

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

Report by Peter Singer



The table tennis fun and games continue unabashed at Mickleton Village Hall on Friday afternoons. At a recent session, we had eight players at two tables, which meant that we were able to play uninterrupted doubles without anyone having to sit out. In fact, there were one or two water breaks and pauses to catch our breath, chat about the weather, other U3A groups we were involved in, holidays etc. We also interspersed a few singles games for variety and to give some of us another opportunity for a much-needed rest. These, of course, also brought out the competitive streak in some of us, with a few serious rallies, big hits and meaningful glares being bandied about.

Mickleton is proving to be a very enjoyable venue whilst we are excluded from the Leisure Centre. In A Topographical Dictionary of England (1848 – coincidentally exactly 100 years before my birth), Mickleton was described as “a township in the parish of Romalldkirk, union of Teesdale, wapentake of Gilling West...”. A wapentake was apparently the equivalent of the Anglo Saxon hundred in the northern Danelaw. A hundred was a division of a shire (then North Riding of York) for military and judicial purposes and was required to pay geld to the Vikings as protection money, which was probably more than the £1 per head we now pay to the village hall. It’s surprising what you can learn playing table tennis, so why not give it a go?

If you would like to join our group to learn the game, improve your skills or just enjoy playing and socialising, please contact Peter Singer (pandjsinger@btinternet.com 07508 663998). All are welcome, whether you play regularly, have not played for some time or have never played before.