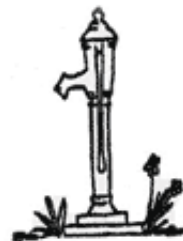


VILLAGE PUMP



April 2020

No. 469

Middleton covid-19 Support Group



By the time the Pump drops on your doorstep, you will have already had the above card delivered. Staffed by volunteers in the village, the telephone number **01629 352018** will connect you to whichever volunteer is available at any time. A rota is in place to ensure that there is always someone on hand to talk to.

There are four administrators to the group at the moment: myself (Nicola Wallace), James Weston, Lisa Varney and Claire Lorraine. We are in contact with Penny Blackwell from the Hannage Brook Medical Centre and are taking and following her advice and guidance closely. So, should you need to please give us a call.

If you wish to email us, you can do so using the following address: **middletoncovid19@outlook.com**

There is a food bank available for those in need and anyone requiring access should contact us on the number or email address above.
- Keep safe, Nicola Wallace

Pepper's Cottage Bakery scoop National Awards

At the British Pie Awards that took place on 13th March in Melton Mowbray, the Cottage Bakery based in a back garden in Middleton achieved outstanding recognition for its first-class pies – something the Knit and Natter group could have told the judges from long experience. Altogether, 60 pie-makers submitted 900 pies.

Pepper's Cottage Bakery won the class winner trophy in the Lamb

Pie category. As well, it received a Gold award for their Steak and Mushroom pie; Silver award for the Leek, Cheese and Potato, and Steak and Stilton pies; Bronze award for its Meat and Vegetable pasty, Steak and Kidney and Steak and Ale pies.

To top it all Laura Pepper and Sophie Spencer jointly received the Young Pie Maker award. What a result! Congratulations to the team.

Bin Days

Blue bin/green bin:
6th / 20th April and 4th May

Grey bin:
14th / 27th April

A New Name for Middleton

After years of tourists getting lost after travelling to the 'wrong' Middleton, Derbyshire County Council have decided that one of the Derbyshire Middletons must change its name.

At a Council meeting in February, it was decided that because Middleton by Youlgrave and Stoney Middleton lie within the boundaries of the Peak District, then Middleton by Wirksworth must be the one to change its name.

Further research has revealed that Middleton's name was originally Murhyllton, which means 'a farmstead on a hill with walls' in Old English, and was corrupted to 'Middleton' in the Middle Ages. As an anonymous councilor put it, "Both Middleton-by-Youlgrave and Stoney Middleton are in the middle of something, where Middleton by Wirksworth is obviously not in the middle of anything."

Since it will take time to ensure all maps and Council documents are updated, it was decided that the name 'Middleton' will be formally changed to the more accurate Hilton as of the 1st April 2030.

Weather - January - Very mild, and Drier Than Average

A very mild month, the mildest January since 2007 and the second mildest in the last 45 years. It was the first January on record with no air frost at Middleton. The coldest day was the 18th with a maximum of 4.7c, this was the highest on record for the coldest day in January: the previous highest was 3.5c in 1989. It was consistently mild rather than anything exceptional and the highest temperature of 10.9c was only exceeded 14 times in the last 45 Januaries.

Rainfall was below average, and drier than average. It was also a cloudy month and the sunshine total was the lowest for the month since 2016. The only lying snow was 1.5cm early on the 28th. It was the least snowy January since 2012. However, it was the windiest January since 2015, although only one day with gales - the 13th, with a maximum gust of 61 mph on the moor.

JANUARY		Diff' from, or % of, average	Date
Mean maximum temp	7.3 C	+2.1 C	
Mean minimum temp	2.9 C	+2.4 C	
Highest maximum	10.9 C		7th, 14th
Lowest minimum	0.0 C		28th
Total Rainfall	78.8 mm	72%	
Wettest Day	19.3 mm		11th
Days with rain	18		
Total Sunshine	35.8 hrs	83%	
Sunniest Day	5.4 hrs		20th
Days with no sunshine	15		

School News

During February, our Governors spent a very useful week in school, talking to the children and staff, and seeing a 'typical' week in operation. Our Governors are a great group of people, who choose to give their own time for the benefit of the school as a whole. We really do appreciate all they do and it was good for the children to show them their good work and get to know them a little more.

The NSPCC came to talk to our children about keeping themselves safe. The campaign 'Stay Safe, Speak Out', is an excellent project, enabling children to recognise how to keep themselves safe, and gain further understanding of what to do if they are in a vulnerable position. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Our younger children also took part in work on the PANTS learning programme - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/underwear-rule/>. By giving our children these tools to talk we hope that they will be kept safe and free from harm.

On the theme of safety, we also gave our parents the opportunity to attend an E-Safety Workshop. How we use and access the Internet changes quickly, so this session was held to support parents in developing their understanding of what children are doing online. The feedback from the session was very positive. Alongside this, all the children spent time on Safer Internet Day discussing how to use it safely. The focus for the day was 'Together for a Better Internet' and all the children talked about their understanding of this and how it impacts on the

Continues on next page.

School News - Continued

choices they make. We used <https://www.saferinternetday.org/> to help us to develop children's understanding. This is a great website for children of all ages and contains useful guides for parents as well.

What a fantastic day the children had with Middleton Wrestling Club! Tony Phillips joined us to hold sessions for all classes on techniques and body confidence. It was great to work with Tony and we also welcomed back an ex-pupil Shannon Harrison, who is an exceptionally talented wrestler. Our children had a marvellous day, competing with each other and growing in confidence. Thanks go to Tony and Mrs Green for organising this event. We

very much hope that some of our pupils will take up this sport, joining with Middleton Wrestling on a Monday and Wednesday evening.



Ex-Chair of Governors Mike Coveney talking to children prior to standing down before Christmas

Church News

As someone recovering from lung surgery, I am beginning a period of isolation and comforted by the pile of books I have here to read. Amongst them is the amazing "Middleton Remembers" Project report by Lucy Godfrey. Just out, it sets out the life stories of the men from Middleton who served in World War One – both those who survived and the many who died. It's a fascinating glimpse into the lives of people behind the headlines of history: ordinary people trying to do the right thing in tough circumstances and many of them rising to do extraordinary things on behalf of others.

This is a good thing to be reading at this time, as, once again, a community is asked to respond to a crisis in which ordinary people can make a difference, by showing the amazing things they are capable of. The Covid19 virus crisis will, of course, bring out some of the bad things in our society: already we see some signs of the greediness and self-centredness that can undermine our shared lives; but this is also a time when, together, we can do great things over the next few months. Already, it is heartening to see the signs of a community pulling together, looking after one another, and supporting those who are vulnerable. I hope we will find new ways to keep in touch with one another, even though doing so "at a distance". After all, isn't that what new technologies are really for: keeping in touch with quick personal messages, letting people know we are there for them, using the phone to have real conversations, and sending photos that will make others laugh or feel in touch.

In keeping with government requirements, the church across the country has suspended Sunday services, but we remain determined to still offer a focus for community life. The building will remain open for as long as we can and provide a safe quiet space to reflect, pray, remember others and draw strength from being part of wider community. You will find suitable prayers in church to focus your thoughts, or just feel free to sit quietly and reflect. Once a week one of the clergy will come into the church for half an hour of prayer to support the needs of the village and each Sunday at 11 a.m. I will hold a short service of prayer at home and include in that all the needs of the village. So, if you know of someone who needs prayer, or if you are concerned about some aspect of our community, then either tell one of our church members or ring me (01629 824549) and we will include that in the continuing cycle of prayer.

The other thing we can all keep going is our support for the Food Bank in this area, providing food for vulnerable families. Sadly, there has been a sharp decline in donations to Food Banks and there is a considerable need, so please continue to donate items either in the Food Bank boxes at the Coop in Wirksworth, at Sainsburys in Matlock or in the basket in the porch at church itself. A list of what is needed is on the outside noticeboard of church.

Like those young men from Middleton who, over 100 years ago, rose to extraordinary deeds in a crisis, we too can show the strength of our community life, our resilience and patience over a long period, and our deep concern for one another.

Peter Lewis
Reader, Holy Trinity Church

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Weather - February

February was very mild; the 8th mildest in the last 45 years, but most notable was the exceptional rainfall. It was the wettest February since local records began in 1963 and was the third wettest of any month over the same period, with only December 1965 and August 2004 recording more rain. 27 days with rain was the most on record for the month and 39.3 mm on the 15th was the wettest February day since 1977. The 6 and 12-month periods ending in February 2020 have both been the wettest on record with 973.5 and 1604.3 mm of rain respectively (160% and 150% of the average respectively); the latter total is almost 141 mm more than the previous wettest 12 months, ending March 2012.

Despite all the rain, sunshine was about average and three days, the 6th, 12th and 26th, managed more than 75% of the possible sunshine for the day.

Thunder was heard during the early hours of the 4th, the first thunder in February since 2008.

There were only 4 air frosts, the fewest in February since 2014, which had three, and the lowest minimum temperature of -0.5c was the highest on record for the month of February.

It was the windiest February since 2002 and the windiest of any month since January 2008. Gales were recorded on 4 days and the highest gust recorded on the moor was 73 mph on the 9th.

The winter of 2019/20 (December to February) was equal 4th warmest on record with 1997/98 and 2018/19. It was consistently mild rather and very unusual in that there was no cold weather at all. The highest maximum temperature of 10.9c has been exceeded in all but 7 of the past 45 winters but the lowest maximum (2.7c on February 11th) was the highest on record for the coldest day in winter. It was the wettest winter since 2013/14 and the 6th wettest in the last 45 years.

Only 8 air frosts were recorded, the fewest on record, and it was the windiest winter since 2007/08. A bit like the temperature being persistently mild it was persistently windy rather than anything exceptional and there were only 5 days with gales. By comparison the winters of 2013/14 and 2015/16 were less windy overall but recorded 13 and 10 days with gales respectively.

FEBRUARY		Diff' from, or % of, average	Date
Mean maximum temp	7.5 C	+2.1 C	
Mean minimum temp	1.7 C	+2.4 C	
Highest maximum	10.9 C		9th
Lowest minimum	-0.5 C		7th, 28th
Total Rainfall	244 mm	304%	
Wettest Day	39.3 mm		15th
Days with rain	27		
Total Sunshine	60.7 hrs	103%	
Sunniest Day	7.0 hrs		6th
Days with no sunshine	4		

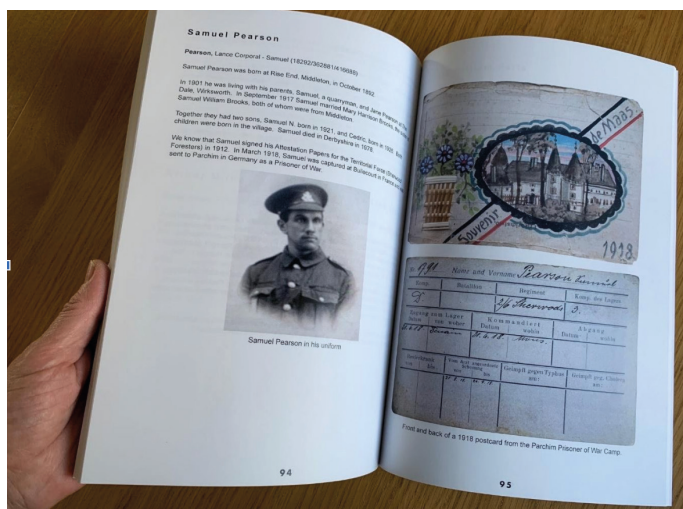
Middleton Remembers

Over the past two years, Middleton by Wirksworth Parish Council has co-ordinated a community National Lottery Heritage Funded project to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. This has now finished with the publication of 'Middleton Remembers'. This book includes biographies of the men from the village who served and died, insights into village life of the period and Middleton's role in the production of over 120,000 headstones which were sent to war cemeteries all over the world.

Research by volunteers, led and co-ordinated by Lucy Godfrey, has brought to light accounts of horrific experiences and touching personal reflections.

"Middleton Parish Council is indebted to Lucy Godfrey who has led, organised and written up the research from many contemporary sources and archives, as well as the findings of a group of volunteers. The biographies are a real treasure and provide a moving insight into the soldiers, their families and the life they left to go to war. There are references to places and occupations long gone. A number of surnames dominate and many descendants still live in the village. The project has ensured their stories will be known to future generations and also new residents living in Middleton" said Olwen Wilson, co-ordinator of the project.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has commented "Your documentation of the men that fought in the war is a fitting tribute. The contents are well laid out and easy to read. The amount of work you have undertaken is impressive and I would like to congratulate all those that have taken part."



To accompany the book, the research has been summarised on interpretation panels placed near the new memorial on the Village Green. Display banners have also been exhibited at the National Stone Centre and Carsington Water Visitor Centre and will be displayed at other local venues in the coming months. It was planned to promote the book at the Wirksworth Book Fair on 5 April and at the Parish Council Annual Meeting in May - date to be confirmed - but both may be affected by the Coronavirus outbreak.

Information from the book will be placed on the Parish Council website and will be added to when new materials come to light. Research will be archived at the Derbyshire Record Office. The Parish Council hopes this book will encourage others to explore and build on this research.

Copies are available at a cost of £10. If you are interested in buying a copy, please email: clerk@middletonbywirksworth-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council would like to thank research volunteers Esther Croll, Tracey Hancock, Judi McMahon, Michael Parker, John Sedgwick, Peter Slack, Rodney Thorne and Olwen Wilson.

Thanks also to those who contributed to and supported this project including Middleton Community Primary School, Wirksworth Team Ministry; all who brought material to research meetings kindly hosted by The Nelson Arms; and funders particularly The National Lottery Heritage Fund; Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund; County and District Councillors' Local Community Fund; Better Derbyshire Dales Fund; Longcliffe Quarries Limited; Steeple Grange Light Railway; Wirksworth World War 1 Group; and Charity Plant Sales.

LADIES BOX-FIT

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To reserve a place or more info text Jill on
07976 158076 or find me on Facebook
@thefitnessshedwithjill

The Rising Sun

On behalf of my wife, Debbie and myself, Steve, I would like to say a very big "thank you" to everyone in Middleton and around for the very warm welcome we have received since we re-opened The Rising Sun on February 21st.

Given the number of you who have already come in, spent some time with us and (hopefully) enjoyed your time here, I feel that I am already pushing against an open gate, but if you haven't been to see us yet, please be assured that you will be made to feel very welcome. Debs and I have been in the Licensed trade for four years now and also run the successful Waterloo Inn at Biggin-by-Hartington. We are still keeping The Waterloo, which is now run by our son Stevie, whilst we spend time at each. We are bringing the same outlook and values to The Rising Sun that have stood us in good stead at The Waterloo, namely we are at the heart of the community and offer good beer, good food, with a warm welcome in a friendly, family environment. We are a dog-friendly pub and it is safe to say that we welcome cyclists, walkers and muddy boots!

Our food offering, traditional English pub food done well, is now up and running. We received an early inspection from the Environment Health Officer and were very pleased with the outcome. We can now proudly display our "5 Star" rating for everyone to see.

We are introducing a weekly Wednesday Quiz, starting on 25th March, from 9 pm, which we hope you will take part in. Teams of up to 4, £2 per person entry with drinks

and cash prizes. There will be a light supper served between questions and answers, which is included in the entry fee. Other events and live music will follow shortly, but we are learning to walk still, before we start running. We are still looking for the right person / people to come to run the kitchen on Friday to Sunday, so if you or anyone you know could fit that particular bill, we would love to hear about it. That said, we now offer food 7 days a week, including from 12 – 8 pm Friday – Sunday. So, with Spring now (hopefully) around the corner, we are looking forward to a long and successful future at The Rising Sun. We hope that you will want to share this with us.

All the best,
Debs & Steve Thomas

Update:

...We fully intend to be ready to re-open, just as soon as we are allowed. In the meantime, we will continue to offer a take away food service and are sorting out a "drink to your door" service (more details to come). See you all on the other side, keep well and stay safe.

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Middleton Ladies Group

At our March Meeting, one of our members Olwyn arranged a fun evening "a World of Cheese".

We were given a sample of several different cheeses, and having tasted and smelled them, in teams of two we had to name each, give the region and country where it was made, and what milk it was made from and finally how much it cost per kilo. Not that easy!

There was a lot of scratching of heads, a few disagreements among the teams but much laughter. The winning team were Christine and Jim – yes, we allowed husbands, partners and friends along as well. We also held a raffle and members brought items that accompanied cheese for the raffle.

Thanks Olwyn for a great evening's entertainment.

March will be a Craft evening painting on glass.... (you need a pinny)... plus, we hope to commence our Scrapbook of the Ladies Group. Will members and any former members bring along any photos and/or memorabilia to the meeting, which is held on the 1st Thursday of the month in the rear room of the Nelson.

Look forward to seeing you all....Keep well
Pam Jones

** Please contact Middleton Ladies Group for updates regarding March meeting in view of Government Advice.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Dawn Greatorex (Chair)	01629 356 661
Cllr Peter Slack	01629 823 359
Cllr Olwen Wilson	01629 822 701
Cllr Glynis Spencer	
Cllr Tina Taylor	
Parish Clerk: John Rowe	07717 137526

www.middletonbywirskworth-pc.gov.uk

District Councillors

Elisa McDonagh elisa.mcdonagh@derbyshiredales.gov.uk	07838312714
Mike Ratcliffe 47 Yokecliffe Cres, Wirksworth mike.ratcliffe@derbyshiredales.gov.uk	01629 823 023
Peter Slack 31 Chapel Lane, Middleton peter.slack@derbyshiredales.gov.uk	01629 823 359

County Councillors

Irene Ratcliffe 47 Yokecliffe Cres, Wirksworth irene.ratcliffe@derbyshiredales.gov.uk	01629 823 023
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Village Hall

For bookings contact Jane Monaghan: 01629 825 154
Village Hall Website: www.middletonvh.org.uk

Post Office Opening Times

At the Nelson Arms. Tel 01629 733520 / 07770 662364
Monday 2pm-4:50pm
Wednesday 2pm-4:50pm
Thursday 9am-11:50pm

Parish Council Meetings

Ordinary meetings will be held at 6.30pm on the second Monday of each month (except August) in the Committee Room of the Village Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and to raise concerns or make representations to the Council during the Public Participation section of the meeting.

Police

Contact your local team on 0345 123 33 33 or email directly to PCSO 4413 Sue Lester: suzanne.lester.4413@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk

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