



Picture: Fernie Boorman



from our British news Christmas address



Village Store and Post Office Christmas Opening

Store

- * Christmas Eve - 6.15am -1pm
- * Christmas Day - Closed
- * Boxing Day - 8 - 9am
- * Thurs 27th - Sun 30th Normal Hours
- * New Year's Eve - 6.15 am -1pm then 2-4pm
- * New Year's Day - 9-11am
- * Wed 2nd - 6.15am -1pm then 2-8pm

Post Office

- * 9am-1pm
- * Closed
- * Closed
- * Normal Hours
- * 9am-1pm then 2-4pm
- * Closed
- * 9am-1pm then 2-5.30pm



- * All other week days as normal Store 6.15am - 1pm then 2-8pm & Post office 9am-1pm then 2-5.30pm

A very Merry Christmas to all our customers

Last dates for posting: 1st class is Thurs 20th Dec and 2nd class is Tues 18th Dec

Remember we sell those lucky Christmas Lottery scratch cards to hide under the Christmas day dinner plates.

We also sell Christmas Yankee candles, wrapping paper, cards, sweets, chilled beer, wine and soft drinks.

All the fun of the Christmas Fayre

Please support our local shop and pubs this Christmas and remember that you can also treat yourself to some Venison or Bison from Farnless Farm in Bishop Middleham as well 0191 3771428

Drinking and driving don't mix, so give Travel 6 a ring 01740 655644. Carole and Tony will be happy to offer taxi services to your Christmas events so that you can fully enjoy the Christmas cheer!

There's lots for you to get involved in during the year: watch for details on the notice board and www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham E-mail: Bishopmiddlehamnewsletter@outlook.com



Chairman's Christmas Chatter:



As I write this note, I've been reflecting on how the year has been for our community and it's been another busy one for sure; Scarecrows, garage sale, coffee mornings and a heritage day up at the Church, the horticultural and craft show was a great success, the charity day at the post office raised record amounts, the return of the Parish Ceilidh, Memory Day II and a fabulous display of wedding memorabilia to celebrate the marriage of Harry and Meghan. The children were thrilled to get a letter of thanks back from the palace! And the fireworks were great. But I think my favourite this year was the open day up at Castle Lake bird sanctuary. If you've not been, you really should, it's a wonderful place. A special mention also has to go to the epic production of "Who killed the pop star" from the friends of the school, what a great evening it was which led me to find that I still have my 80s clothes in my wardrobe (fitting in them was another matter though). A big thanks to all volunteers who make all this happen and to those who attend and make them successful. Thanks also to the Parish Council team, all volunteers, who also do a great job.

Once again we've been blessed with very little crime. This is a very safe community in which to live and big thanks go to our PCSO Mary and her colleagues who help keep us safe and also to the volunteers in Middleham and Mainsforth who are working hard to stop speeding through the Parish which is especially dangerous in the winter with ice and dark nights. Please don't speed!

The Village Hall continues to be the hub of our community and a big thanks goes to the Village Hall team, and especially to Lindsay Johnston who has just stepped down as chair having achieved so much during her tenure. A big welcome to Stuart Dexter who is taking over. If you'd like to become a trustee of the Hall please get in touch. Anyone over 18 can apply, it's very rewarding and good for your CV.

Finally, it's time to once again call on everyone to be extra good neighbours through the winter. Please check on the elderly and infirm, help clear snow and offer company to the lonely. These small acts of kindness make a huge difference. See you all on the 9th at 4pm for carols around the Christmas tree and mulled wine after in the Fleece.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Harvey Neve: Chair of the Parish Council

Xmas dates for your diary

Dec	Event
1 st	Christmas Menu begins at the Cross Keys. 3 courses for £19.95 Marble Art Workshop. £10pp Village Hall 10-11am Burlap Festive Wreath Making Workshop £10pp Village Hall 12-2pm
8 th	Foliage Wreath making workshop £10 pp Village Hall 1.30– 3.30pm Children's Foliage Table Decoration workshop £5 pp Village Hall 4-5pm NB: Booking is essential for all VH workshops Tel 07341 261 342 or via Facebook
9 th	Carols around the Christmas Tree with Ferryhill Town Band at the Brewery Field 4pm followed by mince pies & mulled wine in the Fleece.
16 th	Children's Slime Workshop. £5pp Village Hall 10am & 11am
18 th	Christmas Quiz 9pm, Cross Keys.
19 th	Over 50s Drop in Steel Drum workshop 10-12 noon Village Hall (07885 486033)
23 rd	Parish Carol Service St Michael's 6.30pm followed by mince pies & mulled wine.
24 th	Crib Service St Michaels 4pm NB no midnight mass or Christmas day service this year at St Michaels