



Middleham Herald



Easter Edition, March 2021

This Middleham Herald has been produced and distributed in line with current Royal Mail delivery measures. If you would prefer to receive future editions by e-mail, please contact the Town Clerk with both your e-mail and postal addresses.

From the Mayor

Spring seems to be on its way there is evidence of new growth everywhere, lovely birdsong and longer lighter days are also on their way. This year a feeling of regrowth and renewal is particularly important as we are hopefully seeing a light at the end of the long COVID tunnel which has hung over us for the past year. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease, please remember that we still need to be sensible and make sure that we do what is necessary to keep our friends, neighbours and community safe.

All members of the community have missed out on social events from our juniors at Christmas, our seniors their lunches and outings and our very popular Feast Day Fancy Dress Parade for everyone, so this year - if all goes to plan - we hope we can hold a

community event in August on the playing fields to which everyone is invited.

It's too early to make firm plans but we will keep you informed as the year progresses and look forward to a big community celebration.

Keep safe everyone and Happy Easter!!

Councillor Sue Fairhurst, Mayor

Volunteering in Middleham

Our volunteers are quietly continuing to help those who need a hand with shopping, telephone chats and lifts to doctors, hospital and vaccination appointments. Thank you all for your continuing support to fellow residents. There is hope on the horizon but we are all very aware that this is not a quick fix and help will still be needed for some time to come. Please be assured that we are here to help, whether you have had assistance before or are just now finding you need some support. You have only to ask so please don't be shy.

<https://middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk/getting-help/>

Councillor Honor Byford, Deputy Mayor

Councillor contacts:

Councillor Susan Fairhurst: 01969 622993

Councillor Honor Byford: 01969 625304

Councillor Martin Cade: 01969 622090

Councillor Lorna Skelton: 07793 673240

Councillor Simon Wheeler: 07753 543589

Councillor Nigel Hopper: 07594 814524

Councillor Greg Fortune: 07521 626743

From the Town Clerk

Many of you will have noticed vehicle tracks heading in all directions across the Low Moor which have badly churned the grass surface this past winter. The Town Council leases the Moors to the Middleham Trainers Association (MTA), through which it has reminded trainers that they and their staff do not have a general right to drive where they please. As a practical necessity, however, Council recognises that trainers need to supervise training safely and effectively, and consents to limited, essential vehicle access. This is on the understanding that, wherever possible, they adhere to the established tracks, show consideration to all other users and do not damage the turf, particularly during wet weather.

Council has a good relationship with trainers, with whom it is currently developing a 'management plan' to manage the moors, preserve the appearance and beauty of the natural environment and wildlife. When the

weather improves MTA plan to reinstate and repair the surface.

As well as trainers' vehicles, it is apparent that residents and vehicles from further afield have also been accessing the Moor, particularly above and around Pinkers Pond where the grass beyond the parking area is very badly churned; some tracks have become ponds in their own right. One vehicle even appears to have attempted a circumnavigation of the Pond, creating a very muddy scene, damaged vegetation and ruining the path.

As with all other areas of Common Land, there is an historical and legal restriction on vehicle access across the Moors. You may drive up to 15 metres from the highway in order to park, but no further and for no other purpose. Please note that the various tracks and horsewalks across the Moors are not public rights of way, whether as short cuts or scenic routes to enjoy the view. The footpaths and bridleways are clearly marked on the notice boards at the entries to the moor and on our website:

middlehamtowncouncil.co.uk The police have authority to stop vehicles on the Moors and they do patrol these areas.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) normally gives public rights of access to 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common

land, but in some cases there are local restrictions. The Middleham Low and High Moors have a registered right for racehorse training, established many years ago, meaning that the gallops are not 'open access land' during training hours (daybreak until 1pm, 365 days of the year). Before 1pm, the public must keep to the designated public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways), with dogs under close control and even then, please take care when crossing the gallops as horses may approach at speed. Horses can also over-react to walkers and dogs, which may endanger the rider so we ask you always to keep a wide berth.

After 1pm you have an unrestricted right to roam across High and Low Moor. Dogs must be kept on a short lead (no longer than 2 metres) between 1st March and 31st July to protect ground nesting birds – this is a national law on all open access land. We have important populations of curlews, lapwings and skylarks nesting here. There are no other significant rules, other than a prohibition on shooting which may only be undertaken by MTA to control pests and vermin. The Moor is used throughout the year by, in addition to the trainers, walkers, dog owners, horse riders, bird spotters, the radio control flying club and many others. It is a wonderful amenity on our doorstep and

everyone is welcome to share the experience. Hopefully, this short summary can help everyone enjoy the Moors safely and maintain them and the wildlife they support in good condition for everyone's benefit.

David Keep, Town Clerk

A Councillors Viewpoint



As I've been out walking around our beautiful Dales I have noticed the amount of litter and rubbish strewn around the hedgerows and verges.

We live in a beautiful part of the world (which I'm sure like myself many of us take for granted).

Just stop and look around at all the beautiful green fields, trees and beautiful views we have, now take a look in the bushes and along the roads and you will see so much rubbish either thrown from car windows or carelessly left discarded.

From McDonald's boxes and pizza boxes to coke cans and beer cans, it's all unnecessary. This is dangerous for our wildlife who get tangled up in the plastic and suffocate. We need to look after our world, our nature and our small part of the planet.

When lockdown allows us, how many of you would be interested in helping me with a litter pick? We could really do with doing this now before all the hedgerows come into bloom. I myself will be doing a litter pick along the Buses. If anyone is interested, please feel free to email me and I'll be in touch when we are able to meet up:

lornaskelton@yahoo.com

And please, please put your poo bags in the bin! This is another spoiler of our countryside, tourists can't be blamed right now this is local people walking their dogs and just being lazy! How many dog bins do we need? Poo bag dispensers have been installed and filled, in case you forget to bring a bag; a new bin has been put on the Springs. Let's hope they get used.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME AND PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Cllr Lorna Skelton

lornaskelton@yahoo.com

The Federation of Middleham and Spennithorne Schools

Our Headteacher, Mrs Evans, is moving to the Bristol area to start her new job after Easter. The governors will be interviewing towards the end of April and wanted to let you know the arrangements for leadership of the two schools, from when the children

return to class after the Easter holidays until the new headteacher is able to start.

Through an arrangement with the Dales Academy Trust, Mrs L. Probets (headteacher at St Francis of Assisi CE Primary School) and Mr S. Robson (Headteacher at Croft CE Primary School) will be providing us with headteacher support for the interim period. Both headteachers have had experience of working in schools other than their own in the past and they are looking forward to helping us in this way.

We know that our two schools are happy, friendly places to be and we are sure that all our staff and your children will quickly get to know them and make them feel at home. They have both had experience of working on projects together and so are not strangers to each other's ways of working. The governors believe that they will be 'safe hands' for this period for our two schools and will provide a smooth transition for the new headteacher coming in.

At the moment the Covid situation means our schools can't run their normal community events and I know many of you have previously enjoyed our family lunches, church services, summer fairs and fun events like chocolate bingo. Governors and staff sincerely hope that before very much longer our schools will be able to hold some of these activities again and welcome you back.

In the meantime, very best wishes for a peaceful and hope-filled Easter break to you all.

Lesley Sweeting

Chair of Governors

MIDDLEHAM KEY CENTRE

The Key Centre re-opens for certain permitted things on April 12th and will again be staffed. We welcome a new tenant in the Kitchens in May, Emma's Dale Ltd – Retreat and event organisers -

<https://www.emmasdale.co.uk>

As things move towards a kind of normality, there will be soon be a need for more Volunteers at the Centre. Any amount of time is gratefully received, particularly if it can be regular. If you would like to contribute to something at the heart of Middleham's community, (particularly if you are able-bodied!), please contact Mike Sweeting on 07779 652 066 or drsweeting@aol.com

St Mary's and St Alkelda's Church

EASTER: – Bunny's Birthday and Chocolate Fest?



I remember asking a group of children what they knew about Easter. 'It's the Easter bunny's birthday,' piped up one little girl. Oh dear, I clearly had not been doing my job properly.

I am most definitely not a 'morning person', but Easter is the one day of the year that I can leap out of bed with the words, 'The Lord has risen!' on my lips and Jeff (who IS a morning person) replies, 'He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!' These are words that have been used for centuries by Christians on what for us is the most important day of the year. It's so exciting! Jesus, who died horrifically on Good Friday rises from the dead in what CS Lewis describes as a 'deeper magic'. Of course it's not magic, but it is miraculous.

And we can't wait to celebrate the resurrection in our services this year (10am Middleham Churchyard Easter Day.)

We are also looking forward to partaking of some Easter goodies. Roast Yorkshire lamb and a tad of chocolate. Did you know that in the Guinness book of records the largest ever Easter egg was made in Italy and was 10m high, 20m round, and weighed over 7000 kg. Slightly large for your average Easter bunny to deliver – especially when you think that Easter bunnies grew out of stories from Germany of an egg-laying hare. Ouch!

Bunnies, as we know are rather prolific, and so an appropriate symbol of new life. At its root, that's what Easter is all about – the new life that God wants to give us, and which we see illustrated so powerfully all around us in the joy that is Spring. Light follows darkness. Hope overcomes despair. Resurrection defeats death. Maybe this year in particular, after the events of the last months, Easter, however we celebrate it, will be a wonderful symbol of hope.

Happy Easter!

Rev'd Liz



Easter Service:

Easter Day 10am Middleham Churchyard

We will be celebrating Easter with an outdoor service in Middleham churchyard and do hope that you will be able to come. It will be our first 'in person' gathering since January, so it will be wonderful to gather and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together. Please bring a mask, and if you'd like, something to sit on. Social distancing will be in place.

Prayers - As a church community we continue to hold the whole parish in our prayers. If you would like us to pray for something specific please contact Liz or Jeff (confidentially) - either

jervaulxliz@gmail.com or

jervaulxjeff@gmail.com or phone 01969 326069

Weddings and Funerals

Weddings continue to be permitted up to a maximum of 15 people attending.

Funerals can take place with up to a maximum of 30 people attending, but may be less, depending on the size of the church/crematorium, and the ability to suitably socially distance.

Burial/ interment of ashes services are possible, with a maximum of 15 people in attendance.

Funeral directors have updated information

The Bridge Magazine

Is now largely a monthly email edition.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact jervaulxliz@gmail.com

If you do not have access to email, and would like a paper copy, please send your name and address to:

Liz Moody, Applegarth House, Leyburn, Middleham DL8 4PL by 5th January 2021

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

Jeff, 07443581463

MSCWA – Middleham Sports and Wellbeing Association

Our main contacts are:

Community Garden-contact Nigel or

Amanda 07594 814524

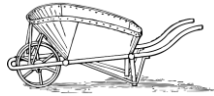
Messy boots-Kathy Wheeler 07866 132787

Cricket-Richard Sanderson 01969 625365

5 a side football/Senior

Football/Rounders/Golf-Nigel.

The Community Garden



At the time of writing, we have enjoyed at least two days of truly spring-like weather: warm enough to tempt some, let's call them mature, bodies out into the community garden for a good dig.

We have started a general tidy up and the two large beds have been refreshed. They are really going to benefit from the fabulous compost that Fran has been turning regularly over the last year.

Do take a look at the beds around the shed when you are passing. They are looking very healthy and hopefully the plants will perform and deliver the drought tolerant planting scheme we imagined in the autumn.

Fortunately the fruit trees are still alive too, despite nearly droning over winter and we've been given permission to extend the

orchard into the top of the field that borders the garden.



It's nearly time to sow the flower seed and we have been preparing the ground for them. I have to say it has been a complete joy laughing and digging (socially distanced of course) with friends these last two days. Who knew that there were so many double entendres that could be squeezed out of gardening chat!



If you would like to grow and dig with some folk who like to laughing and want to make something lovely for Middleham and the planet, do get in touch with us gardening ladies via Nigel Hopper:

hoppern@gmail.com

Now pass the Radox, someone!

Amanda



Pinkers Pond Tree Planting

Over 200 young trees have now been planted on the slopes behind and around Pinkers Pond. This is the start of a project that will see native species of trees growing

on this slope to provide habitat for birds, insects and other creatures for decades to come. The planting has been designed to preserve the views up Coverdale and towards East Witton. We are grateful to the local volunteers who planted the trees and look forward to seeing more trees planted and watching how they grow.

If you would like to get involved please email lwbagroup@gmail.com

Many thanks,

Elise and Kayleigh

Mobile Post Office in Middleham

Stops near the Jubilee Fountain:

Monday 11.00 – 12.00

Tuesday 09.30 – 10.30

Thursday 11.00 – 12.00

Friday 10.00 – 11.00

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

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 office is open,

Monday – Thursday mornings 9.00 – 2.00. You

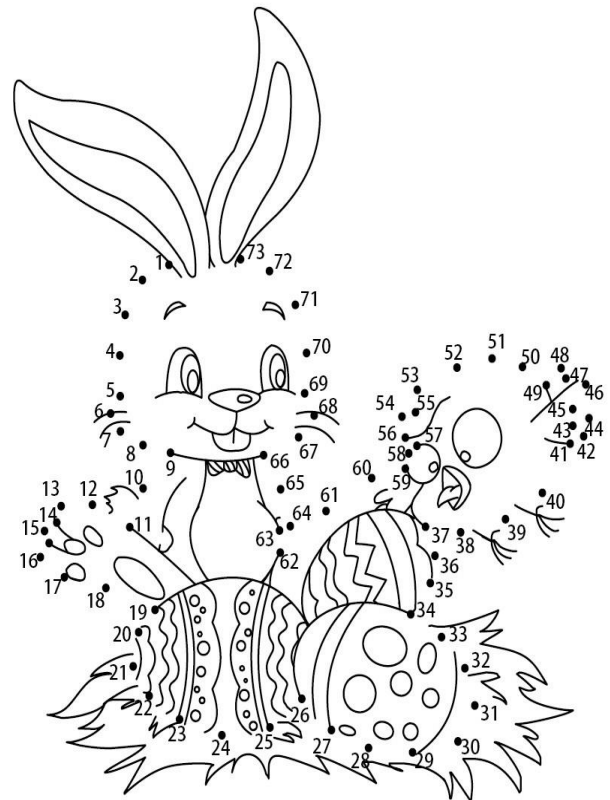
can email us on office@middlehamkey.co.uk or

ring our number 01969 624002 and leave a

message outside of opening hours. Alternatively,

you can ring Pam on 07772 736006 or Lesley on

01969 622615



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