

# Village Mode



Fifth edition – December 2008

A peek into life in North Middleton



## Christmas Card from the Editor

*A very warm welcome to our second Christmas edition. This little Christmas sack is stuffed with baubles to delight, entertain and keep you busy in the lead-up to Christmas - ho ho ho! There is something to appeal to every age. Speaking of which, please note that you don't have to be a senior citizen to join your neighbours at this year's Hogmany Party in the Village Hall - everyone is welcome and the tickets are selling fast - see below for details.*

*Remember too that all are welcome at the Village Hall Committee meetings held on the first Thursday of each month. Check out the website for info on what is happening at your Village Hall - [www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk](http://www.middletonvillagehall.org.uk).*

*Whatever you do, have a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year and I look forward to speaking with you in 2009.*

Susan Owenson, Editor & Secretary

42 Borthwick Castle Terrace - Email: [secretary@middletonvillagehall.org.uk](mailto:secretary@middletonvillagehall.org.uk)

## **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

If you don't already have the date on your calendar – this year's Children's Christmas Party is taking place at the Village Hall on 20 December from 3 pm until 6 pm.

Fun and entertainment will be in abundance provided by the wonderful Gladys Chucklebutty.

Snacks and goodies will be provided. Tickets are priced £2 and available from Anne Russell at the Post Office.

## **BORTHWICK WRI**

In October we held our 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party in the Hall and enjoyed a lovely buffet provided by the Committee followed by a wonderful entertainment by the Melville Music Hall Company. Our birthday cake depicted "The Calendar Girls". It was topped by 4 ladies holding meringues etc in strategic places! It was a true work of art made by Sylvia Symons.

The following evening we visited the Kings Theatre to see "The Calendar Girls" on stage. It was a very happy evening and we were sore laughing.

Our December meeting takes place on Tuesday 9 December at 7 pm when our own Anne Baxter is cooking up a Christmas Surprise. Why not come along? Entry is only 50p and you are assured of a warm welcome.

Meantime, here are a couple of our festive ideas for you to try out –

### Leftover Turkey Surprise

Cook ½lb rice, drain well, add 1 tbspn mayonnaise, Worcester sauce and chopped parsley, 1 grated carrot, 4oz raisins, 4oz crushed pineapple and roughly 1lb cooked diced turkey. Reheat for a few minutes. Can also be served cold.

### Christmas Jigsaw Decorations

Got a jigsaw with pieces missing? Build a triangle with some pieces. Paint green and add sequins or stickers. Make a hole at the top and thread through glittery string – a great game for the kids.

Finally, some points to ponder –

1. Your knees buckle but your belt won't.
2. Your back goes out more than you do.

**Have a very Merry Christmas**

**Frances Smail**

## **Middleton Senior Citizens Club Hogmany Dance at the Village Hall – ALL WELCOME**

A few tickets still available - priced £10  
from George on 820786 or Eddie on 822768

Buffet meal – 7pm sharp

Band - David Sturgeon



## **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Order this year's Christmas Tree from the Bethany Trust Charity and help someone less fortunate than you to enjoy a better Christmas.

If you buy a Caring Christmas Tree the Trust 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.

Visit the website at [www.caringchristmastree.com](http://www.caringchristmastree.com) or call 0845 111 **TREE** (8733)



## **BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL**

An extra big thank you to all who contributed to this year's overwhelming response of 60 boxes from Borthwick Parish.

To find out how much joy these boxes bring to those who receive them and how you can assist throughout the year visit the website at

[www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org)

The Heriot Players

present their adaptation of

## Dick Whittington

4, 5 & 6 December 2008 in the Macfie Hall, Heriot at 7.30 pm



Tickets: Adult £4.50 / Child/OAP £3.00  
FROM FRANTIC AND HERIOT POST OFFICE

## NEWS FROM MOORFOOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 25 November P1-7 are going to the Royal Lyceum Theatre to see 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' - the Parent Teachers Group is helping out with half the ticket and transport prices and ... breaking news ... Also paying for ice cream!

Tuesday 16 December - The Nursery children are going to the Edinburgh Playhouse to see a production of 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'.

For both of these trips the Parent Teachers Group (PTG) is helping out with half the ticket and transport prices and ... breaking news ... Also paying for ice cream!

Monday 15 December - Moorfoot PS presents "Cinderella" and no doubt some community singing and an opportunity to buy tickets for the PTG. Grand prize draw will also take place.

For more information contact Anne Edwards on 822989. For PTG contact Coline Hyslop on 0131 208 3051/0779 298 3589



### **BREAKING NEWS ! THE NORTH MIDDLETON YOUTH CLUB**

The open evening to consider re-establishing the youth club took place on Thursday 27 November. A small number of young people and some willing adult volunteers turned out on a rather cold evening to share their thoughts and ideas about the future of the club. Lots of ideas came forth about possible activities and fundraising.

It was agreed that the young people present would form a youth committee and begin the process of recruiting members, and taking forward their ideas so that the youth club could re-open its doors early in 2009.

Watch this space for further details after Christmas... Gillian Lithgow

### **THE VILLAGE HALL**

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



**Looking for somewhere to celebrate that special occasion or a fund-raiser ?** 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 check out availability at a glance. To place 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. Check out the website where you will find up to date news and details of forthcoming events taking place at the Hall.

### **CRAFTY FINGERS**

Crafty Fingers enters its second year with 20 children as members, which is the maximum number for the club. The first year gave the children the chance to try out a wide range of crafts including jewellery making, silk dying, friendly plastic, pottery painting, origami and bead work. Email Colette Pemberton [c.pemberton@napier.ac.uk](mailto:c.pemberton@napier.ac.uk) if you would like your child to be placed on the waiting list.

Classes held 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.  
**2009 classes commence 15 January**

### **Action 4 Dogs - Dog Training Course**



Action 4 Dogs are proud to report that the seminar held in October at Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus was a great success and attracted 120 participants flocking from all over the country. Turid Rugaas, world renowned dog trainer and behaviourist gave a sterling and motivating performance over the course of two days, advising owners and trainers on the emotions of dogs, Calming Signals which dogs use to communicate with other dogs and humans, stress in dogs and some handling skills. She concluded her visit by dining in the Great Hall at Borthwick Castle and looks forward to returning again.

The new training school is currently under way and is again fully booked. Owners and dogs are enjoying learning through kind and motivational methods aimed at creating a greater bond together. Classes are kept small with a maximum of 11 dogs and the current school has a great variety of sizes and breeds including 5 puppies, Labradors, Collies, a Dalmation and an Akita. The starting date for the next school is Friday 23 January and booking forms can be obtained by contacting Max Muir mob 07999 866 989 or [info@action4dogs.co.uk](mailto:info@action4dogs.co.uk).

### **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

Colin Beattie - first Saturday each month / Jim Muirhead - fourth Saturday each month - Check website for details

**Following liquidation of Kenmore Homes the play park area is now the responsibility of the Council.**

**If you can, please attend the next Councillor Surgery in the Hall. The more people complain the better chance of them resolving the mess.**

### **PILATES**

Every Monday - 7.00-8.00 pm  
£6 per session paid monthly in advance.

Contact Debbie on 07827 918912

**First 2009 class Monday 5 January**

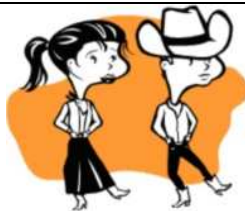
### **MUMS & TODDLERS GROUP**

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

### **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.

**All donations welcome**



### **LINE DANCING**

**Want to meet the neighbours, learn to dance and get fit? Why not try Line Dancing. Anyone is welcome from age 8 upwards and no worries if you haven't tried it before – the first half hour is for beginners but you can stay for the full 2 hours.**

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**

### **Crystal Flame Events**

formerly of Middleton Inn (Fiona, Louise and Jill) have their very first event at Lasswade Rugby Club on Saturday 27 December.

If you would like an inexpensive post Xmas/pre-New Year night out with some of your neighbours tickets are priced only £6 out. If there is enough interest from the Village then the girls will organise transport to and from the event (but need definite numbers for this).

Tickets are selling fast so don't leave it too late.

Contact either via email [crystalflameevents@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:crystalflameevents@hotmail.co.uk) or contact 07948557011 (phone or text).

### **Save your Bottle Tops**

Help raise funds for a wheelchair by donating your plastic bottle tops.

Contact Jackie on 01875 820260.



### **FARMER FACTS**

*by Fiona Ross*

Following on from a horribly wet harvest period over the months of August, September and October this reporter is now recovering from the floods!

Autumn is usually the busiest time of the year for most farmers, and I have to say that 2008 is probably the more stressful that many have had for 2 decades, especially grain farmers.

The continual rain over the summer saturated the ground so much that it meant that tractors and trailers, and most especially combines, were unable to access many fields/parts of fields to harvest grain. If they had attempted to do so, they would either have got stuck or made such a mess of the ground that it would take a long time for the ground to recover.

Harvesting the grain has been a long drawn out process with farmers grabbing every opportunity they could to get the grain harvested. The problem was that every time there was a dry day, there had been a wet one the day/night before and the grain itself was very wet.

Eventually farmers went ahead and had to cut the grain at a much wetter level than normal. Usually grain is harvested at between 15-20% moisture, or less if the weather has been really kind. This year a lot of the grain was harvested at up to 30% moisture levels.

This in turn created even more problems – the grain needs to be dried down to the lower levels which are required by grain merchants and of course this costs a lot of money in fuel bills, especially this year when the fuel/electricity prices have risen so much. Farmers who have large volumes of grain usually pile it up in their sheds until it can be put through their drying system. This year the piles of grain were 'heating' because of the higher moisture levels and this can lead to sprouting and therefore decreases the value of the grain.

I hope to cover livestock issues in the next report. Briefly for now, autumn sees lots of calves weaned from their mothers and sold as 'stores' to farmers who specialise in keeping calves for a further period until they are then sold for breeding purposes or as meat for your freezers.

### **THE BIRDS IN OUR GARDEN**



The Fieldfare

The bird life around us never fails to surprise and delight me. The latest is a Scandinavian winter visitor named the Fieldfare who arrived here in October/early November. It has the appearance of a large Thrush and is specially protected as it is such a rare breeding bird in Britain. I did notice there were a great many of them and was amazed to find out that they stay with us until Spring (March-May) during which time there can be up to 750,000 birds!

They eat worms, snails, insects and fruit so it is very important that we don't cut back our berry bushes!

On the subject of our feathered friends – I thought you may like to read a story sent in about an interesting radio programme called Beardyman and the Mimics –

"It was about a man visiting the Hebrides trying to record the sound of corncrakes, which he did, only to find it was actually a starling making the sound. This bird had a large repertoire of sounds of various birds that it could mimic. The most interesting sound it could mimic was that of a water pump engine.

The man played the recording for the listeners – it began with the sound of the engine being cranked to start it then after a shaky start the sound of the engine running smoothly. The recordist had never heard anything like it before or since. EM"

*Susan Owenson*

*Many thanks to all who have contributed to this Newsletter. Your ideas for future editions are always welcome.*



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

