

Scotch Corner preserves its mystery

One of the main reasons for the extension to the road building programme at Scotch Corner is to enable the excavation of a newly discovered archaeological site to be completed. Why is it taking so long and what's involved?

Excavation is currently taking place in two sites to the north west of Scotch Corner. These two areas are located at either end of the old VOSA weighbridge site and will provide a new slip road on to the northbound A1 as well as a new access to the VOSA. This doesn't involve digging in a new area: it's a question of finishing a task which has become more and more productive and mysterious as work has gone on.

The normal protocol with archaeological work ahead of road building is that after a comprehensive survey and assessment phase of known archaeological sites, a system of work is agreed so that they are left intact or mitigation measures are agreed if sites are to be destroyed. Where possible, plans for the road development are fine-tuned to enable archaeological remains to be left in place with the road built over or around the archaeology. This has been the case, for instance, with the access track to Violet Grange. Excavation ultimately involves the destruction of archaeological deposits so wherever possible the remains are preserved in situ.

Only where the construction of a new road or the associated infrastructure involves serious incursions into the site, as with Scotch Corner are artefacts recovered during archaeological excavation. In these cases archaeological remains and deposits are excavated as far down as there is any evidence of human activity.

The initial results from the A1 survey shows that the combined local Iron Age and Roman settlement at Scotch Corner occupied a site of roughly 1.4km from north to south and up to 1km wide from east to west. Significant parts of this at the northern and southern ends have potentially

been damaged by intensive ploughing and cultivation since the mid-twentieth century. In the undisturbed area, where evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation survives as earthworks, bedrock is often quite near the surface so that items of archaeological interest began to be found almost as soon as digging started. There proved to be a tremendous amount which is of interest and is still being removed for further analysis.

What's so special about Scotch Corner? Where shall we start!? Firstly, there is clear evidence of early Stone Age activity dating back 8 – 10 thousand years when the people living there would just have been changing from being basically nomadic hunter-gatherers to permanently located farmers. Nobody knew that before.

Secondly, there is significant evidence of Iron Age settlement at what we now think of as Scotch Corner and along the A66 and A6108 towards Richmond. There were clearly round houses, enclosures and fields and it is clear that Scotch Corner and the surrounding area had long been a major junction before the Romans arrived.

Roman discoveries at Scotch Corner have caused a re-think in several ways about what the 'Roman Occupation' really involved. Archaeologists did not expect to find an extensive Roman site at Scotch Corner but early in the stripping period evidence of Roman activity was identified. Some of these finds suggested a military presence but there was nothing to suggest a military base or fort at the site though plenty of evidence of Roman rectangular buildings alongside the round houses of the local Iron Age population. There is no evidence of existing buildings being destroyed by the Romans (no sign of deliberate fire, for instance.) So did the Romans live here peaceably with the native population?

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MIDDLETON TYAS VILLAGE SHOP NEWS

Tel: 377198 Open Monday to Friday 8.00 – 2.00, Fridays also 5.00 – 7.00, Saturday 8.30 – 1.00

Everyone who has anything to do with the shop is greatly saddened by the death of Peter Nimmins. He was a staunch supporter of the shop and a much valued volunteer – one of the small band who come in early in the morning to bake the bread, sort the newspapers and serve in the shop before most of us get going. Over the years we have also valued his wisdom and good advice on how to keep the shop afloat financially.

Even more than that, he was just a great person to have around and we shall miss him very much.

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MIDDLETON TYAS POST OFFICE
Telephone: 339111

**Opening hours: 8.30 – 1.30, Mondays,
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays**

POST OFFICE CUSTOMERS PLEASE

NOTE: The Royal Mail has changed its pick-up time from our Post Office with immediate effect. Please have your post with Dorothy by 11.45 for a midday pick-up to ensure it is sent that day.

Football Prediction Game

Thank you to everyone who has played our Football Prediction Game this season and well done to all the winners. The game raised £98 for the shop and is back next season ... Why not have a go? I won a couple of times, which is proof you don't even have to know anything about football to win!
Helen

Can you help with the website?

I am looking for someone to help keep the shop website up-to-date. It's not much work

but I find it's one of the last things I find time to do. Please let me know if you can help. Talk to me at the shop or ring me at home. (377434)

Helen

Yorkshire beers are going down a storm!

Our range of Yorkshire beers are proving very popular so here's two more we've added to the range, both from Treeboom Brewery in Skipton-by-Beningbrough, near York.

- **Yorkshire Sparkle**

£2.25 for 500mls ALC 4%

- **Kettle Drum**

£2.25 for 500mls ALC 4.3% - great with cheese, so we're told.

Both beers are Winners of the Great Taste 2016 Award

New from Gordon Rhodes

Here's something that ticks all the boxes! If you've tried Gordon Rhodes' Bread Sauce Mix or Stuffing Mix, you'll already know that this is going to taste really like homemade but without the hassle.

CHILLED OUT CHILLI CON CARNE SAUCE MIX

You supply the beef, beans, a tin of tomatoes and an onion plus a pepper if you like, stir in the sauce mix and leave it to cook long and slow while you do something else. Come back when dinner's ready.

One packet makes enough for four portions and it's gluten free too but you would never guess. £1.76

Kinder Surprise Eggs Justice League or Barbie Doll. Not exactly gender neutral but the kids love them! 89p

News from the parish council

Peter Featherstone's visit to the Parish Council

Peter Featherstone, RDC Planning and Development Manager, attended the meeting of the PC on 11 May to talk to us about the Planning Process here in North Richmond. Three main points came out of his presentation:

1. Residents wanting to build are able to seek pre-planning advice at RDC
2. All planning documents and applications are available on the RDC website
3. It is really helpful if residents contact the Parish Council with any concerns they have with regard to any planning applications. This enables the Parish Council to ensure that residents' concerns are fully reflected in its responses to planning consultations.

At the same time we can support residents advising them on the key issues which are likely to determine any planning decision.

The PC has a dedicated member, Sam Perks, who deals with all planning matters which are discussed with the Parish Council before our response is collated. You can email Cllr Perks at samperks@me.com with any issues you might have.

Best Kept Village

The competition for Best Kept Village is underway. Judging takes place during the first two weeks of July. Let's see if we can all work together to win this year!

Moulton matters

Moulton Plant Sale

The Plant Sale held on 6 May was well attended and we are grateful for all the donations of plants, produce and garden paraphernalia. Thanks to all who helped before the day, on the day and to pack up afterwards.

We raised the wonderful sum of £1019.85 for village funds. The Moulton Village Association has decided this year to donate sales of those items remaining after the Plant Sale to the Starlight appeal. These are for sale in the bus shelter.

See you again at the Plant Sale next year on Saturday 12 May!



Facebook

You can follow us on Facebook at "Moulton Village Community" and see pictures of our fabulous Plant Sale.

Books in the Bus Shelter

The sale of books and CDs the bus shelter during May raised £27.52. Thanks to all who have supported the village. We have had a lot of new stock recently so do call in. Good quality fiction books are always welcome. Please leave them in the bus shelter.

All proceeds will go towards Moulton Village Association funds.

Best Kept Village Competition

The competition will be judged during the first two weeks of July. Everyone in the village makes a terrific effort to keep verges, beds and baskets in tip top condition. Good luck in keeping them in good shape. New window boxes have been installed at the bus shelter funded by the Moulton Village Association. The bus shelter, benches and notice boards will be spruced up together with the paper box.

Community Speed Watch

At recent Parish Meetings the matter of vehicles speeding through the village has been raised. The Community Speed watch is an opportunity for residents to get involved in helping to monitor speed of vehicles. We have some volunteers, however, we need more. If you are interested, please contact John Gentry.

Church Cleaning:

Thanks to all who have volunteered to clean St Andrew's.

June: Jo Spence

July: Mr and Mrs Whitehead

Middleton Tyas C of E Primary School

Saturday 1st July 2017
11 am till 2pm

Everyone welcome – bring friends and relatives

BBQ, Stalls, Demonstrations, Maypole Dancing, Face Painting, Inflatable Assault Course, Tug of War, Cake Stall and loads more

FREE ENTRY

School report

Maypole Dancing

We would like everyone to know that we now have a new maypole which arrived at school on Thursday 11 May. Unfortunately the old pole has had to be retired after years of service.

Unfortunately, we cannot do any Maypole Dancing on the green this month, as lack of a pole and a very busy schedule has prevented us from being able to put in the needed practice.

On a happier note, we will be holding Julypole dancing on The Green and hope that everyone in the village and surrounding area will join us on the day. We will confirm the actual date in the next Village News.

May's School Achievements

Fabulous photos of all of May's activities are on our facebook page – www.facebook.com/efmtschoools or on our blog at www.blog.ef-mtschoools.co.uk . Please check them out, it's well worth a look.

The Art of Judo



Year 1 to 6 had great fun in their Judo taster session, it was high energy and everyone had great fun.

Gardening Club Go To Middleton Lodge

This year our school gardening club is very lucky to have two plots within the Middleton Lodge Kitchen Gardens. The young gardeners really enjoyed their first session and worked hard planting vegetables and wild flowers. We are looking forward to seeing the progress of their work.

Cricket Champions!



I'm sure you will congratulate our Year 3/4 Cricket Champions. After a hard fought out tournament against 11 teams from other local villages, our Year 3/4 children came out on top. A huge well done all of them.



The Y5/6 cricket team also played exceptionally well to come third at the tournament, well done team!

PTA – Friends of the Federation

Our school PTA is now known by a new name adopted this year following the integration of Eppleby School, so we are now known as The Friends of the Federation (FOTF).

A huge thank you to everyone who comes to our events and supports us and our schools. We are always looking for extra help to run our events and if anyone is free and would like to join us and

help, please contact us by emailing friends@ef-mtschoools.co.uk with your contact details.

So far this year we have supported the school with the purchase of several ipads and laptops for the children to use.

Bingo Night

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our fantastic and fun evening at the FOTF Bingo night! We raised a fantastic amount of £274.



Sandra Baxter, representing Soroptimists International of Richmond and The Dales, presents members of the Middleton Tyas Arts and Crafts Group with a certificate in appreciation of the donation of 150 hand-knitted baby jumpers and matching hats for new born babies in Zimbabwe.

Our own sporting legend?

If you lived in Middleton Tyas ten or so years ago, even more so if you had sons or grandsons who are now in their mid-twenties, you probably knew Alex Gray. He and his brothers Josh and Oliver and mother Caroline lived with Maureen Mitchell in Park View, Middleton Tyas. Alex went to Barnard Castle School where he soon embarked on what was to become an illustrious career as a rugby union player. Alex is a former England player and was recently head-hunted by the National Football League, the body responsible for selecting and training players from all over the world to play in top flight American Football clubs in the USA.

Currently training in Miami, Alex was home at the end of April because he was the subject of a film profile. A Seattle-based film crew followed him

round Middleton Tyas (blown away by how it fulfilled all their dreams of what a proper English village should look like); Barnard Castle School: a rugby 7's match at Morpeth, ending up at Grandma Maureen's home for Yorkshire roast beef lunch with all the trimmings.

The film is due to be shown on television in the USA and UK in the autumn, when we can all bask in Alex's reflected glory. We wish him every success in this next exciting stage of his football career.



Maureen Mitchell, who's actually quite tall, with grandson Alex on his recent visit home

Definitely not good

Somebody has been leaving plastic bags of dog waste in the waste bin on the path to the 'old' Village Shop door. This bin is for waste from the shop only. Sorting out dog waste from other rubbish is not something staff or volunteers should expect to do. Will whoever is responsible for this please use the official dog waste bins, of which there are at least two in the village.



"We Can Dance"

Registered Charity no 1136698

Ascot Ladies' Day

At Crathorne Hall Yarm

On Thursday 22 June 2017

Buck's Fizz reception at 11.30

Followed by Lunch at 12.30

Afternoon refreshments at 3 00

Full televised coverage of the afternoon's

racing programme

Betting Sheets available

Pretty Hat Competition - Raffle

*Tickets £25.00 Available 01325 335998 and
01325 377633*

Memorial Hall still needs a secretary

If you have a couple of hours a week to spare and would like to make a small but important contribution to village life as well as get to know people and have some fun, joining The Memorial Hall Committee as Secretary could be just what you are looking for.

Ring Ken Etherington 377605, Jenny Ruston 377800 or contact Dorothy

Logan at the Post Office to have a chat about what's involved.

Scotch Corner preserves its mystery

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The next piece of the puzzle is that there have been found large quantities of fragments of high quality glass, pottery, a polished copper mirror and other artefacts which suggest a very prosperous lifestyle. It can also be dated very precisely. Some of the glass, for instance, is identical to and contemporary with glass found at Pompeii which can be dated as being produced not later than 55 – 60 AD. That puts its arrival at Scotch Corner around ten years earlier than any one thought the Romans were in the North of

England. So they were here and heading north at a very early stage of what we think of as the Roman Occupation. Why?

There is evidence of considerable industrial activity too. Probably most fascinating is the discovery of a mould for making the metal pellets from which coins would be stamped, making Scotch Corner the most northerly example of coin production ever found in Europe. No hordes of gold coins, alas, but a clear indication that Scotch Corner was involved in the initial stages of coin production. Tantalizing for local residents is the fact that there is evidence of copper being worked at Scotch Corner, though we don't know what was being made. Did the Romans know of and exploit the copper deposits in Middleton Tyas? We may never know the answer to that.

Despite the apparent prosperity and industrial activity going on at Scotch Corner, there is something very temporary about the Roman stay here. Initial analysis would suggest that most buildings were single storey wooden constructions and there has been no evidence of ramparts or fortifications. Archaeologists are certain that within thirty years or so, the Romans had pressed on further north and, locally, had consolidated their activity on Catterick, which was becoming an important economic and administrative centre.

The feeling is now that perhaps the Romans came, bringing gifts of the highest quality, to win the hearts and minds of the native population, possibly focusing on the settlement at Stanwick where the Iron Age Queen Cartimandua was installed. Her compliance might have been critical to a much wider acceptance of the Roman presence.

One last mystery. Archaeologists have discovered at Scotch Corner a number of clay-lined Iron Age pits that had been cut into the rock and it is here that they have discovered the broken remains of large quantities of fine Roman glass, pottery and other high status items.. It is evident that the pits were then backfilled and left. A sacrifice, a deliberate rejection of the Roman offerings? We may never now what prompted this very considered action.

Within half a century the Romans, like many other occupying forces since, had discovered that plying the natives with gifts doesn't necessarily produce the results they wanted and by AD 80 –

100 'military solutions' were beginning to be applied. But by then Scotch Corner's Roman heyday was already a thing of the past.

**Something new
at
Shine Nails.**



With our busy lives and so much to do everyday it's no wonder our nails can get weak and battered. The most common reason for ladies not to have their nails painted is "the colour wouldn't stay on me". Kate of *Shine Nails* has listened to her customers and has introduced a new product, *The Gel Bottle* to run alongside *CND Shellac*. It's a product that can last up to 3 to 4 weeks and offers the extra protection hard working ladies need. Amazing colour, kind to the natural nail and a water-like shine - all this alongside the pampering that is standard at *Shine Nails*.

No extra costs, no damaged nails, no nasty ingredients just beautiful and healthy nails. Perfect for summer. Come relax and enjoy the experience not just the results.

Please call for more information.
Flexible appointments at my relaxing home salon in Middleton Tyas are available for both a manicure and pedicure treatments.

Tel: 07803 612372
www.shine-nails.co.uk

...relax and enjoy the experience, not just the results...

Claiming dates

June

Sunday 25 June 2.00 – 6.00 Open Gardens Great and Small 1.00 – 5.00

Thursday 8 June 7.00 Parish Council Meeting

July

Saturday 8 July 12.00 – 4.00 Bark in The Park MT Playing Field

October

Tuesday 17 October 11.30 – 3.00 'Bloom where you are planted' with Lucy Smith NAFAS The Coach House Middleton Lodge

Editor's Corner

Sorry there's no front page picture this month. Just not enough room! Many thanks to Stuart Culley, A1L2B Public Liaison Officer, Charlotte Wright, Assistant Project Manager for Highways England, and Dr Jonathon Shipley, Archaeology Clerk of Works, for helping with the two articles about Scotch Corner in the May and June issues of the Village News

Copy for the combined July/August issue please
by 20 June.

BARK

.....in the Park



Saturday 8th July 2017

12 to 4 pm

Middleton Tyas Playing Field

Fundraiser for Middleton Tyas Play Park

**10 Fun Dog Competitions including
kids soft toy dog class for those with no dogs**

What Else

- Stalls
- Face painting
- BBQ
- Tombola
- Cakes
- And lots more ...



Everyone welcome more details to follow..

Bark in the Park

We are planning a fundraising event in support of the Middleton Tyas Play Park on Saturday 8 July called "Bark in the Park". This will be held on the Village Playing Field and will run from 12 noon to 4.00.

There will also be various stallholders selling their wares, BBQ and fun dog competitions with prizes. The aim is for a family fun community event and to generate funds for new play equipment in the Play Park. There will be lots more information in the July Village News, but, in the meantime, lock the date in your diary. You don't have to be a dog owner to join in the fun. If you would like to help with the event or would like to have a stall, please give Leanne Harknett a call on 01325 377321

Open Gardens Great & Small

**on Sunday, 25 June
from 1.00 until 5.00**

Entrance £4.00pp 50p for children

This includes tea/coffee and a cream scone in
The Memorial Hall

Tickets are available on the day from Groveberry
House or on The Green

The Village Shop will be open for the sale of
icecreams, sweets, soft drinks etc

Proceeds in aid of St. Michael & All Angels
Church

ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS CHURCH

All Age Family Communion

- An opportunity for all to worship
- New Order of Service
- New Hymn Books

Come and join us for the service at
9.30 a.m
on Sunday June 4th



Refreshments provided after the service

All Age Holy Communion

On Sunday May 7th at St Michael & All Angels we launched an All Age Holy Communion, and, following positive feedback, it will be included in the pattern of services one Sunday every month.

So what is All Age Worship? Well it's an opportunity for people of all ages, understandings and experiences to come together: whether you are an explorer and just starting out, or have been travelling the journey of faith for a while, our service offers an informal time to learn from each other and grow together. It is for everybody and anybody, for those with faith, and those with none.

What All Age Worship is not is a dumbing down of the service or a children's performance. There are no tambourines, OHP's or dodgy butterfly songs and it is not an unstructured free for all: we have a

specific order of service so everyone knows what's coming next, and a new hymn book especially selected for its lack of action songs.

Coffee is served afterwards so everyone who wants to meet others socially can do so, and very importantly, biscuits – what more could you want?! The next All Age service will be on June 4th. at 0930, so put it in your diary now!

Reverend Jenni

Church flowers

June is the big month for weddings so hopefully some flowers will be left in church, Sara Vaux will fill in the gaps.

St Michael's Majors

Please note that the tea this month will be on the 4th Thursday, 22 June, same time, same place and usual travel arrangements will apply.

