

# Coxley news

Sitlington Parish

Incorporating Middlestown, Overton, Netherton & Midgley

## AUTUMN 2025

In this issue:

- Have railcard, will travel!
- New Minister at Trinity Methodist Church
- Friends of Hartley Bank



## 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 15<sup>th</sup> January

*Summer* (June, July, August) – deadline around 15<sup>th</sup> April

*Autumn* (September, October, November) – deadline around 15<sup>th</sup> July

*Winter* (December, January, February) – deadline around 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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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, full of dates for your diaries. You can travel across the country by train without even leaving your armchair, and indulge in some vicarious gardening whilst sipping a restorative mocktail (see recipe inside).

Content for including in the winter issue, please send to us by October 12th.

### **Contact the Coxley News team by**

**E-mail:** [coxley.158@btinternet.com](mailto:coxley.158@btinternet.com) **Phone:** 01924 276545

**Post:** 158 Coxley View, Netherton, WF4 4NE

### **Adverts**

**Email:** [wendy.coxley@talktalk.net](mailto:wendy.coxley@talktalk.net)

## **How to Contact the Parish Council**

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

(07771 113258) [clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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

**To book Netherton Village Hall contact Parish Clerk.**

## End of the Road for Me

After 20 years of driving instruction, it's time for me to switch off the engine, remove the top box and retire.

I would like to thank all my students for trusting me to give them the lifetime skill of safe driving.

Back in 2005 when I started this journey taking my part 1 exam while on holiday in Truro, I never thought I would still be teaching 20 years later. It's been a long and winding journey with many a twist and turn and numerous left turns when we should have turned right or vice versa or not even bothering to turn at all.

One driving test stood out, my pupil was late back on the last test of the day on a Friday, as I waited with bated breath alongside another examiner who was waiting to lock up. Eventually 25 mins later my car turned into the car park safe and sound. It was the examiners' first day at Wakefield and they got lost, my pupil eventually recognized a local landmark so navigated herself back to the test center, she passed first time.

My proudest moment was seeing both my girls Abigail, then Charlotte pass their driving tests first time, I don't know who was most nervous me or them.

So, as you read this my journey has come to an end, the parking brake is securely applied, the engine is switched off, the seatbelt unfastened and it's now time to relax unwind and enjoy life at a slower pace.

Thank you for all your support for the last 20 years.



Adrian Woodhouse ADI  
Adrian's School of Motoring

## Harvest Drop-In

St Andrew's Church are hosting a Harvest drop-in

Please join us between noon and 2pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October to enjoy a bowl of soup – various autumn flavours available.

We will also welcome donations of tins and/or dried goods to add to our harvest collection for those who are disadvantaged and in need.



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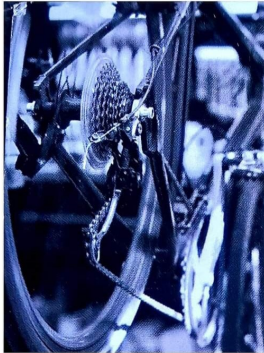
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## **Have Railcard, Will Travel (Without the Orange Trousers)**

Sometime in May I made an excellent decision (for once) and bought myself a 'senior citizen' railcard for £70 and it lasts for 3 years. Together with the Trainline App I now try and get away every week or so to somewhere different and it's so much easier than having to drive instead. It also helps that a very splendid chap lets me park my car near enough in the centre of Wakefield for free and it's just a short stroll to Westgate Station.

Trainline sorts out the best way and price to get to the destination including something called 'split ticketing', it also reserves your seats and automatically takes off the 30% discount that the railcard allows. It accesses all the major networks including LNER, Cross Country, Northern, West Midlands etc.

In the past few weeks I've been to Scarborough - to walk along the promenades, Edale - the village at the start of the Pennine Way, Berwick on Tweed - to walk the old fort walls, Sheffield - to visit the Industrial Museum, Darlington - to see the Hopetown Railway Museum, Loughborough - to take a ride on the Great Central



Railway, Skipton - to visit an old mate and walk round the Castle Woods and Tipton near Dudley - to visit the Black Country Museum where they filmed parts of Peaky Blinders, Land Girls and WPC 56. the recent weather has helped make the day trips even more enjoyable and also meant I had no alternative but to visit one or two local hostelries to help cool me down.

Next week I'm Carlisle-bound via the Settle line and a couple of weeks after that I'm off to Hull to stay over in the Admiral of the Humber (it's a Wetherspoons with great prices for B&B).

I'm meeting a couple of old boys there and heading to the Old Town to visit the Street Life Museum before calling in to one or maybe 5 pubs that the Germans happily didn't get to bomb.



Future destinations on the horizon include York, Halifax, Saltaire, Chesterfield, Keighley and Bridlington. I'll let you know how I get on.

Oh my god, I've just re-read what I've written - I might just be the new Michael Portillo but without the loud orange trousers and bright stripy green jacket. George Bradshaw would be proud of me!

In other news I was also treated to a free weekend in the village of Beamish including a visit to the brilliant Living Museum of the North just a 5 minute walk away.



Often used in many TV dramas because of the ideal period backdrops, this place is a joy to walk around and we were entertained by various re-enactors including a group of sword dancers who piled unexpectedly into the Sun Inn pub where we happened to be enjoying a pint.

The fish & chips served up in the coal fired chippy in the Pit Village added to the old fashioned atmosphere and we just managed to grab a seat on the last ride of the day on the Stephenson's Rocket replica - can't believe I've never been here before until now.

Oh, I had a last ride on my nearly expired season ticket on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway a couple of weekends ago to stop off at Goathland to see the Hearbeat gathering and catch sight of some of the stars of one of my favourite TV series - Gina, David and Rosie were signing autographs and there were quite a few 1960s vehicles including Nick Berry's (PC Rowan) motorbike with the plastic windscreen!



I've just renewed my season ticket and by chance there's a 30% discount if you book online - the first trip I'll take on it is in early August so I'm going to park up in Pickering and take the line to the coast to stay for 2 nights in the White Horse & Griffin - love Whitby!

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## **Middlestown Primary Academy**

The children will return after the summer holidays into their new classes ready to embark on the next academic year. The Autumn Term is always an exciting one, with getting to know the new routines of the new classes as well as the lead-up to Christmas and all the exciting things connected to that. Some of the new topics that the children will learn about in the first half term include World War II, the Anglo-Saxons, Wonderful Weather and 'If you go down to the Woods'.

The children will start learning about Harvest in the local area and across the world. The children will produce artwork, listen to stories and find out facts about this celebration. The children will then present this to parents at St Luke's Church, Overton with the children performing poems, singing songs and a special performance from the Middlestown choir.

The children will also take part in a Sound Bathing activity organised by the Upper Foundation teacher. This was a successful activity enjoyed by all the children at South Ossett Infants Academy, so comes highly recommended. Sound Bathing is a guided meditation session supported by flutes and chime bars with a focus on breathing and relaxation. The children lie on yoga mats and relax whilst listening to the instructor.

After October half term, the focus will be Remembrance Day, Black History month and rehearsals for the Christmas play.

## Cocktail Corner

### Immune-boosting mocktail

Ingredients for 4 people

8oz ginger (peeled and roughly chopped)

4 oranges (peeled, any pith removed)

2 lemons (juiced)

4 tsp apple cider vinegar

4 tsp honey

Ice

Soda / lemonade

Orange rind

#### Method

##### Step 1

Put the ginger, orange flesh, lemon juice, vinegar and honey into a blender. Blitz until smooth. Strain through a fine sieve into a jug, pressing down with the back of a spoon to extract as much liquid as possible.

##### Step 2

Pour into an ice-filled tumbler and top up with soda water/ lemonade, garnish with a twist of orange rind.

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## Wear Your 'Best' Clothes

We all save things for 'best', but when is 'best' and should we be hiding our treasured, joyful things away? What are you saving it for? The scarf that lifts your mood. The jacket that fits just right. The good shoes. The "special occasion" dress.



We all have those things—clothes, perfume, jewellery—we tuck away for later. For an event. For a better day. For when we feel more polished, more deserving. But life doesn't always come with big, neat occasions. It shows up quietly—in school runs, supermarket queues, grey mornings, and ordinary afternoons.

Wearing what you love isn't about impressing others. It's about connecting with yourself. It's a way of saying: I matter. Today matters. The right clothes can lift your mood, shift your posture, and remind you of who you are underneath the routine.

And no, it doesn't need to be sequins at the corner shop (though why not?). It could be your favourite earrings. That red lipstick. The coat that feels like a hug.

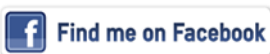
So, wear the brooch. Use the good shampoo. Light the candle. Choose the bag that feels like a treat. Small things, yes—but they can carry big meaning.

Don't keep saving things for a life you think needs to look a certain way first. This is your life, already in motion. The ordinary days are just as worthy of care and celebration.

So, get dressed like it's all for you—because it is.



The occasion is now. The reason is you.



Lucy Roberts Personal Styling

## Friends of Hartley Bank

Writing this during one of our heatwaves, and hoping that this wonderful summer continues until you get to read this.

Earlier in the summer we had help from Lisa Newton and the toddlers from Creative Kids to fill “bug boxes”, kindly made and donated by Linn Finnamore. We hope to place these around Hartley Bank Field to attract the insects that help to pollinate plants and ultimately attract more birds to the area.



We're hoping that this continuing warm weather also attracts you to bring your children, family and friends down to the field on Balk Lane off Blacker Lane, during the school holidays. A lovely open, safe space for children, picnics and games. On Monday and Wednesday mornings the pavilion is also open to everyone for refreshments and toilets.

Fine weather also graced the annual scarecrow festival when we had a weekend fixture of Monty Don, hopefully inspiring any of you out there who enjoy a spot of gardening, to come and join us in our Monday morning group who inspect the saplings, water the ever thirsty plant tubs and keep up to the field site, before quenching their own thirst. The weekend also saw our second art show this year, had new and varied exhibitors and was enjoyed by our visitors. We would like to thank all those involved for making this a successful event.

Sadly, it was with great sadness that we heard of the death of well known and loved, former post lady Joyce Beaumont. She was a valued regular attender at the Monday and Wednesday coffee mornings and is much missed. Thoughts are with her family.

Looking forward, we are hoping to hold our annual MacMillan Coffee morning on Saturday 6th September. So, one for your diary.

Finally, we were a little too late for the last edition but like many people this year, we couldn't let the 80th VE Day anniversary on May 8th pass without recognition. We held a well-attended afternoon tea party and enjoyed a wartime quiz, beetle drive and rounded off our event singing along to Vera Lynn, promising to meet again.

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## Santa

Santa is looking forward to visiting the village again this year. His elves are busy planning the family fun day at the village hall, which will be on the 7th December and he will be driving round the village with his merry bunch of helpers on the 23rd December.

He cannot wait to see you all then!



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## St Luke's, Overton/Middlestown

We'll be celebrating **Harvest** on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 11am. Everyone is invited to join us. Donations of tins and dried goods will go towards the work of CAP in Wakefield (Community Action Programme – working with the disadvantaged in Wakefield, [www.capcare.org](http://www.capcare.org)).

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October we're inviting friends and neighbours to join us for an afternoon **Songs of Praise** service at 3pm, followed by tea and cake. Come and sing some favourite hymns with us – and let us know if you've got any suggestions.

November is a month for Remembering. On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November our **Annual Memorial Service** is at 3pm at St Luke's. Everyone is welcome to join us to remember loved ones who we have said goodbye to – whether recent losses or those who died longer ago, but are still remembered and mourned. There'll be a chance to light a candle, and to add a name to a display of names of those we remember.

**Remembrance Sunday** this year is Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November, and as in previous years, 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.

Then as we head into December, look out for details nearer the time about our **Christingle** and the lighting up of the Christmas tree in Overton, a wonderful way to start the build up to Christmas.

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the month: 10am **Service of the Word**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the month: 11am **Holy Communion**

**Ladies' Circle** continue to meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Tuesdays in the month at 7.30pm, and the **Tiny Tots** toddler group meet in the church hall on Tuesday mornings from 9am. 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: we have a range of daytime and evening and weekend slots which are free.

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 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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## St Andrew's, Netherton

In the early autumn it's harvest time: a chance to be thankful for all the good things we have. Our **harvest festival** is on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October and everyone is welcome to join us for our service at 11am where we give thanks for all God's good gifts.

We're also planning on a harvest drop-in: we invite people to come and enjoy a bowl of soup with us and to bring some tins and/or dried goods to add to our harvest collection which will go towards those who are disadvantaged and in need. Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October from noon to 2pm

In November, we join with our friends at St Luke's for our **Annual Memorial Service**, this year hosted by St Luke's Overton/Middlestown. The service is on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3pm. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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, including the lighting up of the **Netherton Christmas tree**. Our regular services continue in the autumn, and everyone is always welcome at 11am on a Sunday morning.

- Holy Communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month
- Prayer Meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month
- Service of the Word on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month

We are launching our new **Prayer Meeting** in September on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month, so that every Sunday at 11am you will find us in church together. The Prayer Meeting will be a chance to pray for our whole community, and we are always happy for people to get in touch if there is anything particular they would like us to pray about.

**Silver Fishes**, our group for older people, also continues to meet every other Tuesday, 1-3pm. New members are welcome – see our noticeboard or contact us for further information.

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

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## **Netherton And District Women's Institute**

Just cooling down today from our mini heatwave and a little rain forecast! I am getting quite weary carrying buckets of water for my many tubs so a bit of rain would be very welcome – especially for my outdoor tomatoes which are ripening nicely.

We welcomed Julie and Paul in May from Support Dogs with Cora their support dog in training. When trained, these dogs go on to the people who need support from disabled to those with autism and epilepsy. One incredible thing we learned was that a support dog for a person with epilepsy was able to give that person from 10 to 55 minutes 'warning of an imminent seizure so that they could then get to a place of their choosing and take control of the situation. How the dog can sense this is not entirely known. Amazing!

We had a lovely sunny day for our trip to Helmsley and Pickering in June which was quite eventful with a couple of road accidents which we were not directly involved in but which delayed us somewhat. But we enjoyed it nevertheless though we did seem to spend more time on the coach than at our destinations!

Rachael Hardcastle in June was extremely interesting, telling us how she "achieved her dream" and the support she got particularly from her father. She has written many books and published them herself after setting up her own publishing company. She brought with her a sample of the many books she had written as well as those from other authors which she had published.

Our July speaker was Kevin Dobson from CAP (Community Awareness Programme). Kevin gave us an extremely interesting insight into how CAP functions and tries to meet the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged in the Wakefield district. The project is funded and resourced by public and private donations and is headed by 8 trustees, a management committee and a team of over 40 dedicated volunteers. A clear purpose and a set of core Christian values underpin all CAP's services and aims with the ultimate goal of finding everyone a home. He gave us an astounding set of figures of how many people come through their doors and how many hot meals they provide in a year.



We really had our eyes opened! Members had brought along bags of clothing and tins of food to donate, for which Kevin thanked us.

We are Afternoon Tea-ing in August instead of lunch and rambling – mmm yummy!

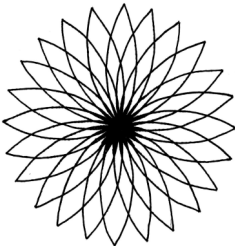
On September 9<sup>th</sup> our speaker will be Nathan Garbutt-Moore from Second Chance which is a therapy-led centre in Wakefield offering day services to adults living with acquired brain injury. Then it's October again and our AGM with Harvest Auction.

In November we welcome Tina, a fashion consultant from Bloom. Perhaps she will give us some tips on style and tell us we have been wearing all the wrong clothes just when we thought we were being fashionable. Will report back next time.

And then its December and party time! But you need to be a member to partake in the fun and frolics so don't delay – join today!

Still meet on the second Tuesday in the month at Trinity Methodist Chapel on Netherton Lane in Netherton at 7.15pm. £2 on the door with light refreshments. Everyone welcome.

If you need to chat you are very welcome to ring me (Eileen) on 07790 199257.



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## **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, although sometimes we show classics from yesteryear. These are usually British films but occasionally we show international/American films including blockbusters.

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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### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS THIS AUTUMN

**LEARN TO SEW IN A DAY SAT 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 10-4**  
**4 WEEK BEGINNERS CLASSES STARTING MON 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPT 10.30-1.30**

**TROUSER PATTERN DRAFTING SEPT 8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SEW A PAIR OF DUNGAREES SAT 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPT**  
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# Master the menopause!

Brain fog, mood swings, irritability, hot flushes, night sweats, weight gain, low libido, joint pain, UTI's, period changes, sleep issues, anxiety, palpitations...just some of the common symptoms!!

Sound familiar?

Want to learn how to master your menopause?

Come join us...every 3rd Monday of the month at Lupset Health Centre or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Ossett Health Village

5.30pm-6.30pm

(you don't have to be a patient to attend)

For more info contact Sheena

**07543315239**



# HOME OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES

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SCAN ME

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DISABILITY"

## News From Trinity Methodist Church, Netherton

This September we welcome a new minister to our church, Rev Thomas Phiri. Thomas, his wife and three children come to us directly from his previous appointment in Jamaica and prior to that with the United Reform Church of Zambia.

He will have pastoral care of Netherton and three other churches in the Aire and Calder Circuit of the Methodist Church. As you can understand he faces many challenges in his new appointment but we at Trinity will be doing our best to make the transition as smooth as possible and are sure he and his family will be warmly welcomed as he sets out on his ministry in our community.

We have recently carried out an enhancement of our audio-visual system in the church, this following the redecoration of the hall and new flooring.

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.

**A Parish United Service** is held between ourselves, St Andrew's Netherton and St Luke's Overton when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. The next is at Trinity Methodists on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Further details of these and all our activities are given in our monthly **Trinity News**. To receive a copy via email please contact Colin Ride (see below).

**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. Please book 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 07399 194736, Carole Shaw 01924 275414, Christine Hewitt 07931 353082

## **Friends Of Netherton Village Hall**

### **Table Top Sales**

Ten years ago, the Friends of Netherton Village Hall decided to hold table top sales to support the use of the hall financially and showcase what a great community space we have in Sitlington.

The table top sales are still going strong and have become a popular event for the community. Buyers come looking for a bargain and a reasonably priced piece of cake and cup of tea. Sellers are looking hopefully to make a bit of money and in the process are recycling their preloved belongings or showing their skills in craft making.

Everyone comes out for the afternoon to meet people and have a chat. We usually start in October and run through to April.

Linda Webster takes the bookings, the team of Eileen Corfield, Ann Hayden, Pam Benton, Ann Kay, Susan Handforth, Janet Milroy, and Carole Smith may serve you your refreshments. The Chair of the FNVH, Andrew Shaw and his wife Carole have regularly supported the sales together with many regular buyers.

So why not come and visit the next table top sale if you have never been.

- Saturday 11th October
- Saturday 8th November

2pm to 4pm. Free entry to buyers. Tables to book £5

To book ring/text Linda on 07779 736206.



## Creative Little Ones

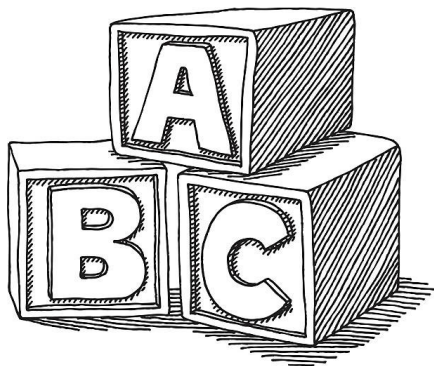
We welcome Families/Carers to our toddler group, based in Netherton at the Methodist Church.

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

Any queries, please message the group,  
Lisa 07969 853522 or Lorna 07827 767974



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## Sitlington Parish Council

### Dear Residents,

As your Parish Council, we're committed to working on behalf of the community to maintain and improve our local area. In this issue, we're sharing updates on current projects, responses to residents' concerns, and plans for future improvements. Your feedback and involvement are always valued as we continue to make our parish a safe, welcoming, and vibrant place to live.

### New Bins for the Netherton Play Area

The Parish Council has ordered three new bright red bins for the play area—by the time you read this, they should already be in place. Two bins have been installed inside the play area, and a third is positioned just outside.

The external bin is intended for use by walkers and dog walkers, while the larger, lidded bins inside the play area will help keep the space clean and tidy by preventing litter from blowing around. We hope these improvements make the area more enjoyable for everyone.

### Year-end account figures

The Parish Council are subject to an internal and external audit every year.

	2023/24	2024/25
Balances Brought forward	£61,493	£39,176
Precept +	£57,600	£93,000
Total other receipts +	£74,572	£66,975
Staff costs +	£60,940	£57,024
Loans -	£4,115	£4,115
All other payments -	£89,434	£92,756
Balances carried forward	£39,176	£45,256
Total Value of cash and short-term investment	£39,176	£45,256
Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets.	£137,942	£148,622
Total Borrowings.	£28,746	£25,548

We also have finance information on our website, monthly approved payments on the minutes of the meeting (full parish council minutes) and the quarterly budget figures are also added

### **Police Safe Scheme**

The Parish Council has included funding for the Police Safe Scheme in the 2025/26 budget. This scheme enables additional police patrols in the parish, focusing on areas of concern raised by residents.

In the past year, the scheme has tackled speeding hotspots, illegal motorbike use, and various resident concerns.

A total of **£5,500** has been allocated to support extra policing in this year's budget for the financial year.

### **Speeding Concerns and Smiley SID Update**

The Parish Council has taken action in response to residents' concerns about speeding through the village. With support from our ward's District Councillors, we submitted a successful application for a community grant from Wakefield Council to fund a Smiley SID (Speed Indicator Device).

This device is designed to encourage drivers to slow down by displaying their speed alongside a smiley or warning face.

While we had hoped to apply for a second device, progress has been delayed. Wakefield Council did not approve the installation of the first device on the originally proposed lamp post.

We are now waiting for the Highways Department to develop a policy regarding the placement of Smiley SID units across the District. We'll provide further updates as soon as we have more information

### **Hartley Bank Pavilion & Community Field**

A big thank to the friends of Hartley Bank for running the coffee mornings at the pavilion over the summer and early autumn. It is definitely a coffee and cake with a view.

Sitlington Junior football club will be commencing playing on the community field in September. Details will be added to the Parish Council website and social media.

### **Plans for Hartley Bank Pavilion**

The Parish Council has appointed an architect to develop plans for the potential rebuilding of the pavilion at Hartley Bank. Once the designs are ready, they will be shared with the community for review and feedback.

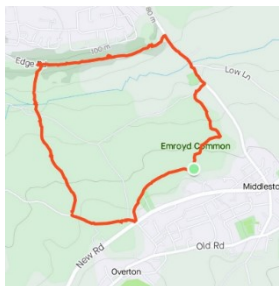
Following agreement on the final plans and approval through the planning process, we will need to secure grant funding to move the project forward.

## Emroyd Common, Middlestown, a Hidden Gem in the Parish

Sometimes overlooked, this beautiful wooded area offers peaceful paths, a pond, and a grassy open space—making it a lovely spot for walking or riding. There are three access points: two located on Thornhill Road and one on New Road.

Emroyd Common is owned and managed by the Parish Council (with the help from the friends of Emroyd Common)

## Contact Information



**Parish Clerk: Mrs Julia Talbot**

☎ 07771 113258

✉ [clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

🌐 [www.sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Follow Us on Social Media:**

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## Netherton Village Hall

The Parish Council acts as the sole trustee of **Netherton Village Hall**, which is managed by a committee and supported administratively by the Parish Office.

You can now **view availability and make bookings online** at:

🌐 [www.nethertonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.nethertonvillagehall.co.uk)

The website provides full details of classes and hall hire options—it's a fantastic venue for children's parties and events.

For booking enquiries and any questions, please use the Parish Office contact details above.



# Netherton Village Hall

## Christmas Craft Fair

The highly successful Christmas Craft Fair is set to return to the Village Hall in November.

There will be tables selling a variety of crafted goods and the Friends of Netherton Village Hall will supply refreshments, festive and otherwise. We still have tables left to hire, therefore if you would like to sell any crafted goods, please message Ann Hayden on 07736 364600 for further details.

Look out for further information around the village and on social media but don't forget to save the date, **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.**

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## Middlestown Patient Participation Group

**PROSTATE SCREENING:** There is no National Screening Programme or single test for Prostate Cancer. All the tests used to help diagnose prostate cancer have benefits and risks that a clinician can discuss with you. In General Practice we use **both**:

A blood test, called a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test, to measure a person's PSA level. Measuring the level of PSA may help detect early prostate cancer but results can be unreliable and cannot be relied upon on their own. And a physical exam of your prostate (known as a digital rectal exam or DRE).

Most cases develop in men aged 50 or older. Symptoms of prostate cancer do not usually appear until the prostate is large enough to affect the tube carrying urine from the bladder. You may notice things like an increased need to pee, straining while you pee or feeling that your bladder has not fully emptied. A family history of the condition and obesity increase the risk of prostate cancer. These risk factors and symptoms should not be ignored but do not mean you have prostate cancer. If you have any symptoms about which you are concerned, call the doctor and staff will help book either a routine appointment for a general discussion or more urgent appointment to discuss symptoms causing you concern.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/prostate-cancer/#:~:text=PSA%20testing,as%20results%20can%20be%20unreliable>

**BOWEL CANCER SCREENING** over age 75. You can ask for a kit by phoning the helpline free on 0800 707 60 60. Kits are not automatically sent after you reach 75.

**BREAST SCREENING** over the age of 70 are booked by calling 0113 733 4974, Seacroft Hospital, Leeds. You can book an appointment every 3 years. Invitations are not sent automatically after age 70.

**Patient Pod:** a FREE, quick and efficient way to take height, weight and blood pressure readings without needing an appointment. Just click 'Start' on the screen. It is located in the waiting room at Middlestown and takes 5 minutes to use. The Patient Pod can give you a printout and the information is stored directly into your medical record.



**Practice Training Days 2025:** 17 September, 15 October, 12 November. 2026: 14 January, 11 February, 11 March. On these days the surgery will close at 12 noon until 8am the following day. If you need same day assistance, call 111.

**Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Team:** The Specialist Palliative Care Team (SPCT) comprises of 16 Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS), 3 Registered Nurses, 4 Healthcare Assistants, 4 Care Co-Ordinators, 1 Rotational Registrar and 5 Consultants. We cover the 3 hospitals within the Wakefield District – Pinderfields, Dewsbury (including the Rosewood Centre) and Pontefract. We also cover 37 GP practices within the community and work closely with Wakefield and Pontefract Hospices (we can also refer out of area).

Our role is to provide specialist advice on symptom management, psychological support, and end of life care to people with a life-limiting illness. Often there is a misconception with Macmillan being only for cancer patients, however, we care for anyone with a diagnosis that is incurable, for example, respiratory diseases.

We differ from generalised palliative care in that we are an advisory service providing extended knowledge and medication/treatment advice within palliative care. Much of this care will be provided by patients' usual medical and nursing teams in hospital, nursing homes or in community. However, some patients will develop complex symptoms and need access to specialist palliative care services.

We work closely with other specialities to make patient care as seamless and stress-free as possible. We use patient initiated follow up when someone's symptoms are controlled/they no longer need specialist support, which means they can call us at any time to access telephone/face to face support.

Any medical professional can refer to our team if they feel our support is needed. This is easily done by a healthcare professional online via ICE referrals, our paper referral form and/or via the phone on 01924 543801. The district nursing team (SPOC) also provide first line advice for patients and families 24/7 on 01924 327591.

**Physiotherapy Self-Referral:** From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, patients no longer need a GP referral to access MSK physiotherapy. Patients can call 01924 898784 alternatively, complete the online self-referral form: <https://physiowakefield.co.uk/physiotherapy-self-referral/>

### **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

The PPG AGM will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 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 at Middlestown, Emley or Flockton surgeries. You can complete the online form under Have Your Say/Patient Participation Group on the medical centre website, or you can email at [Middlestown.Surgery@nhs.net](mailto:Middlestown.Surgery@nhs.net)

## **Coxley Players**

Coxley Players are back again after last year's sell out success of The Wizard of Oz and the high 'drama' of this year's murder mystery, Who Killed the Postmistress?

This year we are transporting the audience to the sleepy village of Upper Beansprout. Giant Butternut Trump and his evil henchmen will be creating mischief for Jack Trott and family. Yes! It's time for Jack and the Beanstalk – oh yes, it is!

The cast are hard at work rehearsing to bring Alex Jackson's version of this traditional tale to the stage of Netherton Sports and Social Club in November. You can expect the usual mix of jokes, songs and questionable acting in a show that is sure to be fun for all the family.

Tickets will be on sale in the autumn; this gives the cast a little bit more time to learn their lines!

## Heritage Open Days

Every September thousands of volunteers across England organise events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

Buildings, bridges and beehives! In 2025 we'll be exploring how we've designed and built the world around us.

For full details visit [heritageopendays.org.uk](https://heritageopendays.org.uk)

Here's just a few examples of what is on in our region:

### **St John the Baptist Wakefield**

Free entry to Grade II listed Georgian Church Building. A 30 minute film of the church architectural features, including bell tower & crypt will be playing. Archive display material exhibition. Refreshments available.

### **Caphouse Machine Rally**

Join us for the return of our popular machine rally, to embrace the art of engineering and the mechanics of mining. See vintage vehicles and mining machinery, with demonstrations and activities across site.

### **Waterton's Parkland and Wall**

Come and learn about Charles Waterton; this eccentric, environmentalist, explorer and creator of the world's first nature reserve.

### **St. James the Great Church, Flockton**

Exhibition of church and village historical photographs and other archives and our collection of stained glass windows.

### **Tour: Sandal Castle - The Making of Sandal Castle**

Discover the history and development of the great Yorkist castle at Sandal. Find out about history where it took place on this informative guided tour.

### **Nostell, National Trust**

Discover the architectural history of Nostell, and the people that helped create it, including Robert Adam, James Paine, and Thomas Chippendale. Join the Language of Buildings tours, or pick up the family Architecture Detectives trail.

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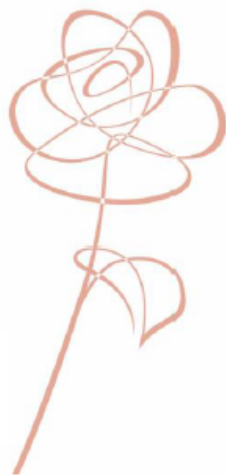
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Whether you're six or sixty, our students come to Fanfare Music not just to learn an instrument or improve their voice – but to build confidence, find joy in making music and be part of something supportive and inspiring.

If you've always wanted to play, sing, or just give music a go – now is the perfect time to start.

### GET IN TOUCH

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Ossett

hello@fanfaremusic.com  
www.fanfaremusic.com

Find us just out of the town  
centre at RCM Business  
Park – parking available

Book your lesson  
slot today!

## Netherton Scarecrow Walk

Scarecrow makers were challenged again by the weather this year with everything from sun, to wind to rain over the course of the weekend! It was lovely to see so many people out and about enjoying the creative efforts of those who took part.

Winner of the public vote was Paddington as seen on the front cover. Winner of the makers' vote was Wallace and Gromitt.

Louise Gawthorpe was the winner of the quiz. The committee also allocated a number of additional prizes to makers as follows:



Best Community Effort to St. Andrew's Church and Netherton School for their wonderful combined display.

Best Use of a Household Object – 143 Netherton Lane. The judges loved the use of a basket for a hat.

Best use of props/interactive display – 18 Netherfield Avenue. We loved the garlands and Elvis masks. Very worthy runner up – 12 Netherfield Crescent. We loved being able to sit with the scarecrows and the additional touch of the scarecrow badges.

Best Newcomer – 38 Coxley Crescent. We loved all the details in the seaside display and the sunshine-y feel was very welcome.

Quiz answers, a list of the scarecrows and photos of all the scarecrows can be found on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NethertonScarecrowWalk](http://www.facebook.com/NethertonScarecrowWalk).

We raised a fantastic £210 from trail maps and face painting and are currently in discussions with Wakefield Council and the Parish Council regarding a new “winners” bench.

We are also seeking feedback from current and previous makers so please watch out for our email! We'd love to hear from you.

## **Welcome, Autumn Season of Missed Opportunities And Mellow Idleness**

What says the great eleventh century Persian poet, Omar Khayyam, in his Rubaiat:

‘Eat, drink and be merry -  
For tomorrow we may be  
With yesterday’s seven thousand years.’

Sobering thought, or time to celebrate?

Autumn is indeed one of the times in the year to celebrate. Gardeners can sit back now and relax a little, and celebrate all that’s gone well through the year- but don’t celebrate too long - there’s work to be done, and it’s sound advice not to wait for winter to start planning for next year. Survey your plot, or garden, now, as leaves are falling and days are getting shorter and colder; think about what worked, what didn’t, what to improve, and what still needs to be done.

I can only marvel at the wonderful array of exhibits on display at one of the few remaining horticultural Shows in this region. The Horbury & District Allotments & Gardens Association Show, allied with the Ossett Chrysanthemum Society, continues to thrive. The Show attracts entries from far and wide in spectacular fashion. Superb home-grown vegetables, handicrafts and most beautiful displays of chrysanths, dahlias and gladioli make the Show so good to see. The Show is well worth a visit. It’s held on the last weekend in August at Horbury Working Members Club on Cluntergate, Horbury.

For good measure, the following day is devoted to a charity auction of the display exhibits, and a performance of popular music by Horbury Victoria Band. If you’ve missed it this year – it’s the 99th Show - be sure to make a note in your diary for next year.

As I was saying, it’s a great time of year just to take stock. If you thought your work was done for the year, think again. Here are some reminders for your to-do list:

Tidy up the lawn, clear it of fallen leaves, and put them in a bag to compost over time. Clean and oil (if necessary) the mower, and get any blades sharpened. The same goes for all garden tools. Clean and wash supporting canes before putting them away. Tidy and clear beds and borders. Continue deadheading or removing spent flowers. Wash and clean greenhouse glass, inside and out. Check your greenhouse heating,



and protect delicate plants. Check the condition of your soil. Sow and grow green manure to improve soil condition, if not digging over. Add soil and compost to raised beds. (The Trading Hut on Southwell Lane, Horbury is a very good place to purchase compost and soil conditioners at a very competitive price.)

Put apples in spare cabinet drawers, wrapped in newspapers, for storing. Make tomato paste, soup, ketchup or sauce, or freeze some tomatoes for use in stews etc. Lift and store any late potatoes in hessian sacks and keep in a dark place. Make jams and jellies from the fruit harvest. Plant (Japanese Shensu) onion sets for a June crop. Lift, dry and store main crop onions in netting bags. Plant spring- and summer-flowering bulbs. Autumn is the best time for planting shrubs, trees and perennials. The RHS provides an excellent list of hardy annuals for flowers that will bloom earlier than a spring planting. (Add fish, blood and bone, when planting, to boost growth.) Give hedges a final trim. Give fruit trees and bushes a winter wash. (Plenty of dedicated brands available). Begin pruning, particularly lavender and rosemary; blackcurrant and gooseberry should be left till nearer winter. Cherry and apricot trees can be pruned late summer; leave apples and pears till after leaf-fall.

Make sure you're still feeding, watering and weeding late vegetables. Watch out for leek 'rust'; pull off affected leaves. Leeks that have gone to seed, lift and take for eating before they become woody. Empty and clean water butts, then re-fill and keep the top covered. Keep watering late plants, if the rain stays away.

There's much to do before the nights draw in. If, however, as a last resort, you're finding it difficult to get up and do the jobs you know need doing, and if you are beginning to feel it's all too much, I earnestly encourage you to read Anne Wareham's delightful little book, 'The Deckchair Gardener' (Michael O'Hara publishing), a handy book full of many useful hints on how to avoid doing unnecessary work in your garden or allotment. It has many common sense and practical, labour-saving hints, and is written with much light-hearted humour.

One tip she gives I found very useful: when you've finished using a garden tool, clean it and put it away. Don't leave it lying around. Good advice for anyone. But for the sheer pleasure of avoiding doing 'unnecessary' tasks, though, this book takes some beating, and I warmly recommend it to all who find raising their energy levels too much effort. On that point, I've heard more than once recently people say that their garden or plot has become 'too much' for them, they 'can't be bothered',

they've 'not got the time', Gardening does need some level of fitness and motivation.

If you can't get help from a friendly young relative or neighbour to help you, now's a good time to look at your garden and see in what ways maintenance can be minimised, especially if gardening has become a chore rather than a pleasure. You might consider contacting an organisation like THRIVE, which may be able to help you find support, or AGEUK, who sometimes have volunteers for basic tasks during the summer/autumn period. Some local councils offer help to elderly and disabled people. There's also a volunteer group called 'GARDEN BUDDIES', who may be able to give support, though I admit I don't know much more about this group. Gardening may not solve people's problems, but it can go a long way to lessening them. So, eat, drink and be merry! Enjoy the fruits of your garden labours, now, while you can. Tomorrow... is another day. Jay Whittam - Autumn 2025

## **Horbury & District Historical Society**

### **Speakers & Talks 2025-2026**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> - David Glover : Skipton's Chatelaine – Lady Ann Clifford

October 1<sup>st</sup> - David Scriven : A Lovesick Farmer – Mathew Tomlinson

November 5<sup>th</sup> - Brian Webb : Thornhill Pit Disaster

December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Eric Jackson : Barnbow Munitions Works in WWI

January 7<sup>th</sup> - Philip Sands : The History of Woodsome Hall

February 4<sup>th</sup> - Simon Cork : Andrew Carnegie

March 4<sup>th</sup> - David Garside : The History of Milestones

April 1<sup>st</sup> - Gillian Waters : Place Names and Peoples

May 6<sup>th</sup> - Kevin Trickett : The Architecture of Wakefield

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Charmaine Straker-Purvis : Walk some Horbury Ginnels

Meetings at the Methodist Church, High Street, Horbury, 7:30 pm

## **Denby Grange Bowling Club**

At the time of writing (mid-July) Denby Grange Bowling Club starts the second half of the season with optimism on the green. Our 10 teams play across 7 leagues throughout the Wakefield, Spen Valley and Kirklees areas and have enjoyed varying levels of success in their respective leagues. Some of our teams have gone deep into their respective cup competitions: notably our Heavy Woollen Monday pm league team who have made it to their semi-final, as have our team in

the Ossett and Horbury League (Wednesday evening games), whilst our Saturday afternoon Wakefield team have made it into the quarter final. Hopefully our next update will be able to report some silverware in the trophy cabinet.

This season the club has benefitted from the new club house and some improvements to the surrounds and spectating areas around the green. These improvements have been greatly helped with the support of a number of local companies, many of whom advertise elsewhere in this magazine and to: The Window Medic, Spiced Mango, LW Plastering, Carpets Direct, Country Cut Tree Services, Eric F Box funeral company, Thornhill Insurance Brokers, DBL Plumbing & Building Services and Holmes & Sons Decorators. Thank you all for your support which is greatly appreciated.

If ever you're passing the green on Highfield Crescent Overton and you see a game in progress, please feel free to come and watch. Who knows, we may unearth some yet-to-be-discovered bowling superstars. All ages welcome.

## **Netherton Walking Group**

The summer has continued much as the spring before it, what a contrast in the underfoot walking conditions compared with last year! Our main group continues with around 15 out of our larger group of 30 walking each Monday. Walks this quarter have included local ones from the village hall together with others around Skelmanthorpe, Denby Dale, Cawthorne & Notton. A lot of the crops in the fields have already been harvested, which, whilst making our walking easier, is sad to see from the farmer's point of view as we all realise that an early harvest is unlikely to have a high yield. Forthcoming walks are scheduled for Horbury, Penistone & Emley.

We had our annual BBQ in mid-July, a very balmy evening, a lovely time to spend together. We'll soon be planning our Christmas lunch!

We walk around 5 miles each week. We have a shorter walk group who go out most weeks, usually to a flatter location.

If you'd like to join us, please contact [kathgibbs7@gmail.com](mailto:kathgibbs7@gmail.com) to establish the time of the next walk, we start from the village hall at 9.00 or 9.30 a.m., depending on our destinations.

## Looking for a brilliant day out for all ages?



Visit the National Coal Mining Museum for England, right on your doorstep —a place where history comes to life in the most spectacular way!



Go 140M beneath the earth on our legendary Underground Tours, led by former miners who share real stories of life at the coalface. Immerse yourself in our spectacular Time Tunnel experience, explore our peaceful nature trail, or let the kids burn off energy in the adventure playground.



Discover exciting exhibitions, including a stunning sculpture trail, Coal Queens to Comedy Kings, featuring works by Graham Ibbeson MBE.

Marvel at our outstanding collections of big mining machinery and meet our much-loved pit ponies—Finn, Bud, Eric, and Ernie.

There's always something happening, from daily tours to regular events like Car Rallies, Paws at the Pit, and the magical arrival of Santa at Christmas.

Don't miss our new café, opened this summer, serving a delicious menu of food and drink—perfect for a relaxing meet-up.

**Open Wednesday to Sunday**

**Free entry**

Find out more at [www.ncm.org.uk](http://www.ncm.org.uk)