



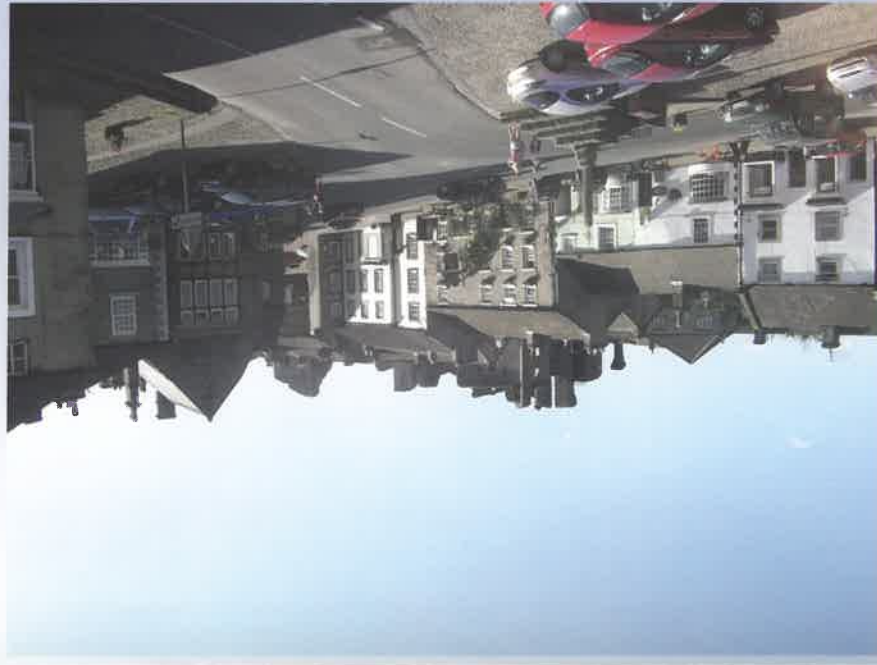
St Mary & St Alkelda's Church

The earliest plans for this church date from 1280, John Neville, Lord of Middleham, enlarged the church in 1340 and in 1388 Richard II granted a licence for an annual fair on the Feast of St Alkelda, dedications to St Alkelda are rare. A Christian Saxon Princess, she was murdered in 800AD by pagan women and her martyrdom is depicted in one of the stained glass windows.

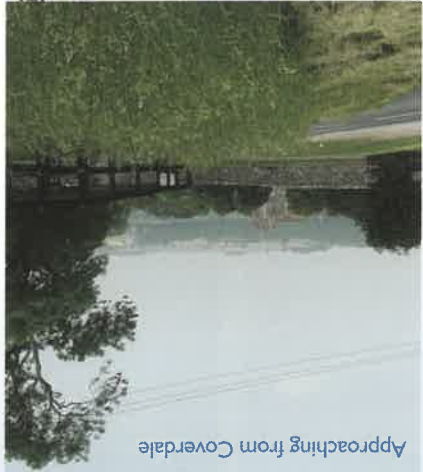


Market Place

The Market Place today is surrounded by predominantly Georgian buildings, but of course its origins are much earlier. One can still see evidence of the much earlier settlement if you look closely as many of the houses today are built incorporating these earlier dwellings. You will also note that a number of the houses are of high status reflecting the wealth and importance of the Georgian Town. It was also the site of annual fairs and markets, the cross a sign of "honest dealing"



Market Place



Approaching from Coverdale

Walking

Middleham is a popular centre for walking and exploring the Dales all the year round. Which ever direction you choose there are walks of varying levels of length and challenge that access hills, moors, woods, rivers and streams



The Busks

As you leave the settlement on the Leyburn Rd, you pass through the Busks. Now a beautiful avenue of venerable Small Leaf Limes this was once an area used as a village green for the grazing of livestock belonging to local residents. You now approach Middleham Bridge. This bridge was built by public subscription in 1830 to replace the old wooden structure which had so often collapsed under the weight of crossing livestock. Originally designed as a suspension bridge, note the tower construction, it sadly also collapsed when subjected to weight and had to be reconfigured into the bridge we see today.



The Busks



A Ginnel

Swine Cross

This was the site of the regular livestock markets and the ring for tethering bulls can still be seen. The Jubilee Fountain is now the focal point of the area. Erected to commemorate the jubilee of Queen Victoria, it is no longer used as a fountain due to its waters showing as passers-by even in the lightest breeze. Opposite are the ancient remains of a carving of a White Boar, the insignia of Richard III.



Swine Cross

Rubbing Houses

Historically race horse training was very different and the Rubbing Houses were used for a method known as the Yorkshire Sweats. During training horses were wrapped in blankets and galloped over long distances before returning to the Rubbing Houses to have the sweat scraped off. They were also used during race meetings as horses did not run in just one race but in a series of heats and between these heats the Rubbing Houses were in constant use. The Rubbing Houses were funded and built by the trainers from Ashgill, Breconhill, Tugill and Spigot Lodge in the eighteen hundreds but were actually in use for a very short period of time as the practice of sweating horses went out of fashion.



From the Rubbing Houses



Racehorses on the Low Moor

Middleham has a long and proud association with the training of thoroughbred racehorses. Now recognised as the premier racehorse training centre in the North of England its links are said, historically, to have started with the horses bred by the monks of Jervaux Abbey. There was a racecourse on Middleham High Moor where frequent meetings were held, the horses were raced in a series of heats and a good deal of money changed hands. There are now approximately 600 horses in training in and around Middleham, they are an amazing sight as daily they make their way through the town to the training gallops on the Low Moor. These thoroughbred animals are beautiful but highly strung and should be admired from a safe distance.



Racehorses heading for the Moor



The Middleham Jewel

The Middleham Jewel is considered one of the finest pieces of Medieval jewellery found in this country. It was discovered in 1985, by Mr E Seaton whilst out with his metal detector, submerged in mud, at a gateway close to Middleham Castle. It dates from the 15th century, the time of Richard II, and would have



The Middleham Jewel

belonged to a person of extremely high rank & status. It is a diamond shaped reliquary, exquisitely wrought of finely enamelled gold, set with a large blue cabochon sapphire and beautifully engraved. It was worn as an amulet against the falling sickness (epilepsy) and depicts the Trinity. Sold at auction, in London, for the sum of £1.3 million it now resides in the York Museum amongst the collection of Medieval artefacts. A copy, one of 5 made, and gifted to Middleham Town Council is on permanent display at Middleham Castle. Another copy is kept at the medieval Church of St Mary and St Alkelda in Middleham.

Always an article of huge significance and value its loss must have been devastating to its owner, however its discovery, all those years later, gives us an incredible insight into the enormous degree of skill and sophistication of the medieval craftsmen who created it.

Middleham in Winter



Websites

www.middlehamonline.com

Middleham Trainers Association
www.middlehamtrainers.com

English Heritage
www.english-heritage.org.uk

Middleham Key Centre
www.middlehamkeycentre.co.uk

Middleham Stables Open Day
www.middlehamstablesopenevent.co.uk



MIDDLEHAM

Middleham is situated at the very beginning of beautiful Coverdale and on the edge of Wensleydale. Approaching from Masham you can easily see the confluence of the River Cover & the River Ure. The best view can be enjoyed from Ullshaw Bridge. These rivers define the two dales.

The settlement is surrounded by stunning landscapes and built on a hill gives breathtaking vistas in every direction. It is easy to understand the importance of the setting to the builders of the castle, with its outstanding visibility making it easier to defend, and protected by two rivers.

The whole of the original settlement of Middleham, with its high percentage of listed buildings is now a protected conservation area. This extends from Witton and from the Moor thus ensuring that its architectural and historical heritage is preserved for coming generations.



From the Market Cross

Hospitality

Middleham is well served with a satisfying array of pubs and eateries as well as a variety of different styles of accommodation from small hotels and B&B's to self catering properties.



Richard III in Middleham Castle

castle, is still brimming with atmosphere and the view from the top of the tower is spectacular.

The Castle

The first castle at Middleham was a motte-and-bailey castle, probably established by Alan, Lord of Richmond in the eleventh century; its earthworks survive on the high ground, known as Williams Hill, to the south west of the present castle.

The old site was abandoned in the twelfth century when the existing castle was built. The principle building on the new site was a massive stone keep which is still the dominant feature of the castle. The surrounding ranges were added later, providing new accommodation of a standard that was palatial for that time.

In the fifteenth century Middleham Castle was the home of several of the greatest lords of the day and was the childhood home and favourite residence of King Richard III. After that time, when it fell into disrepair, the castle was robbed of stone which was incorporated in many Middleham houses. This lovely



The Castle Keep Tearoom

