

MIDDLETON-BY-YOULGRAVE VILLAGE HALL CHARITY: THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024-25

INTRODUCTION:

The Middleton Village Hall Committee has been able to complete all its scheduled events for 2024-25. In addition, we continue to support the Middleton Book Club. We have made further improvements to the village hall.

THE EVENTS PROGRAMME 2024-25

- ❖ **Children's Summer Workshops (August):** two were provided. The first at Fulwood's Castle by Castle Farm, followed up with drawing and castle-building in the village hall. The second a visit to Arbor Low to explore the henge and stones, with each child 'adopting' a stone. The children then went to the hall to bake 'stone' scones.
- ❖ **Bateman Arms (21st September):** due to popular demand for an end-of-summer event, a second Bateman Arms evening was staged in the village hall. This is a pub open to residents in Middleton, Youlgrave and surrounding villages. It was very well attended despite the worst storm in the area for many years. It made a profit of £509.
- ❖ **Defibrillator Training Session (28th September):** this was an opportunity to learn the basics about how to access and use the life-saving defibrillator available in the telephone box in the Square. It is hoped to arrange further training sessions.
- ❖ **Harvest Supper (11th October):** it was well attended, with a choice of traditional pies and desserts (provided by residents). This year the charge was £6 per head; overall the event made a net profit of £264. A 'Decorate a Scarecrow' Competition was provided for children! Our thanks to The George for potatoes and the Youlgrave Shop for the pies.
- ❖ **Children's Christmas Party/ Christmas lights and carols (1st December):** after the disappointment of cancelling the 2023 children's party and carols due to atrocious weather, it was very encouraging that this year we had an enjoyable children's party followed by carols in the playground, with accompaniment once again provided by Youlgrave Silver Band. The tree lights were a striking feature throughout the Christmas season.
- ❖ **Community Christmas Party (5th December):** Our thanks to Steve Dick for once again supplying a substantial Christmas tree in the hall. This year the party consisted of a buffet of hot pork cobs. Entertainment was provided by Pete Worrall with another of his quiz challenges. Numbers attending this year were lower than usual owing to a large number of cancellations after the initial bookings.

❖ **Bateman Arms (8th February):** Another successful pub night in which a net profit of £489.69 was achieved. In view of the support received at our Bateman Arms special on 28th September, we will now provide two openings annually – in February and in September.

❖ **Middleton Market (24th May):**

The 2025 Well Dressings and Market proved to be enjoyable and successful. This was primarily due once again to very many residents and supporters making invaluable contributions. The weather on Saturday was much more favourable than anticipated! Our thanks to Oliver Stephenson and Chris Shirt for enabling us to use the parking field.

WELL DRESSINGS – The 2025 main Middleton Well Dressing had as its theme ‘Middleton Wildlife’. The well dressing was designed by Shelley Jones. In addition individual boards were produced by the children and displayed at the Middle Well and Plantation Well. This year it was a real challenge to get the boards properly soaked as Sheepwash water levels were the lowest for many decades! Our thanks to all those who contributed to the Middleton 2025 Well Dressings. Public donations to the collection box were £125.66.

STALLS AND MARKET PROCEEDS – This year we had our traditional Market offerings in stalls, trails, entertainment, and teas and barbecue. Very many thanks to all those who donated the stall items and who ran the stalls and raffle. These many efforts resulted in a very considerable increase in Market takings: Raffle £1,331.20; Gluten-free Cakes £422.77; Vintage/Pre-loved £291.97; Plants £1,735; Trail and Gardens £107.05; Books £76.10; Bric-a-brac £123.10; Tombola £170.80; Cakes and Bakes £310.40; Skittles £74.10; Barbecue £379.65; Teas £1,622.95. We made full use of the card reader for payments.

Overall, the 2025 Market made a profit of around £6,390 (compared with £3,347 in 2023 and £4,321 in 2024). A true community achievement!

MIDDLETON TRAIL AND OPEN GARDENS - Our thanks to this year’s Open Gardens hosts: Rock Cottage, The Garden House, 14 The Square, Factory House, The Stone Barn and 1 Castle Cottage. A new map/guide sheet was provided for visitors to explore the village. The Children’s Trail had as its challenge to find the Middleton mini-beasts!

CHURCH - St Michael and all Angels’ Church was open on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed floral displays and classical music. The Rev Jane Clay blessed the two wells on Sunday, followed by a well-attended Evensong service.

ENTERTAINMENT – we were delighted to welcome the Winster Morris Dancers once again, performing this year in the Square and the playground. The children’s

‘Middleton Wildlife’ trail hunt proved to be popular. Another well-supported feature was skittles in the playground. There was a very good selection of raffle prizes, with this year raffle sales undertaken before and during the Market. Overall, a huge boost to Market earnings. The tombola attracted many visitors.

REFRESHMENTS - Also very popular was the Barbecue.

Once again the Teas Team laid on a magnificent selection of cakes and refreshments in the hall on both Saturday and Sunday. As in previous years, this provided a great boost to community funds.

We wish to thank Jenny and Sue for over 30 years of dedicated service in preparing food and running the teas – they retired after the 2024 Market.

- ❖ **Middleton Rocks (7th June):** we were very pleased to bring Middleton Rocks back to the Square for an evening of live music from four bands. Many thanks to all those whose efforts enabled the 2025 Middleton Rocks to be such a success. The net profits of £837.16 are donated to Ashgate Hospice.

THE MIDDLETON HALL CHARITY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:

On 31st March 2025 the charity had a balance of £38,407.17 (on 31st March 2024 balance was £33,677.65).

The audited and certificated annual accounts for the 2024-25 financial year, ending on 31st March 2025, are available on the village notice board, the Village Hall and on the Village Hall Committee page on the Parish Council’s website. These will be filed with the Charity Commission, as required by law.

Following the proceeds from the 2025 Middleton Market, the charity’s current balance at the end of June 2025 is £45,264.80.

Our thanks to Pete Worrall, the Treasurer, for his meticulous stewardship of the charity’s finances.

THE VILLAGE HALL:

IMPROVEMENTS: we continue to make improvements to the hall

This year the kitchen has been painted – our thanks to Tina Green. An outside tap has been installed to enable our plants team to prepare for the Market. We are installing a new heater in the kitchen. We have arranged for the hall window frames outside and inside to be repaired and repainted, and the external doors to be repainted

HALL GALLERY: this year we received donations of paintings of The Square from Diane Kettle and Pete Tapping, and a map of late 19th century Middleton from Judith Gratton. These will be displayed in the hall gallery.

HALL OWNERSHIP: Regarding the ownership of the hall, currently owned by the Waterhouse Trust, there have been no developments this year

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS, 2025-26:

COMMITTEE: Elected at the AGM on 14th July: Helen Brocklehurst, Steve Dick, Tina Green, Dianne Jeremy, Paul Jeremy, Mary Marsh, Janet Renwick, Donna Sealey, Mark Sealey, Bev Worrall, Pete Worrall.

OFFICERS: Chair – Mark Sealey; Secretary – Donna Sealey; Treasurer – Pete Worrall. (Paul Jeremy, Chairman 2017-25, has stood down, but remains on the committee)

COMMUNICATIONS:

Newsletter: the parish newsletter is published regularly. A paper copy is distributed to every household in the parish. 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 and in the village hall. 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 have established a new email network based on Mailchimp. Our thanks to Jack Aston and Pete Worrall for setting up the new arrangement. We continue to add names to the email network. This is done on a BCC basis to maintain privacy. Anyone who would like to be added to the list or to be taken off the subscribers' list is asked to contact Pete Worrall peterjworrall@aol.com

Hall bookings: please contact Paul Jeremy – paulfjeremy77@gmail.com