

Coxley news

Sitlington Parish

Incorporating Middlestown, Overton, Netherton & Midgley

AUTUMN 2024



Photos from Scarecrow Walk
Hickories Smokehouse Pub Review
Latest News from Parish Council



COXLEY NEWS: information for contributors

Coxley News: Launched in 2007, Coxley News, Coxley Players and the Scarecrow Walk all operate under the wider community project umbrella of Coxley Live. It covers Sitlington parish (Netherton, Middlestown, Overton & Midgley).

Issues:

Spring (March, April, May) – deadline around 15th January

Summer (June, July, August) – deadline around 15th April

Autumn (September, October, November) – deadline around 15th July

Winter (December, January, February) – deadline around 15th October

Articles: We love to hear from you! Parish groups and events have priority, each group may have up to two pages.

Advertising: covers all printing costs, so takes up half of each issue.

Charges: One-off layout fee if needed, £10. A quarter page - £15; half - £30; full page - £60. Formats such as pdf and jpg are accepted, please check with Wendy. We don't include flyers or inserts as they are time consuming and add extra weight for our team of volunteer distributors.

Distribution: 2,600 homes in Sitlington, all delivered by volunteers. Join the distribution team! Contact Joan (07734) 872215 for Middlestown/Overton and Wendy via wendy.coxley@talktalk.net for Netherton/Midgley.

Editors: We are volunteers too. We may edit content for clarity, accuracy and length. All editors' decisions are final.

Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Your District Councillors On Call



District Councillors: Samantha Harvey, Andy Nicholls, Jordan Bryan
are prepared to visit you at home when you need them

Call: Councillor Harvey 07471 141556 Councillor Nicholls

Councillor Bryan 07787 850025

Coxley News team

Editorial: Shirley Jones, Wendy Woodhouse, Helen Moretti, Pete Fearnside, Joan Fearnside.

Design and Production: Helen Moretti.

Advertising: Wendy Woodhouse.

Delivery: Cast of many but **we would love to hear from you if you can help!**

Editorial comment

Welcome to the autumn issue of Coxley News!

If you're feeling nostalgic, head back to the 1940s with reflections on the Second World War 'Dambusters' or a retro Bonfire Night on the home front.

That other timeless tradition, football is back. Why not support your local team this year? Emley's fixture are inside.

And if you can bear to peep at the last month on the calendar, pop those Christmas Tree Festival and craft fair dates down, then relax and enjoy the season of mellow fruitfulness with our offering from Cocktail Corner.

Send us your winter and festive content for the next issue by Monday 14th October please.

Contact the Coxley News team by

E-mail: coxley.158@btinternet.com **Phone:** 01924 276545

Post: 158 Coxley View, Netherton, WF4 4NE

Adverts

Email: wendy.coxley@talktalk.net or Coxley News Facebook page

How to Contact the Parish Council

The contact for the parish council is the clerk, Mrs Julia Talbot.

(07771 113258) clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Office, Stevenson House, 139 Netherton Lane, Netherton, WF4 4HQ

To book Netherton Village Hall contact Parish Clerk.

Coffee Morning In Middlestown for Guide Dogs for The Blind

On the 20th April 2024 a coffee morning was held to raise funds for Guide Dogs for the Blind. It was a success raising £430. I would like to thank the local businesses, The Grumpy Fryer, The Flower Shop and Benjamin's boutique for their generous donations to the raffle. Coffee, tea, cakes and sandwiches were enjoyed by all and the weather was kind too.

The support and generosity of all who attended made it all worthwhile.
Thank you all.

Netherton Film Club

The film club meets at Netherton Methodist Church on the 3rd Friday of the month. A selection of films is shown (usually certificate 12a or lower) with a wide range of subjects. We try to show films that have recently been shown in cinemas. These are usually British films but occasionally we show international/ American films including blockbusters. We will be showing Oppenheimer in November.

Once a quarter, on a different Friday, Film Club Extra shows more controversial films with a discussion taking place afterwards.

Why not come along and enjoy an evening out? There is no charge for the film but a donation to running costs is always appreciated.

Further details can be obtained from Christine Hewitt on 07931 353082.

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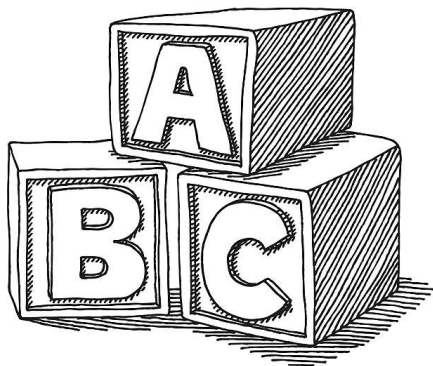
We welcome Families/Carers to our toddler group, based in Netherton at the Methodist Church.

Monday mornings 09:00 - 11:00 am, £1 per head

There will be refreshments and snacks for the children.

The morning will include playing, singing, story time & a chance for you to unwind with a coffee/tea and a nice chat with new people

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Lisa 07969 853522 or Lorna 07827 767974



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News From Trinity Methodist Church, Netherton

Our minister, the Revd Andrew Atkins has begun a new monthly midweek Service of Holy Communion, to which all are warmly welcome. In Methodism Holy Communion is an Open Table for all irrespective of Christian denomination or non. The next date is Wednesday 11th September 10.30am to 11.00am, at Trinity Methodist Church, Netherton. This is for a trial period, but if judged worthwhile, the services will continue on the second Wednesday of each month. Please come and enjoy the fellowship.

Our **Harvest Festival** service will be held on Sunday 13th October at 10:30, led by our minister Rev Andrew Atkins. Andrew will also lead an **Advent Communion** service on Sunday 1st December at 10:30. We would love to see you at all or any of our regular activities, which are as follows: **Sunday Worship** every Sunday at 10:30 for about an hour, followed by the chance for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Knit & Natter Group meets every first, third and fifth Monday at 1:30pm in church.

Chapel Cafe every last Saturday in the month, 10 until 12. Come and enjoy the company with a changing menu of tasty snacks every month. If you wish to use the openness of Chapel Café to promote a charity, we can supply you with a stall from which you can advertise and raise money.

Film Club on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 (doors open 7:15). Admission is free (donations appreciated), with refreshments on sale. In addition, there is an occasional Film Club Extra. Please contact Colin for details of what films are coming up.

Trinity Lunch Stop every first Wednesday of each month at 12 for 12:30. Booking is essential through Carole and Andrew Shaw.

Bible Fellowship on Wednesday evenings, generally second and fourth, but please check with Colin for exact dates, times, and details.

Trinity Methodist Friendship Club on the afternoon of the third Wednesday of the month from 1:30pm until 3:30. Come along to share in various activities or just to chat and meet friends. Contact Carol Smith (07940 864708) for further details.

For further information about any of the above contact
Sandra & Colin Ride 01924 271553 Alan Wood 01924 271210
Carole Shaw 01924 275414 Christine Hewitt 07931 353082

‘Season of Mists’ Again

It’s mid-autumn now and there’s a hazy mist descending on the landscape round me. The evening is warm and pleasant, for a change, and I can enjoy our quixotic, British weather, with its Indian summer warmth.

On the old wooden bench where I like to sit, someone has left a chipped little plate lying on the ground nearby. I stoop down to retrieve it. I can just decipher the words ‘A ROUND TUIT’, inscribed across the middle. It made me smile. It was a standing joke with an old friend over a pint of beer many years ago that we’d do a particular job, whatever it was, when we could get ‘round to it’. (Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow?) Jobs got done, but in their own time. Amidst all the gardening jobs that have to be done, there’s got to be a time for sitting back for a moment and relaxing. Or, as the famous professional golfer, Ben Hogan, once said: ‘As you walk down the fairway of life, you must smell the roses, for you only get one round.’

At this time of the year there’s still plenty of work to be done in the garden, of course. But mulching is my top priority at the moment. particularly as I’m on a ‘no-dig’ campaign again this year.

Mulching helps so much to recondition the soil, retain moisture as well as keep weeds under control. Composted garden and kitchen waste, bark mulch, shredded leaves – all biodegradable – are important to cover bare soil. Many gardeners will say that mulching is best done in spring before weeds take off, but there’s nothing wrong in adding a late autumn covering. Soil conditioners (bought from The Trading Hut) can also be introduced to the mix to give the soil the help it needs. (The RHS website has a good, informative article on mulching (rhs.org.uk) - well worth a look. So, too, ‘The Mulch Book; a Complete Guide for Gardeners’. Ok for a winter night, with nothing on television!)

As the light fades, my next-door neighbour has lit a bonfire. Wisps of light grey smoke saunter through the beech hedge across to where I’m sitting in my garden. It doesn’t worry me. I love the smell of burning wood, and don’t find this intrusion at all offensive, though some might. All of a sudden, this gentle, acrid smell takes my mind back to my childhood.

.....

I’m back in the 1940s. The war has been over for a few years now, but people are still relieved, joyous, happy. People laugh a lot, stand by their garden walls and talk over the fence or wall about the future, and the

hope for a new and peaceful beginning. (Norman Evans made much comic use of this over-the-garden-wall scenario! Some of you may remember he used to play the part of Fanny Fairbottom, a toothless, hatchet-faced, Lancastrian housewife, gossiping with neighbours over a garden wall, complaining about their ailments, and mouthing the words too 'rude' to speak out loud. (I think Les Dawson, a couple of generations later, might have had Norman Evans' act in mind for some of his material.) Evans was a much-loved character in pantos in Leeds and the north.

I also vividly recall the bonfires we had on November 5th in those days. Almost every street had its own bonfire. Damage to the tarmac? There was no tarmac – all the suburban streets were still cobbled where we lived – and there was little traffic. During our half-term autumn holidays, as kids let loose, we spent our days 'chumping' – collecting wood wherever we could – gangs of young urchins dragging branches of trees, boxes or fences (!) to our bonfire.

Then came 'Mischievous Night', November 4th. None of your American-import Halloo'en dressing up 'trick or treat' stuff. This was serious mischief – knocking on neighbours' doors and running away, putting jam on neighbours' door handles, fastening their dustbin lids together, then tying them to their front door handles, taking wooden gates off their hinges on front drives. And various other vandal activities too feebly embarrassing to recall!

In those old, dark, yellow-smoggy days, at best we were a nuisance to our neighbours; at worst we were borderline criminal! 'Juvenile delinquents?' Not really; we rarely overstepped the mark – we were too afraid of our local bobby on the beat. He knew all of us, and where we lived, and he knew my mam and dad, and we didn't do anything that would bring his heavy feet down on us! Or shame on them. Healthy fear, I reckon, is a good influence for encouraging self-discipline!

And then came Bonfire Night itself, with the family and almost all the local street community taking part. The fire was lit with due ceremony, and we all recited:

'Remember, remember, the 5th of November, gunpowder, treason, and plot. There seems no reason why gunpowder treason should ever be forgot.'

We knew of Guy Fawkes, of course – but not much what he stood for – or cared. In those meagre days, we were lucky to have fireworks. I remember my dad most years brought home a little box of Standard fireworks, made in Huddersfield. There'd be a couple of rockets, a Roman candle, a Golden

Showers fountain, one or two Catherine wheels, some jumping crackers, a couple of packets of sparklers and half a dozen 'Little Imp' or 'Thunderflash' bangers! Somewhere the instructions warned us to hold the fireworks at arm's length (apart from the rockets and bangers!). As if! (The jumping crackers we threw near where people were standing! No comment!)

To end the evening, do you remember, we all stood round the dying fire and talked about this and that, mainly football. (We discussed this young lad, John Charles, brought in from Swansea to play for Leeds. He could be a good prospect.) Casting off our windcheaters, but still warm in our garish Fair Isle jumpers, with faces red from the heat, and coal-black hands, we tossed potatoes into the glowing embers; we watched and waited till the spuds burnt black, raked them out, skinned and ate them piping hot. Along with slices of parkin (not unlike ginger cake, but made of oatmeal and treacle), we were well and truly satisfied. We grubby kids couldn't ask for more.....wonderful Bonfire Night.

Well, believe me, that's how it used to be. Happy, care-less, memorable days.

.....

Back now, back in the present, sitting on a bench in my garden, my own garden, lucky me, in the quiet of a balmy autumn evening, relaxing, reflecting, with a chipped little plate in my hands, with 'A ROUND TUIT' painted on it, smoke gets in my eyes.

Jay Whittam

Autumn 2024

Cocktail Corner

Mulled pear and cranberry punch

Ingredients (for 8-10 glasses)

1L [pear cider](#)

1L pear (or cloudy apple) juice

1L [cranberry juice](#)

[good handful fresh or dried cranberries](#)

150ml sloe gin

2 [cinnamon sticks](#)

2 [vanilla pods](#), scored lengthways (or essence)

Method

Put all ingredients into your biggest saucepan, when you are ready to serve heat to just below simmering point, then ladle into glasses.

Netherton Heritage Trail (Part Two)

A self guided walk through Netherton's past. For Part One see spring 2024 edition. Created by Members of the Coxley Live Local History Group (a few years ago!)

6. **Hartley Bank Colliery** Walk down to the cricket club (now Hartley Bank Community Field) and look across the fields to the canal. The fields were landscaped after open cast mining. Hartley Bank Colliery was sunk in 1881 and closed in 1968. The shafts were on the left hand side of Balk Lane and other colliery buildings stood on the right where a small plantation of trees now grows.
7. **Netherton Drift Mine.** Retrace your steps up Balk Lane and turn left along Blacker Lane. At the top of the hill, behind a dormer bungalow on your right is a pit heap. The Drift Mine opened in 1889 and abandoned in 1897.
8. **The only blue house in Netherton** is no longer blue and started life as a Primitive Methodist chapel: it was built around 1840 and was converted to a residential property in the 1950s. Internally the original wooden floor and wooden beams survive. The neighbouring stone buildings to the right of the chapel on Blacker Lane were also owned by the Primitive Methodists. Unusually, the ground floor window of this building is set very low to the pavement, but inside the floor level is much lower.
9. Netherton Stores has a cellar to the left of the shop. The premises have been used for several businesses and originally opened in 1894 as a branch of the Cooperative Society and closed in 1975. During the war, schoolchildren had to practice sheltering in the cellar. Apparently there were rows of benches in there for the children to sit on - with their gas masks on of course. They were here as there was insufficient space in Netherton school cellars.

Pub Review

Hickory's Smokehouse near the M1 overpass just beyond Horbury used to be a pub called the Old Mill, built, I suppose on the site of a former mill when the area was redeveloped. The Old Mill was a chain pub, but used to provide a decent pint. Hickory's Smokehouse is also a chain, with rather more focus on being a restaurant than a pub, but when I went in for a drink one lunchtime last week there was no problem just getting a drink in the bar area.

The Smokehouse chain has restaurants across the north and northwest of England – there's also one in Huddersfield and one in Leeds. Like most of these kind of places, it's not a mecca for real ale drinkers, but then again it doesn't set out to be. I had a pint of their own 'Hickory's Smokehouse Pale Ale' which is brewed by the Purity Brewing Company, who do a lot of craft keg beers, and it was very refreshing and drinkable, in the Purity house style. They also offered Sierra Nevada Pale Ale and a range of lagers which I imagine would go well with the food.



I didn't eat there, but the food menu does look very good. I've been to restaurants in the southern states of the U.S., which this is obviously inspired by, and the food does have that feel to it, though of course geared up for the local market here. Breakfasts are on the menu, but more your full English fry than the grits and gravy you'd get in Louisiana. Probably that's better anyway!



On the dinner menu, plenty of pulled pork, smoked chicken, ribs, brisket, corn and mac 'n' cheese, as it's called nowadays, which all looks very appetising; though it would have been nice to see jambalaya or blackened catfish on there, the demand might not have justified it.

Wakefield isn't New Orleans just yet, but you might get a flavour of it in this pub.

Emley Football Club

Friday 6th September - Emley v Dunston (FA Trophy)

Saturday 21st September- Emley v Cleethorpes Town

Saturday 5th October - Emley v North Ferriby

Tuesday 8th October - Emley v Sherwood Colliery

Saturday 19th October - Emley v Carlton Town

Saturday 26th October - Emley v Dunston

Unless otherwise stated:

Saturday/Bank Holidays - gates open at 1pm for a 3pm kick off

Tuesday - gates open at 6.30pm for a 7.45pm
kick off

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Friends of Hartley Bank

Well, here we are, September already! Take a walk round the field and you will see that the whips planted three winters ago are finally visible above the summer grass! Their roots must be well established and we look forward to seeing lots of faster growth from now on.



The pavilion has been open every Monday and Wednesday morning since Easter to welcome you for a drink and a chat, and we hope to see the picnic bench garden area used during the school holidays. Come down with the children, the dog, a football and a packed lunch to take advantage of all the safe open space.

Our cricketing scarecrow was by the door to welcome people to our first art exhibition. This event, displaying local artists' works was well received and will become an annual event just like the wreath making has become. Best wishes for an enjoyable autumn from the friends of Hartley Bank.



Netherton Village Hall

The Parish Council are sole trustees of Netherton Village Hall, it is run by a management committee and has admin support from the Parish Office. You can now view availability and book on the village hall calendar if you visit the website. <http://www.nethertonvillagehall.co.uk>

It will give you lots of information about the hall and classes we run. It is also an excellent space for children's parties.

The table top sales will also be returning to the village hall. Watch out for dates on Facebook and on the notice boards.

For Booking enquires please contact us on the Parish Office details above.





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Back to the 1940s

On a Friday in mid-July we headed to the former spa town of Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire for the 1940s weekend. The town will forever be associated with the RAF 617 Squadron, otherwise known as “the Dambusters”. On arrival, its tradition to head to the local fish & chip shop called Archers next door to the Trading Post. Then we drove to the Tea House in the Woods for afternoon cream tea. It’s a special place that we’ve visited many times. Suitably stuffed we ambled over to what is the oldest cinema in the country, the Kinema in the Woods, which dates back to 1922. It’s an amazing place to look around. Full of nostalgia and reminders of days gone by. Then it was off for a pint in the 617 Bar in the Woodhall Inn before wandering over the road to visit the Cottage Museum. The building itself is rare and historic and made from pre-formed sheets of corrugated iron. It’s a unique insight into the life and times of the town and its occupants as it developed.

The 1940s weekend is now centred around the Woodhall Caravan Park and on our way there to book into our Lodge we looked for and found the Wellington Monument in a quiet field by Waterloo Woods. Then it was time for more food! We drove past Jubilee Park, a beautifully preserved throwback to Victorian Britain with well cared for rose gardens, a bandstand and an outdoor lido, and headed to the Ebrington Arms in a little hamlet called Kirkby on Bain. Joy of joys they were serving Abbeydale Brewery’s ‘Deception’ at the bar. We each had a starter of a warm garlic bulb with rustic bread. You don’t often see that on a menu.

A couple of hours later we made our way back to our lodge via the Petwood Hotel, a former WW1 hospital. This magnificent building is associated with the 617 Squadron and the officers who billeted there including Group Captains Guy Gibson and Leonard Cheshire. Who knows what conversations took place inside the inner rooms of this old hotel before their greatest achievement. “Operation Chastise” was carried out by the Lancaster Bomber Dambusters on the night of the 17th May 1943 using the ingenious ‘bouncing bombs’ designed by the brilliant inventor Barnes Wallis.

The next day we headed for one of our favourite museums just south of Boston. On the way we passed RAF Tattershall and RAF Coningsby home of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. The planes are currently grounded pending an investigation following the terrible Spitfire crash in May. Just as

we approached an area called New York we happened upon the Bubblecar Museum and decided to take a look. It's a fascinating place with a huge number of these 3 wheelers (2 at the front and 1 at the back) and it brought a smile to our faces because they are quite funny to look at. Their heyday was in the 1950s and early 60s and Gina Ward was seen driving one made by Messerschmidt in Heartbeat!

Arriving at the WW2 Museum "We'll Meet Again" it remains just as brilliant as ever with an ever-growing private collection of Home Front memorabilia in 2 main buildings. There's a third building in the making to house the recently acquired life size scale model of a Hurricane which featured in the 1969 film the "Battle of Britain". At the time, it was put on top of the Lincoln Odeon roof for 2 months to help advertise the film. Over 50 years later the Hurricane was eventually successfully traced to a barn in Somerset and Paul, the owner of the museum, managed to buy it to bring it 'home'. It's now been completely re-fabricated and repainted it in its original 1942 camouflage colours and it's believed to be one of only 5 left in the world.



There's a reason the museum is situated where it is... because it's a stone's throw from the Freiston Shore WW2 coastline defence bunkers. These concrete buildings tell the tale of the possible imminent German seaborne invasion and include the gun emplacements, searchlight housing and munitions store. The museum has just been awarded a "Top 10 Best Museum" by Trip Advisor. A well-earned tribute to Paul and all the hard working and welcoming staff.

On our way back to Woodhall we called in to the famous Blue Bell pub which the aircrews used to visit and where coins were placed in the beams by the servicemen so they could buy themselves a pint on their return from air raids. Sadly, many stayed lodged there and can still be seen today. Later, we caught up with a few friends in the 1940s vehicle display field and listened to some period songs blasting out on the PA!

Sunday dawned and we slipped quietly away up the A1 and back to 2024. I wonder what many of that greatest generation would think of our world today.

Friends of Netherton Village Hall

WE ARE HAVING A SALE!

Having a clear out this autumn? Why not see if your preloved clothes and household bits can be used by someone else. Netherton Village Hall table top sales, at only £5 a table, are well supported by the community, so why not give it a go? Tables can be booked by contacting 07779 736206.

Dates for the rest of 2024 are: **Saturday 5th October and Saturday 2nd November 2 pm to 4 pm.**

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friends of Netherton Village Hall are well on their way to having 30 Christmas trees in the hall over the weekend of the **21st and 22nd December** to celebrate its 30th birthday.

Local community groups and users of the hall will be decorating a variety of Christmas trees for families to walk through and enjoy the splendour Christmas trees can bring.

The hall will be open 10.30 to 4 pm each day.

Put the date in your diary and look out for further information nearer the date.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

As autumn approaches the Friends of Netherton Village Hall are planning the Christmas Craft Fair. The Hall will be filled with Christmas decorations and music, and festive refreshments will be provided by the Friends. A wide variety of local crafts will fill the stalls . We look forward to welcoming you to the Christmas Craft Fair to be held on **Saturday 30th November between 11am and 3pm.** Look out for posters and further information around the village.

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Sitlington Parish Council

Dear Residents,

It has been a busy time again with lots of residents contacting us about the public footpaths in the parish. We have continued to report these on a regular basis to Wakefield Council over the summer months.

Bingley Arms

Representatives of Ossett Brewery attended the Parish Council meeting to discuss the concerns raised by residents about the parking situation around Bingley Arms. The Parish Council discussed solutions and will continue to communicate with Ossett Brewery and keep residents updated.

Hartley Bank community field

The Pavilion has been open for coffee and cake on Mondays and Wednesdays 10-2pm and will continue to open until the weather changes.

Over the summer we have had PCSOs attending as part of the Neighbourhood Policing team contact points.

Gardening group

The memorial garden area is now progressing well. A big thank to Phil Johnson, his wife and all the volunteers who have worked hard towards completing the path, seating area and bin base.

We have had an offer of help to clear the numerous weeds from the memorial garden, which will be greatly appreciated ready for planting. this space.

REMEMBER, if you are splitting plants early in the growing season the gardening group would appreciate any donations.

If so, please contact Cllr Fearnside-Tel:07734872215

All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Middlestown Cemetery

It is disappointing to find there are still people using the cemetery as an exercise area for their dogs. It has also been reported that dog training is taking place in this space. This is a place for families to go and be at peace. Considered was locking the bottom gate to prevent dog walkers using the cemetery.

Further consideration is required to find solution to this problem. There are many lovely areas in the parish to walk/train your dogs. The cemetery is NOT this space. Please be respectful.

Cemetery Gates

It has been a long journey, but the new cemetery gates have been ordered for Netherton and Middlestown cemeteries and by the time you read this they should be installed. These were funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy from Wakefield Council. These funds come from housing developers in the Parish through Wakefield Council.

Highway matters

The Parish Council have been successful in their grant application from Wakefield Council to fund a smiley SID for the parish, we are working closely with the Police to find suitable location. Smiley SID will also collect speeding data as evidence of speeding in the targeted areas.

Updated Signage

New Signage has been added around the Parish, all the Parish Council assets now have new signs with contact details.

Contact details: Mrs Julia Talbot, Parish Clerk. Parish Office:
07771113258,

email: clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Don't forget we have a website; the website has lots of information relating to the Parish Council.

www.sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Check out the Parish Council out on:

[@Sitparcounci](https://www.facebook.com/Sitlington-Parish-Council)



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower

Albert Camus

Netherton And District Women's Institute

If I had typed this yesterday, I could have started with “and still it rains” but today there is a strange yellow ball in the sky – it's the sun at last! Must hurry up and get this article finished ‘cos it probably won't last long!

Our last meeting saw the welcome return of Terry Webster and his lifelong friend Terry. Another enjoyable evening of Terry's musical career and all the interesting people he met along the way. Once again, our President had to call a halt as time was up – and he still hadn't got to the end! We also had a bit of a “Swap Shop” with items of clothing, bags and jewellery brought along by members. This was in order to do our bit for WI's Big Green Week in June.

Our speaker in May was David Hardcastle from the Police Museum. He brought along dozens of police memorabilia and gave us a fascinating history from the very first policeman to the present day. He also brought several items of clothing which members could, and did, try on. He himself was wearing a very impressive uniform from the past with a white helmet which made him look extremely imposing. Before his talk he stood outside on the pavement which put the wind up one or two “boy racers”.

Due to an unfortunate mix-up with dates, we were without a speaker in June but President Ann always has one or two quizzes in her briefcase for emergencies which members enjoyed. Keeps the old grey matter circulating!

Also, in June several members spent a sunny day (wow!) at Wentworth Woodhouse where we had a tour of the rooms now open to the public, a lovely lunch in the café and a walk round the gardens. Really enjoyable.

We are planning on visiting the new Capri at Newmillerdam in August for lunch and a bit of a ramble. Really looking forward to that and fingers crossed for some sunshine.

September 10th speaker is Lionel Green on CPR and Defibrillators – something we all should know more about. There may be a time in the future when that knowledge could be really useful (and life-saving).

8th October is the date of our AGM with Harvest Auction and Fish Supper.

Visitors are still welcome of course (don't be put off by the AGM bit).

Looking forward to Lizzie Jones once again in November, this time to talk about The Banning of Mince Pies. That's on the 12th. Perhaps we could have a mince pie with our cuppa afterwards instead of biscuits!

And then it's December and our Christmas Party – but members only for this one so hurry up and join us if you want to partake in a little frivolity and lovely party food.

Still meeting on the second Tuesday in the month at Trinity Methodist Church in Netherton at 7.15 pm. £2 on the door to include speaker and light refreshments. Please ring me (Eileen) on 01924 275276 or 077901 99257 if you want more detail or just a chat.

PS – taster for 2025 – Carol Smith on Scams, etc in January, Julie Birch on Holiday Information in February and Ian Whitehead from Mobile Antiques in March. Watch this space for the rest of the programme which is coming together nicely!



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Netherton Scarecrow Walk

It was another fantastic year for the Scarecrow Walk back in July with a huge variety of scarecrows with everything from Mr Men to Mary Poppins , Bake Off to Bill and Ben and Willy Wonka to Wallace and Gromit!



Adrian, Helen and Suzanne would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part and everyone who contributed.

Thanks to all the makers who create some absolute masterpieces which take hours of blood, sweat and glue. The standard seems to get better and better with each year.

Thanks to both shops and to St. Andrew's for selling maps for us and Earnshaws for printing them.

Thank you to Shelbey for providing face painting. The kids have loved it.

Thank you to Rose and Leah for hosting the wooden spoon scarecrow making and for stepping up at the last minute to save the day. We saw lots of really fantastic creations around the village.

Thank you to Jamie for the sweet treats.

Thank you to the church and Hartley Bank pavilion as well as the Star and the Sports and Social club for providing refreshments.

Thank you to those kind people who hosted scarecrows for people outside of the area and all the people who offered to host even if we couldn't place one with them.

And lastly thanks to all of you our friends and neighbours for showing up and enjoying it despite the vagaries of July weather!

We raised a total of £158 this year and are always looking for suggestions of how we could spend it. Please get in touch if you have any ideas. We'd like to run another children's craft session again next year so ideas of what we could do and any offers to help host craft making would be gratefully received.





Scarecrow Walk 2025

Date for your diary

Saturday 5th July and Sunday 6th July 2025.

We'll be back again next year for our 13th year with more of the same fun. It'll be an open theme so let your imagination run riot! It's free to enter and you can do so by contacting us with your name and a contact email address. Let us know when you know what you've decided to do as your scarecrow so that we can do our best to avoid duplicates.

We can find a location for you if you don't have a suitable garden or even if you're not from Netherton. Similarly, if you'd like to offer to host a scarecrow, please get in touch.

You can contact us:

Email: scarecrowfestival@talktalk.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NethertonScarecrowWalk

Website: www.coxleylive.org

Netherton Walking Group

Well, the weather is not helping the paths and tracks of this lovely area! Despite this, our leaders have found relatively mud and overhanging vegetation free paths for us to walk and we've still managed to walk most weeks. We've recently had a BBQ for the group, which was great for everyone to have a chat and relax. Our walks in the coming weeks cover areas like Heath, St Aidens bird reserve, Holmfirth and walking the PenDen trail, as well as more local walks.

If you'd like to join us, we are a friendly group who enjoy a walk on a Monday morning of around 5 miles. Several of the group take it in turns to lead, which gives variety. We meet at the village hall at either 9.00 or 9.30, depending on how far we have to travel to our start point, usually car sharing.

If you'd like to join us, please drop an email to kathgibbs7@gmail.com so we can let you know what time the start of the walk will be.



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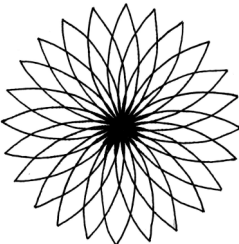
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Middlestown Patient Participation Group

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The PPG AGM will be on Thursday 10th October, 2pm at Middlestown Medical Centre.

The PPG's main aim is to be a bridge between patients and the practice; to pass on information to patients and feedback comments you may have to the practice.

We are always looking for new members to join the PPG – come along to the AGM to find out more or ask at Reception.

HOSPICE CARE - MYTHS BUSTED!

At a recent PPG meeting we heard from the team at Wakefield Hospice about their work. Below is what they have written for our Newsletter.

Hospices care for people who are dying, however palliative care is more than the last few days of life. Wakefield Hospice supports patients and their families at varying stages of their illness, from the diagnosis of a terminal illness until the patient's death and beyond, caring for patients who are known to us and their loved ones via our bereavement services. Some people receive hospice care for just a few days, while others get support for several months. We offer patients the opportunity to live a fulfilled and enjoyable life with an emphasis on making the most of the time available to them, in an environment which is friendly and comfortable. A hospice is not a nursing home, but a specialist clinical environment which enables the patients to live with their life limiting illness with the privacy and dignity they deserve.

We are working to dispel misconceptions about Care at Wakefield Hospice. Here are a few commonly held myths that we would like to bust!

Hospices are where you go to die: Nearly half of patients admitted to the hospice return home. A patient may require hospice admission at various stages of their illness, maybe for rehabilitation after treatment or to control complex symptoms and might be with us just for a few days. Unfortunately, we are not a long-term care environment.

Hospices are a sad place to be: There are sad times, of course, but our staff and volunteers try to make the hospice a home away from home, where patients are comfortable, and their loved ones can focus on just being together. Hospice care is not about giving up.

All patients in hospices are elderly: Hospice care is available for anyone who needs it, at any age. Wakefield Hospice is an adult hospice, caring for people aged 18 to over 100. It is a common misconception that hospice care is exclusively for the elderly, when in fact 25% of those that die in Hospices across the UK are under 65.

Hospices are for people with cancer: Our patients have other life limiting conditions and our day therapy teamwork with many of those from the earliest days of their diagnosis.

Wakefield Hospice care is about seeing somebody as a living person, not a dying patient and supporting those close to them and providing palliative care which can include; Pain and symptom management, Psychological & spiritual support, Practical and financial advice and counselling and bereavement services. A very small percentage of our funding comes from the NHS, and the rest is raised by our fantastic local community, through a variety of ways including general fundraising such as donations and events, legacies, our lottery and through our Hospice shops.

For further information visit www.wakefieldhospice.org or call 01924 331400.

WHERE DO I GO?

- For a life-threatening emergency – dial 999
- For health concerns which are not life-threatening dial 111
- At all other times call 01924 237100 for the Middlestown surgery; out of hours this will automatically go through to doctors on call.
- Dewsbury Hospital has a walk-in centre, open daily, to provide assessment, advice and treatment for minor illnesses and minor injuries. Phone 01924 543059 for more information

2024/25 Practice Training Days: 18 September, 16 October, 13 November, 15 January 2025, 12 February 2025, 19 March 2025. On these days the surgery will close at 12 noon.

YOUR SURGERY – A NEW SERIES ON STAFF AND WHAT THEY DO AT MIDDLESTOWN

2: THE NURSING TEAM

Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP)

An ANP is a Registered Nurse with additional training for performing

tasks, such as diagnosing and prescribing, which are customarily performed by a Physician. A Registered Nurse is educated to Masters Level in Advanced Practice, and assessed as competent in practice using expert knowledge and skills. They have freedom to act and make their own decisions in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of those in their care and are capable of independent practice in a variety of settings. Their role will be tailored not only by their training but their clinical experience as Senior Practitioners. In General Practice, ANPs can consult and work independently but will consult medical colleagues when they need advice. Middlestown has 4 ANPs.

Practice Nurses

Practice Nurses are fully trained in a wide range of skills including immunisations, health promotion, contraception and management of long-term conditions e.g. advice on diet and lifestyle choices, coronary heart disease, hypertension, asthma, diabetes, smoking cessation and obesity. Practice Nurses can extend their skills at Diploma Level and see many patients who previously would have seen the Doctor.

The Nursing Team run various Nurse-led clinics for diabetes, asthma, coronary heart disease and COPD as well as providing general nursing services, dressings, removal of sutures and blood tests.

Healthcare Assistants (including Phlebotomy)

Often the busiest staff in practice, with the highest number of patient contacts each day. Healthcare Assistants assist in patient care and Practice related duties. Our Healthcare Assistants are highly experienced professionals working collaboratively with the General Practice Team to meet the needs of patients, and provide essential clinical task-orientated services like taking blood samples (phlebotomy); wound care; processing specimens; giving vaccinations; offering lifestyle support, advice and guidance for example: weight management and stop smoking services; performing ECGs (to measure heart function) and spirometry (to measure lung function); not to mention leading on practice infection prevention and control. They play a crucial role in delivering key services for patient healthcare.

All staff adhere to the Practice's Confidentiality Policy and Data Protection Act 2018. For more information checkout the Practice website at www.middlestownmedicalcentre.nhs.uk

St Luke's Overton/Middlestown

Our church building is 50 years old this year! We know there are plenty of people who will remember the old St Luke's, and perhaps also remember the opening of the new church building. We'd like to invite people from the community to join us for a special celebration service on Sunday 20th October at 3pm. More details to follow, but we'd love you to put the date in your diary and come and join us.

Also, in the early autumn we'll look forward to welcoming Middlestown School into church for their harvest service, and we'll be having our own church harvest celebrations (date to be confirmed – watch out for posters).

The Annual Memorial Service this year is at St Andrew's Netherton on Sunday 3rd November at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to join the two congregations as we gather to remember loved ones who have died: with a chance to light a candle and remember together.

Back at St Luke's, on Remembrance Sunday (Sunday 10th November), we will gather at the Memorial Stone by the Black Swan at 10.55am for a short Act of Remembrance. This will be followed by a short service in church to which everyone is welcome, and then tea/coffee in the hall.

Our regular services continue and everyone is always welcome to join us.

1st and 3rd Sundays in the month: 10am Service of the Word

2nd and 4th Sundays in the month: 11am Holy Communion

Ladies' Circle continue to meet on 2nd and last Tuesdays in the month, and the Tiny Tots toddler group also meet in the church hall. Do get in touch if you'd like more information about groups in the church hall, or if you would like to hire the hall.

Do also get in touch if you would like more information about planning a christening or wedding, or if we can help in any way. If you are in the sad situation of needing to arrange a funeral, Revd Hannah Hobday would be glad to help, whether you want a funeral in church or at the crematorium, or are unsure what would suit you best.

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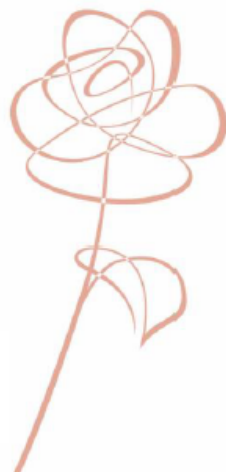
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St Andrew's Netherton

Our regular services continue in the autumn, and everyone is always welcome:

11am Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday each month

11am Service of the Word on the 4th Sunday each month.

Silver Fishes, our group for older people, also continues to meet every other Tuesday. See our noticeboard or contact us for further information.

We look forward to welcoming Netherton Junior and Infants School to church for their harvest services. Look out for information on our noticeboard and on Facebook about the date for our church harvest celebrations.

In November, our Annual Memorial Service (joint with St Luke's) is on Sunday 3rd November at 4pm at St Andrew's. Everyone is welcome to join the two congregations as we gather to remember loved ones who have died: with a chance to light a candle and remember together.

We will mark Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 10th November with a 9.30am Holy Communion service, which will start with an Act of Remembrance, including reading the names from the War Memorial plaque.

Before we know it, we will be approaching Christmas, so keep an eye out for information about special events and services in the run up to Christmas.

If you would like more information about planning a christening or wedding, we are always glad to hear from you. Revd Hannah Hobday is available to help those who need to arrange a funeral, whether you want a funeral in church or at the crematorium, or are unsure what would suit you best.

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