

CHARITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

It was common practice in earlier times for local worthies to leave money in their wills to help relieve distress among the deserving poor of the Parish at a time when other relief was minimal. Middleton enjoyed such benefaction.

OXTOBY'S CHARITY

This consisted of the interest on £40 from the will of Mr Oxtoby which was invested in the Yorkshire Bank, Beverley in the name of the rector and churchwardens and distributed to such poor as were not in receipt of parochial relief.

WOOD'S DOLE

This was an amount of three shillings and four pence per annum which was a charge on the Kilnwick Percy estate together with similar sums for 44 other parishes and townships. The 1895 Glebe Terrier states that at that time it was received from Mr Forbes, Land Agent, Lendal, York. It was thought to date back to 1568.

In addition to these the Reverend Dacre Blanchard left the interest on £100 to be distributed among the poor of the parish.

Because of inflation over the years the amount produced at the present time from these charities would scarcely pay a bus fare but the process of winding them up and providing an alternative use for these limited funds is a difficult one.

ALMS HOUSE

At the time of Archbishop Herring's visitation in 1743 and Archbishop Drummond's in 1764 reference was made to an Alms House in the parish erected from £20 left by John Crouch a former rector which was repaired by the overseers of the poor. It is not known where it was situated.

There are, however, occasional references in the Parish register to persons having died in the alms house such as:

19th November 1731	Isabel Pinder
9 th May 1740	Thomas Car
19 th September 1748	John Wilson.

BRITISH LEGION

This organisation emerged in 1921 from the amalgamation of rival voluntary societies as a non-party association to relieve stress among ex-servicemen and their families following the First World War with the annual poppy day becoming its best known and enduring feature.

The Legion appears to have been active in Middleton from the early days and a photograph exists showing the official party at a garden fete in the 1920s.

In an article which appeared in the Yorkshire Times on the 25th July 1953 it stated "Both men's and women's sides of the British Legion life function usefully in Middleton, the branch area also taking in North Dalton, Bainton, Kilnwick and Lund.

The organisation's handbook for 1958 has the following entry:

"MIDDLETON-ON-THE-WOLDS

President:	Sir Wm. Prince Smith
Vice Presidents:	H. Wilson, W. Eastwood, Dr. P.E.C. Clements
Chairman:	L. M. Du Pre
Hon. Treasurer:	J. Sinclair
Hon. Secretary:	A. S. B. Cliff, Middleton-on-the-Wolds, Drifffield, Yorks.
Employment Officer:	J. Sinclair
Pension Officer:	J. Sinclair
Service Committee:	Chairman, M. Thompson Secretary, Mrs. Atkinson
Poppy Day Organiser:	A. S. B. Cliff
Headquarters:	Middleton-on-the-Wolds.

WOMEN'S SECTION

President:	Mrs. Mitchell
Chairman:	Mrs. Hogarth
Treasurer:	Mrs. D. Speck
Secretary:	Miss Towse, Station Road, Middleton-on-the Wolds"

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The same article in the Yorkshire Times in 1953 contains the following report:

"The Women's Institute movement in Middleton is eight years old but though comparatively young the branch are well forward in achievement. The Battleburn group of which Middleton branch are constituent members, have had their championship trophy, a rose bowl, won by Middleton in two years out of three in which it has been offered. After Middleton took the bowl in the first year, it went to Warter, and is now back in Middleton.

OFFICIALS

Mrs. E. Johnson who now lives in Sledmere was the prime mover in the foundation of the W. I. and was their first president.

Mrs. W. Eastwood took over the presidency in the second year and still holds office with Mrs. E. Straker as vice-president, Miss A. Towse carries out the secretarial work, assisted by her sister Miss C. M. Towse. The financial side is the responsibility of Miss M. A. Moate who attended the recent national conference in London as joint delegate of Middleton and Lund W.Is with Mrs G. Wilson accompanying her as a visitor.

The Battleburn group convener, Mrs S. G. Hogarth, is a member of the Middleton branch, her husband being head of the County Primary School. Specialities of Middleton W.I. include a drama section and the running of an annual produce show."