

# Village Mode



## A peek into life in North Middleton

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Village Mode Newsletter which aims to regularly update you on local items of interest. This follows on from Newsletters previously prepared by Jim Veitch and a special thank you to Jim for all his hard work.

I moved into Borthwick Castle Terrace end July with my husband Eric and our fur baby – a cat named Pooh! Eric is a keen pigeon fancier who breeds and races with his brothers. We formerly lived in Loanhead but decided, after almost 15 years, that we preferred somewhere a little more peaceful – we could never have imagined how welcome you would make us feel – thank you.

As this my very first attempt at “journalism” I would very much like to enlist your input to future editions. Please feel free to drop me a note of any ideas/tales/tips/likes (I won't event be offended at dislikes!). For example, I have admired so many beautiful gardens out there – do you have any good tips you would like to share? Or perhaps a favourite recipe?

Happy reading.  
Susan Owenson - Editor

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### FACTOID

The heart of a hedgehog beats an average 120 times per minute but when it hibernates this reduces to only 20!

### THE GARDENER'S FRIEND

Hedgehogs are now going into hibernation and have recently been added to the endangered species register. Remember to take care if you are burning leaves/garden rubbish. Take a peek before you start in the event a hedgehog has taken up residence and be careful when forking your compost. Check out some of the numerous websites for further info.

If you find a sick or injured hedgehog they require specialist care. Call South of Scotland Wildlife on 01387 860461.



## GOOD FOOD GUIDE

### Borthwick Castle Hotel

Eric and I recently celebrated our wedding anniversary with dinner at the Castle to celebrate our wedding anniversary. I am sure most longstanding residents have sampled the fayre but for those who haven't and for newcomers to the area you simply must book a table. The ambience and food are exceptional not to mention the most marvelous hostess – Marion – who will delight and entertain you with tales of the Castle.

Our verdict - Master Chef has some serious competition there!

Tel 01875 820514 or email - [enquiries@borthwickcastle.com](mailto:enquiries@borthwickcastle.com)

### The Middleton Inn

Why not take a break from the stove and sample great pub food freshly prepared. Pop in next time you are passing to find a warm (now centrally heated) friendly welcome from husband and wife team Fiona & Jason and staff. Why not try Grandma's Kitchen run by Fiona's Mum – Marion - open from mid-morning for hot rolls, home made-soup etc + ice-cream! They also make a delicious Sunday breakfast.

If you have a birthday or anniversary soon why not take a few friends along for an informal celebration.

Tel 01875 825590

### On the subject -

Have you spotted a yellow van with the catchy name "Toot for Fruit" in North Middleton at around 10.30 am on a Friday morning?

The Midlothian Community Food Initiative sell fruit and vegetables (many items locally produced) at trade prices. The Toot for Fruit van travels throughout Midlothian and aims to reach those people most in need. Among the great selection you will also find many unusual seasonal items. Have you heard of Romanesco (Brassica family) which is currently in season? It is a cross between a cauliflower and broccoli and looks like an intricate forest of little Christmas trees! Great cooked or thinly sliced raw in salad. There isn't much Driver Ian doesn't know about the items he carries so feel free to ask him for tips/recipe suggestions.  
Tel 01875 823 922 for other venues and times

## THE VILLAGE HALL

[middletonvillagehall.org.uk](http://middletonvillagehall.org.uk)

I am sure that most residents will by now have visited the impressive new Village Hall.

The Hall is managed by the Middleton Village Community Hall Association which is a registered charity. Committee meetings are held once a month and anyone wishing to join is welcome to attend. A new Committee will be appointed at the forthcoming AGM.

The Hall is available for local groups, private or corporate hire.

Full details and hire rates for the Hall can be found by visiting the website (detailed above). For availability call Anne Russell on 01875 821014 or visit her at the Village Post Office, 37 Borthwick Castle Road (opening hours Mon-Fri 8.30 am-12 noon).

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

With the festive season fast approaching it's time to plan your social calendar and purchase those must have tickets! Below are a few ideas for you to choose from as well as general information on regular events taking place in your Village Hall. Enjoy!

#### PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Village's first photography competition has the theme "Autumn in Middleton" and is open to all ages. Why not get out there and capture a special moment from our beautiful environment.



The first prize is £50 cash, second prize a £10 voucher donated by Tesco, three runners up prizes of £5 cash, and the closing date is 1 December. Check out the website for full details or call Alan Pemberton on 01875 823650.

#### AGM

**Tuesday 27 November**  
**7 pm at the Village Hall**

**Everyone welcome**

**We are always looking for new Committee members. If you are interested why not come along to an informal meeting taking place on Wednesday 21 November at 7pm when you can find out more.**

#### MIDDLETON SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB

This long-established Club has been running for more than 35 years. Previous to building of the new Village Hall meetings/events were held in the Gorebridge Bowling Club. The Club organise regular events which include an annual Drive each June (details to be advised) and tickets are still available for regular festive events in the Village Hall:-

*10 December 6.30 pm – Christmas Dinner Dance – Tickets Free*

*Hogmany Dance 7 pm – Scottish Dance Band + Buffet – Tickets £10*

Contact either George Young 01875 820786 or Eddie Rodgers 01875 822768.

The Club always welcome new members so why not slot the next meeting date into your social calendar:-

*18 December at 7 pm in the Village Hall*


#### BORTHWICK WRI

Borthwick WRI meets in the Hall on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August) from 7-9 pm.

There is either a demonstration or an interesting talk on a variety of subjects. Members have input with suggestions for the syllabus each year.

There is always time for a chat and a cup of tea so why not come along for a trial evening. You have nothing to lose.

The December meeting is a demonstration on making Christmas decorations.

<p>There is space for more to enjoy the benefits of classes such as -</p> <p><b>Pilates</b> – every Monday 6.15-7.15 pm or 7.30-8.30 pm £5 per session paid monthly in advance (contact Debbie on 07920 75880)</p> <p>Please note 10 December classes will take place on <u>Sunday</u> 9 December 11.00-12 noon and 12.15-1.15 pm</p> <p><b>Line Dancing</b> – every Wednesday 7.00-9.00 pm £2 per adult and £1 per child per session (contact Anne on 01875 821014)</p> <p>or why not introduce the kids (aged 8+) to <b>Crafty Fingers</b> – one Thursday each month 7.00-8.45 pm Cost £3 (includes all materials and snack) (contact Colette 01875 823650 or Jill 01875 820882)</p>	<p><i>MUMS &amp; TODDLERS GROUP</i></p> <p>This is an informal Group who meet on Thursdays in the Village Hall from 9-11 am.</p> <p>Toddlers bring along their favourite toys and mums bring the eats!</p> <p>A warm welcome is assured.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Councillor Surgeries</b></p> <p>Saturday 24 November -11.30 am-12 noon</p> <p>Saturday 1 December – 11.00-11.45 am</p>	<p><i>THE MIDDLETON INN</i></p> <p>Support Your Local and sample some special pre-Christmas fayre at the Inn – available from 1 December.</p> <p><u>Win a Christmas Hamper</u> Enjoy a meal any day or evening from 16 November-16 December and your name will be entered into a prize draw. The winner to be drawn on 17 December.</p> <p><u>Celebrate Hogmanay</u> Pop in for your ticket – priced £5. Fun for all the family - including Haggis, Neeps &amp; Tatties.</p> 
<p><i>BORTHWICK CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES</i></p> <p>Sunday 23 December Borthwick 9.30am A service considering the meaning of “Emmanuel” - God with us “Christmas Presence”</p> <p>Sunday 24 December 11.30pm WATCHNIGHT SERVICE Borthwick Church “Stargazing ‘21”</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY at FALA CHURCH A 40 minute all-age celebration of the birth of Jesus and “party” for the arrival of God’s “first-born” “God’s little baby!”</p> <hr/> <p><i>BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL</i></p> <p>A big thank you to all who contributed to the impressive total of 45 boxes which are heading out to Eastern Europe for Christmas.</p>	<p><i>CHRISTMAS TREES</i></p> <p>How about ordering this year’s Christmas Tree from the Bethany Trust Charity and help someone less fortunate than you to enjoy a better Christmas.</p> <p>The Trust have something called the Caring Christmas Tree and if you buy a tree they guarantee to provide a homeless person with a Christmas dinner, bed for the night and breakfast. The trees are great quality and you can choose from various sites around the Edinburgh area.</p> <p>Visit the website at <a href="http://www.caringchristmastree.com">www.caringchristmastree.com</a> or call 0845 111 <b>TREE</b> (8733).</p>	
<p><i>Finally, many thanks to all who have contributed to this Newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and look forward to speaking to you in the New Year.</i></p> 