



The Middleham Herald

Easter Edition 5th April 2022

Message from the Mayor

As 2022 marks The Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, Middleham Town Council are planning a weekend of festivities which we hope everyone will join in and have a great time. The celebrations start on **Thursday June 2nd** when we will be lighting a beacon on the tower of Middleham Castle

Friday 3rd is picnic in the park day on

Middleham playing fields, with a big slide, games, bouncy castle, and a hog roast.

Saturday 4th street party in the market square,

bring your own food and a deck chair, tables will be provided and disco for the children.

Sunday 5th

Open Air Church Service in the Castle 12.00

Followed by a Coronation Lunch in Middleham Key Centre with a glass of fizz on arrival. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first serve basis and will be available from the middle of May in Middleham Key Centre.

Look out for more news nearer the time on the town council's website. We will be looking for volunteers to help us with specific tasks – if you would like to help, please let me know.

My granddaughters and many other children have been enjoying the new Castle Climbing

Frame in the play park! A big thank you to Kathy Wheeler, Cllr Greg Fortune and others who worked hard to raise the money to make this happen. There will be an Official Opening soon. Sadly, we are saying goodbye this month to Mike and Lesley Sweeting, who have served this community as trustees of Middleham Key Centre for 10 years. I'm sure that everyone would like to thank them for their hard work and wish them a long and happy retirement.

Sue Fairhurst

Volunteering

As life has returned to something more recognisable, we still have vulnerable members of our community for whom life is still more hazardous. Whilst our network of volunteers has diminished as fewer people need their help, we are still providing assistance, mainly in the form of lifts to doctors and hospital appointments, where family and friends are unable to fill that gap. We will continue to do this for as long as we are able.

Honor Byford

A Message from Cllr Lorna Skelton

I'd once again like to thank everyone for the participation in the litter pick! The sun even

shone for us and Middleham is once again looking splendid,
Sadly, we still have the ongoing issue of dog fouling which is a big bug bear of mine!
Bins are provided and we now even provide bags for if you get caught short so to speak, but I do think people are just taking them instead of buying their own which isn't what they are for!
Please pick up after your dog!
It's lovely to see the sunshine and all the lovely daffs, crocus and tulips coming out and to hear children playing out with the light nights.
It gives us hope that spring is well on truly here!
But as I write this, we've had a week of snow and cold!!! Typical British weather!!

Regards Lorna

From Middleham Key Centre Trustees

Lesley and Mike Sweeting have served and led the Key Centre charity for the past ten years. They have each put an immense amount of time, effort and enthusiasm into supporting and developing the Key Centre as a going concern for this community. Lesley and Mike are now moving to Lincolnshire. We would like to thank them sincerely for all their work at the Key centre (amongst other community activities here) and wish them health and every happiness.
We have also recently seen the resignation of our other two Trustees, Alex Adams and Dee Davies. We are very grateful to them for their support and efforts at the Key Centre. They step down with our thanks and appreciation.
This has all happened very quickly so, in order to keep the charity active, a new board of Trustees has been recruited to take over for the next few

months until a new permanent group of local people can be recruited. They are:
Chair – Cllr Honor Byford
Company Secretary – Cllr Sue Fairhurst
Trustee – Cllr Sam Mashford
Trustee – Cllr Lorna Skelton
Trustee – Cllr Nigel Hopper
Many things have changed post covid. Some will go back to how they were before; others have changed forever, and new opportunities and needs are also emerging. We think it makes sense to take this opportunity to look ahead for what will be needed for our community in the future by undertaking a full review and developing a plan and proposals for the Key Centre for the next 5 to 10 years. We are grateful for help with this from people amongst the community who have offered their expertise in areas such as Building Maintenance, Finance and Legal matters.

If you have skills or experience in any area that you think might be helpful, please get in touch with me.

Similarly, **if you have ideas** as to what the Key Centre should provide or offer, please let us know your ideas so that we can look into them within this review.

We will produce a report and proposals and organise a Town Meeting so that everyone can look at what we have found and have your say.

Honor Byford

Middleham Twinners Association

Middleham has been twinned with Azincourt (Agincourt) in France for many years and the two communities have developed strong links through an annual exchange weekend.

The Association has been dormant during covid, so we are now looking forward to a more active future offering local events to reintroduce our twin community in France, socialise, welcome new members and redevelop our own bonds of friendship.

This will enable us to prepare for a future visit by the French, hopefully next year, staying as guests in our own homes and having a packed weekend of fun and socialising. The following year some of our members will visit Azincourt and stay with families there for a similar weekend. **You do not have to offer accommodation in order to take part.** Not everyone can travel but they still enjoy being part of the group and meeting the French when they come here.

There is no need to be able to speak French! We have many members who cannot speak French and it is all part of the experience to find innovative ways of communicating! Many of our French guests speak English so the only requirement is a positive approach and a sense of humour.

We are especially encouraging families to get involved to enable children to discover the delights of finding new friends from a totally different country. We have a lot in common between our communities, both being mainly rural plus the strong historical link to Richard 111. So, if you'd like to learn more and see if this is for you, please get in touch.

Membership costs only £7 per person or £14 for a family. All residents, including those in nearby villages are welcome to find out more by contacting us:

Peter and Jane on 07918702151.

Stables Open Day is back!

Good Friday, 15th April 2022

Visitor parking will be available at Tennants with a shuttle bus, or on the Buses, with disabled parking at the Key Centre.

Market stalls on the Square 0900 to 1.00pm

Stables will be open from 09.30 to 1.00pm

Arena events, Retrained Racehorses, the famous Inter Yard Challenge and a fun Dog Show on the Low Moor 1.00 to 4.00pm

Our Cavalry horse, Trooper Middleham will be at the Castle at 09.30am and on the Low Moor at 1.00pm, otherwise based at Neil Mechie's Dante Yard. Rumour has it he may be bringing another cavalry horse with him as well.

Reduced price advance tickets for Middleham

Residents are still available from the Key Centre

Please would you ensure cars are off the Market Square by Thursday night as the market stalls come in early Friday morning to set up.



Letter from the Rectory.

Victory! Revs Jeff and Liz

In April we celebrate the wonderful Christian feast of Easter. Chocolate Easter eggs, roast lamb, time with family, and friends, but best of all we celebrate Jesus rising from the grave to new life. Why is this wonderful? Because God has triumphed over evil and won the victory over death. There is nothing that we can do about our mortality but God has done something. The fact that Jesus rose from the grave means that the

Christian faith is based on something concrete rather than on wise teaching alone.

It seems like the last two years have been constant bad news: Covid, storms, Afghanistan, Ukraine, not to mention the increasing cost of living and energy prices. Darkness often seems to have the upper hand. It certainly looked like that on Good Friday when Jesus died on the cross. But as someone once said, that was Friday - but Sunday's coming. At Easter Jesus rose victoriously from the grave. As the gospel writer, John, said, 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'

How do circumstances in the world make you feel? Maybe your personal circumstances appear quite dark at the moment for some reason.

Whatever your circumstances, Easter tells us that we're not defeated, trust in God and the life and hope of Easter are certain. That's not to say that we won't go through dark days - for Jesus that meant the cross and death itself, but God's love overcame and was victorious, giving real hope to us all.

Everyone is welcome at our Easter celebrations:

Good Friday: Church open all day for Stables Open Day. Come and hang a 'Dove of Peace' on our 'Peace tree' for Ukraine.

Easter Day:

6am Early risers/ dogwalkers etc: Meet at Middleham Castle for pilgrimage walk to Pinkers Pond

6.30am Sunrise Easter Service at Pinkers Pond

'Bridge' magazine If you would like to sign up for the monthly e-newsletter that covers our parish, please email: bridgemagazine@outlook.com

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

Middleham Town Council

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

office@middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk

or tel 07531 580499. This is David's home mobile and he is happy to be contacted outside normal hours.

Councillor Honor Byford, 01969 625304 or 07849 918215. shbyford@yahoo.co.uk

Councillor Nigel Hopper, 07594 814524, hopperrn@gmail.com

St Marys & St Alkelda's Church,

Reverends Liz Moody and Jeff Payne

01969 326069 or Liz, 07796 988302

Jeff, 07443 581463

Racing Welfare

Gail Burton-Pye, 07788 184140,

gburtonpye@racingwelfare.co.uk

The Middleham Key Centre, is staffed Monday – Thursday mornings 9.00 – 2.00. You can email us on office@middleham-key.co.uk or ring our number 01969 624002 and leave a message outside of opening hours. Alternatively, you can ring Pam on 07772 736006 or Honor on 01969 625304

9.30am Easter Celebrat