by email on
mospo@btconnect.com

The website also has for the first time ventured down the social media route via Facebook in the hope that it can contact more local residents so they are aware of what is going on in the village and to be more in touch with the Parish Council. It will take a little time to understand the Facebook option and this will be reviewed as part of the review of the new website.

The Parish Council would like to hear from you once you have looked at the website, for any comments you may wish to make, we want to improve the website so it is important that we look at all the suggestions we receive to see how best this could be achieved.

PARISH CLERK - Joe Lake

Telephone **01243 585262**
Email: **mospo@btconnect.com**

7 North Avenue East, Middleton-on-Sea, Bognor Regis
West Sussex PO22 6HQ

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE
[www.middleton-on-sea.co.uk](https://middleton-on-sea-pc.gov.uk)

DEFIBRILLATOR POINTS



- Jubilee Hall, Middleton
- The Cabin, Elmer
- Middleton Sports Club, Sea Lane

If you respond to any of the businesses that advertise in the "Middleton News", then please let them know that you saw their advertisement **HERE**

**Community Noticeboard**

Arun West U3A (Bridge Group)	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Phil Butler	01243 583604
Arun West U3A (Art Workshop)	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Alison Peplow	07515 727133
Middleton Art Group	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Carole Keen	01243 584399
Bridge Club	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Roger Bill	01243 582548
Elmer Entertainers	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Rosemary Phillips	01243 584254
Felpham Flower Club	Memorial Hall, Vicarage Lane	Sandra Dean	01243 542684
Felpham & Middleton Country Dance Club	Small Jubilee Hall, Middleton	Barbara Oakley	01243 582627
Felpham & Middleton Horticultural Society	St. Mary's Centre, Felpham	Paula Puleston (Member Sec)	01243 584843
Felpham & Middleton Horticultural Society	St. Mary's Centre, Felpham	Don Faircloth (Shows)	01243 587753
Middleton Autumn Club	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Joyce Weston	01243 583298
Middleton Bingo Club	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Joyce Weston	01243 583298
Middleton Camera Club	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Alan Fitzgerald	01243 584733
Middleton-on-Sea Women's Institute	Scout Hall, Shrubbs Field	Sally Isherwood	01243 586214
Modern Sequence Dancing	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Pam Green	01243 585192
MusicSmart SingSing Ladies Choir	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Hilary Bishop	01243 842150
MusicSmart Felpham Community Singers	Felpham Methodist Church	Hilary Bishop	01243 842150
Organ Club	Jubilee Hall, Shrubbs Field	Mrs Scott	01243 824070
Shrubbs Art	Scout Hall, Shrubbs Field	Deidre Jeavons	01243 867674

HALL HIRE DETAILS:

Church Hall: Fr William 01243 586348 • **Jubilee Hall:** Joyce Weston 01243 583298 • **Scout Hall:** Margaret Minty 01243 583034

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**WELCOME TO
ST NICHOLAS, MIDDLETON**
"The Church at the Heart of the Community"

Vicar: Fr William Marston (586348). w.marston@btinternet.com

From Father William

This message comes with my warm good wishes.

All our lives have been turned up-side down because of the restrictions stemming from Covid-19. Many people have known loneliness, worry about their jobs or livelihoods, illness, and even bereavement.

It has been wonderful, though, to see people pulling together, epitomised in the communal clapping of the NHS and all care workers every Thursday evening.

It is very sad that all Church buildings, and other places of Worship, are currently shut. However, at 10.00 a.m. every Sunday and Thursday, I take a Service in Church on my own, praying for the people of the parish. Details can be found on St Nicholas, Middleton's Facebook page, including ways in which, at home, people can feel that they are part of the Service, including their following the Readings.

If you would like to discuss any serious matter, say a prayer by phone, need practical help, or simply would like to have a chat, do please phone me on 01243 586348.

*With my prayers
Father William*



VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday, 8 May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe.

Upon the defeat of Germany, celebrations erupted throughout the western world, especially in the UK. More than one million people celebrated in the streets throughout the UK to mark the end of the European part of the war. In London, crowds massed in Trafalgar Square and up the Mall to Buckingham Palace, where King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by their daughters and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, appeared on the balcony of the palace before the cheering crowds.

Churchill went from the palace to Whitehall where he addressed another large crowd, God bless you all. This is your victory. In our long history, we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best.

Later, Princess Elizabeth (the future Queen Elizabeth II) and her sister Princess Margaret were allowed to wander incognito among the crowds and take part in the celebrations.

Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus COVID-19 the VE Day celebrations that were planned to be held in the village had to be cancelled so we all had to celebrate the day as best we could.

There was no Church service due to the Church having to be closed but Father William of St Nicholas Church said prayers at 11.00am on the day on his own in the Church.

The Parish Council planted 29 crosses by the Silent Soldier at St Nicholas Church in memory of those that died during World War 2 and lived in Middleton-on-Sea or Elmer. Their names are written on the crosses.

If you would like to see the names of the 29 people then there is a roll of honor that can be found by using the following link,

<http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Sussex/Middleton-On-Sea.html>

If you would like to see some pictures that have been taken then take a look at the Parish Council website using the following link and go to Galleries

<https://middleton-on-sea-pc.gov.uk>

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Gillian Fowler
 on **07759 048322**

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1st Sunday in month	9:00	Holy Communion
	10:30	All age worship
All other Sunday's	10:30	Morning worship (with junior church)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES

Toddler Group: for Mums/Dads/carers and under 5's:
 Monday & Fridays (term time)
 from 1:15 – 3:15pm

Rocky Road: for children in reception to year 6:
 Thursdays (term time) from 6-7:15pm

Uturn: for children from year 6 to teenage:
 Fridays from 7:30 – 9pm

JAFFA: for teenagers:
 Fridays from 7:30 - 9pm

*For further information please contact the Church Office:
 on 01243 855610*





Parish Council Update

CORONAVIRUS

- New Government Regulations for Parish Councils Meetings.

New regulations enabling parish councils to lawfully conduct virtual meetings have been issued and came into force on the 4th April 2020. Below is a short summary.

- Councillors will be able to attend remotely and provision to be made for public and press access.
The Parish Council will start holding virtual meetings from June 2020 until the regulations regarding group meetings are relaxed.
- Removes the requirement for a parish council to hold an annual meeting in May 2020.
The Parish Council have cancelled the annual meeting for 2020.
- The current appointment of the Chairman can continue on until the Annual Meeting in May 2021, although the Parish Council may elect a Chairman at an earlier meeting should they wish to.
Councillors have agreed to extend the Chairman and Vice Chairman Appointments until May 2021 and the Chairman and Vice Chairman have agreed to this request. Councillors have also agreed that the current Sub-Committees Chairmen and Sub-Committee Representatives can also continue for a further year.
- Remote Attendance – extends the definition of “place” to include more than one location and including electronic, digital or virtual locations. Certain conditions must be complied with, making sure the Councillors attending remotely can be heard and where possible seen by other councillors and by the public and press and can hear and preferably see the other Councillors.
The Parish Council will be holding virtual meetings using ZOOM. Councillors will be provided with the details so they can attend the virtual meetings. The public and press will be able to attend by contacting the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting, a notice to this effect will be on the Public Notice Boards and website.

- The Notice of a full Parish Council meeting which is virtual must be published on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council will continue to place the Notice of Meeting on the Parish Council notice boards.

GRANTS RECEIVED – The Parish Council have been successful in receiving a grant of £1,825 from SSE in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic. Grants of up to £3,000 could be applied for. We will now be looking on how this grant can be spent and it currently covers expenditure incurred in printing of the Community Support Pack and updates on how the support project to local residents has worked, the amount also includes the purchase of PPE (masks etc.) and a donation to the Dementia Support Charity for their free Well Being and Activity packs that have been distributed to local residents.

The Trustees of the Shrubbs Playing Fields have also received a grant of £10,000 from Arun DC with regard to the Coronavirus pandemic as part of the EU State Aid Fund and covers the Sports Pavilion. The next meeting of the Trustees is on the 3rd June 2020 and a decision on how best to use this grant will be discussed.

SEAGULLS & OTHER ANIMALS - There are a small minority of people in the parish who, for whatever reason, put out food that can only be consumed by these birds, and one assumes, foxes and rats too! Large pieces of bread, uneaten fish and chips and chicken carcases being some of the items. This is creating a huge influx of birds which has a detrimental effect on garden birds, is a noisy nuisance, and as these birds are scavengers, a health hazard. I’m sure that the feeding is done with good intentions but it is well known that encouraging the birds is not advised.

Seagulls are beautiful animals in their natural environment, but they can become a nuisance around your property and in the breeding season become aggressive if they feel threatened.

We therefore request that you do not put food out for these birds/animals. All species of gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the penalties for disregarding the law can be severe.



DON'S DIARIES

FRIENDS OF MIDDLETON-ON-SEA POND AND GREEN (CHARITY No: 1170594)

Well, what strange and unprecedented times we are living in! But some things remain the same! The Pond and Green seems to have become more of an oasis than ever, given how much more walking we all seem to be doing!



So, life goes on. The moorhens have reared 2 clutches of chicks in the duck house since the Spring, a total of 12. All have survived thus far and have become a real talking point both at the Pond and even on Social Media through the Middleton and Elmer Matters Facebook Page.

Since the Pandemic Lockdown we have curtailed our organised regular work parties but have still carried out routine maintenance at the site when needed. An example of this is the newly dressed wood chip path through the woodland area.

Despite the need for social distancing and the curtailed VE Day celebrations, we did put up red, white and blue bunting and Union Jack flags at the pond for three days, and on VE Day, 1940's music was played throughout the day courtesy of one of our Trustees in an adjacent property. About 30 people gathered at 11am for the 2 minute silence whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Yellow water iris, foxgloves and cow parsley are currently in flower, and other Summer flowering plants will follow as the weeks go by.

Our Pond and Green Fund Raising Fete is one of many local events which had fallen foul of Covid19 with the resultant loss of income, (we raised nearly £1500 last year!) but we look forward to planning future events as life returns to normality.

We will be resuming our Work Parties in June, albeit each of our helpers will work in isolation or as a family group.

Stay safe.

Your Trustees



TO HELP SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF MIDDLETON-ON-SEA POND & GREEN CHARITY PLEASE COMPLETE THE DETAILS BELOW.

I would like to make a one off donation to the Friends of Middleton-on-Sea Pond & Green Charity & enclose £ _____

OR

I will donate £ _____ by bank transfer.

Friends of Middleton-on-Sea Pond & Green Charity:

TSB Sort code: 77-65-91, Account number 02338360 with reference - P&G donation.

GIFT AID IT! If you are a UK tax payer the Friends can claim back the tax you pay from HMRC.

If this applies to you please sign this declaration and give your address details below.

By signing and dating this form I am confirming that I am a UK tax payer and want to Gift Aid this donation.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ (Print) _____

(PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR ADDRESS AND POST CODE AS REQUIRED BY HMRC)

Address _____ Post code _____

Completed forms and any cash or cheques (made payable to: **The Friends of Middleton-on-Sea Pond & Green Charity**), can be placed in an envelope and left with **Barley's Hardware store** (opposite the Pond and Green).

NB: By completing this form you are agreeing that the above data is held in paper and electronic form by the Friends.

It will not be shared with any other body, company or person unless required by law.



St. Wilfrid's Hospice - UPDATE



St Wilfrid's Hospice

Making a difference to local lives

UPDATE FROM ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE

We are doing everything to ensure our services continue throughout the complex and ever changing Covid-19 situation, without compromising the safety of our patients and their loved ones. By adapting the way we deliver our care, we're currently providing support to more than 300 patients in West Sussex, playing a key part in the healthcare system.

Our Living Well Centre maybe closed, but our councillors and therapists continue to offer practical support to patients at home through calls and teleconferencing.

From 15 June we have started to re-open our shops with Chidham, Chalcroft, Midhurst, East Wittering, the Retro and Vintage shop on Eastgate Square, Chichester, and our Donation and Furniture Centre on Terminus Road, Chichester.

Read more at stwh.co.uk

MAKE A WILL FORTNIGHT

5 October 2020 - 16 October 2020

You have the power to do something enduring for your community. Make a will fortnight will return this October, with bookings for will writing and advice available from September

Take part in St Wilfrid's Hospice Make A Will Fortnight scheme and have your Will written or amended by a local solicitor firm without

charge.

Register your interest at stwh.co.uk/events/make-a-will-fortnight

A NEW WAY OF WALKING FOR THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

Here at St Wilfrid's Hospice we are committed to the safety of supporters like you, who do amazing things to fundraise for vital end of life care in our community.

Walk 5 or 10 miles during the Moonlight Walk Week in a way that suits you. You could even break it down into manageable distances, or why not get creative and break it down into steps: 5 miles = 10,000 steps and 10 miles = 20,000 steps

As a virtual event this means you can take part wherever you are!

Sign up at stwh.co.uk/moonlightwalk

SAHARA DESERT TREK 11 to 16 November 2021

This is your invitation for adventure on a trek that summits the top of the highest sand dunes in the Sahara - The Chigaga Dunes. You will trek and camp for 4 days through an ever-changing landscape. [The Inca](#)

TRAIL TREK TO MACHU PICCHU October 2021

After the disruption of Covid-19, this now means there is a second chance to register your interest for the new trek date of 15 October 2021.

An exceptional challenge, the Inca Trail reaches an altitude of over 4,200m and consists of hiking through sub-tropical vegetation, cloud forest and embracing snow-capped peaks. The 10 days trekking will be hard, but the spectacular views of river valleys far below and reaching the lost city will never be forgotten.

MJR Solicitors

Managing Director: [Mark Riley LLB \(Hons\)](#) | [Jane Symonds LLB \(Hons\)](#)

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Meetings can take place remotely using Zoom software and we are offering contactless, safe home visits for Will signing. Full details on request. Please call us if you are unsure of how we can safely take care of your needs. You can have complete confidence that you are receiving the best legal advice in the safest way possible.

Contact us today to book your Safe distance Will signing.

Bankside, Middleton Road, Bognor Regis, PO22 6DB
Email mark@mjsolicitors.co.uk or jane@mjsolicitors.co.uk
Or visit our website at : www.mjsolicitors.co.uk

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SQUADRON LEADER GORDON RAMSAY RAFVR

by Pauline Allsopp



Many of us at some stage have taken a stroll through Middleton Church Yard, whether it be to lay flowers in remembrance of a loved one or just for its peace and tranquillity.



Whilst there you may have noticed a War Grave – the only one in the Church Yard.

Gordon Ramsay was a resident of Middleton before joining the Royal Air Force and going off to fight for this country.

GORDON HUGH RAMSAY was born on 16th February 1909 in Fulham, London. His parents were Walter and Helen Ramsay and his father's occupation was a stockbroker.

In the late 1930s the family came to live in Middleton and in March 1940 Gordon married Aennid Bernadine Machmichael-Roach at St. Mary's Church, Felpham.

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Gordon left his job as a Stock Exchange Official and volunteered for the Royal Air Force. In 1940 he was granted a commission as a Pilot Officer.

His first posting was to R.A.F. Sullom Voe in the Shetlands where he worked within the Operations Room at Coastal Command, as he did on subsequent postings.

In December 1940 he was promoted to the rank of Flying Officer and the following year, Flight Lieutenant.

In 1942 and after being stationed at Sullom Voe, Sumburgh, Invergordon, Thornaby and Mount Batten, Gordon was promoted to Squadron Leader and transferred to R.A.F. Reykjavik in Iceland. He returned to the U.K. in 1943 and was stationed at Talbenny. Over the next two years he was posted to R.A.F. Hamworthy, Holmsley South, Dunkeswell, Pembroke Dock, Chivenor, St. Eval and St. David's.

On 17th August 1945, whilst still on active service, Gordon lost his life in a tragic accident. He was brought home and laid to rest in Middleton Church Yard and remembered with pride and honour by his parents and widow.

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