



Middleton on Sea Association

(Founded 1937)

Newsletter

November 2018

Chairman's Column

As the newly appointed MOSA Chairman, may I begin this Newsletter by thanking my predecessor Michael Leete, for all the guidance he has given the Association and the tremendous amount of hard work he has undertaken during his period of "office". It would also be remiss of me, and I know Michael would support me in this, not to thank the remainder of the MOSA Management team for all their sterling efforts on behalf of us all. Without their individual and collective contributions MOSA would not be the Association it is today.

Since the AGM, I have been involved in a number of issues facing MOSA and I am keen to ensure that all our members are aware of the various challenges facing us and as a result I will outline one of those specific issues, Estate Land Drains, an important but unreported topic, later in the newsletter.



However, before that, I have been asked to provide a little of my personal background together with a quick view on what I and the Management team would like to do in the future

for MOSA. I was born in South London in 1953 and after my education embarked upon a career in the London Fire Brigade serving, initially, as a firefighter in inner London, before achieving promotion to several senior officer posts within the Brigade.

I transferred, the first time, to West Sussex and then subsequently to Somerset Fire Service as the Deputy and then Chief Fire Officer before returning to West Sussex as the Chief County Fire Officer.

During my career I attended and took senior roles in a number of high-profile incidents, including the Clapham & Purley railway crashes and the Kings Cross Fire. In West Sussex I was involved in the major fire in Chichester Sainsburys and the widespread flooding the year before.

I held the Chief Officer post in West Sussex from 2001 to 2009 when I retired from the service and took on a role as a policy advisor for the Ministry of Communities and Local Government (CLG) for two years before entering the private sector for three years as a consultant, together with other fire service colleagues, before finally retiring in 2014.

I moved to Middleton in 2003 with my wife Elaine and two sons to experience a life living by the sea! We have enjoyed the tranquility and unique atmosphere of living on the Sea Lane estate and would like to be part of maintaining this environment for the current and future residents. Both of our sons have now left home but enjoy returning to spend time here and, with our first grandchild on the way, we hope to spend many more happy days here with them.

With more than enough said about me, perhaps I can now just touch upon a few subjects in respect of MOSA. Since taking over the role of Chairman, a number of people have been good enough to express their thoughts in respect of what MOSA

can do more of, to increase its usefulness to its members.

Some of the issues we are currently discussing within the management team are; better communications, direct access to up to date MOSA guidance, updating the website, planning management on the estate and Land drains.

I have included in this newsletter our first "Members Briefing Note". These briefing notes are intended to outline the current position in a number of the subject areas concerning residents. If you have any comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me through the MOSA website at the bottom of this page.

Martin Burrell

Coastal

In August, I attended a presentation by ADC and the Environment Agency on the proposed works at Elmer. Whilst not directly part of our coast, any changes either to the west or east of our frontage can have knock on effects, either in the short or long term. The proposed works include a large shingle recharge to a dedicated area, with yearly or five yearly recharges as required. An extension of the foreshore rock wall (not the rock islands) by an extra 165 metres, and replacement of the timber surrounds of the outfall pipe. This is all at an estimated cost of £6.4 million spread over the next 50 years.



Earlecoate construction has already begun work at Middleton, which is expected to continue for 8 weeks. Our work consists of targeted replanking of our groynes and breastwork, along with minor sea wall repairs, thus extending their useful life. A compound area at the end of Sea Lane has been fenced off for storing machinery and materials,

with the possibility of extending onto the eastern end of our greensward if needed.

We continue to monitor our beaches, as do ADC, with whom we have a very good working relationship.

David Szynowski

Planning Matters

Since the last Newsletter in April it has been a relatively 'quiet spell' for the Planning Advisory Committee, as regards new planning applications. The Committee have considered approximately seven new planning applications in respect of proposed work within the Area of Special Character. There have also been several other general planning matters, including applications for additional accesses and the issue of formal consent for building alterations, as required by individual property deeds.

Of the planning applications considered, only one required formal objection. In respect of that application, following objections from MOSA and immediate neighbours, members of the Planning Advisory Committee met with the applicant. In consequence, the planning application was withdrawn and a further application, that met with no objection from neighbours, or MOSA, was submitted.

Although the last six months have been relatively quiet in respect of new applications, residents will have noticed major building work in progress following the approval of earlier applications. There are two large rebuilding projects underway in Sea Way and, more recently, the demolition of part of a property in Sea Lane has begun which is to be followed by the construction of an additional separate dwelling on the same site. This latter development was approved despite objections, including those from the Parish Council, the MOSA Management Committee and many residents.

To assist in the process of managing change within this Area of Special Character, especially with regard to demolitions and to better protect the character and appearance of developments, consideration has been given to seeking 'Conservation Designation'. This could be for either the shops on the main road and Bankside, or for the whole of the Area of Special Character. This latter option has received the full support of all our Parish and District Councillors.

For the benefits and implication of Conservation Designation there is helpful advice available on; www.arun.gov.uk/conservation-area-frequently-asked-questions If an application is to be made there will be much to be done including, crucially, full consultation with all the residents in any proposed 'Conservation Area'. If any resident would be interested in progressing this work, which would have the better protection of the character, appearance and spacious layout of the area as the objective, then please let us know by contacting either the Secretary of MOSA or by e-mailing the Planning Advisory Committee at MOSAPlanning1@outlook.com

Roger Hill, Sue Mackenzie, John Bradshaw

Boules Evening

While numbers were down this year, enthusiasm certainly was not and an hour and a half of intensive play saw the Beach Huts greensward play host to some highly competitive matches. I am still not sure that the strict rules were adhered to but the 'Français' version to suit the competitors, together with the odd trip or two to visit John Bradshaw's delicious hot dog stand. At the end of the evening we saw the perfect result with Kevin Seaman and our new Chairman Martin Burrell, instantly proving his leadership skills, sweeping the board with Ian Martin and Drue Lyle in second place.



A splendid evening enjoyed by all, but perhaps a return to Saturday may bring in the numbers!

Margaret Martin

Sandcastle Competition

Middleton people certainly appear to have grasped the idea that to win Sandcastle

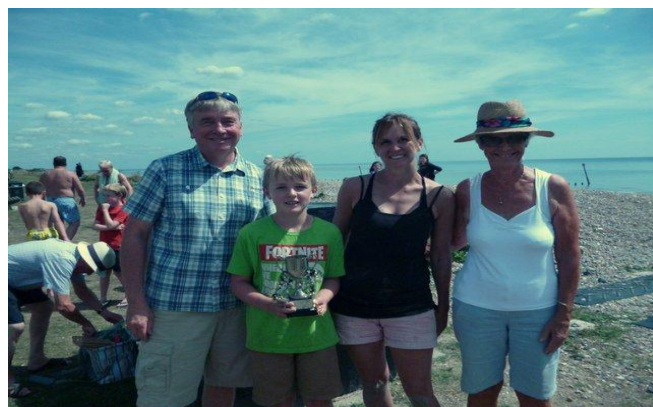
competitions they require planning and architectural skills and this was clearly evident this year. Chairman, Martin Burrell bravely undertook the task of judging and was amazed at the ingenuity of the entries.



From a Brexit Bus to Save the Planet, from a Snail to a Mermaid we moved well away from the traditional sandcastle.



Now that we have 3 trophies, Adult, Family and Children, Martin gave the honours to Don Faircloth for his Save the Planet Turtle, while the Family Cup went to the Penniceard Family for their brilliant mermaid.



In the Children category Martin could not separate Izzie and Will Bevan and awarded the prize jointly.

Margaret Martin

Middleton Beach Huts

Once again the huts are fully let this year and with a healthy Waiting List we can look forward to the future continuing that way. We are of course, very lucky that we can charge a rental substantially lower than the ADC ones at Felpham and still add to our reserves for the necessary repairs. We have all had the benefit of a dry, hot summer and we might have expected full use of the Huts in such weather, but sadly a number remained seldom used. We have some planned repairs to carry out this winter ready for the 2019 season. The Board welcomes the appointment of Marese Hollands as a Director and Web Coordinator.

Margaret Martin

Middleton Greensward

There have been compliments a'plenty over the state of the Greensward and for much of that we can thank the work of Max and Laurence Huntingford. The sea made some effort to throw up shingle but our annual clearance and the many people who clear the stones and rubbish on their walk has meant a trouble free footpath. Dog owners, on the whole, have been conscientious in clearing up behind their pets but there remain a few who do not and, if you see one of the few, please point out the error of their ways.

Margaret Martin

Pond and Green

Since MOSA's last Newsletter was distributed in May this year, we have been fortunate to obtain grants totaling £5,000 from WSCC and Tesco Bags of Gold thanks to Jacky Pendleton and Christine Johnson. We must also thank our hard-working Chairman, Nicky Mills, for sourcing a £2,500 grant from Bilsham Solar Farm who were keen to contribute towards the Interpretation Boards to which I refer below.

The result of these extra funds is that in just a few months, the Charity is on the way to implementing a number of the recommendations made by Kate Ryland in her Ecological Survey and Management Plan in 2015. In particular, we have:-

- Removed several self-sown sycamore trees in order to allow more light into the Pond. This should encourage the growth of the recommended marginal plants as well as reducing the leaf litter which otherwise would have fallen into the Pond.
- Purchased 2,500 native spring bulbs in addition to those which we planted last autumn
- Briefed our designers to make 2 information Boards which should enable them to provide an educational tool for the local primary school.
- Taken preliminary steps towards establishing a natural revetment on the western bank of the Pond which will be back-filled with silt and planted up. This should help us to disguise the few remaining brambles which we have not yet been able to remove, retain the shape of the Pond and, most importantly, improve the ecological habitat that will encourage more wildlife.
- Engaged an Ecologist for next spring to establish the evidence, if any, of the presence of the Great Crested Newt in the Pond.

Arun DC are keen for us to pursue our mission to increase the depth of the Pond. This process will be easier once the proposed revetment has been installed, because it will enable more water to be retained in times of high rainfall, whilst reducing the risk of flooding in Middleton Road. With this in mind, we propose to apply for funds from Operation Watershed next year.

Our working party will continue to meet on site on Saturday mornings every 4 weeks or so. Our next scheduled visit will be at 10am on 10th November. This will be followed by our Annual Leaf-sweeping event which will take place on Saturday 15th December at 10am. If you would like to attend either or both these two events, please feel free to telephone me on 582510.

Michael Leete, Pond & Green Trustee

Mrs Stella Le Noury from Guernsey thanks all the kind people who helped her when she lost her Rucksack on the Greensward. She is now re-united with it!