



Middleham Herald

Second Coronavirus Edition, 8th April 2020

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From the Mayor

Following the wettest February on record and extensive flooding we now face a deadly virus and all the challenges that brings to everyday life in our community.

We have been heartened by offers of help from many residents to assist any who need support at this very difficult time, many thanks to all who have offered. Many residents have expressed concerns about second homes being used in the crisis. We are exploring all avenues to persuade visitors to stay at home until the lockdown is lifted and the police are supporting the measures throughout the county.

Community events are obviously cancelled until further notice, hopefully to be rescheduled later in the year.

Please make sure you carry out the restrictions set out by the government to help us all keep safe and well.

Councillor Sue Fairhurst, Mayor

Volunteering in Middleham

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who has got in touch and offered to help other residents with shopping, collecting prescriptions, telephone chats etc. We have had several requests for support and have allocated a nearby volunteer to each one. We expect there will be more help needed as things progress, so please do not think we have forgotten you if you haven't yet heard back from us. We are also linked into the Community Hubs and the larger councils who will also refer requests for help to us. These systems are joining up now. If you feel you now need some practical help, or just a chat on the phone, please do not be afraid to ask – there are friendly people within Middleham whom we know, who are waiting to step up to help.

Tel me on 01969 625304 or 07849 918215 or Cllr Nigel Hopper on 07594 814524.

Other contact numbers are further on in this edition so please keep it for reference.

Thanks again to everyone

Councillor Honor Byford, Deputy Mayor

**News from Middleham and Spennithorne
Schools**

Middleham and Spennithorne Schools

Our federation of schools has been busy since the start of the school year, which seems like an eternity ago and on writing this for you, another world away. Currently, both schools are temporarily closed as we are working in partnership with Leyburn Primary to create a hub school for those who need childcare during this time, with the aim of reopening both schools as soon as the government says we can.

We further strengthened our federation with Spennithorne by having our 3 classes across 2 sites, transporting children between the two. In January, we were lucky enough to find a driver for our bus, Rev Jeff. My bus theory test was sadly put on hold due to the current pandemic we find ourselves in the midst of but it will happen.

As part of our long-term planning, we have been getting out and about to make our learning come alive. We have travelled to York to learn about Vikings, Newcastle to learn about space and Darlington to learn about steam trains. We have also had some great visitors into school to enhance our learning experiences, including a past Spennithorne parent to talk about bees and show a real live hive. During school closure, we were even joined by an old primary school friend of mine who is touring Africa.

She joined our Foxes class on a live video call all the way from Uganda.

We have invested in new library resources through funding from donations from the Elizabeth Barnett Trust and Co-op. These have included copies of the texts we focus on during each half term and boxes of recommended reads for every year group. These are the best books that every child should read and enjoy at a particular age. We are also purchasing books promoting positive mental health from a County Council funding stream.

Sport has always been a strength of our schools and we have attended many different sporting events, including a county football final for the second year in a row, playing against schools much larger than ours. We try to offer a variety of sports to our children and this year we were bringing back maypole dancing. Never ones to be beaten, Middleham and Spennithorne might see the introduction of September-pole dancing.

At the moment, we don't know about the summer term. Hopefully, with us all staying indoors, we can stay safe, protect the NHS, flatten the curve and get our schools open. But until then, please look after yourselves and I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Mrs L Evans, Executive Head Teacher.

From the Rectory

Reflection on Psalm 91

When I was exploring a vocation to ordained ministry, the Director of Ordinands asked me, 'Who is God to you?' My first thought seemed a bit frivolous, yet he insisted that I shared it. I said, 'It's the mother hen in the Tom & Jerry cartoons!' Jerry would get the protection of a mother hen. This is what I mean:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp8AndJ9zVY>

Or the first 3 minutes of

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqfQmu1leGk>

Go on, watch them, you're in isolation, you've nowt else to do!

As I'm here now the Director must have liked my answer! Psalm 91 is a wonderful poem which reflects God's protection. In these anxious times we need not fear when we place our lives into his tender care. We like symbols of strength and power like fortresses or in modern times, the Shard and the like in the City. But these things crumble. God is our fortress. The psalm includes references to war and pestilence, very relevant to COVID-19.

Yet the psalm doesn't say that we will be free from adversity. 'He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.' We will experience these trials,

being caught in the trap and having the pestilence but God will give us what we need to overcome them.

The psalm also raises questions. You might read it and think, 'I know someone who has died from COVID-19, or whatever it might be. God didn't deliver them. Verse 7 reminds me of 'survivor's syndrome' where a soldier experiences guilt at soldiers next to them having been killed and they survived. What do we do with these questions?

In addition to the immediate horizon to which the psalm clearly refers we need to maintain an eternal perspective. For those we know who weren't spared, it doesn't mean that God has abandoned them. His protection of them goes beyond this life and into our eternal life. Sometimes we leave the fowler's snare going forward through the door which exits this life. We're protected in an eternal way. As St. Paul put it 'I am convinced that neither death, nor life, ...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Amen.

Prayer: Keep us good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy and, as you have bound yourself to us in love, do not leave us who call upon your name, but grant us your salvation, made known in the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev'd Jeff Payne

Church Information:**Weddings and funerals:**

Weddings are currently not permitted.

Funerals – the following information is subject to change:

Funerals can take place either at the graveside for a burial, or at the crematorium.

Immediate family only are permitted to attend (spouse/ partner; parents; children; siblings) Funeral directors have current information.

Open Pantry mini food bank

The Church runs a “mini food bank” here in Middleham. If you or someone you know is struggling to afford food, please contact the rectors in complete confidence and they can help with some food supplies.

Rectory: 01969 326069 or **Liz**, 07796988302
Jeff, 07443581463

Bird notes from Richard Wells: April 2020

Thank you to those who responded to my last “notes” by telling me about the barn owls you have been seeing. Ruth Neal reported one near Gammersgill; Caroline Harrison one resident in her barn at West Srafton; Natasha Johnston watched one being harried by a kestrel while walking her dog near Arkleside and then to cap it all I saw my first in our parishes this year near Braithwaite Lane.

That all these were seen in daylight hours tells the story of largely nocturnal birds having to resort to daytime hunting to keep body and soul together because the weather has been so wet.

Sheila Walker and Lawrie Bent at Carlton have put us all to shame by reporting lots of birds in their respective gardens, including siskin and brambling and even a reed bunting.

Over the last few years – at least seven I think – some of you have reported seeing mandarin duck on the Ure or Cover at this time of year. These are small tree-nesting ducks native to China which have colonised parts of the UK after escaping from wildfowl collections. Well a pair are back again. Keep a look out. The male has a reddish head and upturned tail and extravagant punkish white eyeliner.

Interestingly, though they have been spring visitors for so long there has never been any proof of successful breeding.

Finally, though your foreign travel is restricted due to the coronavirus virus remember our summer bird visitors are not subject to the same draconian measures. Watch out for warblers, redstarts and our beloved swallows in April.

Your sightings are always welcome at rmwellsew@btinternet.com

The Community Garden

After discussion with Council it was decided that work could continue in the garden providing that we kept within the Covid 19 protocol, i.e. maintaining social distancing and not sharing gardening equipment.

March was a critical time for the garden.

With the arrival of the new potting shed we were able to attend to the banking behind it and to start planting a hedgerow that will provide nature with a wildlife corridor as well as securing the bank itself.

We were given some more plants and so we have extended the planting on the south facing bank. Keeping on top of the weeds is a daily routine, the brambles are welcome, provided they stay on the top of the bank.

It has been really rewarding to get positive feedback about the garden from folk as they walk by on their daily exercise or dog walk.

Seeing the colour return to the garden after the wettest winter in years is one of those simple life affirming pleasures. Once restrictions are lifted, we hope to see people return to attend to their raised beds and hopefully more residents will want to make contact and join us to maintain and develop this much needed community space.

I shall be continuing my project to record the garden through the seasons. The Spring edition of the 'Castle Garden' will be out in

May. **Amanda Langdown**

A Facebook page for Middleham!

Jimmy Roper has set up a community page on Facebook for us all, called Middleham Residents – it does what it says on the tin and is proving a really good way to keep up with what's going on, ask questions, find information, have a chat or a joke and ask for help. If you are on Facebook, do have a look and join in. If you would like to join, I suggest you first look at this website to find out how to join an online group safely.

www.boldnewworld.co.uk/get-connected/

A big thankyou to Jimmy for setting the group up, it's a big success.

MSCWA – Middleham Sports and Wellbeing Association

The cancellation or postponement of so many games has led to newspaper articles about the wider issues of sports and pastimes which have been fascinating and led me to a time for reflection. I have been reading the Rt Rev David Sheppard's biography 'Batting for the poor' which is a great insight to him as Anglican Bishop of Liverpool (and Woolwich) following his cricket career as Captain of England, Sussex and Cambridge University. He was considered a good leader and working together with Catholic Archbishop Derek Worlock they made a good team working to benefit everyone.

Reading the papers/watching news briefings/Online messages/social media have been most helpful including the Middleham Residents'/MSCWA Facebook sites. Our main contacts are:

Community Garden-contact Nigel or

Amanda 07594814524

Messy boots-Kathy Wheeler 07866132787

Cricket-Richard Sanderson or me 01969 625365

5 a side football/Senior

Football/Rounders/Golf-Nigel or me.

The AGM of the MSCWA was held before Christmas and the re-elected Management Committee is:

John Kirkbride- Chairman

Simon Wheeler - Vice

chairman/Maintenance

Richard Fletcher - Secretary

Rebecca Fortune -Treasurer

Nigel Hopper-Grounds teams

Richard Sanderson-Child Protection Officer

Gail Burton-Pye - Volunteer Co-ordinator

Kathy Wheeler -Fundraising officer

Once things get back to normal, we would really appreciate some help on match and event days, please, especially with the cricket afternoon teas. The food is currently provided by Ken and Sharon from the Richard 111 Hotel but we do need some help with preparing and serving, if anyone is good at that, please get in touch.

Richard Fletcher, Secretary MSCWA

01969 625365

rgfmsarden@btopenworld.com

Text-07743018274

Middleham Cricket Club

Cricket is in low season, and all cricket has ceased until May 28th at the earliest. At this time of year cricketers start to mow the growing grass/roll the wickets, so that a good flat surface develops ready for a start at the end of April. The wet winter weather had already delayed any preparation, so when we can get back to it, much help will be needed to get the cricket square (that is the green bit in the centre that is sometimes roped off) ready for possible action in June. One item which has been postponed till next year is the **World Golden Oldies Cricket Week**. Based in Harrogate it has matches due to be played at venues throughout surrounding areas, including Middleham. The launch will be a parade through Masham with participating teams (like the Olympic games!). Participants will come from West Indies, India, Australia, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka. Middleham has been chosen to host 3 games on the Monday Wednesday and Friday! They will be between teams from participants countries, not necessarily from Middleham. The week runs from 6th-13th June 2021 with our

games on the 7th, 9th and 11th June. Further detail will be given when available.

Last season updates

Our First team were promoted back to Division 3 of the Nidderdale League. Ollie Mullard will again Captain the side in 2020. The second team with some good youngsters being 'blooded' last year are looking for new players.

A 'proper' cricket club usually has a flagpole and flag. Nigel and I are liaising to ensure we have one by the Golden Oldies visits next year. Any ideas to me please.

Reminders

More volunteers are needed to support Richard Sanderson to maintain and cut surrounds and outfield. This is being done diligently by Alan each week. The wicket was expertly renovated by the Harrogate county groundsman and the grass growing better now relatively undisturbed within the roped off area, thank you dog walkers for keeping your dogs off this area, much appreciated. The pavilion improvements and dual use with the community should help with improving the cricket facilities as well as other sports facilities.

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THE TEAMS and see the pavilion improvements.

Sponsorship

Match day (£50) and ball (£30) sponsors are needed-please contact Richard Fletcher or

Richard Sanderson. Sponsors names will be acknowledged and publicly displayed.

Many thanks for those donations already made.

Contacts Richard Sanderson 07984356883 or Richard Fletcher 07743018274..

Messy Boots

It has now been a year since we started Messy Boots playgroup as part of our MSCWA service to the community. We have had a huge amount of local support with children embracing the ethos behind the sessions, venturing out in all weathers and getting hands dirty while learning important life skills. There have been lots of fun activities with bug hunts, chalk drawing and stream splashing as some of the most popular. It has also been a great opportunity to entice new families to the facility with parents now traveling from as far away as Darlington and Northallerton. Messy Boots is run by MSCWA volunteers and all the proceeds from the sessions go towards pavilion improvements and kitchen equipment, along with purchasing picnic tables and the football goal on Park Lane green. The trees we planted in the Messy Boots woodland are settling in nicely and we cannot wait to see the different leaves sprouting out. Very much looking forward to seeing everyone again as soon as we can get going again.

Offers of help and services from local businesses:

Central Stores, Middleham

For those isolating or housebound, will take orders and deliver locally, free of charge, groceries and other goods. Tel 01969 623224
You may get the answerphone, leave your name and tel number and they will get back to you.

Campbells of Leyburn are very sorry that they have had to stop doing deliveries as they simply couldn't keep the store stocked, customers served AND sort orders and make deliveries.

Andersons Takeaway, Middleham

Good quality home cooked meals delivered free of charge. Pizzas, kebabs, burgers and more traditional meals e.g. shepherd's pie. Sunday lunch service, pre-book for Sundays please. You can pre-pay for friends and family. Tel 01969 629290

Fairhursts at Berry's

Are offering a main meals delivery service bringing traditional pre-cooked meals to your door. Special diets (gluten free etc) can be catered for. Other groceries can be added to your order from Berry's Farm Shop. Tel 01969 624668

Wensleydale Hotel

Take away menu, home baked bread (Thurs & Sat only) and vegetable boxes. All to pre-

order the day before by phone and collect on Thurs – Sun.

Menu on Facebook and website and can be delivered on request for those self-isolating.

Tel 01969 622093

Yorkshire Dales Meat

Delivering meat, eggs and milk
01748 810042

Leyburn Pets

Delivering pet food and supplies
01969 622953, or mail@leyburnpets.co.uk

Car Servicing, Repairs and MoTs are still available from

R&S Motors, Middleham Road, Leyburn
Tel 01969 624681

and

Middleham Motors, Leyburn Road,
Middleham, tel 01969 623283

Ravensworth Nurseries

Delivering plants and gardening supplies
01325 718370

Braithwaites Nurseries, Leeming Bar

Delivering plants and gardening supplies
01677 422861

House & Home

Home fuel, gardening supplies, outdoor maintenance
01969 625471

Sanderson's Decorating

Delivering decorating supplies
01969 623143

Some other local shops and businesses are also offering deliveries, so it's always worth ringing and asking.

Internet and computers

Whilst you are at home, if you would like to make more use of your computer or mobile phone to keep in touch with family and find friends, interesting sites etc but aren't sure how to do this safely, there are people around who can help. One useful website recommended by Charlotte Strickland that takes you through things step by step is: www.boldnewworld.co.uk/get-connected/

If you are having difficulty with your laptop or pc, contact Ed Davies at ed@builtbyed.co.uk or via Facebook or Instagram.

Who to contact for help or if you are worried for yourself or someone else:

The Town Clerk, David Keep, is working from home, contact him by e-mail:

office@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk

Councillor Honor Byford, 01969 625304 or 07849918215. shbyford@yahoo.co.uk

Councillor Nigel Hopper, 07594814524, hoppn@gmail.com

St Marys & St Alkelda's Church,

Reverends Liz Moody and Jeff Payne

01969 326069 or Liz, 07796988302

Jeff, 07443581463

Racing Welfare

Gail Burton-Pye, 07788184140, gburtonpye@racingwelfare.co.uk

The Middleham Key Centre can also be contacted if you have any general queries or concerns in the coming weeks. You can email us on office@middlehamkey.co.uk or ring our number 01969 624002 and leave a message. Alternatively, you can ring Pam on 07772 736006 or Lesley on 01969 622615. All messages will be checked within 24 hours even though the office is closed.

And just for something to do, from Kathy Wheeler:

Middleham Word Search

L	P	I	N	K	E	R	S	P	O	N	D	O	R
S	S	B	R	D	S	P	O	L	L	A	G	O	I
I	S	A	T	N	U	I	O	M	O	O	R	N	R
N	E	O	I	E	L	T	S	A	C	R	D	E	E
I	S	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	I	I	I	C	R
A	R	C	O	V	E	R	F	A	R	V	E	R	U
T	O	R	S	B	W	E	Z	I	E	P	S	K	E
N	H	T	S	S	D	I	G	I	R	E	S	C	P
U	B	F	L	I	N	E	N	D	U	E	O	E	C
O	R	R	I	C	J	J	D	E	I	S	R	U	L
F	D	R	O	Z	E	I	N	U	O	R	C	S	N
R	S	U	L	W	I	S	W	R	R	L	B	N	U
T	R	A	E	I	C	I	O	R	N	O	I	H	J
T	E	L	N	E	L	B	T	I	E	C	E	R	N

MOOR
FOUNTAIN
BRIDGE
URE
COVER
AZINCOURT
TOWN
CASTLE
PINKERS POND
HORSES
GALLOPS
RICHARD III
CROSS
JEWEL

And Finally, Twenty Yorkshire Questions

1. Which is the largest city in Yorkshire?
2. To which Saint is York Minster dedicated?
3. Which THREE British Prime Ministers were born in Yorkshire?
4. In which Yorkshire city would you find the Ferens Art Gallery?
5. Which TWO National Parks lie largely in Yorkshire?
6. What flower is the symbol of Yorkshire?
7. Which Yorkshire racecourse is the largest circular flat course in Europe?
8. Which National Museum was established in York in 1975?
9. Which inn in North Yorkshire is said to be Britain's Highest Public House?
10. What did Harry Brearley invent in a Sheffield laboratory in 1913?
11. In which Yorkshire town was the original Harry Ramsden's fish and chip shop located?
12. Although they are always associated with Haworth, in which Yorkshire village were the Bronte sisters born?
13. Which Yorkshire village was home to the World's longest running TV Sit-Com?
14. What was the Roman name for York?
15. In which Yorkshire town was slavery abolitionist William Wilberforce born?
16. Yorkshire was originally split into three "Ridings", from which language does this come?
17. What is the traditional nickname for a Yorkshireman?
18. Home to Britain's first IMAX cinema, which Yorkshire city houses the National Media Museum?
19. At which Yorkshire location was the first lighthouse in Britain built in 1427?
20. In which Yorkshire town was Rugby League formed in 1895?

Answers – cover these before you start, no cheating!!

1. Leeds. 2. Saint Peter. 3. Harold Wilson, Herbert Henry Asquith and Charles Watson-Wentworth. 4. Kingston-Upon-Hull. 5. Yorkshire Dales and The North York Moors. 6. The White Rose. 7. Pontefract. 8. The National Railway Museum. 9. The Tan Hill Inn. 10. Stainless Steel. 11. Guisley. 12. Thornton near Bradford. 13. Holmfirth (*Last of the Summer's Wine*). 14. Eboracum. 15. Hull. 16. Norse (*It means a third*). 17. A Tyke. 18. Bradford. 19. Spurn Point. 20. Huddersfield.