

MIDDLETON MESSANGER



The Newsletter for Middleton on the Wolds
Issue No 58



APRIL 2024

NEXT COPY DATE

14th April



I'm sure many of you like to go to gardens of stately homes etc to see rhododendrons in late spring so I think you will find it interesting to read about them in their native Nepal on page 23.

Please send in your contributions by the end of the copy date. If I don't acknowledge them please get in touch to make sure they have arrived.

Thank you

Lyn

4 The Paddocks 219500 lyndennis456@gmail.com



EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday 31st March

A reminder, if your Messenger is delivered in time, that the Green Group is organising an **Easter Egg Hunt** on **Sunday 31st March** at the Recreation Ground between 2.00 and 3.30pm with refreshments in the Village Hall.



Full details are in the previous edition of the Messenger

COVER PHOTO

Thank you again for the photo of the seasonal daffodils on the front which was sent in by Amanda Fisher.

EDITORIAL



Three things, this month; the bypass, the Budget and by-election results.

Did you join Graham Stuart on Front Street to talk about the proposed bypass? Are you for it or against it? It has been on the books for years and has come up again because of possible new funding. It will make a big difference to the village, but will that difference be positive or negative? As ever, it is up to you to decide.

Further afield, what did you make of the Budget? There were a few headline policies, such as the cut in National Insurance Contributions (NIC) and raising the point at which families would lose child benefit, but what did it all mean? Are we better, or worse, off?

The cuts to National Insurance will benefit some, but not all, of us. Basically, if your earnings are between £26,000 and £60,000, you will be better off; if you earn less or more than that, you will lose out because the cut will be outweighed by other tax increases. According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, for every £1 you receive in NIC cuts, you will have lost £1.30 because the threshold changes between 2021 and 2024. The government is, in effect, giving back what it has already taken from you – and only some of it, at that!

The other thing is that the Chancellor does not seem to have a firm basis for some of his policies. If you have watched any interviews of ministers getting tongue-tied and looking totally out of their depth trying to defend the Budget, you can get the idea that the figures have been massaged (to say the least!) to fit policy. The Institute for Government says that the budget demonstrates the common failing of making major tax policy changes without properly developing them and showing any robust evidence for the costs and benefits of the changes.

All in all, most of us will still be paying more taxes, in real terms, without seeing any relief for our chronically underfunded, and therefore under-performing, public services.

Now, what about George Galloway getting back into Parliament with his

Respect Party? He probably won't win in the general election, but I hope it's given a kick in the pants to the main parties about listening to what the electorate wants. To vote for someone as far on the fringe of mainstream politics as George (and second place went to a local independent candidate) voters must be totally disillusioned by the style-over-content sound bytes of Rishi and Sir Keir. About 20 years ago, I worked for the Electoral Commission, one of whose tasks was to increase voter participation in elections. Many initiatives were proposed, from reducing the voting age to sixteen, to voting online or even by text. In the end, it seemed that most people wanted to vote, it was just that they wanted something to vote for. They wanted parties to publish clear policies that they could decide between. Have you seen anything like that lately? I know I haven't. I heard an opposition spokesman, Pat MacFadden, head of their campaign team, being interviewed. Jeremy Vine asked him to give one headline difference between his party and the government, his answer, after a good bit of waffle, was, 'Planning and Grid reform.' That is their 'big ticket' item . I ask you!

Happy to discuss.

Mike

If you have any ideas, comments or complaints (especially complaints) you want to share then send an email to middletonflyer@yahoo.com.

CORRESPONDENCE

A By-pass for Middleton



You may have read about the Government's release of funds taken up by the HS2 plan, much of which has now been cancelled. In the East Riding, this means that approximately £ 170 million has become available. This may ONLY be spent on Transport projects over the next seven years. If it is not spent, it will be lost.

Graham Stuart MP has sought opinions from the public as to how this money should be invested.

I immediately contacted his office to suggest the long-held desire for a by-pass around Middleton might be just such a project. They replied almost immediately that this might be the sort of transformational project that could really improve people's lives.

Mr Stuart and I are visiting Middleton (or will have done depending on your copy deadline !) to gauge the level of public interest. I hope the public will appreciate that party politics will be put to one side as we are all committed to doing our best for you.

Meanwhile, if this is to be taken forward, we need an action group who are prepared to champion it. Obviously I am very willing to help, but it would be even better if local community activists would be prepared to be involved.

If you want to help and be part of the action group, please contact myself or the Parish Council.

Thanks and kind regards

Councillor Jeremy Wilcock (Lib Dems)
Beverley Rural Ward

QUIZ PAGE



- 1 What is the longest river in Scotland?
- 2 What are Swan Vesta?
- 3 How many the countries are in the EU?
- 4 How many stripes are there on the US flag?
- 5 How many keys does a classic piano have?
- 6 Which football team is known as 'The Red Devils'?
- 7 Name Disney's first film?
- 8 What is the name of Popeye's girl friend?
- 9 What is a group of pandas known as?
- 10 How many hearts does an octopus have?

Quiz set by Rowland Wooldridge



SUDOKU

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#180080

Difficulty: moderate

DINGBATS

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All answers on page 17



**Middleton On the Wolds
Village Hall Breakfast
Morning**

Saturday 6th April

10-12 am



**Come & join us for bacon, sausage,
egg butties. Tea & Coffee**

Eat in or takeaway

**£3.00 - £4.00 depending on
sandwich filling.**

MIDDLETON VILLAGE CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

**At The Village Hall Saturday
20th April, 18th May, 15th June
10.00am to 11.30am**

In aid of



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caring for people with a life limiting illness

- **In Patient Care.**
- **Therapies.**
- **Outpatients.**
- **Family and Carer Support.**
- **MND Community Nurse.**
- **Bereavement Support.**
- **Friday Friends Community Group.**



**Tea / Coffee and Toasted Teacakes
£3.50 In addition there will be a Raffle**

YORKSHIRE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION



Thursday 18th April 7.30pm

in The Village Hall

*“Strange Ghostly Tales of the
Treasurer’s House in York”*

Speaker: Glynnis Whyte

Non members welcome £5 admission

For further information contact Christine Johnson 01377 217374

THE GREEN GROUP



Spring is in the Air!!

Things to do now in your

garden: (view the RHS website for further details: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/march>)

1. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
7. Cut back herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses that have been left standing over winter
8. Keep a few dandelions in your garden to support early bees and insects

PLANT SALE
Middleton on the Wolds Village Hall
SUNDAY 5TH MAY
10am to 12 noon
Refreshments available





PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We welcome Catherine Simpson as our new Parish Clerk. Catherine has considerable experience working with other parish councils and I am sure she will be a great addition to our team.

We will be having some very necessary, and overdue, work done on the trees in the cemetery on April 30th. Access to the cemetery will be limited on that day.

Make a Difference in Your Community Become a Community Speed Watch Volunteer!

Do you care about the safety of children and your community?

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our Community Speed Watch team and help make our roads safer, especially for children and the vulnerable.

What will you be doing?

You will be trained in using a speed detection device to monitor traffic on a designated road near our school.

You will work alongside other volunteers in short shifts to record the details of vehicles exceeding a set speed.

This data is then passed on to the police who will take appropriate action, such as sending warning letters to drivers.

Why should you join?

Play a vital role in keeping your community safe, especially children walking to and from school.

Make a positive impact on your neighbourhood by deterring speeding motorists.

Gain valuable experience and contribute to a worthwhile cause.

Meet new people and be part of a supportive team.

Requirements:

Must be 18 years or older.

Good observation skills and attention to detail.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

Team player with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.

If you are interested in making a difference and becoming a Community Speed Watch volunteer, please contact Peter Roe at peter.roe.motwpc@gmail.com

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Services for April

Sunday 7th	10.30 am	Morning Prayers	Richard Summers
Sunday 14th	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Jane Anderson
Sunday 21st	10.30 am	Holy Communion	Rev. Canon Kate Goulder
Sunday 28th	10.30 am	Morning Prayers	Church Wardens

St Andrews Church AGM

Monday 22nd April at St Andrews Church 7pm

THE WOLDS METHODIST CHURCH BAINTON

Services for April

Sunday 7th	10.30am	United service at the the Wolds Methodist Church. Mrs Irene McGowan
Sunday 14th	10.30am	Service at the Wolds Methodist Church. Mr Peter Brown
Sunday 21st	9.00am	Café style worship at the Wolds Methodist Church. Pastor John Gleaves
Sunday 28th	10.30am	Service at the Wolds Methodist Church. Mr Keith Russell

A COFFEE MORNING

will be held at

The Wolds Methodist Church Bainton

on Wednesday 17th April

10.00am to 11.30

All Welcome



LOCAL BIRDS & WILDLIFE



Well, it's that time of year again – officially Spring! Now, you will be expecting me to wax lyrical about daffodils, crocuses and the dawn chorus, but I am sure we have done all that before, so I am going to focus on something that catches my eye every year – spiders' webs. Anyone who knows me, can well imagine that I don't go round looking for household chores, but even I take note when I am suddenly confronted by a huge characterful web covering a corner of the bathroom, say, or festooned like Halloween bunting along the sitting room wall.

It struck me that this happens every spring, so I have been investigating the Secret Life of Spiders to discover if this is actually a thing, or if I am just really unobservant during the dark days of winter. On average, male house spiders live for about 18 months, and females about 30 months. The females generally stay in one place, waiting for potential suitors to seek them out; the male spiders start to move round the house in September/October which is when they suddenly appear sprinting across the carpet and diving under furniture much to many people's dismay. Spiders' eggs only take about 2 to 3 weeks to hatch, after which the spiderlings usually settle close to the nest area for several weeks before moving on and staking out their own territory. They grow to about half their adult size in their first year and then overwinter, so our spring webs are the new generation plus their aging parents emerging after a soporific winter. Luckily for us, although quite large numbers of eggs can be laid, not that many seem to survive.

You may have gathered from this that I have not had a particularly exciting bird-watching time lately, but luckily Barry and Janny have been out and about with their cameras:



“Things are starting to improve on the bird front. Puffins and other sea birds are all starting to come back at Bempton. Managed to get a picture of one of our winter visitors, Photo 1, red-throated diver. Normally they are a long way out and difficult to photograph – this one is still in winter plumage. We also got photos of the owls at Bempton, Photo 2 is a short-eared owl perching on a stick which is barely ½” square so it is having to put one foot on top of the other – never seen this before. Photo 3 is a barn owl hunting over the same field as the short-eared owl. One day recently we had 4 short-eared owls and a barn owl in the air at the same time on this field; we were spoilt for choice!



“Photo 4, taken at Tophill Low, is of a water rail. These can be pretty elusive and hard to find and photograph, but we got lucky that day. On 8th March we saw our first chiffchaff of the season at Tophill Low. The week before we heard several singing, but didn’t see them.

“Still plenty of birds coming to our feeders and we have been watching the robins daily nest building in our hedge so things are looking up. Looking forward to seeing more migrants coming in, our favourite time of the year!”

I myself have only seen a water rail once, on a reserve in Norfolk; it stalked out of the reeds, grabbed hold of an inoffensive snipe by the beak and gave it a good shaking before vanishing back into the reeds leaving everyone in the hide looking at each other in disbelief!

Anyway, spring IS here (daffodils, crocuses, dawn chorus and all) so let’s hope there are lots of lovely sunny days ideal for spotting interesting wildlife, plants, butterflies and bees, so please let me know of anything that takes your eye or piques your interest!

Barbara

Lavenderbarbara97@gmail.com or text on 0777 192 7868

LOCAL HISTORY

Schooldays

This is the third instalment of Pam Linford's recollections of village life. It concentrates on education in Middleton in the post-Second World War period.

I started school in September 1951 when the school had three classes – senior up to leaving school, junior and infant. Before I reached the junior class a Secondary Modern School had been built in Market Weighton, and children transferred there at the age of eleven. Before I left Middleton a Secondary Modern school had been built in Driffield so children who had not passed the 11 plus exam transferred to Driffield, and not Market Weighton. Children who were already at Market Weighton continued to attend that school.

In 1951:	Mr Hogarth:	Headmaster, taught senior class
	Mr Buckley:	Junior class (lived in Millfield Garth)
	Miss Gray:	Infant class (lived with her parents at the Post Office n Bainton.) Travelled to and fro in her car - she was very modern.

When children started attending Market Weighton Mr Buckley left, and Mr Hogarth took over the junior class. When I started school there was water in the school building but, the toilets were across the playground, and they were earth closets! – not very pleasant. However, by the time I left Middleton school water closets had been installed. My time at the school coincided with milk for school pupils – my memory of that is lukewarm milk in the summer, and thawing the milk in the winter. I can't remember a happy medium! I remember spontaneous nature walks if the weather was good (no thought of risk assessment then!), endless sewing afternoons for the girls, and gardening (in Mr Hogarth's garden!!) for the boys, and country dancing (for the girls) football (for the boys) on Friday afternoons in the playing field. In the playground rounders was a popular all year playtime activity as were

seasonal games e.g. skipping, conkers, jacks, marbles, football. I remember when I was in the junior class Mr Hogarth would write twelve words on the board in four rows of three, and the first thing we did after lunch was memorise them (we were given a couple of minutes to do that). They were covered, and we had to write them down. If you remembered them all you got a star for your team. I'm convinced that four years of doing that exercise has stood me in good stead. With only two classes in the school there was a wide age range in each class. In the infant class we sat around tables, and the atmosphere was much more informal. However in the junior class (which I entered one month after my seventh birthday) we sat in rows, each row consisted of a number of double desks with hinged seats – both people had to stand at the same time otherwise one person got trapped. The youngest children sat on the front row, and the older you got the further back you sat. Mr Hogarth always read to us at some time in the afternoon, and the first book I remember was George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss* (probably only the childhood years). It wasn't, and never will be, easy to pitch fiction at the right level in a mixed age class, and I remember, at just seven, finding the language difficult to follow.

When I started school there were no school meals so everyone went home at lunch time (including teachers). However, when I was in the junior class (just in the juniors I think,) school meals were introduced, and the school canteen was on the site of the O.A.P. bungalows on the bend of Station Road. On that site were two huge Nissan type huts and outbuildings that had been used during the war for P.O.W. accommodation, I think. The first cook at the new school canteen was Mrs Hogarth (Mr Hogarth's wife). After registration each day a child would be sent to the junior classroom to tell Mr Hogarth how many infant children wanted a school meal. He added that number to the junior number, and selected an older junior boy (never a girl) to take that number to the school canteen. The chosen person was supposed to run down Front Street, over Gray Garth, across Station Road and deliver the number to Mrs Hogarth, and then get back to school as quickly as possible – Health and Safety would be having a nervous breakdown today.

Geoff Wisher

MIDDLETON BOOK GROUP

March Books



The Confession by Jessie Burton By the author of “The Miniaturist” “The Confession is a tale of love, longing and creativity that moves between 1980s Hollywood and the present day. Connie is strong willed and cantankerous. She is not interested in whether people like her or not. Young Connie in the 1980s is very driven and self-opinionated and she does not care who she hurts, whereas the beautiful Elise, despite being kind and considerate is full of self-doubt and never seems to quite find herself. She is also very much under Connie’s spell and seems almost grateful to live in her shadow. Elise’s daughter Rose eventually tracks down the elderly Connie in order to find out her connection with her mother and is engaged by Connie as her secretary/carer thus bringing the characters up to date in this story of love, domination, resentment, parenthood and friendship.

The other half of Augusta Hope by Joanna Glen Julia, born late on July 31st and Augusta, born on August 1st are twins with very few similar traits in looks or character. Julia is the pretty one and Augusta the clever one who even has the audacity to correct her teacher at the age of seven! Told in alternate chapters the story takes us through the stages of their very different lives, both always striving for some unattainable goal.

Parfait, a refugee from Burundi, is also a talented artist who succeeds in helping Augusta come to terms with the death of Julia. Augusta eventually finds the peace she has always been searching for, and more importantly she finds herself.

Jean



We are always happy to welcome new members to our friendly and informal meetings where we discuss the books, plus recommending any others we are reading, before coffee, cake and a chat. Meetings are usually on the second Tuesday morning in the month at the home of one of the members. Please get in touch to check.

Lyn 219500 or lyndennis456@gmail.com

The next books for discussion are:

“The Last List of Mabel Beaumont” by Laura Pearson

“All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr

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TICKETS:

VANESSA 07837 668275
 ELIZABETH 07787 483498
 ANDREA 07432 835315



QUIZ PAGE ANSWERS

- 1 River Tay
- 2 Matches
- 3 27
- 4 13
- 5 88
- 6 Manchester United
- 7 Snow White, 1937
- 8 Olive Oil
- 9 An Embarrassment
- 10 3

- Dingbats
- Archbishp
- Eyes wide open
- Friilly underwear
- Hight Tea
- Kings Cross
- The price is right

8	2	5	1	7	6	9	4	3
1	9	7	5	3	4	2	8	6
3	6	4	9	8	2	1	7	5
4	8	6	3	2	5	7	1	9
7	5	2	4	9	1	3	6	8
9	3	1	7	6	8	4	5	2
6	1	8	2	4	3	5	9	7
5	7	3	6	1	9	8	2	4
2	4	9	8	5	7	6	3	1

MIDDLETON ON THE WOLDS

VILLAGE CAR BOOT



SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 2024

**9AM - 1.30PM (SELLERS 7.30AM)
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Scan the code with your phone to order online with code **EATYORKSHIRE** for 10% off all online orders until midnight on 30th April



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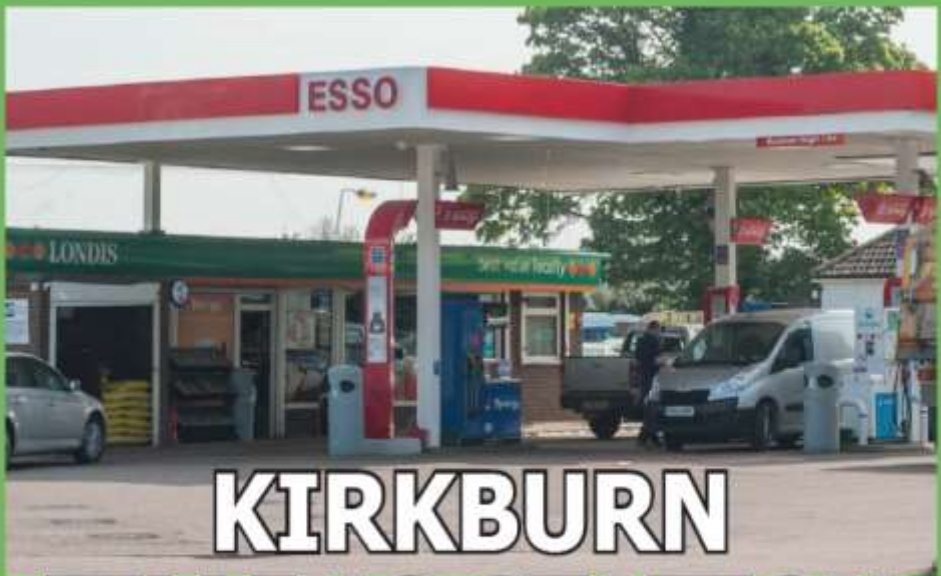
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There are 173 species of rhododendron in the world and 33 of them are found in Nepal. This Himalayan country is undoubtedly blessed with breathtaking natural beauty and one of the most beautiful of these natural wonders is the rhododendron forests that burst into a riot of colour at this time of year. The rhododendron is known as Lali Guras by Nepalis and is their national flower. There are extensive rhododendron forests throughout the country ranging in elevation from around 1,400 to 3,600 metres. At the lower elevations the flowers are a stunning red and trees can reach a height of 20m or more. As the elevation increases the colours shift through purples, pinks and eventually pure white at high elevations. The most extensive forests are in the east but there are still patches of the old forests in the far west.



Some of the forests are at the same altitude as grazing goats, cows and yaks. In the winter months the fresh leaves make good fodder, but when the flowers are in bloom the leaves are poisonous to animals. Rhododendrons also find a place in the Nepali food menu. Villagers will directly eat the flower petals and some will pickle the flowers by adding salt and chillies to eat with rice and curry dishes. The flowers are a source of essential oils and some species are used in perfumes and incense. They are also often seen as an offering in hill temples and are a source of many traditional medicines.



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REGULAR GROUP ACTIVITIES

Weekly Groups

Monday	Pilates	5.00-6.00pm	Village Hall
Wednesday	Line Dancing	7.30-9.00pm	Village Hall
Thursday	Middleton Movers	2.00-3.30pm	Village Hall
Thursday	Dancefit	6.30-7.30pm	Village Hall

April

1	Parish Council	7.00pm	Village Hall
6	Breakfast Morning	10.00am	Village Hall
8	Village Lunch	12.00pm	Robin Hood
9	Book Group	10.30am	Station Road
10	Village Hall Committee	3.00pm	Village Hall
18	YCA	7.30pm	Village Hall
20	Charity Coffee Morning	10.00am	Village Hall
21	Litter Picking	10.00am	Lime View

LOCAL CONTACTS

Bell Ringing	Chris Atkin	217285
Book Group	Lyn Dennis	219500
Bowls Club	Rob Bradley	217435
Country Women's Association	Christine Johnson	217374
First Responders	Chris Brent	219469
Line Dancing	Pat Pottage	217516
Middleton Messenger	Mike Kelly	07713 620912
	Lyn Dennis	219500
Middleton Movers	Lyn Dennis	219500
Middleton Green Group	Liz Naylor	07787 483498
Middleton Womblers	Andrew Naylor	07825 882972
Parish Clerk	Sandra Morrison	01262 470496
Pilates	Ian Stephenson	07973 755717
Recreation Club	Dave Newlove	07901 833784
St Andrew's Church	Rev Jane Anderson	219471
St Andrew's Church Wardens	Chris Brent	07766 162743
	Lesley Kelly	07907 451046
Village Hall	Sharon Roe	217254
Village History	Geoff Wisher	217517