

# MIDDLETON-BY-YOULGRAVE VILLAGE HALL CHARITY: THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023-24

## INTRODUCTION:

The Village Hall committee has been able to complete most of its scheduled events for 2023-24. In addition, we have supported the Middleton Book Club. We have nearly completed our schedule of improvements to the village hall. None of these events would have been possible without the efforts of the Village Hall Committee and many other volunteers.

## THE EVENTS PROGRAMME 2023-24:

- ✚ **Ceilidh:** regrettably this event was cancelled because of a clash with a similar event in Youlgrave on the same evening.
- ✚ **Harvest Supper (6<sup>th</sup> October):** it was well attended, with a choice of pies and desserts (provided by residents). This year the charge was £6 per head; overall the event made a net profit of £200. A special feature was children winning prizes for carved pumpkins: for the happiest, prettiest, spookiest and most original. All won a prize!
- ✚ **Children's Christmas Party/ Christmas lights and carols (3<sup>rd</sup> December):** very disappointingly, due to atrocious weather we had to cancel the party and the carols in the playground. The Youlgrave Silver Band had cancelled its local events because of these conditions. However, we were able to turn on the Christmas lights.
- ✚ **Community Christmas Party (8<sup>th</sup> December):** Our thanks to Steve Dick for once again supplying a splendid Christmas tree in the hall. This year the party consisted of a pork roast dinner, followed by a challenging and most enjoyable quiz. It proved to be a very pleasant occasion.
- ✚ **Bateman Arms (10<sup>th</sup> February):** this is an annual drop-in event open to Middleton and Youlgrave residents. It was very well attended and made a net profit of £232. Our thanks to Jamie Wigley for coordinating the event.
- ✚ **Middleton Market (25<sup>th</sup> May):**  
The 2024 Well Dressings and Market proved to be very enjoyable and successful. This was primarily due to very many residents and supporters making invaluable contributions. The weather on Saturday helped to maximise the excellent visitors' turnout!

Well Dressings – The 2023 main Middleton Well Dressing had as its theme Middleton Dale. The well dressing was designed by Diane Kettle and Shelley Jones.

In addition individual boards were produced by the children and displayed at the second tap well.

Many residents this year contributed to the well dressings, with moving the boards, claying, petalling and the displays. Our thanks for these contributions.

Stalls – This year we had the Vintage, Plants, Books, Bric-a-brac, Cakes and Bakes, Tombola, Raffle and Gluten-free cakes stalls.

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.


Middleton Trail And Open Gardens - Our thanks to this year's Open Gardens hosts: Rock Cottage, The Garden House, 14 The Square, Stone Barn and 1 Castle Cottage. A new guide was provided for visitors to explore the village.

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

Entertainment - We were fortunate to have the Winster Morris Dancers back with us, performing this year in the playground. The children's 'Hedgehog trail' proved to be very popular. Another well-supported feature was skittles in the playground. There was a very good selection of raffle prizes, resulting in a major boost to raffle earnings. The tombola attracted many visitors.

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. As in previous years, this provided a great boost to community funds. Also very popular was the Barbecue.

Proceeds – This year we used our card reader. Overall, what with ideal weather and great community preparations, the 2024 Market made a profit of around £4,321 (compared with £3,347 in 2023). A true community achievement!

 **Middleton Rocks:** owing to circumstances beyond our control we were unable to proceed with the event scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> June.

## **THE MIDDLETON HALL CHARITY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:**

The audited and certificated annual accounts for the 2023-24 financial year, ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, are available on the village notice board 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.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March the charity had a balance of £33,677.65.

Over the last year, led by Charles Monkhouse, we have reorganised our banking team, continued to develop our use of PoS card readers and the use of corporate charge cards to make payments.

Charles Monkhouse retired as VHC Treasurer at the end of the financial year on 31<sup>st</sup> March. He has served in that capacity since May 2017. His stewardship of the charity's finances has been of great benefit to the community. He led the charity's review of its purposes and financial organisation 2018-19; moved it to online banking; secured Covid grants offered to village halls; and introduced essential changes to transacting payments. Charles has been replaced as Treasurer by Pete Worrall.

## **THE VILLAGE HALL:**

**IMPROVEMENTS:** We hope to complete shortly the two-year programme of improvements by displaying an aerial photograph of the village, a painting of the Square, and photos of the interior Middleton Mine.

**HALL OWNERSHIP:** Regarding the ownership of the hall, currently owned by the Waterhouse Trust, there have been some developments. In November Mr David Waterhouse, acting on behalf of the trust, visited the hall to assess its condition and community usage.

Another development recently has been the designation of Middleton Village Hall as a 'Community Asset' by Derbyshire Dales District Council. In legal terms this decision has limited benefit in that if the hall was put up for sale by the trust, then the community would have a 6 months period in which to make an offer. The wider significance of this enhanced status for the hall is that as the only parish venue for meetings and inside events, it is more likely that the planning authority would not agree to any planning application for the commercial development of the facility.

**BEHIND THE HALL:** The community has greatly benefitted from recent improvements to the rear area behind the hall by the Parish Council, which owns the rear area of the hall site.

The Parish Council has raised grants to build a new community

greenhouse; the VHC contributed around £100 towards completion of this structure. Many of the plants sold at the Market plants stall were grown here, thereby making a major contribution to our Market net proceeds! The reroofing and installation of new doors at the old toilets by the Parish Council has enabled the Village Hall Committee to utilise some of that space for storing various items used in community events.

### **VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE, 2024-25:**

Elected at the AGM: Nic Allen, Helen Brocklehurst, Steve Dick, Tina Green, Dianne Jeremy, Paul Jeremy (Chair), Deb Latham, Mary Marsh, Janet Renwick, Donna Sealey (Secretary), Mark Sealey, Bev Worrall, Pete Worrall (Treasurer).

(Nic, Deb, Donna and Mark are newly elected members).

Charles Monkhouse and Hayley Sanders have resigned from the committee. We thank them for their work for the community: Charles as Treasurer and committee member 2017-24; Hayley as Secretary and committee member 2022-24.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Newsletter:** the parish newsletter is published every month, except for a July/August combined edition. 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. 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](http://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](mailto:peterjworrall@aol.com)