

## Middleton-by-Youlgrave Village Hall Committee

### Newsletter July/August 2024



Welcome signs of summer in all of the planted areas around the Square and the spectacular planter (left).

The scented garden adjacent to the playground shed has been in full flower, as have the 'triangle' and the picnic and herb garden. The border alongside Tor Farm wall has also been growing well.

Thanks to all the regular gardening team of volunteers.



Great for our pollinators!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Village Hall Committee Programme of events 2024/5

- **AUGUST WORKSHOPS** for primary school age children - sessions between Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August. Details from Charles Monkhouse.
- **BATEMAN ARMS 2:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 6pm - 12 midnight.
- **HARVEST SUPPER:** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 for 8pm
- **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December time tbc
- **LIGHTS, MUSIC & CAROLS IN THE SQUARE:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December time tbc
- **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 for 8pm
- **BATEMAN ARMS:** Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February 6pm -12 midnight
- **WELL-DRESSINGS(s) [on display]:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May
- **VILLAGE MARKET/OPEN GARDENS & EXPLORE MIDDLETON:** weekend 24/25<sup>th</sup> May
- **WELL-DRESSING TEAS:** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May
- **MIDDLETON ROCKS:** summer date to be arranged
- **MIDDLETON VILLAGE HALL CHARITY AGM:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 7pm

This is a list of the events that have been scheduled so far. Information about any additional events will be provided via newsletters/email to update everyone if required.

The **VHC ANNUAL REPORT** is attached to this newsletter. The report gives details of the new committee for 2024/5 including contact details and information about booking the village hall for events. Welcome to our new committee members and many thanks to the members who retired from the committee this year!

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## St Michael and All Angels' Church Garden

The Climate and Nature Group gardeners have started to work in the church garden with the intention of making it more accessible, more attractive and more supportive to wildlife.

A simple path around the sides of the church is being constructed and there will eventually be a holly hedge at the rear boundary. Much of the ground is covered by ivy and unwanted saplings from the horse chestnut trees. The saplings will be removed and some of the ivy will be replaced by clumps of native wildflower species such as bluebells, daffodils and snowdrops.

Some trimming of the lower branches of the mature trees has been authorized and this will allow more light into the garden.

To support the hedgehogs that frequent the garden, two predator-proof hedgehog shelters (pictured below), have been placed in the church garden. Middleton hedgehogs seem to be thriving this year. There have been numerous sightings and visits to local gardens across the parish. Finance from District Councillor Laura Mellstrom's Local Project Fund paid for the shelters. New warning signs for motorists have been put up to alert them about hedgehogs crossing the roads.



### **The Memorial Trees**

The beech tree to mark the platinum jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II, and the crab apple tree to mark the occasion of King Charles III's coronation are growing well in their positions along the path towards Bateman's Tomb. Both trees had become partly obscured by overgrown vegetation which has now been cleared. Commemorative plaques are planned for both trees.

The Community Greenhouse behind the Village Hall is being fully used. The site now has a rainwater harvester in addition to the two water butts. There are plans to create composting bays at the rear of the site once all the remaining debris is removed.

Thanks to Mr Mark Sealey for the donation of the rainwater harvester and to the Climate and Nature group gardeners for all their regular work in keeping the public, planted areas in the village looking so attractive.

The next meeting of the Middleton and Smerrill Parish Council is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 7.15 pm in the Village Hall.