VILLAGE NEWS

NEWS FROM MIDDLETON HALL RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Produced by Middleton Hall Retirement Village, this newsletter provides updates and stories from across our community.

AUTUMN 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stories in this edition include:



Singing hits the right note
Residents from across Middleton Hall enjoy weekly Singing for the Soul sessions.

Residents help shape menus
Tastings and feedback are helping shape new seasonal menus for our care services

Bronze medal at Care Home Olympics
Residents and the Health & Wellbeing team competed in the Darlington event.



More than 100 explore the estate
Visitors enjoyed an exclusive look at the gardens and woodland at this year's National Garden Scheme Open Day.

Wildlife thrives at Middleton Hall
Bird boxes, ducks, deer and rabbits are among the wildlife enjoying the 45-acre estate.

BUMPER YEAR OF AWARDS CELEBRATED

Four national award wins and multiple finalist places have made 2026 a standout year for Middleton Hall Retirement Village, recognising excellence in care leadership, catering, nutrition and dining.

Head of Care and Quality Debby McGinnes won the Housing with Care Awards' Senior Leader Award and joined Head Chef Mark Bennett and the Kitchen team in winning the Independent Care Home Caterer Award. The Kitchen team also won the NACC Catering Team of the Year Award.

At the 2026 Care Home Awards, Middleton Hall won Best for Nutrition, Food and Dining and was a finalist in three other categories. The village also secured finalist places at the BUSINESSiQ and HealthInvestor Seniors Housing Awards.









FUN FOR ALL IN BUSY SUMMER OF EVENTS

Dogs, classic cars, heritage buses, ballroom dancing, medieval knights and a grand luncheon were among the highlights of a busy summer at Middleton Hall Retirement Village. Residents, families, visitors and the wider community all enjoyed the packed programme, with more than 100 attending the National Garden Scheme Open Day and £570 raised for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice. Read more inside.





RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES STAR IN NEW VIDEO

Supported apartment residents and family members feature in a new video sharing their experiences of the Middleton Grove apartments at Middleton Hall. They talk about why they chose to move what they like about living there. Watch the video on the Supported Apartments page of the Middleton Hall website.



NEWS FROM OUR CARE SERVICES

A WEEKLY DOSE OF MUSIC AND MEMORIES

Professional singer and Wellbeing Coordinator Ayme leads Singing for the Soul sessions that get residents from across the village singing, moving and enjoying favourite songs.





SHAPING OUR MENUS

Residents have been tasting new dishes and sharing their feedback to help shape our seasonal care service menus.



OUT AND ABOUT

Trips, walks and local events provide plenty of opportunities to enjoy time together, both in the Middleton Hall estate and further afield.




CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are marked with cards, cakes and celebrations with friends and family.





CARE HOME OLYMPICS

After practising their skittles skills in Middleton Court, residents headed to the Darlington Care Home Olympics and came home with a bronze medal!



CLASSIC CAR COUPLE CELEBRATE DOUBLE MILESTONE



A couple living in the Middleton Grove supported apartments celebrated 60 years of marriage and 46 years with Teesside Yesteryear Motor Club with a surprise bouquet at Middleton Hall's Classic Car Show. Read more at www.middletonhallretirementvillage.co.uk.

MOCKTAILS

Residents enjoyed making and tasting colourful mocktails together to stay hydrated during the summer heat.



NEWS FROM THE ESTATE

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME 2026

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's National Garden Scheme Open Day. More than 100 visitors enjoyed exploring Middleton Hall's gardens and woodland, raising money for nursing and health charities.











BIRD BOXES BOOST BIODIVERSITY ON THE ESTATE

The winner of the village's annual bird box adoption competition received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Estates Team. This year, 34 boxes were occupied, with 277 eggs and chicks recorded - 66 more than last year.



WILDLIFE AT MIDDLETON HALL

Our 45-acre estate provides plenty of space for wildlife, as well as residents, to enjoy!





THREE NEW ARRIVALS

Our three new arrivals, ducks Ronnie, Reggie and Mar, have settled well into their new home. Everyone has been enjoying visiting them and watching them explore.



HEALTH & WELLBEING CENTRE NEWS

ANGELA TAKES ON TWO-DAY TRIATHLON FOR ZOE'S PLACE

Health & Wellbeing Centre member Angela Robinson took on an impressive two-day triathlon to raise money for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in Middlesbrough. She cycled 24km, swam one mile - 160 lengths of the Centre pool - and ran 10km on the treadmill. Angela decided to do the challenge to keep her friend Steph company as she prepared for the Great North Run, completing it the weekend of Steph's run. Between them they managed to raise £950.





SUMMER OF EVENTS

FOUR-LEGGED FUN

There were wagging tails and plenty of competition at Middleton Hall's annual Dog Show, with dogs of all shapes and sizes taking part. Residents, families and visitors cheered on the canine contestants while raising funds for Wag and Company, the North East friendship dog charity.



BUSES BRING BACK MEMORIES

A collection of beautifully preserved vintage buses provided a nostalgic evening at Middleton Hall when the Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society brought its heritage vehicles to the estate. Residents and visitors explored the buses and shared memories of travelling on similar vehicles in years gone by.







A TOUCH OF STRICTLY

Care and supported apartment residents were treated to an afternoon of ballroom and Latin dancing when Hospitality Manager Clare Robson performed with her dance teacher, Dianne Howe. Their sparkling performance in Middleton Hall's summer events marquee included several dances, with Clare appearing in her competition hair, make-up and costumes.





CLASSIC CARS

The sound of classic engines filled Middleton Hall when members of the Teesside Yesteryear Motor Club brought their much-loved historic cars to the annual Car Show. The collection gave residents, visitors and car enthusiasts the chance to admire vehicles from motoring history, while supporting Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in Middlesbrough.



MEDIEVAL KNIGHTS AT THE VILLAGE SHOW

Medieval knights, Morris dancers, classic cars and garden tours were among the attractions at Middleton Hall's Village Show. The free event welcomed residents, families and visitors to the 45-acre estate, with craft and produce displays, live music, stalls, a barbecue and refreshments. Local MP Matt Vickers also paid a visit, meeting residents and exhibitors.



A GRAND LUNCHEON FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Independent-property residents gathered for a special Grand Luncheon in the marquee, combining good food and company with fundraising. A ticket sale and raffle raised £570 for Zoe's Place Baby Hospice in Middlesbrough.



‘FORGET ME NOT’ COFFEE MORNING

The Middleton Oaks care service hosted a special ‘Forget Me Not’ coffee morning to mark Dementia Action Week, bringing residents and co-owners together for tea, homemade cakes, singing, dancing and conversation.

Residents created handmade flowers during craft sessions to decorate the Winter Garden, while the Middleton Hall Knit & Natter group crocheted Forget-Me-Not brooches for guests. The care teams also baked the cakes and treats for the occasion.





CO-OWNER CELEBRATIONS

Co-owners enjoyed an evening of food, music and dancing at a special party held in Middleton Hall’s summer events marquee. The celebrations included a fun Little Miss & Mr Awards competition, recognising co-owners who go above and beyond in their roles, as well as pizza from local company Weird Dough.









DARLINGTON COLLEGE VISIT

Students from Darlington College visited Middleton Hall as part of their ‘Armchair Travel’ project, spending time with residents and sharing their interest in travel and different destinations.





SUMMER PARTIES

Residents in our care services and supported apartments enjoyed hosting family and friends at their summer social events.





FAMILIES AND FRIENDS PRAISE CARE AND SUPPORT

Over the years, we’ve received many positive reviews from residents’ families and friends on carehome.co.uk, the UK’s leading review site for care homes.

One of the most recent reviews, from someone who described themselves as a friend of a resident, said:

“We have always been impressed by the beauty of the surroundings, the condition of all buildings, the hospitality, food and the excellent service provided by staff at Middleton Hall. Above all, the professionalism and selfless care given by staff to all of us has been outstanding.”



FORMER FOOTBALLERS AND FAMILIES LAUNCH FOOTBALL SAFETY PETITION

Middleton Hall Retirement Village hosted a special 'Lunching & Launching' event organised by the Head Safe Football charity.

Held in a marquee on the Middleton Hall estate, the gathering marked the launch of the charity's national petition calling for stronger protection against repetitive heading in football and highlighted the importance of protecting brain health in the sport.

Families of former Middlesbrough players and coaches Bill Gates, Willie Maddren, Hugh McIlmoyle, Gordon McQueen and Nobby Stiles attended, alongside Tina White, widow of former Middlesbrough coach Goff White. Former Middlesbrough, Manchester United and England defender Gary Pallister has also pledged his support.

Sky Sports News filmed the event for a forthcoming documentary about sports-related brain disease, while the campaign was also covered by ITV Tyne Tees and The Northern Echo. To view and support the petition, visit www.petition.parliament.uk/petitions/779624



(L-R) Alan McIlmoyle, son of Hugh McIlmoyle; Gary Pallister, former England and Manchester United footballer; Judith Gates, widow of Bill Gates; Hilary Maddren, widow of Willie Maddren; Tina White, widow of Goff White; Hayley McQueen, daughter of Gordon McQueen; and John Stiles, son of Nobby Stiles.







VALUATION DAY PROVES A POPULAR DRAW

Visitors from across the local area brought treasured antiques, jewellery and collectables to Middleton Hall's Drawing Room for a free valuation event with experts from Tennants Fine Art Auctioneers, discovering more about the stories and value behind their items. The next event takes place on 24 November 2026. For further details, visit www.tennants.co.uk.



EVENTS CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY LUNCH IN THE DRAWING ROOM
Every Sunday | 12.45pm, 1pm and 1:15pm
£21 - 2 courses, £26.50 - 3 courses

CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday 21st November | 10:30am - 3pm | Free entry

TENNANTS VALUATION EVENT
Tuesday 24th November | 11am-3pm | Drawing Room

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP
Saturday 28th November | 10.30am | £25pp

FESTIVE DINING
Throughout December | Orangery Bistro and Drawing Room

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Monday 21st December | 9:30am - 11.30am
£12pp including a gift for each child

To find out more visit:
www.mhrv.co.uk/whats-on/

MIDDLETON HALL
RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Set within a 45 acre estate, Middleton Hall Retirement Village offers independent living, supported apartments and residential care, enhanced by exclusive on site facilities.

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