



It is open season again...

We are now open to the public Wednesday - Sunday each week.

Our first event running is the easter trail.

Thank you to the crafting volunteers for running craft workshops for the families that visit us !

****Special shoutout to Lynne for getting into teacher mode to set it all up !!****

Volunteers in the gardens have been working extremely hard over the last month, in order for our site to look as beautiful as possible (we can ignore the scaffolding).

Our tea room volunteers are busy planning bakes for our visitors, tour guides warming up for group visits & front of house volunteers doing some training for welcoming everyone in !!

For anyone that missed our rota for March/ April it is linked below:



<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OYHT>

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[1MxPSLR0jkaxzjqgee_JhDWipfOAQ90oJOaKL](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MxPSLR0jkaxzjqgee_JhDWipfOAQ90oJOaKL)

[/edit?usp=sharing](#)

Link to May - June Rota :

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cFNj22mux8PKH8wVjy7vc5wYOfgox2AgtTLWQs5iDWE/edit?usp=sharing>

This month we had many new additions to the Hall, so we first of all want to give a warm welcome to all volunteers that have joined our team. We hope you feel at home here :)

We have been fortunate enough to have two social outings this month to fellow heritage sites. Lichfield Pumping station & The Charterhouse in Coventry. Our next trip is to Lichfield Regiment Museum on 9th April at 11AM. Please contact samantha.kirman@middleton-hall.co.uk if you wish to come!

Volunteer Open Day 2024

Thank you to everyone that helped out at our volunteer open day !!

We welcomed over 50 visitors into the Hall, with so many interested in joining us at the Hall.

The Hall was filled with such enthusiasm for volunteering, with 20 other charitable organisations also promoting their voluntary opportunities! The gardeners did an amazing job multitasking, building the dead hedge whilst recruiting volunteers. The day could not have been the success it was without everyone's help, from





Tidy Up Tuesday

Our biggest tidy up Tuesday yet ! Thank you to everyone that came, we managed to clean the entire Jettied Building in just 2/3 hours ! Our next Tidy up is Tuesday 2nd April, I cannot be there for this but the team have some tasks ready !



Lichfield Pumping Station

This was such an interesting trip, and another hidden gem like us but in Staffordshire!! If you missed the trip I would recommend visiting, they open on a Tuesday and Friday to the public.



Charterhouse Trip

Thank you to everyone that came and drove to Coventry! Was brilliant to see another heritage site at the early stages of its development. The Charterhouse volunteers will be visiting us soon and having a guided tour!

TikTok Sensations



Thank you to the garden volunteers that featured in our latest tiktok! Over 600 likes, and 5,000 views - our most liked and viewed video!! If anyone would like to feature in future videos, please get in contact as it is a great platform to promote everything we do here.

The Gardens

If you look at the calendar you might be aware of the fact that a quarter of year has already passed. How? I have no idea, but I know that time flies way too quickly when you are having fun and also when you are really busy. This has certainly been the case in the gardens. If last month I was complaining that the Spring is delaying too much to takeover from Winter, well Spring is here now. It is here with bloom and colour, with birdsong and fresh cut grass scent. This last month we have prepared the

gardens for opening to visitors, working in weeding willow tunnel, west lawn, clearing more overgrown areas in the compound, building another dead hedge, moving coppiced poles and pruning some more, these to name a few of the jobs we tackled with the garden volunteers. I have also worked with corporate volunteers to clear the carpark to make steps towards having a more inviting first impression and we have also cleared an overgrown area in the Glade. There were no idle moments in the gardens in fact quite the opposite, with garden volunteers coming even on a Saturday in such a large number to help out at the successful Volunteer Open Day organised by Sam! I was certainly very very, honestly, very impressed with the hard work done on that day especially as almost all had already helped in the gardens that week as well. Thank you so much for your dedication and effort!

On a more personal note, March 15th marked 1 year since I started working at Middleton Hall Trust. What an incredible year it has been and reflecting back on it I am grateful for how the volunteers welcomed me, how the volunteers worked alongside me and for the encouragement and constant support I have received in the work that we are doing in restoring and turning the gardens here into a top horticultural destination in the Midlands! You all have and are making my job a lot easier and so enjoyable and I am thankful for the effort and dedication you are investing here. On top of that the support and help offered during our house move and renovation left me speechless and my wife and I want to thank everyone involved in this.

I look forward to April, the work that is ahead of us and I look forward to the gardens being opened to visitors so that hard work done over the winter by the garden team could again be put on display to be admired and appreciated, as it deserves.

Daniel Puicar
Gardener

Have your say about volunteering !
If you have a spare minute please fill out our review form as we would like to use it to continue, and add to what you enjoy about being volunteers!
<https://forms.gle/6uSmDcbMEppo2q4p9>

What is happening in April?



Middleton Motors: 07/04/24

Motors is back!
(Although this picture is from Joy Events)
We look forward to seeing our regulars back each month. Car park volunteers are needed so please let us know if you are available!



Staffordshire Regiment Museum Trip 09/04/24

Another reciprocal visit !

Let me know if you can make it to this trip. If anyone needs a lift inform us as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.



Plant Hunters : 14/04/24

First Plant Hunters of the year!!
Hope to see many of you there, as visitors or volunteering - set to be a busy day !

As we bid farewell to wintry days and welcome the rejuvenating spirit of spring, it's time to look ahead to our 2024 season. With lots planned, from living history weekends to theatrical performances, 2024 promises to be a vibrant year with an eclectic mixture of events on offer. But first, we host our Easter Kids Trail! With Easter falling early this year, I hope and pray that the weather gods will be on our side! Speaking of events, our recent murder mystery evening was a resounding success! It was heartwarming to witness the enthusiastic support of our volunteers, whose dedication and enthusiasm breathed life into this thrilling spectacle and without whom the event just simply couldn't take place. Mark your calendars for the next installment on the 12th July as guests endeavour to figure out what happened to Kenneth Robertson. If you are interested in taking part in the next one, please drop Sam or me an email.

April sees the launch of our much anticipated audio trail. This heralds a move towards interactive exhibits at the hall, ensuring our offering is both enhanced and accessible for visitors. Since late last year, our intern Lucy has been working with Debbie Jordan to put together a thoroughly researched and presented audio trail that features a total of nine stops around the hall and gardens. Visitors will scan QR codes at specific locations throughout the hall and gardens to learn just a little about the fascinating history Middleton has to offer. Moving forward, there is a vision to bring more interactive exhibits to the site, which will better engage visitors and strengthen our

visitor experience.

And finally, with Joanna leaving us in May, I acknowledge Joanna for her invaluable contributions at Middleton over the past ten years. We now enter a period before Joanna leaves, which sees us enter in to a 'managed transition' phase. In the near future, we will be hosting a communications session to transmit these changes and outline them in detail.

I'm really excited for what this year has in store, and as ever, thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Steve



Are you interested in being a trustee?

We are fortunate enough to have a team of trustees volunteering for us! They are looking to add to our board of Trustees and are seeking individuals with experience of any of the following areas:

- Organisational development,
- Fundraising in third sector organisations,
- Grounds and garden development,
- Human resource systems, and
- Strategic management in public sector organisations

Contact us :
enquiries@middleton-hall.co.uk for more information or visit our website to apply ! 🌸



