

Village Mode



Fourth edition – September 2008

A peek into life in North Middleton



Editor's Letter

A warm welcome to the latest edition of Village Mode and trust you have had an enjoyable, if not particularly warm and dry, Summer! Of course one day when the sun shone all day long was on 23 August for our immensely successful Village Fete - the first to be held at our new Village Hall. Midlothian Council did their stuff in setting up a marquee (something we thought might not be possible because of damp ground) which provided us with a venue for a fabulous children's area, the lovely Frances Smail performed the grand opening, the Pipe Band were first class, Gladys Chucklebutty put on her usual amazing show, our fabulous team of Fete volunteers pulled out all the stops and you folks out there, supported the event so well and helped make it a most enjoyable day for all.

As this was my first involvement with such an event I doubted, when forewarned by many long-time residents, that the Cake & Candy would be cleared out in a flash – they were spot on. Hope you found time (and a seat) in the Hall to sample some with a cuppa – it was particularly busy. Perhaps some of those budding Delia's out there could share their favourite recipe with us for the next pre-Christmas edition?

Wish I had room to thank everyone individually but there are so many - you know who you are – **a special big Thank You.** The many donations of everything from cake, marmalade, plants to George Young's bird tables helped boost the Village Hall bank balance to enable us to do even more for you in the future.

Of course, it is never too soon to begin preparations for next year so feel free to drop me a note of your thoughts. Hope you enjoy this edition – lots of suggestions of things to do to take us into the cooler Autumn months! Enjoy.

Susan Owenson, Editor & Secretary
42 Borthwick Castle Terrace

Email: secretary@middletonvillagehall.org.uk

FARMERS FACTS

You've heard this one before – "rain, rain, rain"! The weather is, once again, depressing our farmers. Just like us they will be attempting to clear up and plant winter crops. Farmers are struggling to take vehicles into their soggy fields because they would either get stuck or damage the ground and/or crops, or possibly both. We can definitely sympathise as I am sure many of you out there have rather soggy gardens which never seem to have had a proper chance to dry out.



LIVE MUSIC AT THE VILLAGE HALL

China Blue – Saturday 27 September

Pop music, 60s thro to present charts, Blondie, Fleetwood Mac, Beatles.

Full Metal Racket -

Saturday 18 October

A rock and metal covers band who play stuff by Deep Purple, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin.

For details and tickets – all priced £5 - contact Callum 823827

The Hall is taking part in a new venture to bring quality traditional and contemporary music to rural areas. A new music promoter has booked the Hall on 2 dates as part of series of pilot gigs –

Saturday 1 November – 7.30 pm

Tickets priced £8

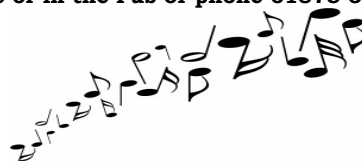
Featuring Edinburgh singer/ songwriter Kim Edgar - a rising talent in the Scottish music scene whose recently released album has received excellent reviews. She has been likened to Joni Mitchell and Suzanne Vega. Earlier this year Kim toured as support for Karine Polwart and has been recording with the band. Visit the website at www.kimedgar.com.

Friday 21 November – 7.30 pm

Tickets priced £5

Featuring band Welcome The Stranger – an established 4 piece folk band who bring range of instruments including accordion, guitar, flute, bass, Scottish small pipes and vocals. They have been playing clubs and festivals for almost 10 years with repertoire of traditional and contemporary songs/tunes. Vocalist and piper Judy Barker has recently released her first CD 'Chanter Weave'. As yet Welcome The Stranger don't have a website but you can find them on www.MySpace.com.

tickets on sale at the Post Office or in the Pub or phone 01875 613861.



Believe it or not – September is **Crafty Fingers** first birthday!



The Village Hall Association agreed at a recent meeting to make a small donation to the Crafty Fingers fund – "Happy Birthday".

When we started we weren't sure if there would be enough children interested to make it viable and we have been delighted by how much members seemed to have enjoyed it and the wonderful work the children have done. We wanted to make our **Birthday Meeting on 18 September at 6.45 pm** a special event and we have arranged for Ceramic Experience to come from Galashiels. They bring blank pottery which the children will then decorate using the wide range of glazes and tools available. The items are then fired by Ceramic Experience and will be available for collection at the following meeting. It is sure to be an enjoyable evening.

Although this is an expensive activity (£11 per head) we have club funds and money raised at the Fete so the cost per child for this meeting will be £4 per child instead of the usual £2. We will arrange an extra meeting in October/early November to let us fit in all the other things that we planned before Christmas. The children will have the choice of a bowl, plate or pencil pot and it would be valuable for them to think about this and have some ideas about colours and designs in preparation for the meeting. Parents are invited to come along at 8.30 pm to share a piece of birthday cake. **Colette Pemberton**

Middleton Village Community Hall Association meet on the first Thursday of each month – new members always welcome. For further information visit the website at www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk.

LINE DANCING

Every Wednesday 7.00-9.00 pm
£2 per adult & £1 per child per session.
Beginner class 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!
Contact Anne on 01875 821014

PILATES

Every Monday 7.00-8.00 pm.
£6 per session paid monthly in advance.
Contact Debbie on 07920 875880

MUMS & TODDLERS GROUP

Informal group on the lookout for new mums to join them for fun and chat every Thursday 12.30-2.30 pm.

CRAFTY FINGERS

One Thursday each month from 7.00-8.45 pm.
Cost £10 annual subscription and a monthly charge of £2 per meeting. This covers all materials and includes a drink and a snack.
Contact Colette 01875 823650 or Jill 01875 820882 for information about places

Believe it or not yet another birthday – October is the WRI's 87th!

BORTHWICK WRI



The Village Hall Association agreed at a recent meeting to make a small donation to the WRI Fund and wish them a Happy Birthday

We had a most successful Summer with our Bowling Team winning the Midlothian Outdoor Bowling Trophy. We also won the Chester Cup at Pathhead Flower Show. So well done all those who took part. On a lovely Saturday morning in May, a full bus left for our outing in Callendar, Crieff and Pitlochry where we enjoyed high tea after a lovely day shopping.

Unfortunately the weather was not good for our August afternoon outing. Despite that we had a lovely day at Biggar where most people spent some time in the Gladstone Museum which was full of old fashioned shops, schools etc – well worth a visit. We had a fabulous meal at Lanark at the "Inn on the Loch" – we forgot about the weather.

We hold our **87th Birthday Party in the Hall in October followed by our AGM in November.**

December sees the start of the 2008/2009 season when we are having "A Christmas Surprise" cookery demonstration by our own Anne Baxter – not to be missed.

We are always looking for new members so if you care to try the evening, why not come along the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. It only costs 50p to try a visit and see if you would enjoy the experience.

Frances Smail (tel 01875 821941)

Action 4 Dogs - Dog Training Course



The second session of dog training got under way recently and has proved very popular - so much so that it is fully booked for the 8 week term! I am now planning the next and anyone interested should contact me. The support from everyone involved is greatly appreciated and I cannot thank you all enough.

Meantime, for any aspiring dog trainers/behaviourists/dog lovers/people working with dogs who wish to gain a better insight into the very important and misunderstood aspects of canine communication, Action 4 Dogs is introducing a weekend seminar featuring Turid Rugaas, International Dog Trainer & Behaviourist to be held 25-26 October at Napier University. For further details please email or visit the website.

Max Muir

Contact - 07999 866989 or email info@action4dogs.co.uk or visit

www.action4dogs.co.uk

A memento of Borthwick Primary School

A small number of paperweights are still available. If you are interested or know of anyone who would like one these are available for a small fee of £3 each from Shirley Fairley on 01875 821639. Proceeds will go to Moorfoot PTG funds.

Middleton Village Community Hall Association AGM

The date for the next AGM was discussed at a recent meeting when it was pointed out that the reason for last year's AGM taking place in November was because the Hall was not completed. It was agreed that the date for the next AGM should be deferred more appropriately until the end of the financial year. Date to be agreed and advised nearer the time.

Councillor Surgeries

Jim Muirhead - 27 September, 25 October & 28 November

Colin Beattie – 4 October & 1 November

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday services are at 0930 in Borthwick Church every Sunday apart from the following:-

- 5 September – Communion at Borthwick Church at 0930
- 11 September – United Service at Fala Church at 1045 – no service at Borthwick
- 28 September – Harvest Thanksgiving service at Borthwick at 0930 ***see below**
- 26 October – All Age Alternative Service at Pathhead Community Hall at 1045 – as well as 0930 service at Borthwick
- 9 November – Remembrance Service at Borthwick at 0930
- 7 December – United Carol Service at Cranston at 1045 – no service at Borthwick

Borthwick Church would like to welcome everyone to our services. We hope to organise Village carol singing/torchlight parade to the Church on Christmas Eve but will issue information nearer the time.

*** Harvest money gifts to help submerged village in Northern India – Sunday 28 September – Borthwick Church at 0930**

More than 1000 villages have been submerged by the recent devastating floods in Bihar, N India, and it is feared that thousands have died. This year our Harvest Thanksgiving money gifts will be used by Christian Aid to bring relief to villagers who have suffered the loss of their homes, possessions, crops – and in some areas loved ones – in the worst monsoon floods in more than 50 years. People have been taking sanctuary in buildings, on embankments and any higher ground they can find while military boats and helicopters are struggling to rescue as many people as possible and provide safety, food, medical help and accommodation.

Middleton Senior Citizens Club

Hogmany Dance at the Village Hall

Tickets priced £10 from George on 820786 or
Eddie on 822768
Buffet meal – 7pm sharp
Band - David Sturgeon

TOOT FOR FRUIT

Many of you will be aware that our little yellow van is no longer a regular visitor to the Village on a Friday morning. We have been advised that funding for the service has been withdrawn. However, some may have noticed that MSP Rhona Brankin attended our Village Fete and voiced concerns at our loss. I wrote to her and she has since responded to say that she has written to the Council Chief Executive to ask if he can help in any way. Response awaited.

All donations are welcome

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.

BORTHWICK CASTLE

Dine by candlelight in the Great Hall followed by a tour of the Castle and learn about its history and legend.

Visit the website for details – www.borthwickcastle.com.
For bookings tel 01875 820514 or email enquiries@borthwickcastle.com.

*** PIGEON UPDATE ***

The racing season is now drawing to a close and I am sure that not only bird feathers were ruffled by weather and racing pressure over the period! However, now time for men and birds to relax and take some well-earned time off – perhaps to participate in other totally non-related activities. As was evident at the Fete, we not only have budding Delia's in our midst. I know for a fact that one particular fancier can produce a trifle that could stand head and shoulders above the best James Martin desert!
We wish them well and hope they can breed some top birds for next year.

GARDEN VISITORS - THE BIRDS IN OUR GARDEN

When we moved into the area in July last year our garden was filled with the interesting sounds of large flocks of starlings. They are one of the best mimics among British birds – in addition to other bird sounds they may copy frogs, cats, crying babies and telephones. We very much looked forward to their return, however different crops have brought with them different birds and this year it is the turn of the greenfinch. These colourful characters love crunching sunflower seeds and although very social can often be seen at the bird table squabbling among themselves and with other birds – they will often throw other seeds to the floor to get to the sunflower seeds. We have been quite amazed at their numbers and how many other exciting regular visitors have appeared in our garden – including woodpeckers and something strange, which we originally thought was a yellowhammer (known as "the Scottish canary") but which we think might be an albino greenfinch! It is the palest most beautiful lemon colour. We keep our binoculars handy at all times – you should too – you don't know what you might be missing! Wonder what we can expect at the bird table next Summer?



THE MIDDLETON INN

Last, but most definitely not least, a fond farewell to Jason, Fiona and family at the Middleton Inn which is closing on 4 October. We wish all at the Middleton Inn our very best wishes for the future.

The pub is an integral part of our Village life and it is crucial that the pub is re-sold as a pub and not for housing. We will keep you posted on developments on the website - www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to this Newsletter.

Don't forget – Village Mode needs you! All contributions to Susan Owenson please.