



MIDDLETON HALL
RETIREMENT VILLAGE



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The Newsletter

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGE

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES - MIDDLETON HALL SET TO BECOME EMPLOYEE OWNED

Managing director and main shareholder, Jeremy Walford, announced this September to all staff and residents that Middleton Hall is set to join the likes of John Lewis and Waitrose by becoming employee-owned.

He explained his reasoning behind the decision. **“The aim is to preserve the ethos and values of the company that have been cultivated over the past 20 years and ensure that Middleton Hall’s employees are truly respected as the company’s greatest asset and share fairly in its future success. The move is aimed at safeguarding the long-term future and will make it the first staff-owned retirement village or residential care facility in the UK.**

“In a business world where capitalism and especially social care businesses often have a bad name, an Employee Ownership Trust offers a different model of how a truly caring company can operate. It should sustain Middleton Hall for the long-term, ensure continued re-investment, high staff engagement and customer focus.”

Jo and Dick Marlow, residents of the Waterside commented,

“Middleton Hall is lucky to have such farsighted directors. We are pleased to know that Middleton Hall will not become part of a national company and lose the personal touch that makes Middleton Hall the special place it is”.

Liz Marley, a carer in Middleton Grove commented: **“This investment in the Middleton Hall team recognises the**

importance of attracting and keeping the best staff in this vitally important, but often undervalued adult social care sector. It is great to work for a company that has this insight and recognises the value of everyone’s contribution in providing outstanding care.”



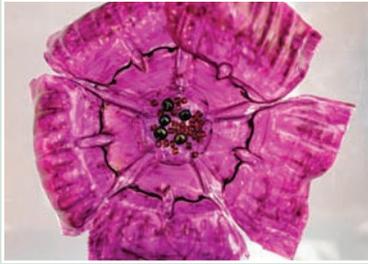
EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP
SHARING SUCCESS



“Please accept my family’s sincere appreciation for all you and your truly amazing team at Middleton Hall have done for my parents. Your recent move to an employee ownership structure is entirely appropriate and in my experience will ensure that many other families will be able to benefit from Middleton hall’s outstanding service over the long term.”



GENERATIONS UNITE TO CREATE MEMORIAL FOR ANIMAL VICTIMS OF WAR



Brownies and Guides from Middleton St George joined forces with residents, families and staff to put the finishing touches to art installations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice.

As part of the village's activity, several hundred purple poppies were created to commemorate the 8 million horses, donkeys and mules killed in the First World War.

Gill Ashman, a Carer in Middleton Gardens at Middleton Hall and a former art teacher, explained,

"Purple poppies are increasing in popularity and many people wear them alongside the traditional red poppy to pay tribute to animals killed in warfare."

A series of workshops took place where Middleton Hall residents and staff created poppies for the displays by upcycling used plastic bottles and then hand colouring and painting them.



Gill continued, **"Creating the installations and poppies has been such a great experience for everyone involved, residents and staff alike. It has encouraged the learning of new skills and knowledge which has been a great stimulus for residents from across the village. It has also provided a good way to recycle and repurpose single-use plastic bottles into something with real impact and meaning. It's been wonderful to involve the local community on another event and to welcome the Brownies and Guides to Middleton Hall, which the residents absolutely loved. The whole project is a great example of how we do our best to go the extra mile for our residents to provide an environment where they can live active and fulfilling lives."**

The poppies were displayed on two creatively designed horse installations and were displayed in Middleton St George during the special commemorative service on the 11th November.

POTTERING AROUND - NEW ART STUDIO IS ALREADY BEING PUT TO GOOD USE

Les Simpson, Waterside resident and retired physicist, is enjoying a second career as he enjoys the new, fully equipped art studio unveiled this summer.

Taking on the role of teaching ceramics to fellow residents, his first class of students are progressing steadily through a beginner's course and have already created a range of pots and tiles.

Dr Simpson, who lives in one of the Waterside's carbon neutral bungalows, has been the driving force behind the creation of Middleton Hall's art studio facility. Having acquired a passion for pottery after retiring from a successful career in science he was determined to continue his ceramics career when he moved.

"I am very pleased indeed with the studio and when a friend and fellow potter saw the facilities that we now have she said that many potters would be exceedingly envious of them."

"Since the art studio opened I have been in every day and I am really enjoying my second career, in spite of the fact that I don't get paid! It gives me great happiness to see people creating things and helping to build their confidence as they learn."

"My pottery and then the art studio project have also both been good distractions from the sadness of my wife's Alzheimer's diagnosis; the concentration and mindfulness used in creating pottery is very therapeutic."

Ceramics design is just one of activities taking place in the new art studio. Other activities include jewellery making, drawing and painting and various craft projects.



"I can't rate the staff at Middleton Hall highly enough as they are always smiling, friendly, patient, caring and supportive, all of which made the move of our friend from her own bungalow into a home much easier than expected."



'DELIGHTFUL INTRIGUE' - SPOTLIGHT ON BARBARA EVANS, MIDDLETON GROVE RESIDENT

Barbara Evans made Middleton Grove her permanent home in January this year, following a previous short stay break.

Barbara has led a very full life and enjoys 'writing for therapy' amongst her many interests. Her many life chapters included a role at GCHQ. In fact, both she and her late husband Roland worked there. They signed the Official Secrets Act and indeed never did speak, even to each other, of their work!

Of Middleton Grove, Barbara does speak and particularly highly, about the 'extra little ways' in which staff show that they care. She demonstrated her writing talents as she penned a card to Ian Clelland, Personal

Assistant at Middleton Grove. Ian brought back a small gift for every Middleton Grove resident from his holiday in Rhodes, Greece. In Barbara's case this was Turkish Delight. She was very touched by his kindness and wrote a super poem for him.

For Barbara, an apartment at Middleton Grove represents security and reassurance.

"I find my sunny corner spot very pleasant. There is plenty to do if I so wish, but I can also maintain my privacy. Likewise, I can join other residents for sociable times, but I can spend time happily alone."

It's not a secret that Barbara is enjoying her new life at Middleton Hall.



PROPERTY FOCUS

Some residents say Christmas and the winter months was a time they made the decision that a retirement community was right for them after reflecting on their situation. If this is you, a family member or friend, then you may be interested to know we currently have some independent living properties for sale.



You may have visited us in the past and feel you know all that Middleton Hall has to offer. However, some of our accommodation and facilities may have been updated since you last viewed them. Listed right is the current availability that may be of interest to you.

More detailed information is available on our website.

Operated by Middleton Hall Ltd the properties are leasehold with a service charge and event fees applying. Full details including the EPC are found on our website.

BRAND NEW PROPERTIES FOR SALE

2 bedroom
retirement apartments
For Sale from £265,000



MIDDLETON WOODS
SECURITY, INDEPENDENCE AND BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS



Luxury, carbon neutral, semi detached, 4 bedroom dormer property with integral garage.
For Sale from £399,000



THE WATERSIDE
SPACIOUS, SECURE, SUSTAINABLE LIVING



Middleton Hall offers a unique retirement lifestyle in a vibrant, award-winning community. You can continue to enjoy the things that matter to you, as well as explore new opportunities.

**Available to view now
Contact Caroline Soullier for more information**



"Dignity, compassion and outstanding levels of care are standard issue and everyone should be extremely proud of the difference they make every day to families like ours."



FORTHCOMING OPEN EVENTS

The best way to gain a sense of the Middleton Hall lifestyle is to see it for yourself! Regular open events are held as follows, but we invite anyone to make an appointment or pop in. Please contact Caroline Soullier if you would like further details.

View all our independent living accommodation and our bespoke person-centred care services to gain an insight into the award-winning retirement community.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 26th January: 11.00am – 3.00pm

Thursday 14th March: 11.00am – 3.00pm



WE'VE GOT CHRISTMAS WRAPPED UP

Christmas is a special time of year for our residents. As well as revisiting precious memories of times past, it is also an opportunity to make new ones.

The festive season was launched with the opening of the Christmas Fair, a much-loved annual event. Residents and families from all corners of the village came to browse the stalls and sample a homemade mince pie and a glass of mulled wine. The Middleton Hall choir sang and even Santa took time out from his busy schedule to pay us a visit.

With the season well underway, Middleton Oaks, Gardens, Court and Grove all have their own Christmas Party, to which they may invite friends and family. An original programme of arts and crafts activities will inspire those with a creative streak. The Christmas wreaths workshop is always a highlight, hosted by the gardening team and using beautiful foliage from our estate.

Of course, Christmas is also a time for a little indulgence! The following dining events are open to all; please book at the Orangery in person or on 01325 331444.

Festive Dining Menu	Wednesdays 5th and 19th December (from 6.30pm)
Christmas Day Lunch	Tuesday 25th December (from 12.15pm)
Boxing Day Brunch	Wednesday 26th December (from 11.00am)
New Year's Eve Soiree	Monday 31st December (6.30pm)

Why not treat yourself to a festive afternoon tea? Available throughout December (excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day).



"From the moment we entered Middleton Hall the ethos of your organisation is apparent. Your staff are universally welcoming and friendly and without fail would greet us with a smile from the cleaners to the Managing Director. We congratulate you all for what you have created at Middleton Hall."



MIDDLETON HALL VILLAGE SHOW

BAR SET HIGH AT MIDDLETON HALL'S FIRST VILLAGE SHOW



Our inaugural village show was a much-deserved success and an event that will happily be repeated in 2019. Tellingly, it was masterminded by both residents and staff. The achievement was down to the whole community pulling together and showcasing their talents.

A marquee in the grounds housed 26 competition classes for arts and crafts, cookery, flowers and prize vegetables as well as a best in show trophy. There was a wide range of entries from people from the local area and residents proudly displayed produce they had grown in the Middleton Hall allotments and crafted in the new art and pottery studios.

Another highlight was a dog show with six classes including the waggiest tail and best dog categories.

Judges including prominent members from Middleton Hall's surrounding communities were very impressed by the breadth and quality of entries in all competition categories.

The show attracted crowds of visitors, who also enjoyed entertainment by the Texas Toe Tappers and Morris dancers and a number of market stalls, tombola and information stands, laid on for the day.

Audra Hunt, Living Well and Training Manager at Middleton Hall said, **"It was an absolute pleasure to see the village enjoying the big day together in this way. There was so much activity, so much talent on show and there were big smiles all round. We are already looking forward to next year's event."**



"You are all more than outstanding. Middleton Hall should be a national beacon site for the whole of the UK as to how elderly should be looked after. We cannot sing your praises high enough."



MEMORIES IN THE MAKING



A very grand Grand Luncheon, with guest speaker BBC Presenter Colin Briggs



The Conservatory - the best view in the house on Bonfire Night!



A sunny day for the opening of the Mediterranean themed garden at Supported Living, Middleton Gardens.



Inspired staff attending the annual Employee Ownership Association (EOA) conference



On the wishes of a resident, a cultural trip to see the Pirates of Penzance at the Darlington Hippodrome



'A Winter Waterside', taken by a member of the Photography club



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