

# Grounds Development at Middleton Hall

Hello, this is my first article for Plant Hunters Fairs. As of October last year I have had the great pleasure of being appointed Grounds Development Manager at Middleton Hall which I hope is familiar to you or if not will be in the future.

Middleton Hall is set in 42 acres of the peaceful North Warwickshire countryside and run by an independent charitable trust. We are open to the public as a Museum and Gardens, we host public events, Weddings, Private parties and tours.

Middleton has two entries in the Domesday Book and the oldest building on site dates from 1285. Elizabeth I stayed at the Hall for a week in 1575 and it was home to the father of natural history, Francis Willughby FRS and John Ray.

Our more recent history tells the story of the Hall's restoration by an intrepid group of volunteers who formed the Middleton Hall Trust.

We are a Site of Special Scientific Interest, with nature trails around the oldest man-made lake in Warwickshire. We have formal gardens with one of the earliest examples of a heated Walled Garden in the country.

I'm really enjoying working in these fantastic grounds and gardens and have plans already underway in re-developing the 18th century walled garden, this is a very exciting project that our small team of staff and volunteers are undertaking this year.

A great deal of work has already been started with clearing old planting borders and over grown trees and shrubs.

The walled garden is a lovely intimate space which deserves to be visited by garden lovers and hopefully with my plan in place we will be able to welcome visitors to see the progress we make throughout the year.



Andrew Degg  
Grounds Development Manager  
Middleton Hall

We want to create a journey for visitors that encourages them to explore the garden, with lush textually rich colourful planting borders.

The development plan will use planting from the late Georgian / Victorian period and themes from famous well know designers of the period such as, Gertrude Jekyll. Not just making a one dimensional replica of a Georgian garden but using these themes of colour and structural elements to create an original design in context with the past and future of Middleton Hall.

I really am very excited for the future of this great space a lot of hard work has to be done but with the dedication of our volunteers and everyone's help and support we are all really looking forward to the year ahead.





If you feel you would be able to help in our project in any way through volunteering or sponsorship (we always need more plants!) please don't hesitate to contact me, or if not you are always welcome for a visit or a chat to see how we are doing.

I look forward to hopefully meeting many of you when Plant Hunters' Fairs come to Middleton on 9th April and 23rd July please come and say hello.

The plant fairs are held in the glade near the walled garden.

The Entry charge includes the fairs, gardens, hall and parking

What great value!

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