



MIDDLETON-BY -YOULGRAVE NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER on Friday 10th October 7.30 for 8pm

Invitations for this event are circulated with this newsletter. Don't miss the chance to enjoy a delicious pie and pea supper and catch up with friends and neighbours after the summer break. Everyone is welcome and there will be a harvest craft activity for children.

THE OLD ROADS AND TRACKWAYS OF MIDDLETON AND SMERRILL

An exhibition by Charles Monkhouse

Middleton Village Hall 18-25 October 2025

An exhibition that explores past and present road and trackways of Middleton and Smerrill. The exhibition centres round a new map of the parish which explores the evolution and history of routes through Middleton and Smerrill from the Neolithic Highway between Arbor Low and Minninglow to the industrialisation of Long Rake in the 18th century. The map is supported by commentaries on each road or track, and by a collection of historic maps that have informed the project. The exhibition opens on Saturday 18 October with an afternoon session for residents only.

WILDLIFE UPDATE Middleton hedgehogs seem to have enjoyed a good summer – several young hedgehogs have been seen. Please continue to feed them and provide fresh water as they need to build up their reserves before the winter.



Bees and butterflies have also had plenty of summer flowers providing nectar and pollen and as the feature in the current copy of **The Peak Advertiser** reminds us, it is important to try to provide a continuous source of nectar and pollen throughout the year. Sedums and Michaelmas daisies are recommended – there are lovely sedums flowering on the triangle at the top of the Dale.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

VJ day event

The commemorative event to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2, held on Sunday 31st of August, was a successful and enjoyable event. The informative talk honoured the memory of those from the parish who lost their lives on active service and the Australian airmen who died in the air crash near Smerrill Grange in January 1944. The related display in the village hall will remain until November.

Middleton Toilets

The public toilets will remain open from October this year instead of being closed until March as in previous years. The district council is monitoring the footfall over a full twelve month period to determine whether to support all year opening. If we want the toilets to be available all year it is important that they are used. Please let any visitors, walkers, DofE groups know that the toilets are open.

Community Gardens

The seasonal work in the picnic /herb garden, scented garden (adjacent to the well-dressing shed), memorial garden, triangle and village planter is underway. The summer show in the planter has been spectacular this year but will soon be replaced by the winter/spring display. The memorial garden will be slightly extended to accommodate three Peace roses which will be planted later in the year.

Community Greenhouse

Residents who have grown tomatoes and peppers in the greenhouse have been very pleased with the crops. Composting bays have been created behind the village hall and the area is now free of weeds and debris. The greenhouse will be prepared for the next phase of growing plants for next year's village market.

St Michael and All Angels' Church Nature Garden

The **Derbyshire Wildlife Trust Wild Peak grant** funded the development of the nature garden. A seat has been placed in the area at the front of the church adjacent to the small garden, which has been planted with a variety of flowers to support pollinators. The nature garden has three hedgehog shelters, a hedgehog feeding station and some bug/bee 'hotels' on the trees. Some small native trees have been planted behind the church.

An information board, sponsored by Youlgrave Garage, will be installed shortly. The board shows images of the birds, animals and insects shown on this year's well-dressing and features the watercolour drafts that were painted by local artist Shelley Jones.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR VHC: General queries: Donna Sealey, Secretary - sapphirecc1@outlook.com

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