

Village Mode



A peek into life in North Middleton

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A warm welcome to the second edition of Village Mode. Many thanks for your positive feedback from the first edition and I trust you will find this a similarly enjoyable read.

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU. The wheels are now firmly in motion on planning this year's Village Fete scheduled to take place on Saturday 23 August and many thanks to all those who attended the recent meeting with ideas and offers of help. Don't despair if you were unable to attend the meeting as you can still help us make this year's Fete a great success by attending the next meeting to be held on **Thursday 13 March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.** Alternatively contact me, any of the Committee members or visit the website www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk

Welcome and thank you to our farming community out there. Fiona Ross kindly provided us with the Farmers Facts article and we aim to make this a regular slot to keep you bang up to date. Thank you also to resident gardening expert Jackie McLaren for her article on composting – Jackie even provided us with a self-portrait! We trust you will enjoy.

Remember, your comments and ideas are always welcome. Happy reading.

Susan Owenson – Editor & Secretary
42 Borthwick Castle Terrace
email – secretary@middletonvillagehall.org.uk



Farmers Facts

Rain, rain, rain! We have had over 9 inches of rain at South Middleton in January 2008, which is well above the average for this time of year. This causes many headaches for all farmers.

Arable farmers, growing grain eg wheat, barley or oats are struggling to take vehicles into their fields because they would either get them stuck or damage the ground and/or crops, or possibly both.

Livestock farmers, mostly keeping cows and sheep, but a few with pigs, also experience problems too. Some of the animals will be kept outside because it is so expensive to build sheds and buy straw for their bedding. If their fields are very wet, they quickly become very muddy. Farmers will provide additional food eg silage or hay (both are forms of dried grass) for their cattle or sheep.

Most ewes (female adult sheep) will now be pregnant ('in-lamb') and will be carrying between 1-3 lambs on average. The majority of the lambs will be born from the middle of March onwards. Our lambing starts on 18 March this year, and most of the ewes will have lambed by mid April.

Please be very careful if you are near any sheep with your dog(s) and keep them on a lead at all times. Otherwise, the dog(s) may frighten the sheep and cause them to abort their lambs.

THE MIDDLETON INN

Tel 07948 557011

The pub new opening hours are Monday-Wednesday 12.30 until 11.00 pm, Thursday 12.30 pm until midnight, Friday & Saturday 12.30 pm until 1.00 am and Sunday 12.30 pm until midnight.

Home cooking served 10.00 am until 8.00 pm Monday-Friday, Saturday & Sunday 12.30 pm until 8.00 pm.

Pop in for a lunch special – soup and filled warm baguette only £5. Or sample special set dinner menu each weekend – 2 courses £9.95, 3 courses £12.95.

Buy your tickets, priced £5, for the St Patrick's Day Party on 15 March - toe-tapping live music, irish stew and soda bread.

Toot for Fruit - support Scottish produce

The yellow van is still frequenting our doorsteps on a Friday morning bringing us the best fruit and vegetables at trade prices. Remember that brussel sprouts and parsnips are "not just for Christmas" and are available throughout February. Other seasonal items are - beetroots, all cabbages, leeks, onions, potatoes and spinach and they also carry the most wonderful farm fresh eggs. If you are looking for something a little different like celeriac just give Driver, Ian your details and he will obtain as many as you require. *Tel 01875 823 922 for other venues and times.*

Feathers - the racing kind!

Our local pigeon fanciers – Eric Owenson, Davie White & Rod Pringle will by now have paired their pigeons in anticipation of this year's breeding season and youngsters should be hatching soon. The racing season begins third week of April with the "old bird programme" (birds aged one year plus). Pigeons will be racing into this area from distances 60 miles up to 600 miles from France. Good luck to our 3 fanciers and we will keep you updated throughout the season on their progress.

THE VILLAGE HALL

Website - middletonvillagehall.org.uk

Check out your Village Hall website where you will find up to date news and details of forthcoming events taking place at the Hall.

ARE YOU PLANNING A PARTY?

The Hall is available for local groups, private or corporate hire. Full details and hire rates can be found by visiting the website where you can now check out availability at a glance. To make a booking contact Anne Russell on 01875 821014 or speak to her in person Monday-Friday 8.30 am-12 noon at the Village Post Office, 37 Borthwick Castle Road. For bar details visit the Middleton Inn where Fiona will give you the details.

Detailed below are just a few ideas for you and the family. Why not join your neighbours and dust off those winter blues. New members always welcome.

<p>Line Dancing</p> <p>Every Wednesday 7.00-9.00 pm. £2 per adult and £1 per child per session. Contact Anne on 01875 821014.</p> <p>Please note that from May beginners classes will be held 7.00-7.30 pm followed by intermediate and advanced class 7.30-9.00 pm. All are welcome to attend for the entire session – same price!</p>	<p>Pilates</p> <p>Every Monday 6.15-7.15 pm or 7.30-8.30 pm. £5 per session paid monthly in advance. Contact Debbie on 07920 875880.</p>	<p>Mums & Toddlers Group</p> <p>Informal group on the lookout for new mums to join them for fun and chat every Thursday. Note new time 12.30-2.30 pm.</p>	<p>Crafty Fingers</p> <p>One Thursday each month from 7.00-8.45 pm. Cost £3 (incl all materials and snack). Contact Colette 01875 823650 or Jill 01875 820882.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BORTHWICK WRI</p> <p>Why not join us at our meeting on Tuesday 11 March at 7 pm. We have a very talented traveled speaker that evening. Her subject is living conditions of women in the poorer parts of the world. You are sure of a warm welcome, a cosy chat and a nice cup of tea. A copy of our syllabus can be found on the notice boards. On Saturday 31 May we have planned an outing to Perth for shopping followed by high tea at Crieff. You are sure of a fun day out!! Contact Frances on 01875 821941.</p>			

MIDDLETON SENIOR CITIZEN'S CLUB

The 2007 Christmas Party held on 10 December in the Village Hall was a great success. Thanks to those who provided the first class buffet which was commented upon most favourably by all who attended.

There is now a need to appoint a few new members to the Middleton Senior Citizens Club Committee so if you if you are interested, would like to take part in future events and enjoy other benefits which the Club can offer you should contact George Young on 01875 820786 for details.

Dances have also been arranged for 2008 and details are –



Dates for your calendar include this year's Annual Drive which will be to Dundee on Saturday 7 June.

	22 March	George King	Light Supper
	28 June	Bill Richardson	Light Supper
	6 September	Dod Hutchison	Light Supper
	31 December	David Sturgeon	Buffet

Councillor Surgeries in the Village Hall

All Saturdays - 23 February 11.30 am, 1 March at 11.00 am, 29 March at 11.30 am,
5 April at 11.00 am, 26 April at 11.30 am

Photography Competition

This season's competition has the theme "Spring in Middleton" and is open to all ages. So, what is stopping you getting out there and capturing a special moment.

The first prize is £30 cash and the closing date is 31 May. Check out the website for full details or call Alan Pemberton on 01875 823650.



BORTHWICK CASTLE

Tel 01875 820514

The Castle is open on Easter Sunday for lunch priced £25 per head. Call the Castle to make your reservation. Here is the proposed menu – a special kids menu is also available -

*Spring Onion Soup
Pineapple, Water Melon & Avocado Salad*

*Borthwick Darrock –
Chicken Breast stuffed with Haggis & Topped with a Whisky Cream Sauce*

*Seared Dorne of Salmon –
Salmon Masked with a Rich Sauce of Prawns & Tarragon*

*Crème Brulee
Fresh Fruit Salad with either Cream or Homemade Ice Cream*

Coffee & Mints

THE SPRING FLING

Join in the annual walk around the local rights of way followed by refreshments at the Village Hall. Keep an eye on the website/noticeboards for full details – coming soon.
middletonvillagehall.org.uk

BORTHWICK CASTLE CHURCH

TABLE OF SPECIAL SERVICES

(no service is held at Borthwick Parish Church on the dates marked *)

9 March	United Borthwick Service	10.45 am
23 March	Easter Day	9.30 am
4 May	Borthwick Communion	9.30 am
11 May *	United Pentecost Service *	10.45 am
8 June *	United Service at Fala *	10.45 am
13 June	United Service at Borthwick	10.45 am
10 August *	United Service at Crichton *	10.45 am
28 September	Harvest Thanksgiving Service	9.30 am
5 October	Borthwick Communion	9.30 am
12 October *	United Service at Fala *	10.45 am
9 November	Remembrance Sunday	9.30 am
7 December *	United Carol Service at Cranstoun	10.45 am

The "All-Age Alternative", a contemporary service held at Pathhead Community Hall, will take place at 10.45 am on the last Sunday of the month from January-April.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST

Thank you for supporting homeless people through Caring Christmas Trees in 2007. We sold 3822 trees and raised over £45,000. Because of your kindness, over 850 homeless people will have a safe place to sleep, hot meals, warmth and support at the Fare Shelter this winter.

Thank you for buying a Caring Christmas Tree and making a difference in someone's life.

If you would like to continue to support the work of the Bethany Trust visit the website at www.bethanychristiantrust.com.

BETHANY BIG SLEEPOUT

Friday 7 March

Give up your bed for the night and sleep rough to help homeless people. For more info email: sleepout@bethanychristiantrust.com.

F.A.C.E.

(Fighting Against Cancer Edinburgh)

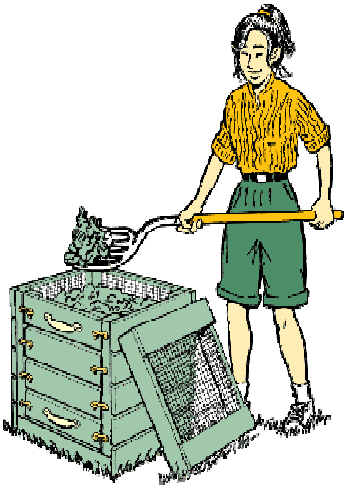
Help raise funds for this charity based at the Western Oncology Unit by donating used postage stamps and help pay for sick children make a trip to Lapland. All donations gratefully received – contact Jackie on 01875 820260.

Save your Bottle Tops

Help raise funds for a wheelchair by donating your plastic bottle tops. Contact Jackie on 01875 820260.

COMPOSTING

The secret to a great garden is in the soil. Home composting plays a vital role in this process and helps recycle vast amounts of household waste which would otherwise end up as landfill.



Home composting bins can be purchased for very little from www.wasteaware.org.uk (tel 0845 077 0756) priced from £6-£25. They come complete with a kitchen caddy for peelings, coffee pods etc and a useful booklet on how to successfully utilise your compost bin. You can also purchase an organic powder to sprinkle between the layers of waste to speed up the process and also bags made from potato starch for the kitchen caddies so the bags completely decompose.

The process of composting can take up to a year but success depends on getting the balance between any matter eg shredded paper, toilet role cores and wet matter eg grass clippings, veg peelings. It is important to have layers of dry and wet matter to make the process work.

The average garden and household can generate enough material in a year to fill several compost bins. Around 30% of the refuse a household with a garden creates can be added to your heap. As a general guide, pretty much everything that will rot down naturally is suitable but for the best results there are a few rules:-

✓ GOOD

Garden waste - grass clippings, leaves, prunings, weeds, spent flowers and old bedding plants;
Used pet bedding - vegetarian pets only eg rabbits, hamsters and gerbils;
Cardboard - the smaller the pieces the better it will rot down - including egg boxes and toilet rolls;
Kitchen waste - fruit and veg peelings (uncooked), egg shells, tea and coffee bags/pods or grinds.

X AVOID

Prickles, spines and thorns - they can remain in the compost;
Perennial weeds and flowering weeds - these can survive then spread the problem when using the compost;
Large amounts of newspaper should be recycled, small quantities can be composted;
Uncooked meats, fish, eggs, cheese and fat scraps as well as all cooked food - these can attract flies and vermin, which in turn can spread disease.

X NEVER

Cat and dog waste;
Nappies;
Ash from coal fires;
Plant material that has been treated with weed or moss killer;
Glossy mags - the inks may be toxic.

Thank you and don't forget – your Village Mode needs you!

All contributions to Susan Owenson please.