



A Winter's Tale

It's that time of year when, with a few days off and not too much to do, you start to go for little walks and wonder about inconsequential things. So here's something to ponder while you are strolling round the village walking off lunch: cattle drovers. (H'mm. I bet you hadn't thought of that.)

From the seventeenth century, when King James I of England and VI of Scotland formalised a free trade agreement between the two countries, until the mid-nineteenth century, when the advent of steam ships and then the railways made the transport of live animals so much quicker, cattle droving from the Highlands of Scotland down as far as Smithfield meat market in London was big business. In 1794, for instance, Smithfield recorded 108,000 head of cattle coming through, 80% of which came from Scotland.

Scotch Corner, though it may have been a little further south than it is at present, has been an important crossroads since time immemorial, and that it was on the drovers' route south is well established. Some would have reached Scotch Corner from the west, coming diagonally south through Barnard Castle to Scotch Corner and others would have come roughly on what is now the A68 then down through Piercebridge to Scotch Corner and onwards down what is now the A1.

The journey from the Highlands was long and arduous and drovers favoured keeping to the high ground where they could to save the cattle's hooves and avoid the charges that using toll toads would incur. Once they reached the lush grazing of Northumberland and North Yorkshire, they took the opportunity to rest and fatten the cattle before heading off south once more. *Continues on page 3*

MIDDLETON TYAS VILLAGE SHOP NEWS

Tel: 377198 Open Monday to Friday 8.00 – 6.00, Saturday 8.30 – 1.00

Make it your shop and make your voice count..

Thank you so much to all the customers who bought our Christmas hampers and other gift-wrapped produce. It all flew off the shelves! Apologies to any disappointed customers. We made as much Middleton Tyas branded produce of our own as we could but, with a small team and a miserable summer for fruit, there were limits to how much we could make.

This month should see the arrival of Seville oranges so look out for our own marmalade by the end of January/early February.

Something else which flew off the shelf was the range of fresh soups from: YORKSHIRE PROVENDER

- Pea, Spinach and Coriander
- Beetroot with Parsnip, Horseradish and Ginger
- Tomato and Red Pepper with Wensleydale Cheese and Rosemary
- Winter Root Vegetable with Pearl Barley and Thyme
- Onion with Yorkshire Hambleton Ale and Mustard

Now back in stock and just the job for warming up cold January days.

Speaking of which.....

We have rock salt granules in stock. Make sure your front door step and path are accident free NOW.

ICE CREAM FROM BRYMOR

This went so well at Christmas that we've stocked up again for New Year.

Champagne Sorbet was obviously a big hit and we now have it in 2 litre cartons as well as 500g. **Ginger Ice Cream** is proving very popular and we now have that in 1 Litre cartons as well as 500g.

Also in stock:

- Raspberry
- Chocolate
- Rich, Dark Chocolate
- Vanilla

- Wild Cherry
- Black Cherry Whim Wham

Bishop Auckland-based **Jenkins and Hustwit** are the winners of 15 awards for their cakes and puddings and are suppliers to Selfridge's – and now the Village Shop. Look out especially for their gluten free, low fat and sugar-free cakes for those on special diets.

- The Dales Fruit Cake - £8.50 & £4.50
- Rich Fruit Cake - £8.50 & £4.50
- Gluten Free Fruit Pudding - £4.15
- No Added Sugar Fruit Pudding - £4.15
- Low Fat Granny Loaf - £2.95
- Gluten Free Fruit Cake - £3.85
- Reduced Sugar Fruit Loaf - £2.95

Bubbles for the New Year

Here's something else we ran out of in no time flat and have re-ordered for New Year. It must be good!

MARTINI PROSECCO

£9.99.

And another very popular sparkler

JACOB'S CREEK

SPARKLING ROSE - £9.99

We're closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Open 8.00 – 1.00 Thursday 27 Dec
Open New Year's Day 9.00 – 10.30. We will happily bake to order.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

News from the parish council

Street lights

If anyone sees a street light not working or on during the day but off at night, will you please contact the Parish Clerk on 377062 with the location of the pole and its number. This will help the contractors find it more easily.

Highways flooding

In a highways emergency situation (such as a main drain blockage or a road blockage) please ring 101. This is the emergency number operated by the police who are supposed to give advice on highways emergencies including during out-of-office hours such as weekends and evenings.

School report

Harvest donations

A big thank you to everyone who donated money and produce for our Harvest Festival. The food was handed to the homeless shelter and over £100 was given to First Stop, Darlington.

Christmas Fayre

Once again the Christmas Fayre was a big success, thanks to the hard work of the school PTA and staff. There was a wonderful selection of stalls and an amazing array of raffle prizes were kindly donated. A wonderful evening was had by all and, to date, over £2000 has been raised.

National Jumper Day

To raise money for Save the Children, staff and pupils were encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper to school – the uglier, the better! Everyone donated £1 for the privilege.

Christmas Production

Our Foundation Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 children have been busy rehearsing for our Christmas production, which this year is "Children of the World." A big thank you to the children for learning their lines and all the songs and to the staff for their time and effort to bring the production together.

Swimming Gala

Recently children from our Year 5 and 6 classes took part in a swimming gala at Richmond swimming pool, competing against 6 other schools from the local area. The children all swam incredibly well and showed goods

sportsmanship throughout the event and represented our school extremely well. Overall, we came second. Well done everyone!

School Calendars

All the children in school have been involved in creating art work for a 2013 school calendar. The children were split into groups, according to which month their birthday was in. They then worked together in their groups to produce a piece of art work to represent that month. The calendar was then produced and each child's name is listed under their birthday month. Calendars are available from the school for £5 each – an ideal gift or just something nice to have in your home, created by children from the local community.

Buy a Diary Date

We currently have a diary in school and we are selling the dates in it for £1 each. When the diary is full, all the dates will be put into a hat and one will be drawn out. The winning date will win a tablet!! Why not buy a date – your birthday? Anniversary? Special occasion? Please contact Helen Richardson on 377285 for details of the school calendar and diary dates.

School begins again on Monday 7 January 2013 at 8.45. Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year.

Helen Richardson
Parent Governor

Friends of Middleton Tyas Play Park

Our recent 'Halloween Hooley' raised over £1200 towards our fund-raising for a new slide for the Children's Play Park and also towards the wonderful work undertaken by Breast Cancer Care. We are grateful to everyone whose generosity helped to make the evening so successful.

Our fund has now reached over £2100 and we are awaiting the result of a grant application in November which should bring in another £1000. We are also applying for match funding of a further £2000 this month and should then be in a position to achieve our initial goal of a new slide for the Play Park.

The Management Committee

Village Shop 100 Club.

The Village Shop 100 Club draw is due to start again in February 2013. This draw provides a much-needed source of income to enable the Village Shop to have funds available to cover necessary expenditure over the next twelve months.

The draw takes place each month, with three prizes of Shop Vouchers value £30 / £20 / £10 for an annual one off payment of £24. The names of monthly winners are displayed in the shop. For just a one-off payment of £24, each club member has 36 opportunities each year to recoup some of their investment and just one First Prize more than covers the annual subscription.

So this is a two pronged appeal -- first, to those who are current members, please stay with us and reconfirm your membership for 2013 by paying your subscription in the shop before the end of January, and second, to those villagers who are not currently members, please join in for 2013 and you just never know your luck. You could be our February winner of a £30 shop voucher. Remember -- if you're not in, you can't win!! New members can join at the shop by completing the simple application form and paying their £ 24 in time for the February 2013 draw.

The Village Shop makes a much greater contribution to our community than being simply a place to do your shopping in. For example, it is a place of social interaction for many elderly residents who find it harder to travel to Richmond or Darlington, especially during the winter months. It is often the conduit through which important information about crimes / sickness or other local news can be easily relayed within the community, and let's not forget that an important part of the shop is the Village Post Office. How fortunate we are to still have our Village Post Office in 2013!. The Village Shop / Post Office / School and Village Pub all combine to make Middleton Tyas a very desirable village to live in and I think the majority of residents recognise this fact. So even if you are not a regular user of the village shop, sign up to be a member of the 100 Club before the end of January and you could be one of the first winners in 2013.

Jim Wilkinson.

Christmas cake winner



Mary Parvin draws the winning ticket for the beautiful iced and decorated Christmas cake which she made for a special Christmas Raffle in the shop,. The winner was Val Wilkinson and the raffle raised £118.

A Winter's Tale

(Continues from page 1)

How likely is it that drovers longed to reach the sheltered, safe pastures and welcoming hostleries of our villages? One sure sign is the pub name 'The Black Bull'. Moulton had one until very recently and what is now Longfield Farm, in Middleton Tyas, was previously a pub of the same name. Not proven but you can't help wondering about all the local place names to do with cows – Cow Lane, Cow Park, Cow Nook (or Brook House as it is now). Maybe even North and East Cowton.

Then there are the Scots Pine trees. Scots Pines were planted by the drovers themselves or by farmers willing to accommodate drovers and cattle. They are usually planted in a line of three to five trees with, sometimes, a single tree nearby as a pointer. The advantages Scots Pines have as a sort of 'Routier' sign for drovers are that they are quick growing; they thrive on high ground and grow tall so can be seen from a distance; they are evergreen and they are not

native to this part of the country so they would have tended to stand out.

There are actually quite a few mature specimens in Middleton Tyas: a single one in front of Foresters Hall (Could that have been a pointer?) and several more broadly around what is now Kneeton Park. Could Kneeton Park and Cow Park have been safe, sheltered pastures with water, where it was easy to contain the cattle and keep guard over them? We may never know for sure but it is interesting to ponder and to visualise those huge herds of black cattle, maybe as many as 500 at a time, surging up and down the village road up to Scotch Corner.

Claiming dates

January

Thursday 10 January 7.00 Parish Council Meeting

Saturday 19 January 11.00 – 2.00 Coffee Morning with Bacon Butties

Editor's corner

It's the time of year when I'm out with the begging bowl again. I know there are so many deserving claims on your generosity but, if you have read this issue so far you must think the Village News has something useful to contribute (or else you are very short of reading matter and it's this or the cornflakes packet!) The Village News would not survive very long without your support so please, get your cheque book or your wallet out now while you are thinking about it and drop a donation, made out to Middleton Tyas Village News please, to me at 2 The Green.

If for no other reason, a donation would be a good way of expressing your thanks to the team of volunteers who ensure that a copy goes through every letter box in our two villages month after month. The Village News would come to a very abrupt halt without their dedication.

Please would you send me copy for the February issue by 20 January latest to 2 The Green, telephone 377311 or e-mail me on dianahthomas@gmail.com

Happy New Year everyone
Diana Thomas

Church News

St Michael's Majors

The tea will be on Jan. 17 in the Memorial Hall 3.00 – 5.00. Usual travel arrangements apply.

Church cleaning

Thank you once again to everybody who helps with the church cleaning. It always looks so beautiful.

Jean

SERVICE FOR ALL January 6 at 9.30

'Service for All' will be held on 6 January at 9.30 to celebrate Epiphany and the Adoration of the Magi. Once again the children will be actively participating and refreshments will be served after wards.

It is vitally important that the church embraces all ages in its services of worship as the children are the future of the community. All ages are welcome so please do come along and join in this special event in the church's calendar.

COFFEE MORNING

in aid of Church funds.

St Michael and All Angels

You are invited to drop in for a chat and relax on

Saturday 19 January 2013

11-00 am until 2-00 pm

In the

Memorial Hall

Entrance £3-50 Adults

£1-75 Children

This includes coffee, tea or squash and bacon butty.

Book Stall, Raffle and
Handmade Cards.

We look forward to seeing you.

Church Services

9.30 am	Sunday 6th January 2013 Epiphany Service for All			Middleton Tyas	Rev. D. Lewis
Sidesmen	Mr . S. Hill Mrs M. Hill	Reader	Toby Holdstock	The Three Wise Men	

9.30 am.	Sunday 13th January Baptism of Christ Holy Communion (CW)			Middleton Tyas	Rev. L. Thorius
Sidesmen	Mrs S. Vaux Mrs M. Parker	Reader	Mrs E. Croft	Acts 8 : 14 – 17 Luke 3 : 15 – 17, 21 - 22	P. 691 P. 691

6.00 pm	Holy Communion (BCP)			Moulton	Rev. D. Lewis
----------------	-------------------------------	--	--	----------------	----------------------

9.30 am	Sunday 20th January 3rd of Epiphany Holy Communion (CW)			Middleton Tyas	Ven. S. Golding
Sidesmen	Mrs. C. Harvey Mrs. E. Croft	Reader	MrW.A.C.Hindhaugh	1 Corinthians 12 : 1 - 11 John 2 : 1 - 11	p.693 p.693

9.30 am	Sunday 27th January 4th of Epiphany Morning Prayer (CW)			Middleton Tyas	Mr. R. Brookstein
Sidesmen	Mr. R. Aitken Mrs.P. Aitken	Reader	Mr. S. Hill	Nehemiah 8 : 1 – 3, 5 – 6, 8–10, Luke 4 : 14 - 21	p.694 p.698

9.30 am	Sunday 3rd February 2nd before Lent Holy Communion (CW)			Middleton Tyas	Ven S. Golding
Sidesmen	Mrs. M. Sheridan Mrs. J. Nimmins	Reader	Mrs D. Carter	Revelation 4 Luke 8 : 22 - 25	p.722 p.723

All readings are as detailed in the Revised Common Lectionary unless otherwise shown.

Cleaning Rota

Dec 31 - Jan 7 Mrs. I. Stead & Mrs. Wood
 Jan 14 - 21 Mrs. Craggs , Mrs.White & Mrs. Begley
 Jan 28 – Feb 4 Mrs. McKibbin & Mrs. Vaux

Flowers

Sara Vaux will be in charge of flowers this month. (377228)

If anyone needs the services of a priest, please contact Revd. David Lewis on 01609 881205 or email davidlewis648@btinternet.com