



# Your Parish News:

Spring 2018

## Chairman's Chatter:

Spring has definitely sprung! Loads of events planned and going on, this really is a thriving community. Not to be left out, we had our own big referendum which informed us that you wanted the Village Hall to be the first of three projects to be prioritised for grant funding applications and the plans being drawn up look really exciting. We also said hello to new Councillors: Geoff Turner and Jane Brownlee who've joined our team of volunteers. You'll find a bit more about them on our new website which is due to go live soon. For me, the highlights of the last few months is a close call between the Friends of St Michael's school latest production: 'Who killed the pop star' and the Parish Ceilidh, both of which were just great events. So how can we possibly improve? Three things would definitely make a big difference:

If you have a dog, please clear up after it! Your council is about to help fund a private company to target and fine those few selfish individuals who spoil our streets and even worse, our kids play areas.

Please bin your litter and report those who don't.

It would be great to see more people at the many Parish events. Too often, people say to me 'oh that sounds good, I didn't know it was on' Events are publicised on the community Facebook page, notice boards, flyers through your door and this newsletter. Keep an eye on them and don't miss out!

I'm really looking forward to the past and present memories day, I hear rumours of another great Parish table top sale and of course summer wouldn't be complete without the horticultural show and scarecrows. Lets hope the sunny, warm weathers holds out. Enjoy!

### Who Killed The Pop Star?

The friends of St. Michael's returned for a sell-out murder mystery, delivering a night of 80's nostalgia which included original 80's clothes, (from the cast of course) some very dodgy looking wigs (we think they were wigs!) and a very hungry Bengal tiger called Amadeus Well done to all both on and behind the stage, it was a fantastic night which also raised a lot of money to be spent on the children.



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### Did you know???

- County historian Robert Surtees of Mainsforth Hall, '...raised stoncrop and pinks upon his garden walls so that passers-by might benefit...'

Maybe you can spot some when you're out walking?

- In 1940, four brick and concrete air-raid shelters were built to accommodate the 160 pupils and staff of St Michael's School.

Fortunately our building plans are now much more positive: Upgrading the Village Hall and improving the playing field facilities.

*If you have any "did you knows" about the Parish or its people please send them in!*

# News & What's on

## Ceilidh

A big thanks goes to Janet and Philip Deane, two really talented musicians who got a group together from the Parish, along with some guest musician friends of theirs to put on a cracking Ceilidh night at the Village Hall. People of all ages came together from across our community, bringing food to share, which created a quite amazing buffet and a few drinkies to help loosen up those dancing feet! The night was an outstanding success, with everyone agreeing it must get back to being a regular calendar event having recently had a couple of year's break. For many, a particular highlight of the evening was the playing of two sets of Northumbrian pipes, which totally captivated the audience (and gave us all a bit of a breather before the dancing started again!) Thanks to everyone who played and came along and supported. Particular thanks go to traditional music experts Anthony & Heather Robb and Paul Knox who gave their time for free and brought a lot of humour and fun to the dances.



## Weddings Past & Present

An amazing array of dresses and wedding memorabilia was exhibited in the Village Hall recently with over forty dresses on show, the oldest from 1949 and newest from just a couple of years ago and a silk under-garment made from a parachute! Children's groups from across the Parish made pictures of what they thought Meghan's dress would look like to be sent with a letter of congratulations to the Royal couple. More than two hundred people attended raising over £400 towards the new Church boiler fund. Sharon Stevenson, who had the initial idea and led a large group of volunteers who made the event possible, was delighted with the day and passes her thanks onto all the volunteers and sponsors, particularly Mike & Sandra at PDM North East, the Parish Council and the staff at Sainsburys who once again provided support to one of our community events lending a number of mannequins and some of their team popped over to help serve wedding cake and bubbly to the visitors!

## Horticultural and Craft Society Show

The 34<sup>th</sup> annual show will take place on Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Sept in the Village Hall 2-4pm. Entries are welcomed from all ages, there are many categories to have a go at and you need to get going with some of them now! Check out the categories on the community Facebook page or at the post office. Entries can be made right up to the day. Forms will be available at the Post Office & Village Hall nearer the time. The show is open to all, so please come along, support and enjoy this popular community event.



## Castle Lake Conservation Group

The Castle Lake was described by someone attending the recent open day as a hidden treasure within our community. No doubt those who attended the event would agree as it was a beautiful day with so many birds in and around the area which attracted 78 visitors, half of whom came from across the wider North East. This area is Nationally important wildlife habitat and a group has formed to secure its future. If you're interested in supporting this group or making a donation please contact them via their Facebook page: Castle Lake Conservation Group or pop along to the hide on a weekend as there are often members there who can help. Keys for the hide (pictured below) are also available to purchase so that you can enjoy the facilities at your leisure.



## Carrot Club

Carrot Club would like to say a huge thank you to those of you who braved the rain to take part in our Easter Egg hunt. We had some cracking Easter Egg designs and some even survived the week of beautiful spring weather. Congratulations to the Bamford's for their winning Speckled Frogs Design and Molly Hodgson who won the prize for eggs-tracting the correct phrase. We hope the Anderson's enjoyed their 212 chocolate eggs in the jar. Eggs-cellent work all round! Things to watch out for in the coming months are the scarecrow competition and an open day at the allotment, leaflets will be coming around soon with the details. We have lots of fun activities and trips planned for our members over the summer, if you would like more information about Carrot Club then please contact [clareprynn@hotmail.com](mailto:clareprynn@hotmail.com).

## Dates for your Diary

Mon 6pm	Youth Club at the Village Hall
Tues 9pm	Quiz Night at the Cross Keys
1 <sup>st</sup> Wed Monthly	BALM (Bereavement And Loss Meeting) Wed 7pm Village Hall
	PACT meeting 6.30pm St Michael's
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed Monthly	Parish Council Meeting 7pm Village Hall
9 <sup>th</sup> June (TBC)	The Great Parish Table Top Sale See posters and Facebook
16th June	Carrot Club Open Day Allotments 2pm till 4pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Memory Day II 10am Village Hall
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Scarecrow Festival
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Church Summer Fête Village Hall 6pm
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	St Michael's Church Open day. See FB page for opening times
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Macmillan Coffee Morning Village Store 10am —12 noon
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Horticultural & Crafts Society Annual Show. 2-4pm Village Hall

For Village Hall regular activities please go to [www.bishopmiddlehamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.bishopmiddlehamvillagehall.co.uk)

Please like the community Facebook page to keep up to date with what's on!

[www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham](http://www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham)



# and finally .....

## The Youthy

The Youthy is still holding weekly drop in sessions at the Village Hall on a Monday evening 6pm-7pm for 10- 13 years and 7.15pm-8.15pm for over 13 years. A massive thanks go to our County Councillor Pauline Crathorne and our own Parish Council who gave funds to help with the cost of staffing and room hire that has enabled us to keep this fabulous facility in our community and to take many of our young people on three exciting activities throughout the school holidays; The young people that attend are enthusiastic and passionate about supporting their youth club and have helped out tremendously to raise funds. Their recent Easter Fair raised £248. We aim to keep up the hard work and dedication demonstrated by all to secure further funding in the future so we can continue to deliver youth work in Bishop Middleham. If you would like to support our young people and help us fund-raise, please contact Rachel at The Cornforth Partnership 01740 652000 or [rachel@cornforthpartnership.org](mailto:rachel@cornforthpartnership.org)

## St Michael's Churchyard

St Michael's District Church Council would like to clarify the situation regarding the churchyard. Currently about twenty four burial spaces remain, which means that the churchyard could be full within four to ten years. After that time there will be nowhere in Bishop Middleham or Mainsforth for people to be buried. We do hope, however, that the burial of cremated remains will be able to continue beyond that time. The Church does not have the resources to try to find land for a new churchyard and has also been advised, by the Diocese, not to do so. Local authorities have the right, but are not compelled, to provide burial spaces. There are local Council cemeteries in neighbouring communities like Ferryhill and Sedgfield and it will be possible for people from our Parish to be buried there. If you feel strongly that there should be a cemetery in Bishop Middleham you should contact either your County Councillor or the Parish Council to express your views.

## Messy Church



The messy church group met for the last time in May as the children have now outgrown this session and there are no children wanting to join at this time. Sad though this is, the group have had, as one member put it "epic fun" over the years and this time was no exception; There was all the usual fun including designing a wedding dress to be sent to Harry and Meghan. Big thanks go to Sharon & Neil and Janet & Philip for all their support of Messy Church over the years.

If your children would be interested in re-starting a Messy Church, please contact us via this newsletter or the community Facebook page.

We also bid a fond farewell to Father Michael Thompson who is retiring soon and who will be celebrating his last Eucharist with us on July 29<sup>th</sup>. All the very best Michael.



## DON'T JUST LIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY; GET INVOLVED AND BE A PART OF IT!

Please send us your news & views: letters, articles, pictures and poems.

**How to Report Issues: street lights, a broken pavement, dog fouling, fly tipping etc**

Report directly to the council on <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk/> or phone 03000 26 1000.



Bishop Middleham & Mainsforth



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Chair: Harvey Neve  
Email: [Councillorneve@Outlook.com](mailto:Councillorneve@Outlook.com)  
Tel: 01740 651790



Newsletter: Harvey Neve  
Email: [Bishopmiddlehamnewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:Bishopmiddlehamnewsletter@outlook.com)  
Tel: 01740 651790

Clerk: Paul Gray  
Email: [Bishopmiddlehampc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:Bishopmiddlehampc.clerk@gmail.com)  
Tel: 07455994854



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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham](http://www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham)