Coffee Morning every Thursday

The coffee mornings are thriving. It is a joy to listen to the hub of conversation and laughter that often erupts from the tables, intermixed with the quiet support willingly given to members of our community going through one of lives difficult patches.

The warm welcome extended o everyone who comes through the door is a tribute to our village, whether they are people passing through or newcomers.

It couldn't operate as successfully without the support of the community. And I am truly grateful for the volunteers on the rota, our bakers, the people who set the tables up and take them down. There are too many unsung hero's to mention by name (and I might miss someone out which would be unforgivable).

A special mention must be made of our volunteer bakers and servers, without whom it couldn't operate. As we get busier any person who could offer a few hours once a month to assist would be very much appreciated. If you feel unable to help behind the counter a regular cake or clearing the tables would be a big help. Please contact Frances on 07889222446 .

Bus to Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge Project

The first meeting to discuss the feasibility of a bus service from Midgley to Hebden Bridge via Mytholmroyd took place between a few villagers and Councillor Scott Patient in November 2024.
March 2025- a questionnaire drawn up. Adverts were printed that were distributed to places around the Upper Valley and via the Midgley newsletter. People were invited to fill it in online, or by picking up a paper copy in Midgley Shop
The survey ran from 7th March to 28th April 2025
There were 386 online and paper responses from a wide demographic and geographic area ranging from Todmorden to Halifax. 1/3 of the responses were from Midgley itself but over half from the surrounding villages including Wadsworth.
A summary report was sent to our MP Josh Fenton-Glynn, our Ward councillors and Calderdale's Senior Transport planner Tom Jones as well as West Yorkshire Combined Authority's Transport team. (WYCA)
We have continued to keep in touch with Calderdale's transport lead and the WYCA team and Midgley's case has been recognised by WYCA and appears in Calderdale's Local Transport strategy 2026-2040. If you are interested in local public transport and keeping the profile of this project high, have a chat to Jean Tallis.

Book Swop

Over the Summer Jerome Way worked hard making a weather proof (so far so good!) book case. This was erected by the bus stop, opposite the shop, in time for the new school year, in September. Any worries about stocking it were immediately dispelled as it was filled up with books, within days. The Book Swop has proved popular with pre-readers and older readers alike. Many thanks to Jerome for making such an excellent book case and Rob Holdsworth for continuing to monitor the book stock.

Craft and Cake

The Craft and Cake group meet nearly every month. There's usually about 6 in attendance working on a variety of projects such as; knitting, embroidery, tapestry, needle felting and paper crafts. Lots of interesting topics of conversation are enjoyed, along with a hot drink and a slice of cake.

Midgley Flood Risk Mitigation Team. Flood Risk Mitigation Work

Surface water was an issue for houses 11 to 6 Towngate in November 2024 and January 2025. In 2025, several Midgley residents have done work in several places to improve things. However, Calderdale's Flood Risk Mitigation Team have yet to make any material change, despite employing consultants (JBA Consulting) to investigate and report. The Calderdale gully cleaning team has cleaned all the relevant gullies, after several requests from us, but blockages in culverts found during JBA's investigations are yet to be addressed, and JBA's other recommendations are still outstanding. It is an ongoing uphill struggle to get any information out of Calderdale's flooding team. The information we have collected is available to anybody on the MidgleyCommunityForum Google drive.

Quizzes

Monthly quizzes are held on Friday nights – fun and light-hearted quizzing with a different quiz master each time and a chance to win a cash jackpot. Home cooked supper is served halfway through, and the bar is always open. New quizzers are always very welcome – give it a try. Thanks to all quiz setters, cooks and helpers – you are always much appreciated.

The Midgley History Group

The Midgley History Group have had meetings over the autumn and winter period. Individual members of the group have shared their research and knowledge about their homes and about Midgley village life in the past.

We have enjoyed a talk from David Cant about Castle Carr and have hearing about and contributing to the digital archive relating to Midgley and other Calder Valley villages, from members of the Pennine Heritage group.

Spring meetings will include a walk through the village with David Cant and opportunities for the members of our group to look at other items from the Midgley Community collection.

Midgley Village Fete celebrates 100 years of fun

Midgley's much-loved village fete returned on14 June 2025, and this year was extra special as the community marked 100 years since the opening of the Midgley Recreation Ground.

The biennial event was packed with traditional fete favourites including welly wanging, children's races, a hotly contested fell race, tug of war and the ever-popular fun dog competitions. The sun shone and the rec was buzzing with activity from early afternoon, with live music from four local bands keeping the fun going into the evening.

The tea tent did a roaring trade in delicious home-baked treats, and the real ale bar kept going until nearly all the beer sold out. A wide range of stalls kept everyone entertained throughout the afternoon.

As usual the fete relied on a small army of volunteers to organise, set up, run and clear up after the event. Midgley Community Forum is hugely grateful to all those who helped in any way to make the Fete such a successful and enjoyable day – look out for a shout out for volunteers early in 2027 when the 10th village fete will start to take shape.

Community Lunches

Community lunches began over 15 years ago. Meeting on the last Tuesday of the month volunteers provided a 3-course lunch with coffee/tea and mints to finish. The lunches were intended as a service to the community, making only minimal profit, with an initial price of £5, latterly increasing to £6. An annual 5-course Traditional Christmas lunch plus a welcome glass of sparkling wine was always fully subscribed. Originally it was organised by a group of 5 volunteers who bought the ingredients, prepped the meal and cooked it on

the morning of the lunch. Additional volunteers on the day helped serve and clear up at the end. In the last 2 years the organisation of the lunches has fallen to 3 of the original group, with help from others to serve and clear.
When Maureen decided to “retire” at Christmas Mandy and I had to make the decision that, with no new volunteers coming forward, it was too big a commitment for us. It is a big commitment spanning 2 days a month and understandably people are reluctant to take it on they have other commitments and busy lives.
Although it was a hard 2 days we had a lot of fun while doing it and the day was full of laughter. It provided an opportunity for many to come and chat over a meal and enjoy each others company.
If anyone is interested in restarting the Lunches, it could be organised differently depending on the number willing to help. This would lower the level of commitment.
If you think you might be interested please contact Elaine Grant.

Midgley Garden Group

We meet once a month at the community room and new members are always welcome. We aim to help each other, share experiences and get the best from our gardens. Topics are generated by members, we arrange garden visits, swap plants and seeds. Some members also give talks with photos of gardens visited around the country. Our next meeting is Tuesday March 31st at 7pm. Just come along and join us.

Maintenance Crew

- April 2025: Provided installation and footings for the commemorative oak ‘banana’ bench at the Pinfold – bench provided by the Boland Family at The Croft with support from CROWS team (Jerome Way and Ian Strachan plus CROWS team)
- May 2025: Flat maintenance completion and installation of new black out blinds (Andrew Strickland, Graham Hill)
- June 2025: Midgley Centenary fete helping put up publicity posters, bringing all stored equipment out of Craggies storage. Putting up marquees etc clearing up afterwards and returning to Craggs storage (fete helpers)
- September 2025: Book exchange built and launched opposite The Old Co-Op (Jerome Way)
- September 2025: Final relocation of all Midgley Fete stored items to new location in Cragg Vale with significant annual recurrent cost savings of £1,800 (John Holdsworth, Raynor Tighe, Martin Tallis, Alistair Grant and Graham Hill). Inventory record updated (Martin Tallis).
- October 2025: Repairs to existing benches in the village at Town Sykes Well also sign repaired for Town Sykes Well (Jerome Way)
- October 2025: Old Co-Op cellar clear out of unwanted storage items, using ethical waste disposal (Martin Tallis, Graham Hill)
- December 2025: Specification and purchase of new Christmas lights and battery power (Andrew Strickland).
- December 2025: Installation of village ‘living’ Christmas Tree, installation of Christmas lighting on the new tree and in the gardens opposite The Old Co-Op (John Holdsworth, Martin Tallis, Andrew Strickland, Graham Hill)

Social Media Highlights for 2025

- Increased engagement on social media
  Instagram: @Eh_Up_Midgley (A private group set up by Midgley Community Forum)
  411 followers increased from 384 in last 12 months
- Facebook: Midgley Village Community Group (A private group set up by villagers)
  530 followers increased from 508 in last 12 months
- WhatsApp: WhatsAppeningMidgley
  75 members increased from 56 in last 12 months
- Digital Village Newsletter – 116 subscribers (self-subscription process) increased from 53 subscribers in last 12 months.
- Midgley Community Forum website: midgleyvillage.co.uk
  Web site maintained and updated each month.

Midgley Community Forum
March 2026