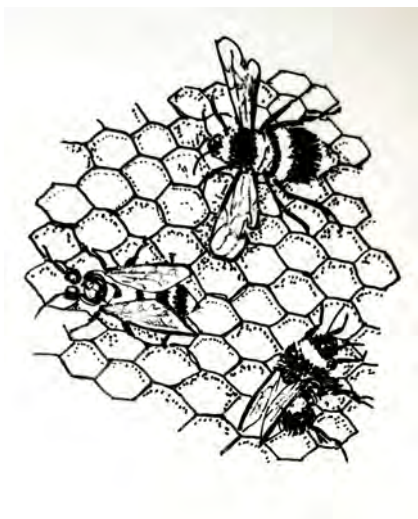




Sitlington Parish

Incorporating Middlestown, Overton, Netherton & Midgley

# SUMMER 2026



In this issue:

- Netherton Scarecrow Walk
- Middlestown Primary School
- Denby Grange news
- and much more!

## 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 - £20; half - £35; full page - £65.

Annual paid in advance £240 full page, £120 half page, £60 quarter page.

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.

Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Ansar Hayat

James Lee Johnston

Rebecca Webster

## 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 summer issue of Coxley News! Lots of seasonal content for you to digest: a cocktail here, a walk there, a pub today, a film tomorrow.. Perhaps our summer reading article will inspire you to head into Coxley woods to immerse yourself in a good book... and then create a scarecrow based on the book - the festival's theme this year is books and films.

Coxley Valley is at the heart of our Sitlington community which takes the privilege of looking after it seriously, whether as a litter picker, a dog walker, horse rider or cyclist. Whilst there are bridleways crossing the valley suitable for both equine and pedal-cycle users, most of the footpaths are for human and canine feet only. Inside this issue, there's information about how misuse by motorised bikes and quads can be reported.

Let us know what you'll be up to in the autumn - by July 13th please!

### Contact the Coxley News team by

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

### 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.**

## A Flower Filled Evening at Ossett Flower Club

We are a friendly and vibrant club who meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday evening of each month. We employ experienced demonstrators to come and entertain us by creating wonderful arrangements with fresh flowers and foliage. They have fascinating stories to enthral us throughout the evening. The beautiful arrangements are the raffle prizes, which many people are then fortunate to take home. At the end of the demonstration you can chat over a cuppa and piece of delicious cake.

Experienced members of the club hold flower classes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday evening of each month, at a cost of £10 a session. Anyone can come along if you book a place with Kal. ([karolinatunningley@gmail.com](mailto:karolinatunningley@gmail.com)) No experience is necessary as you will be helped to create a beautiful design for your home. We send you a list of what to bring and a photo of what the arrangement could look like. No two turn out the same, but all look special!

Dates for your diary are our meetings on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June and Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July** when we have flower arranging demonstrations. **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August** we have an illustrated talk on Moorcroft, The Potter.

We may see you at Horbury Show on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June or Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July at Ossett Gala where we run a tombola stall with flower arrangements as the prizes. Do come and talk to us!

We would be delighted to see you at one of our club meetings, or at our flower class evenings. The club has about 30 members and there are about 16 people attend the classes. We say 'fun and friendship through flowers'.

Venue – Ossett Central Club on New Street, Ossett WF5 8BH

- Time – The meeting starts at 7.15pm and finishes at 9.30.
- Cost – visitors £8 per meeting.
- The demonstration or workshop lasts about 90 minutes.
- If you need more information contact our chairman ([hazelbell45@hotmail.com](mailto:hazelbell45@hotmail.com)) or find 'Ossett Flower Club' on Facebook.

### Useful Flower Tips

Many garden flowers can be cut and displayed in a vase indoors.

Always cut 1" or 2cm off the bottom of each stem, then put the stem into the water in the vase. The stem gets dry once it is out of water and a seal forms, so the flower can't drink. Ensure you remove all the leaves which would be underwater as they rot and cause bacteria.

Change the water every 3 days as bacteria in the water is the main cause of flowers not lasting long.



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## Creative Little Ones

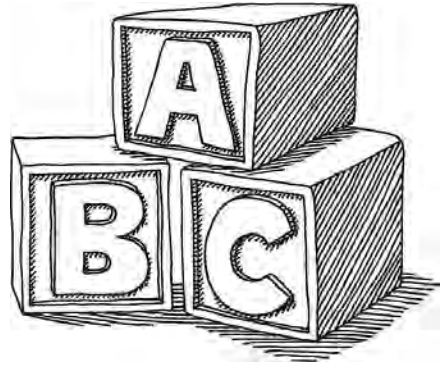
We welcome Families/Carers to our toddler group, based in Netherton at the Methodist Church.

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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## Cumin and Mint Lamb Skewers with Hummus

### Ingredients

150g Greek yoghurt  
2 garlic cloves, grated  
1 tsp ground coriander  
2 tsp ground cumin  
2 tsp dried mint  
1 tsp ground turmeric  
800g lamb shoulder cut into small chunks  
2 tbsp olive oil

### To serve

500g hummus  
1/2 red onion  
50g pomegranate seeds  
15g mint leaves  
15g dill leaves  
Flatbreads or rice

1. Combine the yoghurt, garlic and spices in a large bowl, and season generously with salt. Stir through the lamb chunks until well coated, then cover and chill for at least 1 hour, or overnight.
2. Heat the grill to high. Line the base of a large baking tray with foil and put a wire rack on top. Thread the lamb onto 12 metal skewers, brush all over with the olive oil, then arrange on the wire rack. Grill for 13-18 mins until charred, golden and juicy.
3. Spoon the hummus over a large platter, then arrange the skewers on top. Scatter over the onion, pomegranate seeds and herbs. Serve with flatbreads or cooked rice.

## COFFEE AND CAKE AT ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Come and enjoy coffee/tea and homemade cake

Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.





## Netherton Film Club

The Film Club meets at Netherton Methodist Church on the 3rd Friday each month. Forthcoming films include BAFTA-nominated *The Ballad of Wallis Island* in May and *Hamnet* in July.

Once a quarter on a different Friday Film Club Extra shows more controversial films with a discussion taking place afterwards. In September we will be showing the Oscar-winning *Mr Nobody v Putin*.

Why not try and come for an evening out? There is no charge for the film and refreshments are provided. Donations are always appreciated.

Further details are available from [chris.gibbs7@gmail.com](mailto:chris.gibbs7@gmail.com) or Christine Hewitt on 07931 353082.

## Netherton Walking Group

Do you fancy a walk on a Monday morning? Your local walking group could be your answer. The group meets at the Village Hall at either 9.00 or 9.30am depending on the destination for our walk.

There are usually around 15 of us, the faces present vary depending on peoples' schedules, walk durations around 5 miles. Various members lead, which gives a huge variety of destinations, from local to a little further afield. Recent walks have been around Gawthorpe, and this week enjoying the bluebells and nesting coots around Newmillerdam & Notton.

Future walks in June are around Mirfield, the Sandal castle area, together with a local walk.

If you'd like to join us, please email us on [kathgibbs7@gmail.com](mailto:kathgibbs7@gmail.com) to establish the time of the start of the next walk.

## Walker and Greenwood Educational Charity

The Walker and Greenwood Educational Charity is a small charity which offers small grants to University Students, aged under 25 years of age, from the area, of Sitlington Parish Council. Application forms are available from August, and are obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to - Walker and Greenwood Educational Charity, 24, Ullswater Avenue, Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury WF12 7PJ. The Trustees (which includes local Councillors and Parish Councillors) will meet in late November to award grants.



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7 Kingsway, Ossett, WF5 8DA

**Tel:** (01924) 271 612

**E-mail:** [funerals@efbox.co.uk](mailto:funerals@efbox.co.uk)

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## St Andrew's Netherton

After a joyful Easter, the sunnier weather leaves many of us feeling brighter and more hopeful – even though world news can seem troubling. At St Andrew's we enjoy time together – with laughter and fellowship – and we also pray each week for our community and for the world, taking to God some of the concerns and anxieties which can begin to burden us. Do get in touch with our Vicar Hannah if you'd like to share a prayer request for yourself or someone or something you care about. Over the course of the year our prayer cycle means we will pray for each street in the village, so if you live in Netherton, we will be praying for you at some point this year.

We're excited that May saw the launch of our new **St Andrew's Community Choir**, which is rehearsing at church on a Friday and then performing at a short concert on Sunday 5th July, 3pm. Watch out for more information on Facebook – we'd love you to come and hear them sing. If it's a success this term then we hope we might try something similar again in the future, so do let us know if you're interested in hearing more about what's going on with our singing plans.

That same weekend is Netherton Scarecrow Walk, and as usual we'll be joining in with a church scarecrow and serving drinks, cakes and sandwiches so do come along, pop in and say hello.

In July we're welcoming a new curate, Megan, to join our ministry team so she'll be taking services, and getting stuck in at church, as well as getting to know the wider community.

Our church service is 11am every Sunday (Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays each month) – we're a genuine mix of all ages, and love to welcome people so you're always welcome to come along.

Silver Fishes, our group for older people, continues to meet every other Tuesday, from 1-3pm. Members enjoy chatting together, as well as playing bingo, light refreshments and sometimes welcoming speakers/visitors. Get in touch for dates when the group meet: there's space for new people to join.

For any enquiries, contact Revd. Hannah Hobday, [hannah.hobday@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:hannah.hobday@leeds.anglican.org) / 01924 339072.

Find us on Facebook or [www.achurchnearyou.com/st-andrew-netherton](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/st-andrew-netherton)

## Off-road motor bikes and quads in Coxley Valley

As a resident of Coxley and regular dog walker, I am becoming very concerned at the number of off-road motor bikes and quads which are entering the woods illegally, churning up footpaths and bridleways. They are becoming a danger to walkers and horse riders due to the noise and speed they travel. Other residents in the area are of the same opinion but we're unsure who to report them to.

All incidents can be reported to West Yorkshire police, via their online form. The more reports they receive, the more likely they will act to stop this problem.

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/form/report-nuisance-bikes>

It is very easy to complete and only takes a few minutes OR ring 101. Please also report incidents to the Parish Council, which will feed the collated information back to the community policing team.

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## Supporting St Luke's Middletown/Overton & St Andrew's Netherton

St Luke's and St Andrew's belong together as part of one parish, sharing our finances and supporting the work of both churches.

We don't receive any income from the central Church of England or the Diocese of Leeds, so all the money to run our churches and maintain our buildings (keeping them open for funerals, weddings and use by the community) comes from donations. We also have to contribute to the Diocese who then pay the clergy who work at churches here and across the Diocese.

If you would like to support us with a one-off donation, then the QR code will take you to our giving page.

If you'd like to give more regularly to support us (even a small monthly donation can make a big difference) please get in touch with our treasurer Adrian (email: [adrian.wendy@talktalk.net](mailto:adrian.wendy@talktalk.net)).

Thank you for all your support.



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TikTok <https://www.tiktok.com/@nicfenton86>

## Here, there and everywhere...

Fingers crossed by the time you read this (if you are actually reading this..) Leeds United will have secured their Premiership status and Stevenage FC will have at least made the Division 1 play offs. I'll be at Elland Road for their last 2 matches and using my railcard to travel to the Lamex Stadium in Hertfordshire to hopefully watch them achieve the almost impossible dream!

More train journeys have taken place recently and there's a few others coming up too.

In March I visited the Great British Car Journey Museum in Ambergate Derbyshire. An easy place to get to from the train station and in pride of place from the North East TV crime drama series was Vera's Land Rover. There were some lovely old cars on display, mostly owned by one individual collector, and it was a bit scary to think that cars like the Ford Escort and Vauxhall Cavalier were part of the museums display.

Walking back to catch my train home I saw a sign directing the traveller to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, so that was me on Trainline again booking my tickets to Cromford (one stop further along from Ambergate). I'm going this week - how many of you remember a certain James Hargreaves from your history lessons, he who invented the Spinning Jenny? And it was Richard Arkwright who developed the water frame that allowed spinning from homes to move to factories to enable large scale industrial production. I'm really looking forward to visiting it!



Last week I was on the train to the Black Country Museum - it's a mini Beamish with plenty of old buildings to explore and remember how we used to live - and the Bottle & Glass Inn serves a flat looking but rather nice pint of mild in a spit and sawdust tap room. No wonder the Peaky Blinders actors enjoyed filming there!

I also decided to have Chips & Roe from the Victorian chip shop which cooks on original coal fired fryers using beef dripping. I remember having that in the 60s and 70s as a cheap alternative to fish. Er, I'll stick to fish & chips next time.



Later in May I'm heading to Leicestershire to visit the Great Central Railway again. The original stations along the line are Loughborough, Quorn & Woodhouse, Rothery and Leicester North and are a joy to behold and beautifully preserved from the Victorian period through WW1 & WW2 up to the 1950s. On board the steam train dining carriage I'll be ordering a traditional fry-up breakfast and watch the world go by as we chug along.

In early June me and the boys are heading to Normandy for our annual re-invasion to remember and pay our respects to the greatest generation and the remarkable exploits of Operation Overlord and D Day 6th June 1944. I think this will be my 30th visit since returning with my Dad, a Normandy veteran, way back on the 50th Anniversary in 1994. Lest we forget.

Oh, and did I mention that before France I'm walking a good part of the North Norfolk Coastal path. We'll be stopping over in Hunstanton, Burnham Market, Blakeney, Weybourne and Cromer. It's a wonderful county and I'm sure we'll enjoy the surrounding countryside of the Broads along the way. Being land locked in West Yorkshire it's always good to see the sea and get some salty fresh air.

So much to do and so little time - just got to keep doing it whilst I can - and contrary to popular opinion I do actually still work (but only so many days a week ha ha)

# Panto Date for Your Diary

This year's panto will be held on 27th and 28th November at Netherton Sports and Social Club.

## **St Luke's Overton/Middlestown**

“Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son” we sang enthusiastically as we celebrated on Easter Sunday. “Praise my soul the King of heaven” might ring out on a Sunday morning or you might find us singing “All things bright and beautiful” as we enjoy the beauty of God’s creation, especially at this lovely time of year. Do you have a favourite hymn you enjoy singing? Come along and join in with a Songs of Praise Service at St Luke’s on Sunday 7th June at 3pm – followed by tea and cake! If you let us know your favourite hymn in advance we might even be able to add it to the list and sing it together.

Of course, there are hymns to sing each and every Sunday. Our service time is now 11am every Sunday morning (Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays each month) - so you’ll always be able to find us at church on a Sunday morning (except occasionally on a 5th Sunday in the month) and we’re always ready to welcome those who come: whether just as an occasional visit, or if you’d like to come along more often and get to know us.

Sometimes hymns can prompt memories of school assemblies or weddings or funerals we’ve attended. St Luke’s wants to be a church for everyone: contact our Vicar Hannah if you would like to talk about arranging a wedding or baptism/christening, or if you need help with funeral arrangements. Maybe you’d like a short wedding blessing for a special anniversary? Or you’d just like to visit church and light a candle to remember a loved one. We’re here for everyone – not just churchgoers – so let us know how we can help you.

Megan, our new curate, arrives in July to work alongside Hannah and we’re looking forward to welcoming her to the village. She’s looking forward to getting started and getting to know people – both those in the congregation and others who live in the community.

Our hall is available to hire for very reasonable rates and is a useful space with kitchen facilities and toilets.

For any enquiries, contact Revd. Hannah Hobday,  
[hannah.hobday@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:hannah.hobday@leeds.anglican.org) / 01924 339072.  
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# Netherton Scarecrow Walk

## 4th and 5th of July 2026



This year there will be a theme which will be: **Books and Movies**, so whether you're thinking Hogwarts, superheroes, classic novels or cult films, it's not too late to take part. It's free to enter and entries are welcome from individuals, families, friends, workplaces and community groups.

Refreshments will be available at St. Andrew's church on the route so please call in on your way around the village.

Pick up your trail map from top and bottom shops from a couple of days before the Scarecrow Walk for £1. You'll find full details of all the scarecrows, voting, guess the scarecrow as well as details of face painting and children's crafts that can be found on the route. Money raised will go towards something for Netherton and we'd love to hear your ideas, so please get in touch!

We have a brand-new email address, so please add us to your contacts. It's [nethertonscarecrows@gmail.com](mailto:nethertonscarecrows@gmail.com)

You can also contact us in the usual ways:

Message on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/NethertonScarecrowWalk/](https://www.facebook.com/NethertonScarecrowWalk/)

Via our website [www.coxleylive.org](http://www.coxleylive.org)

Email [nethertonscarecrows@gmail.com](mailto:nethertonscarecrows@gmail.com)

Have you seen the new bench that's been installed at the side of the cemetery?

Money raised from the Scarecrow Walk by selling maps and other donations has gone towards purchasing the bench. Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed. We would like to thank Sitlington Parish Council for their support in assisting us with the purchase and kindly agreeing to the location and to fitting the bench on our behalf. We would also like to thank Earnshaws Fencing Centres for providing the bench. And lastly, we would particularly like to thank the family of Joyce Beaumont for sparking the idea and for also sponsoring the plaques.

## Netherton Scarecrow Walk 4th and 5th of July 2026

Each winner of the public vote will be commemorated on the bench with their own winner's plaque and we also added a special one in memory of Joyce who was an accomplished and impressive scarecrow maker. Perhaps you can remember her delightful Peter Rabbit?



Here are your Scarecrow Committee from left to right (Shelbey, Helen, Adrian and Suzanne) testing out the new bench which will hopefully be a lovely spot to sit and rest after a wander in the woods.

### Friends of Hartley Bank

Dear Friends,

Unfortunately we have little to report about Hartley Bank this season as we have been unable to open yet, due to the ceiling damage in the pavilion following the bad weather and heavy rains over the winter.

We have had many enquiries from our regular visitors who were looking forward to our usual spring opening who are missing their walks, meet ups and coffee and I can only apologise, and hope that they will still get some enjoyment from the recent lovely weather and the colourful daffodils flowering on the field.

If you have any concerns, questions or comments please contact [clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk) Tel : 01924 261481.

And keep an eye open for future notices.  
See you later,  
Friends of Hartley Bank.

## Pub Review

After doing my last two reviews in the Netherlands and Durham, it's about time I did one from closer to home, so here I am on a sunny spring day at the Star Inn. No, not that one! I've never actually done a review of the Netherton Star Inn; maybe it's time I did, but this is a few miles away near Asda and Pugnys, on the road to Sandal Castle. And it turns out to be a superb pub, quirky and interesting, with a great selection of real ales from breweries I've not come across. The decor is imaginative and quirky. I'm sitting next to a framed collection of clay pipes and the ceiling is festooned with a collection of blow-lamps. My friend Julian who lives in Middlestown and collects old tools would approve. There's also a collection of tankards.



There is a good crowd in on a rainy Sunday afternoon but no takers today for the nice-looking beer garden. The pub has a good selection of, mostly local, real ales. Ossett Brewery, Barnsley, etc. I had a half of the ever-dependable Barnsley Bitter and a half of Radio Silence from Chin Chin Brewery, which I'd not heard of, but it turns out, is in Pontefract. Good to see local real ales being championed. This is a great pub, and you can combine with a shopping trip to Asda nearby!



## Classic Car and Bike Show

The 6th Annual Classic Car and Bike show will again take place on Netherton club and school fields on Sunday the 30th of August from 12pm onwards.

Unfortunately, this year we are unable to accommodate a dog show as the space is needed for additional car owners who wish to show their cars. Perhaps in the future we will organise a separate dog show if we think there will be enough interest.

At the event we will have an additional food stall, along with the popular burger truck, plus a coffee and cake stand with our lovely ice cream van. The club bar and concert room will be open for everyone, giving a chance to sit down and enjoy their food and drink.

Hopefully DJ Robbie can help look after the live music stage and keep everyone informed.

This year we will try to have some small fairground rides for the young children to enjoy as we strive to make it a family day out.

Our charity this year is The Amber Trust, a lovely organisation helping blind and partially sighted children learn a musical instrument.

The show is free as always to enter. but if you would like to drop a little loose change in the charity collection boxes, that would be very kind.

So come along, enjoy the show on Sunday the 30th of August!

## Cocktail Corner

**Strawberry Punch** (for picnics, BBQs or just at home!)

Serves 6 people

Ingredients:

- 400g strawberries
- 200ml elderflower liqueur
- 750ml cold sparkling rose wine (or prosecco)
- 250ml soda water
- 2 tsp caster sugar
- ice

Method: tip half the strawberries and caster sugar into a jug and crush until you get a pulp, strain through a sieve into a clean jug filled with ice. Stir in the elderflower liqueur, rose sparkling wine and soda, drop the remaining strawberries in and serve.



## News From Trinity Methodist Church, Netherton

Summer is a relatively quiet time for special events, but you can be sure of a friendly welcome to any of our regular groups which continue to meet 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.

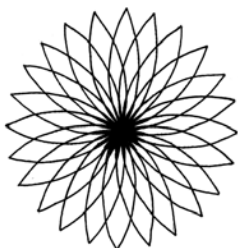
**Chapel Cafe** every last Saturday in the month, 10 until 12. Come and enjoy the company with a changing menu of tasty snacks every month. If you wish to use the openness of Chapel Café to promote a charity, we can supply you with a stall from which you can advertise and raise money.

**Film Club** on the third Friday of each month at 7:30 pm (doors open 7:15pm). 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.

**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.



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## **The Horbury Singers**

The Horbury Singers will be taking part in the **Horbury Street Fayre on Sunday, 14th June.**

Our Summer Concert is to be held on:

**Saturday, 27th June, 7pm at Christchurch, Ossett**

## **Friends of Netherton Village Hall**

As the summer approaches, the Friends of Netherton Village Hall are taking a brief break from organising the community events we hold in the Village Hall.

Since last October we have organised five Table Top sales, a Christmas Craft Fair, a Santa Event, a Tack Sale and a Pre-loved Clothes Sale. We also like to get involved with the Scarecrow Festival and will display our scarecrow in the entrance way of the Village Hall in July. We are a small group who aim to organise and support events for the community in the Village Hall. If you would like to join the Friends of Netherton Village Hall or have any suggestions for future events please get in touch with Ann Hayden on 07736 364600 or

Linda Webster on 07779 736206.

Look out for further information and notices about the events we will be organising from September. We publicise them on the local Facebook groups, the Parish Council notice boards, and in local shops and amenities.

At this time, we would also like to remember Aline Ford, who passed away in March. Aline and her husband John were involved with the fund raising for the building of the Village Hall and management of it. She was always very committed to the Village Hall, the activities held there and the work of the Friends. She will be sadly missed.

## **Friends Of Netherton Village Hall dates**

### **Christmas Craft Fair**

Saturday 21 November 2026

11am -3pm

Netherton Village Hall

Further information on hiring a table from Ann Hayden 07736 364600

## Middlestown Primary School

In a primary school, every term is a busy one, but the summer term always seems to be jam-packed with exciting events linked to the curriculum, including trips and sporting events (now the weather is hopefully improving).

We finished the first part of the Summer Term with our annual EYFS (Early Years) trip to Canon Hall Farm. We make sure that all children from 3-5 years old can access this trip to enjoy seeing all the different animals and learning more about them. Other trips that will also take place include The Big Sing at Wakefield Cathedral, the school choir visiting a local residential home and Y5 visiting Temple Newsam.

The children will also have the opportunity to take part in competitive sports days with the parents invited to watch (and join in) with some of the races. The children represent a coloured team and compete to win points that are added up to make a final total. The winning 'house' team then receive the trophy which will be on display in the hall throughout the year. There will also be the opportunity for some of the children to represent the school in activities against other local schools including cricket and athletics.

Year 6 will be given the opportunity to visit their new high schools with the majority of the children attending Horbury Academy. They will also rehearse for their Leavers' Assembly to the whole school and parents as well as having a meal and party at a local restaurant. As always, the Y6 children will challenge the staff to a rounders game. This is enjoyed by all with some children (and staff) getting very competitive!

Before the end of the summer term, the children will be reminded about being safe over the summer holidays as well as keeping active. There will be workshops in school about sun safety and staying safe near water especially in the warmer weather. The local library service normally set a reading challenge over the summer to keep the children focused on learning and this important skill.

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

Spring has definitely sprung at last after a fairly mild but very wet winter. And I've seen a swallow but that was at my son's last week in Bristol which is a bit further south than us! I love spring with so much promise of a beautiful summer – we hope!

We lost one of our long-standing members recently, Aline Ford. Aline had been in our WI for many years and was well known in Netherton. Our condolences go to her family and friends. We will miss her.

Our February speaker, Bronwyn Harrison, told us how she became an author after spending 30 years in the police force. It also took her 15 years to write her first book which is a children's novel entitled *Lost at Sea*. Her talk was so interesting.

We had the delightful Lizzie Jones and her husband in March. What knowledge she possesses. She told us all about the Winter Queen and her thirteen children. Her life was one of rags to riches and Lizzie's talk was fascinating. She promised to come again in the not too distant future and we look forward to that so watch this space!

April was very much a hands-on meeting with Vicki Birks from Temple Spa. Vicki handed out samples of their products from cleansing, moisturising, exfoliating and toning etc. which we applied to our faces in the hope of being more beautiful at the end of the evening. We ended up feeling amazingly clean and glowing and just managed to stay awake for the business part of the meeting as the last product we tried was to be used before going to bed to help us sleep. All their products are natural and smell amazing!

We have Veronica Bird OBE on the 12th May. She is an ex-prison governor so I'm sure she will have lots of tales to tell. Really looking forward to that. Richard Share is our speaker on the 9th June. Richard is a jeweller so dig out your diamonds and pearls for a possible valuation. You might be sitting on a fortune! Something a bit different in July. We are having a taster evening courtesy of one of our members – not sure if she is providing the tasters or whether we have to bring something ourselves. All will be revealed I hope in due course. That's on the 14th.

We usually lunch in August. We used to ramble as well but that seems to have gone to the wall – food more important. Last year we opted for afternoon tea instead of lunch so might do the same again this year. That's on the 11th. Not sure of our speaker in September. We had one lined up but haven't yet finalised all the details. Sorry!



And October is our AGM as usual with Harvest Auction but visitors still welcome. 10th November sees us welcoming ladies from Dialwood Driving for the Disabled. I think this is the second time they have joined us and are extremely interesting. Put the date in

your diary and come along. Then it's December and party time. Need to become a member for all the fun and frolics so don't hesitate to do just that. Would be lovely to see you.

Still meeting at Trinity Methodist Church on Netherton Lane second Tuesday in the month

at 7.15pm - £2 on the door. Do contact me, Eileen, on 07790 199257 for a chat.

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## Summer Reading Bucket List

How many among us have summer reading bucket lists I wonder? A few years ago, I tried to read seasonally throughout the year. Because of the festive joy offered by Christmas themed books, I tried out some Autumnal and Summer inspired ones too.

There are plenty of books set in Summer to explore - often romance, but not always by any means - family sagas and mysteries set on cruise ships or in faraway holiday destinations feature just as much.

In the last few years, my summer reading bucket list hasn't been focussed upon purely seasonal reads. Last year, I made myself a list of books to tick off over the summer. The problem was the guilt when I hadn't ticked them all off, turning my summer reading joy into a chore, something else to worry about.

A few years ago, binge reading a few series I hadn't had time for elsewhere in the year was the chosen challenge. I might be nearly forty-one but I devoured all of the Dork Diaries for 7-12-year-olds that year!

But in all honesty, I am wondering whether my summer reading will be more joyful if I just let it be. Not everything needs to be turned into a list, a challenge or a chore, especially not my greatest pleasure. One of my treasured reading fantasies for the summertime is often to find a gorgeous spot under a tree, in a sunlit glade, and lose myself in a good story. That will be my bucket list this year: to read outdoors in as many beautiful spots as I can. This could be lying under a tree in Coxley Woods, round a fire in my garden or leaning my back against my favourite willow tree on the paths beyond Stoneycliffe Woods. But if you need some further inspiration, here are some other ideas to match with whatever is on your TBR pile:

- Read in bed with the windows wide open to hear the birds sing.
- Visit the local bookshop or library, choose a book and then go and read it in a beautiful spot (with cake of course).
- Stay up late reading because who needs an excuse to do that, right?
- Enjoy your favourite snack outside with a book.
- Read a nature memoir- I like books set in or about nature any time of year but there is something particularly beautiful about them when everything around us is blooming. Anything to do with the sea always holds my fascination.

Here's hoping you find that perfect tree to lean your back against, book in hand. Pack a flask in your rucksack and a delicious snack too and head outside to read your summer away.

Fran Waddington,  
Darling Reads, Horbury

## Denby Grange Collieries Athletic Club

Your local Community Hub continues to improve and offer more and more to the neighbourhood. Not only do we continue to offer sporting facilities to junior boys' and girls' football teams, cricket and bowls, but we have several 'local groups' offering different offerings on many days during the week. Did you attend the Classic Car Rally over the Spring Bank Holiday – what a fabulous day it turned out to be!!! Why not pop up and say hello if you're passing????

## Denby Grange Bowling Club

The 2026 bowling season is now well under way with 8 teams representing Denby Grange BC in 6 different leagues in the Wakefield and Kirklees areas. Games are played regularly on Monday, Tuesday and Saturday afternoons as well as most Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

This season has seen a number of new faces joining our club and despite never having played before, giving 100% when they have played. Results have been mixed on the green thus far, though our A team competing in the Ossett & Horbury League currently stand at the top of their division.

We are always happy to welcome new members whether you've played previously or not and if you are interested, please get in touch with David Wright on 07832 270796 who will be happy to chat with you.

Even if you're not interested in playing but would like to spend an hour or two watching our games then please feel free to stop by the green and take in the action enjoying a cuppa while you do. Our afternoon games usually start at 1-30pm and our evening games at 6-30pm.

Hope to see you!

## Denby Grange Cricket Club

Continues to operate both juniors & senior teams but are always on the look-out for new player, umpires and volunteers – please contact Paul Johnson on 07736 832846.



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

For more info contact Sheena

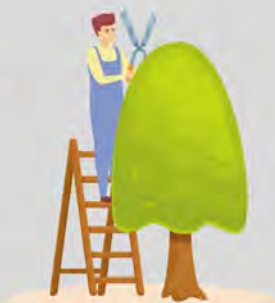
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## **‘Warm summer sun Shine kindly here’**

(Mark Twain)

Summer days - busy days. There's always so much to do in allotment and garden this time of year. But, oh, how rewarding to see everything growing, trees bearing fruit, flowers to enjoy and pick, and vegetables to lift and prepare for the table. Time to enjoy the fruits of your early season labours. And now, in a nutshell: keep planting, keep feeding, keep watering and weeding!

Here are just a few of the summer tasks to remind you to do:

Ensure water butts are kept filled, with the lids firmly in place. Tie up loose raspberry canes. Ventilate the greenhouse on hot days but watch out for late frosts. Lift and store winter-grown Japanese onions and early potatoes in a dry place. Check fruit and vegetables for damage from insects and pests and treat accordingly. Keep border hedges under control but raise lawn mower blades in dry weather. Deadhead spent flowers. Top up supplies from The Trading Hut!

.....and, needless to say, so much more. Plenty to do but find a little time to relax and ‘smell the flowers on the way’. (Golfer Walter Hagen).

.....  
Here's an interesting question for you: what's the most precious commodity in our galaxy? Any ideas? The most precious thing in our galaxy? Gold? Diamonds? Platinum? Rare minerals? Iridium? Water?

Which of the above? Actually, you can forget gold - there's gold in abundance on many planets and meteorites. Forget diamonds - you'll also find diamonds on meteorites. It even rains diamonds on Neptune. Deep-earth minerals and metals? They 're not so rare.

The rarest and most precious commodity in the universe is... wood.

Ignoring water for the moment, the above items are geological in origin, whereas wood is biological. The only known place where wood grows in our universe is planet Earth.

Scientists with time on their hands have calculated that there are about 3.5 - 5 billion trees in the UK - give or take a few million. That accounts for no more than 14% of the UK's land mass and compares unfavourably with the average 40% of our continental neighbours. In 1900 it was about 5%, so at least we're going in the right direction. ('Plant a tree in '73; plant some more in '74'. And we did. I recall a golf course in the region planting 7,500 Japanese larch - you should see them now!



Digressing for a moment. Water. Obviously, trees need water – essential for life and growth. Was last year's drought a 'one-off' or a sign of things to come? (Our reservoirs in Yorkshire in 2025 fell to 47% of capacity.) Shall we have to think seriously about what or what not to grow in drought conditions in future? Time will tell.

To continue. Why is wood so special to us? Well, trees capture CO<sub>2</sub>, they release oxygen, give us leaves for compost, seed and shade. Timber is renewable and provides one of the best materials for the construction industry. It's also so versatile, durable and flexible for making paper, fences, sheds, cold frames, pit props, barrels, tools and furniture, and so much more. And how beautiful it can become in the hands of skilled cabinet makers or carpenters. There's no 'waste' with wood; even discarded pieces are mashed up to make board. Who has not at some time or other warmed themselves in front of a roaring log fire?

Yet in the spring and summer months, and especially following periods without rain, we've been mesmerised and appalled by the television coverage of catastrophic forest fires laying waste to thousands of acres of countryside. Spain and Portugal lost over 600,000 acres of woodland to fires last summer. The fires were so fierce that the smoke reached us here in England. Do you remember? Greece, Albania, Turkey, Montenegro, Cyprus, Ukraine, Australia and America were similarly affected. Estimates in spring 2025 put UK losses at over 29000 hectares (113 square miles) of woodland and moorland destroyed by wildfires. (The weight of oak is 47 lb/cu ft – that's a lot of timber lost). Our most precious commodity burns extremely well.

Arson? Accident? Climate change? A bit of each, perhaps. A few thoughtless people with a barbecue can undo in a trice what it's taken hundreds, if not thousands, of years to develop. So, if you go down to the (Coxley) woods today... pause for a moment to reflect upon and appreciate the oaks, silver birch, elms, hazels, horse chestnuts... the most wonderful, useful, unique and beautiful asset our known universe possesses.

'Warm summer sun shine kindly here.' ...and, please, not too hot to set the summer countryside ablaze.

Summer 2026



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