

VILLAGE PUMP



No. 453

August 2018

Our firefighters

by Carol Houghton

Our son, Martin who is a retained fire fighter for Wirksworth RDS, came over to our house one evening in mid-July, absolutely black and stinking of smoke after a long shift above Tintwhistle, just north of Glossop, tackling fires on the moors. Working in stifling hot conditions and wearing kit that weighed four stone, Martin spent over 13 hours that day, with limited food and water supplied. Altogether, firefighters from the Wirksworth station were engaged for six days at the height of the fires, with Martin notching up 35 gruelling hours service. A few days after, we were sat out having a few drinks with friends, discussing the fires and it got us thinking of just how many fire fighters Middleton had produced over the years.

Of the retained firefighters, we remembered Peter Watson who was Sub officer for Wirksworth who retired in 2001 and has since left the village; Jim Thompson who after 37 years has also retired in 2003 but still lives on the Green; Terry Houghton (Martin's uncle), who served for 33 years before retiring in 2011 and lives just around the corner from Jim; Malcolm Pearson who served for a short time before he joined the Grenadier Guards, who has also left Middleton; and Mick Repton, who now lives in Wirksworth, but grew up in Middleton - his parents are still here and he's been a fire fighter since 2000,

Also, we have in Middleton two full time fire fighters: Douglas Smith, who was stationed at Kingsway, Derby but is now retired and Dan Maycock, who lives on the Main Street and is stationed in Buxton.



A blackened Martin Houghton, who has followed in his uncle Terry's footsteps as a retained firefighter.

Dates

Every Sunday

Pub quiz in the Nelson 9pm

Every Thursday

Pub quiz in the Rising Sun 9 pm

Wednesday 15th August and Wednesday 19th September

Folk Jam at the Nelson

Saturday 25th August

Musical Extravaganza 1 pm in the Millennium Garden. There will be a programme of local musicians, barbecue, stalls and a raffle.

Saturday 8th September

Live at the Nelson: Lil Jim

Saturday 15th September

Produce show and auction 3 pm at the Village Hall. Entries 9 to 11 am.

Saturday 22 September

Live at the Nelson – upstairs
Molly and The Grey Notes

Saturday 15th September

At the Village Hall. See last month's Village Pump

Bin Days

Blue bin/green bin:

13th/28th August
10th/24th September

Grey bin:

6th/20th August
3rd/17th September

Please note that there will be no Village Pump for September due to holidays. The next issue will be delivered around the beginning of October.

Deadline for next issue: Thursday 20th September

Please send items by email to mail@middletonvillagepump.co.uk or leave at the Nelson

Weather June 2018

Warm, sunny and dry

It was the warmest June since 1976, but only fractionally warmer than 2006 which was cooler by day but warmer at night than 2018.

Rain fell on only 6 days, the fewest in June since 1976, which also recorded 6. There were only 2 wet days (1.0 mm of rain or more), the fewest in June since 1975 which also had 2. No rain at all fell after the 18th and the total of 16.1 mm was the lowest for the month since 1975. Other very dry Junes in the last 40 years were 1983 with 16.4 mm, 1995 with 16.5 mm and 2006 with 17.7 mm. The rainfall total for the first half of 2018 is 528.7 mm, 105% of average. Only just above average, now, after the wettest first four months on record.

The first three weeks of the month were rather cloudy but the last 10 days were exceptionally sunny and

by the end of the month it was the sunniest June since 1989. Both May and June have recorded more than 200 hours of sunshine, (one month with 200 hours is a rare event at Middleton!) the first time consecutive months have reached 200 hours since July/August 1989. It was also the first June with no completely sunless days since 1975 although the 4th and 8th came close with just a

few minutes sunshine each.

It was less windy than average for June although the 14th was an exception with a gust of 53 mph recorded on the moor, the highest of the month.

Dave Evans

		Diff' from, or % of, average	Date
Mean maximum' temp	20.3c	+3.0c	
Mean minimum temp	10.4c	+1.2c	
Highest maximum	26.9c		25th
Lowest minimum	6.6c		6th
Total Rainfall	16.1 mm	20%	
Wettest Day	10.0 mm		11th
Days with rain	6		
Total Sunshine	219.4 hrs	155%	
Sunniest Day	15.1 hrs		22nd, 25th
Days with no sunshine	0		

Bloom Judging Day

We would like to thank everybody who worked to make the village look its best for the recent Bloom judging day on Friday 6 July, from watering to weeding and sweeping to litter picking.

Thanks also to our sponsors, as well as those who helped make the East Midland in Bloom judges so very welcome as they walked around the village during their tour. The judges got their times a bit mixed up delaying the start of the tour, but it was great that people still made themselves available to share their enthusiasm for 'all things Middleton'; it really does add so much to the day. A big thank you also to all those who

worked to provide the refreshments and those who came along to meet the judges in the Millennium Gardens after the judging ended.

It was a superb 'spread' and again reinforced our message that 'Bloom' in Middleton is not just down to a few individuals or 'The Bloom Group' but about everybody who takes a justifiable pride in where they live. As the judge said after a sandwich or two: "It has been a very enjoyable to visit such a vibrant village where the sense of community is evident throughout".

We will get the results early in September but regardless of what the

judges think, we think you all deserve a Gold already!

P.S.

Middleton in Bloom have donated over £600 to the Parish council towards the refurbishment of the Millennium Garden gates. Sadly, they were not in back in place for the judging but we explained this to the judges and put a picture of the gates in the judging portfolio - available for to look at in The Nelson Arms. We look forward to seeing the gates back, looking as good as new.

Rob Stamper

Coming your Way! Cinema Middleton's Grand Opening

The Greatest Showman will be launching Cinema Middleton on Saturday 22 September, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Booking arrangements will be included in a publicity flyer that will be distributed to all households in late August. This will be a 'red-carpet event'. Don't forget to dress up, although tiaras and bow-ties are not obligatory. We hope to see a lot of you there.

Sue Stockwell on behalf of the Cinema group

The Midfolk Festival in Middleton

Jane Monaghan

What a superb time was had at Midfolk Festival, Middleton's first Folk music festival. There were brilliant performances from Sylvia Needham and Keith Kendrick, followed by a memorable set from Granny's Attic, three young men from Worcester who stunned the audience with their virtuosity. Saturday evening was rounded off with the sublime Ric Sanders who left us all baying for more. Sunday's Local Vocal session spotlighted the wealth of talent on our doorstep featuring Notts. Alliance, Carol Fieldhouse, Lefty Chris, Robyn Wallis Johnson and the incomparable Hattie Hatstar.....and all of this in our own Village Hall.

Throughout the weekend there were stalls, workshops and horse rides. The stalls raised around £250 for Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation and local groups including the Tea and Tots group and the start of the "Let's get a school shed" fund. None of this would have been possible without the massive support from local folk who volunteered and just got on with it. I apologise if I have missed anyone out but would love to thank everyone who attended the event and in particular Andy Martin for his inspiration and musical support, Brenda and Emma for the fabulous Midfolk Tearooms, Rob and Ann Stamper for always being at the end of the phone when I called for help, Leah and Tori Skellern-Brown for manning the bar, all of my family and in particular my patient and hardworking daughter Sarah for keeping me on track for a whole year of planning. Many thanks....and here's hoping next year's Midfolk will be just as successful.

Village Groups Contact List

If you have a group that you'd like to include, please email us.

Middleton in Bloom

Secretary: Hilary Casey (820076)

Village Green Committee

Secretary: Dawn Greatorex (356661)

Middleton Environment Group

Chair: Rob Stamper

Middleton Choir

Annie Nelson (826955)

Allotments Committee

Chair: Mike Knott (826075)

Middleton Ladies' Group

Pam Jones (823920) or Christine Gilmour (822455)

Steeple Grange Light Railway

Martin Smith: martinsmith187@tiscali.co.uk
John Cash: jtccpc@supanet.com

Middleton Book Group

Lucy Peacock (820831)

MMBG (Middleton Mountain Bike Group)

www.mmbg.co.uk

Middleton & Wirksworth Wrestling Club

Classes on Monday evenings in the village Hall. Contact Trevor Hoskins (07961 516722)

Middleton Toddler Group

Meets Wednesdays 1.30pm-3pm at the Village Hall

Nelson Arms

Bar and accommodation. Alan and Jane (825154)

Knit and Natter

In the Nelson on Mondays, 1-3pm, with Community Luncheon on alternate Mondays. Brenda Hobson 824600

Yoga Classes

Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the village hall. Contact Nicky Mumford 07780 685083

Dulce est desipere in loco

I was admiring the coat of arms in the Village Hall above the stage and realised that most people will wonder what it is all about. It was created by Hal Spires in the 1980s as the coat of arms of “The Happy Wanderers” troupe, who produced excellent pantomimes every February half term for many years.

If you look in detail you will learn a bit about them

Trefoil: I think denotes the Holy Trinity Church (next door), which at the time owned the building that is now the Village Hall and where the Pantomime and most of the rehearsals took place.

Mask and lyre: The theatrical group itself

Three Stags: Derbyshire

Barrel: Obviously, the liquid that

greased the tonsils post-performance. At that time, there were three working pubs in the village.

English Rose: Obvious

Pick & Mallet: Denotes Middleton’s traditional industry of quarrying and mining.

Lastly the motto which is in Latin and

I have completely forgotten what it means. Help! Is there any one able to supply this information. Details to the editor

Angie Corby

Editors’ note: Taken from the Roman poet Horace, the phrase translates as ‘It is pleasant to play the fool on occasion.’ How apt!



Tots & Tea Playgroup

Middleton is blessed to have many young families and we wish to provide them with a space where they can go with their babies and toddlers and make new friends. Therefore, we will be re-launching the Middleton playgroup in September as “Tots & Tea”. This includes a number of changes:

- Time: after many requests from parents, we will be running the playgroup on each school-term Wednesday in the Village Hall, but from September onwards the new time will be 9.30 – 11am.
- Toys: we are refreshing all the toys and are open to donations of good quality toys that are age appropriate for 0 – 5 years old.
- Crafts: during each play-group we

will be introducing crafts-based activities to help children practice their motor skills and use their imagination.

Join us for Play, Crafts, Snacks, Sing-a-long, a Cuppa and Chat in friendly surroundings. We have toys to suit all ages – baby area with bouncer, playmats, soft toys, play-kitchen, slide, cars, doll’s house, etcetera. Whether you are a parent, carer, grandparent or child-minder – we welcome you all. Entrance is £1 per child.

This group is a not-for-profit organisation and run by volunteers. All money raised will be used exclusively for the upkeep and improvement of the playgroup.

Help wanted:

We would like to promote the playgroup actively in the surrounding villages but to do this will require some extra volunteers. At the moment we are a little thin on the ground and can only cater to a small group of children.

If you can assist during the playgroup by preparing some nibbles for the children, tea for the parents, help with the crafts and in general keep an eye out for the children, we would love to hear from you.

Anna Baginska @ Mount Zion – 075 3076 4382

Church News

Living in Middleton makes us aware of the weather and its impact on plants, flowers and vegetables. A village which prides itself on its gardens and allotments knows that we depend on the earth to grow things and on the right weather to feed us all. We understand climate change is real and impacting on many around the world. If it continues, we face great social upheavals, challenging us all. For centuries humanity has not thought very clearly about the earth and our responsibility for it; we have assumed it was there for us and we were entitled to take what we wanted from it.

Yet over the last fifty years or so, many of those who study the bible have been saying that we need to take a fresh look at how we interact with the natural world, recovering a sense of responsibility for the environment and all living creatures. Sir David Attenborough's message on plastic in the sea is just one part of the way scientists are drawing attention to the damage we can do to the planet and the consequences of carrying on as we have done. Within the church worldwide this awakening has prompted a return to marking September as a season for thinking about the earth and our stewardship of the environment. At Holy Trinity this year we shall, for the first time, observe this Creation Season with four

services that explore different aspects of this theme. We shall think about the wonders of nature, the interconnectedness of life on earth, and what we can do to protect the natural world and live in harmony with our environment. At our Family Service on September 16th we shall think about what we learn from the wildlife and plants around us and at the end of the month we mark our Harvest Service at 4 p.m. on 30th September bringing all these ideas together in an act of thanks and self-dedication. Do join us to explore these important topics.

In the heat of summer, it's difficult to remember just how cold Middleton can be in the winter, but this year the Beast from the East was so fierce it knocked out our ancient heating system. I'm glad to report that during August work will start on installing a new system ready for October. We are extremely grateful for grant aid from a charitable trust to enable us to do this and the new system will be more efficient, more flexible and cheaper to run.

August also sees the Holy Trinity family grow with the baptism of another one year old. Everyone matters in a family, whether they are one or ninety one. The baptism of Robert Park on August 19th will be a great celebration for him and his family,

and for his church family welcoming him into our midst, thinking about our hopes for his future and the world he will inherit. Do join us for this joyful occasion.

The concert with Jonathon Priestly on guitar would have clashed with both the village cinema in October and the heating installation in church; so instead Jonathon has agreed to come and do a concert on Saturday November 10th and to mark the Middleton Remembers weekend with a new piece of music written for this occasion. We look forward to playing a full part in that important weekend and hope many will come to the concert too. Get it in your diary!

Looking ahead, we will be starting a new programme of Wednesday afternoon Bible Studies in our Basement Meeting Room from September 26th and restarting our Sunday afternoon Children's Storytelling for the under-sevens on October 7th. Holy Trinity church is open every day and offers a space for quiet thought or prayer. We have a prayer board where requests for prayer can be left. It's your church and we'd love to see you there!

Peter Lewis
Reader, Holy Trinity Church

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Emma's August Recipes

Hello Village Pump readers! Well what a hot season so far! I'm sure if you're growing any fruits or veg you'll be yielding early as I am. Strawberries, tomatoes, herbs and rocket leaves aplenty! So, I have some lovely seasonal recipes for your eating pleasure!

Let's start with Tomatoes!

Ketchup

So, I have an abundance of lovely tomatoes growing, which will ripen at the same time. A lovely way to preserve these is by making Ketchup. I love the potent smells: just how different it is to the shop bought stuff. Plus, it's great fun to make with the kids. This particular one is concocted from a variety of sources.

Ingredients

3 Red Onions diced or sliced!
1 Bulb of a small Garlic
1 Heart of Celery
Some Olive Oil
4 Tblsp of Ginger paste
1 Fresh chilli with seeds (I'm using mine from the garden - with thanks Becki!)
2 Good handfuls of fresh Oregano
2 Tsp of ground fennel seeds
2.5Kg of Tomatoes - 30(ish) tomatoes
450ml of Red Wine Vinegar
175g of sugar (soft brown brings more flavour however granulated in this case works also)
Black Pepper (optional - for taste Tony)
5 Tblsp of Tomato Paste (optional - gives added zing)

Method

Place onions, garlic, celery, ginger paste, chilli, oregano, fennel in a pan with a little olive oil and sweat down. Add in tomatoes with 500ml of water and bring to the boil, reduce by half. Add in vinegar, sugar and fresh herbs. Blend in a smoothie maker. If you use a food blender, whiz up and pass

through a sieve. Pop into sterilised bottles and keep for up to 6 months in the fridge. Simple and delicious

Now let's move onto Strawberries!

I've grown wild strawberries this year - although small they grow like weeds. It's no big secret that I love all jam and chutneys, with Wild Strawberry jam being a particular favourite. This is a simplified version of a Delia's recipe for Strawberry Preserve. It's my particular favourite and without much experience in designing jam recipes, this is my staple go to. Makes about a litre of jam.

Ingredients

900g Strawberries
700g Preserving Sugar
1 Lemon (juice and fine zest)
10g Butter

Method

In a large heavy based pan, pop in the strawberries and preserving sugar and leave to soak somewhere cool overnight. Pop a metal tray in the freezer overnight as well. The next day, place the pan over a low heat, allowing the sugar to dissolve, but keeping the fruit intact. Occasionally, shake or pastry brush the edges with water to prevent crystallisation of the sugar. Once the sugar is dissolved, add lemon juice and zest and bring to the boil. Boil for 8 minutes. Then check the jam, by placing a teaspoon of jam on the frozen tray, spreading thinly. If it sets at once, the jam is ready. (if not, boil a minute at a time until it sets - no liquid should run). Once ready, allow to sit for 20 minutes adding a little butter if any froth appears on the surface. Pop the mix into sterilised jars and allow to cool slightly before lidding.

Roll of Honour 2018

The Parish Council will be deciding the 2018 Roll of Honour award at its meeting on Monday 10th September 2018. We are inviting nominations from residents for people who have made a significant contribution to village life.

Please email your nominations to clerk@middletonbywirksworth-pc.gov.uk or send by post to John Rowe, Parish Clerk, 1 Devonshire Villas, Upperwood Road, Matlock Bath, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3PD to arrive no later than 9 am on Thursday 30th August 2018.

Nominations must include the name of the person you are nominating and, briefly, why you feel they should be awarded the 2018 Roll of Honour. You should also include your name, address, telephone number and email address.

Casual Vacancy – Parish Council

Following the advertising of the above Casual Vacancy in accordance with Section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, and no poll being claimed, the Electoral Officer of Derbyshire Dales District Council has advised the vacancy should be filled by co-option. Nominations are invited from individuals interested in being co-opted to the Parish Council. Please send your nomination, to include your name, address and contact details to the Parish Clerk by email; clerk@middletonbywirksworth-pc.gov.uk or post to; John Rowe c/o 1 Devonshire Villas, Upperwood Road, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire DE4 3PD. Telephone: 07717137526. Closing date: 9.00am Thursday 30th August 2018, interviews will take place at a meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 6.30pm on Monday 10th September 2018

In the nature of butterflies

by Nick Brown, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Fortunately, the hot dry weather this summer has proved very favourable to most species of butterfly, both common and rare. They like the sun and can be more active than when it is cold and wet.

Having said hot spells are good for butterflies, now that so many plants and flowers are dried up, species which will be egg laying in high summer (August) may well struggle since so many flowers have shrivelled early and even failed to set seed.

This year one plant that seems to cope well with drought, common knapweed, is attracting many butterflies to its purple flowers. Recently I saw a small copper butterfly feeding on knapweed which was growing in a partly shaded damp spot. This little butterfly is a gem - its bright copper coloured wings are dotted with black spots.

In my garden, I have recorded 17 species so far this summer. Some are attracted by the buddleia bushes, also known (quite appropriately) as the 'butterfly bush', such is the draw of its heady perfume.

I cut back my buddleias over a period of a few weeks at the beginning of spring. This ensures that they flower sequentially and thereby produce a much longer supply of nectar than if they flowered all at the same time.

Peacocks, small tortoiseshells, commas and red admirals are buddleia lovers for sure but other species like meadow browns and ringlets will also imbibe the sweet nectar the flowers produce.

Of course, buddleias only flower for a month or so even if you have staggered their pruning. You really need to grow a wide selection of plants in your garden to ensure that butter-

flies have something to feed on from March, when the first ones come out of hibernation, right through to October.

Once the buddleias have flowered, plants like the ice plant (*Sedum* species), michaelmas daisies and hemp agrimony will keep your garden busy with these colourful insects.

Learning to distinguish the different species is relatively simple. Most are distinctively marked, though a few can be hard to identify and require extra effort.

Ken Orpe, a butterfly enthusiast of many years standing organises hundreds of butterfly surveys right across Derbyshire each year, so if you are keen enough to want to take part and help us keep tabs on these super insects, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has been trusted with his contact details - tel: 01773 881188.

Middleton Community Primary – July School News

What a very busy year it has been for us. Whether it be djembe drumming, maypole dancing, bird watching, forest schooling, sports day running, story writing, poetry reading, problem solving or portrait drawing. We certainly have packed a lot into our year!

The last few weeks have been very

special, with our Djembe performance at Carsington, Sports Day, Summer Fayre, Birthday Celebrations and Leavers Service. These events have been lovely for our children and our families, and the memories will stay with us for a long time.

I'd like to thank our wonderful children, staff and families for making our school the very special place it is.

We are already planning for next year and have an online theatre production, World War 1 workshops, road safety week, pantomime and Whitehall residential in the diary. Another busy, successful year ahead.....

Alison Dugdale – Head



