

MIDDLETON-BY-YOULGRAVE VILLAGE HALL CHARITY - THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-23

INTRODUCTION:

The Village Hall committee has been able to complete all its scheduled events for 2022-23.

In addition, we hosted the Portrait of Middleton exhibition and supported the Middleton Book Club.

Further improvements have been made to the hall.

Needless to say, none of these events would have been possible without the efforts of the Village Hall committee and many other volunteers.

THE EVENTS PROGRAMME 2022-23:

- ✚ **Harvest Supper (7th October):** it was well attended, with a choice of pies and desserts (provided by residents). This year the charge was £6 and free for children under 8.
- ✚ **Children's Christmas Party (4th December):** the children decorated the Christmas tree, supplied by Steve Dick. The main activity was younger children making decorations and enjoying crafts and painting. Father Christmas made a welcome appearance! The children then moved to the playground where the Youlgrave Band led the carol singing. Our thanks to the makers of the mince pies and sausage rolls.
- ✚ **Community Christmas Party (10th December):** we were pleased to hold the community Christmas Party once again – in 2022 this had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. It proved to be a very pleasant occasion. Although we had 53 bookings for food, there were a number of absences which we were not informed about. This meant that food was wasted – a cost to the community as the party is free of charge!
- ✚ **Bateman Arms (11th February):** this was a very well-attended event organised by Jamie Wigley, with many coming from the village and from Youlgrave. It made a notable profit of £284.96.
- ✚ **King's Coronation Party (8th May):** held in the village hall because of the uncertain weather. Our thanks to those who brought a plate to share. Children produced at the craft table a variety of items to take home as mementoes of the occasion. Parish children have received the Coronation Commemorative Coin from the Parish Council.

✚ **Middleton Market (27th May):**

WELL DRESSINGS – the 2023 main Middleton Well Dressing had as its theme 75 years of service to this community by the NHS, founded in 1948, and by Land Rover (also founded in 1948) providing essential support to our farming community. The well dressing was designed by Helen Burtonshaw.

The two smaller taps displayed individual boards produced by the children.

Many volunteers this year contributed to the well dressings: with moving the boards, the claying and petalling, and the displays.

STALLS – Our thanks to Great Hucklow Village Hall for providing the stalls and to Richard Marsh for bringing them here. This year we had the Cakes, Plants, 'Modern Vintage', Books, Bric-a-brac, Tombola and Raffle stalls.

Very many thanks to all those who donated the stall items and who ran the stalls on the day! It was very hot and sunny, so we may need canopies next time.

MIDDLETON TRAIL AND OPEN GARDENS: our thanks to this year's Open Gardens hosts: Rock Cottage (which included the opportunity to explore Hardy's Mine below Rock Cottage), Middleton Hall, The Garden House, 14 The Square and Stone Barn.

CHURCH: St Michael and all Angels' Church was open on Saturday and Sunday. Visitors enjoyed the beautiful floral displays and classical music. Rev Adele Barker blessed the three wells at 6.30pm on Sunday, followed by a well-attended Evensong service.

ENTERTAINMENT: we were delighted to have the Winster Morris Dancers back with us. A children's trail hunting for local wildlife clues followed the Middleton Trail. Our thanks to Charles Monkhouse for providing the Middleton Trail leaflet which enabled many to explore the village. Another popular feature was the return of skittles to the playground – these were very popular with adults and children!

REFRESHMENTS: Once again the Teas Team, led by Helen, Jenny and Sue, laid on a magnificent selection of cakes and refreshments in the hall on both Saturday and Sunday. This was hugely popular and provided a great boost to community funds.

Also very popular were the burghers with onions provided by Steve Dick in the Square, using our new barbecue.

Overall, what with ideal weather and great community preparations, the 2023 Market made a profit of around £3,347 (compared with £2,217 in 2022). A true community achievement! (a full breakdown of Market earnings is provided in the June newsletter)

✚ **Middleton Rocks, 3rd June:** our thanks to Jamie and Robert Wigley, assisted by the Village Hall Committee, for organising a highly enjoyable and very well-attended return of the event to the Square. The net profit of £2032.13 was donated by Middleton Rocks to the fund in support of James Wood.

THE MIDDLETON HALL CHARITY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

The audited and certificated annual accounts for the 2022-23 financial year ending on 31st March are available on the village notice board and on the Village Hall Committee page on the Parish Council's website. These have been filed with the Charity Commission, as required by law. On 31st March, the charity had a balance of £31,525.

Over the year the charity made an apparent loss of £12,205. However, over the year we made a £2554 investment in the village hall (new kitchen door and window and exterior painting), and disbursed £10,027 for the Portrait of Middleton Project-(most of which was actually raised over the previous financial year from numerous grant-awarding bodies).

In 2023 we are going to rebuild our banking team, continue to explore the use of PoS card readers, and experiment with the use of corporate charge cards to make payments.

PORTRAIT OF MIDDLETON:

Late in 2022 the Portrait of Middleton community project drew to a close. 66 parish households participated. Their images and stories were brought together in the Portrait of Middleton exhibition organised by Charles Monkhouse, which was staged over two weeks in late November/early December. The exhibition aroused great local interest. Each household received a smaller version of their exhibition banner. The exhibition banners will be secured in a special archive, along with a CD providing background information on the parish. Images from the exhibition of our current farming households are displayed in the hall gallery!

THE VILLAGE HALL:

Residents have commented favourably on the improvements made to the hall

over the last two years, with external repairs, extensive repainting inside and outside, new blinds and notice boards.

More recently further improvements are in hand. A hall gallery has been created, with historic early 20th century Middleton photographs, a set of images of current farming households drawn from the Portrait of Middleton Project, a selection of recent children's project work, and the painting of Middleton Dale mill. We hope shortly to add to the gallery an aerial photograph of the village taken in the early 21st century (donated by the Pursglove family), a painting of the Square, and a photo of Middleton Mine (the last two donated by the family of Jean Edge).

Two improvements have been made to hall facilities: a replacement microwave in the kitchen, and a new wall heater in the hall following the breakdown of one of our three wall heaters.

No further progress has been made regarding ownership of the village hall.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE, 2023-24:

Helen Brocklehurst, Steve Dick, Tina Green (joined the committee at the 2023 AGM), Dianne Jeremy, Paul Jeremy (Chair), Mary Marsh, Charles Monkhouse (Treasurer), Janet Renwick, Hayley Sanders (Secretary), Bev Worrall, Pete Worrall. We thank Mary Marsh for her invaluable service as Secretary 2017-23.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Newsletter: the parish newsletter is published every month, except for a July/August combined edition. A paper copy is distributed to every village household and posted to parish householders living outside the village. An electronic copy is simultaneously sent to all subscribers on our Middleton Village Hall subscribers' list. The current newsletter is always displayed on the noticeboard in the Square. If you would like an item to be included in the newsletter, please contact Paul on 636088.

Website: The Village Hall Committee has a page on the Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council website. Our page contains recent and current newsletters, details of forthcoming village events, and a list of committee members.

www.middletonbyyoulgrave.org.uk/events

Village Hall email list: we continue to add names to the email network we use to send out newsletters and other communications. This is done on a BCC basis to maintain privacy. Anyone who would like to be added to the list or to change their preference for communication is asked to contact Paul on 636088.

Hall bookings: please contact Pete Worrall, Bookings Secretary:
peterjworrall@aol.com