

NETHERAVON, HAXTON & FITTLETON NEWSLETTER

February 2021

Issue no. 430

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COPY DEADLINE for March issue is **Thursday 18February at 5pm**

Take advantage of technology with our email: netheravonnewsletter@gmail.com or hard copy to Maggie Butler at 11 Mill Road, Netheravon, SP4 9QB. Phone 01980 670122

The Butlers still print, collate and distribute your newsletters, compile all commercial advertisements and maintain the accounts.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

All events currently suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions.

MINI DIRECTORY

(01980 unless otherwise stated)

Phoenix Hall Bookings (Michala)	670646
Day Centre (Christine Covil)	670774
Rev. Gale Hunt, Avon River Team	670326
Rev. Barry Davis, Amesbury Baptist Centre	622355
Christ the King, Catholic Church, Amesbury	622177
Methodist Church Amesbury	676766
SSAFA Forces Help	632567
Plainwatch	674700
Durrington & District Link Scheme	594857
AWS JOBS, Pre-Schools, Creches	673379
Scout Group for Boys & Girls	07768 579314
Enford Football Club, Children's Coaching Club	670634
Wiltshire Councillor, Ian Blair-Pilling	07518 942216

Our family Tribute to a much-loved Dad, Grandad, Brother and friend.

Loving father to Julia and Amanda, grandad to Elden and Isla and brother to Sue.

We would like to firstly thank everyone who has managed to join us during these very difficult times. Sitting here we will all have different memories of Richard and what he meant to us. For us our earliest memories are of Dad's love of nature, his knowledge of the natural world and taking us on nature walks with our various 'Spotter's' books to learn from him and identify different species.

Dad was a quiet, gentle man. He did not like to be centre stage but would rather have a quiet presence. He liked the familiar, where he felt safe and comfortable. Dad was born in Fittleton on 15th June 1939, son of Charles and Gladys Sheppard and big brother to Susan, and apart from living a few miles away for a couple of years, the rest of his life he spent in the village he loved and will now rest in.

Dad's love of the village and surrounding area and family saw him embark on extensive research into the family tree and local history, he has documents, photos and contacts that he kept in touch with as a result of people he managed to trace. He loved local history and came alive when talking about what he had discovered in his research. Dad's love of gardening is well known by anyone that knew him. This love came from his father, Charles Sheppard. We found an extract from some notes he has written about his life which reads 'Some of my happiest times in my youth were spent on the farm especially in the Summer months. This would have involved helping with the harvest.'

Another passion Dad had was stamps, as children, we would enjoy stamp collecting with Dad. He always ordered the First Day Covers and was still sending 'commemorative' ones to Elden and Isla as keepsakes. Again, in his notes he was writing about his life, he writes of his memories of Christmas as a child: 'Our Christmas stockings were made up of fruit, nuts and sweets – although these were restricted due to rationing and some second hand or nearly new toys. I do remember having mixed packets of foreign stamps which started me off with my interest in stamps.'

Dad spent a lot of time looking up - this was due to his passion for aircraft, birds and, after dark, he would still be drawn upwards to the night sky. He was a keen astronomer and again had a wealth of knowledge. He had many other hobbies including walking, cycling, and cooking/ baking. Isla particularly loved the chilli jam he made.

Dad's house was never quiet, he loved music and had a very large vinyl and CD collection ranging from classical, country and western and pop/rock.

He never managed to realise his dream of being an RAF pilot as he failed the medical due to a perforated ear drum from ear problems he had experienced as a child. We like to think he is now flying high and free with all his passions while looking down and keeping a caring eye on those he loved. Dad's working life was spent as a weighing scales mechanic for Avery. He made some great friends there and kept in touch with them throughout his life.

He was a very patient man and this was definitely tested by us during our teenage years but we never remember him shouting or losing his temper.

Dad had many loves, he loved his family and that grew in December 2005 when Amanda had her first child Elden, his first grandchild. Then in May 2008 his second grandchild, Isla was born - he embraced being a grandfather with every part of him and was so proud of everything they did. We have found that he has kept a folder with all the special things they made for him or performances they were in. Dad also enjoyed looking after Marbles - Amanda's family's' demanding cat, when they went on holiday. In 2018 Brooke the 'grand dog' became part of the family, he enjoyed walks with her and hearing about her antics but was not so keen when she wanted to lick him.

The way Dad adapted during Covid was amazing, we do not live close by but once we got him set up for online-shopping he embraced this with the organisation skills he used for all his research and was always pleased to tell us he had various deliveries coming when we spoke to him.

Although this year has been tough, we believe it brought us even closer. Elden had set up Dad with a smart phone a couple of years ago, he upgraded this and Elden introduced him to WhatsApp. From there on we could share chats, photos, videos and ideas with Dad and he really enjoyed this communication. We have both said that our most surprising memory of Dad's messages to us were his excellent use of emojis!! He seemed to really enjoy them.

Virtual Church

Well it looks like this pandemic is nearly a year old. Who saw that coming? Life goes on merrily and then suddenly, something like this hits us like a bolt out of the blue. My wife Anna and I were sharing a cream tea in Lacock a few summers ago. It was a lovely day, sitting in the garden at King John's Hunting Lodge and we started feeding sparrows a few crumbs and they were venturing on to the table and chair, getting bolder and more adventurous. Suddenly, out of the blue, a sparrow Hawk swooped down and made off with the little bird! Talk about ruining the moment! It was shocking and so quick.

One of the lessons of this little story is, of course, that none of us know what is round the corner. As we hope and pray things improve, surely it would be wise to expect the unexpected. The local church has done it's bit to be as adaptable as possible and to respond in a responsible way. When open, church members have done their best to keep the church clean and as Covid secure as possible, following the endless guidance as it is updated.

In January, with case figures rising, the local hospital overwhelmed and a new variant virus identified, we made a decision to temporarily suspend our congregational worship and revert to online worship instead, to keep people safe. Every week, we are reviewing this decision and desperately hope to hold services in church again soon. Churches are still open for private prayer though, so check details if you want to have a quiet moment.

In the meantime, can I recommend our online provision? We have a Sunday zoom Morning Prayer service, with live music, sermon and prayers; a zoom compline (shorter and quieter) at 8 p.m. on a Sunday; a weekly email with resources to over 130 households (and snail mail for another 30 or so not online) and a monthly Videoed themed Service on YouTube. Links and advice are available from clergy, so do ask. None of the Staff Team of our churches in the Avon River Team saw any of this coming, it's been a learning curve, but it has had some benefits. It has kept many of us connected in the middle of this crisis. In a way that has surprised us. I suspect an online presence will continue.

Every blessing,

Rev Philip Bromiley (Team Rector)

Church Services across the Avon River Team.

Please access information on the Avon River Team website www.avonriverteam.org.uk . If you have no access then ring Gale on 670326.

Due to the current situation regarding Covid-19 restrictions and the average age of our congregations it has been decided that currently no services will take place except online.

Richard James Sheppard....contd.

Dad, you are the kindest, most gentle, patient and forgiving person we have ever known. To say that we and your beautiful grandchildren will miss you just doesn't go far enough. Thank you for everything you taught us and them.

Thank you for being so good to us all, love you to the moon and back.



A big thank you for all the messages of condolence and memories of Richard that we have received. It is a great comfort to all of us to know that his quiet presence and his varied knowledge was appreciated by so many.

If you would like to make a donation in Richard's memory to either the Stroke Association or Julia's House Children's Hospice send a cheque payable to either charity to Chris White Funeral Directors, 15 Endless St., Salisbury, SP1 1DP. or online at <https://richardsheppard.muchloved.com/>



Help for domestic abuse victims in Wiltshire is just a phone call away and available 24/7.

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SWA) is now providing support to victims of domestic violence across the whole of Wiltshire on behalf of Wiltshire County Council.

Whether you're male, female, young or old, you could need their help. Our lives are being affected by Covid restrictions and for many it's creating a dangerous and frightening situation. Home should be a place of safety and security and a relationship should be based on love and mutual respect but sadly for 2.3 million people a year this is not the case and victims face physical and psychological abuse, coercive control, rape and for two people a week in the UK, they will lose their lives at the hands of their partner or former partner.

Working alongside Trowbridge based Splitz Support Service who offer support weekdays 9am – 5pm, SWA cover Wiltshire outside these hours, evenings, night times, weekends and bank holidays. SWA support all victims regardless of age and gender and run a free, non-judgmental 24hr helpline that's answered day and night by a trained advisor, not a machine. They offer help and support and work with you and at your pace.

SWA whose patron is Dame Esther Rantzen, have a purpose-built refuge facility in Swindon comprising 22 self-contained flats and they offer extensive community support. Their advisors are trained in all areas of abuse across all age groups. If you are worried about your situation, you can call them in confidence on 01793 610610.

Editors notes:

Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SWA) is free and confidential, serving Swindon and the surrounding area. Our service operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, supporting both female and male victims of domestic violence, those in lesbian, gay, heterosexual relationships, those who are in fear of being forced into marriage and those who fall victim to honour-based violence. We also work with young people aged 16-25 years who may be experiencing domestic violence or abuse as part of an intimate relationship.

SWA operates a refuge which has been purpose-built and specially designed, with 22 individual flats it can accommodate lone females or families with children up to 18 years old and has a dedicated team of trained staff. In the community SWA has a network of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) who work with victims, within the Great Western Hospital, Doctor Surgeries and Health Centres across the town.

Our dedicated helpline – 01793 610610 – is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year covering Swindon and extends to the county of Wiltshire every day 5pm – 9am, every weekend and bank holiday. Our helpline is answered by specialist domestic abuse advisor who can provide advice and support irrespective of the time you call - day or night.

Splitz - 01225 775276 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

SWA – everything outside these hours

ENFORD GARDENING CLUB

The planned meeting for Thursday 11th February 2021 has been cancelled due to the COVID situation.

We feel it is unwise to hold this meeting, as we would not want to put anyone at risk.

We will review the situation for our planned meeting in March 2021 and let you all know, but feel it is unlikely that we will be able to hold it.

We will continue to send out our monthly newsletter for which we welcome your contributions.

If you would like to join the list, please let me know.

In the meantime, Happy New Year, and stay safe.

Further details from Fanny Middleton 01980 671645

email: fannysurtees@btinternet.com

FITTLETON cum HAXTON PARISH COUNCIL

We welcome new Parish Clerk, Mr. Joe. Loveridge from Amesbury. A handover has been effected from stand-in clerk Alan Wood.

At the Parish Council meeting held on ZOOM on 12 January 2021 at 6.30pm the following major items of note were recorded:

1. Covid-19.

Wiltshire Councillor Mr. Ian Blair-Pilling asked Councillors to follow the Wiltshire Council website for Covid-19 information. (At Tidworth Leisure Centre where vaccination is taking place, I posed the question to a representative of Public Health England as to when vaccinated people might re-use The Phoenix Hall. The response was to follow Government guidance in the future).

2. Planning.

The Councillors recorded an objection to the Planning Application for Danica Rise on Everleigh Road.

3. Council Tax Precept.

The Councillors agreed to keep the Band D equivalent amount at 2020 levels. ie - no increase. Most items were unchanged. Special items were budgeted for the cost of Parish Council elections held by Wiltshire Council, renewal of defibrillator batteries, maintenance of footpaths and Rights of Way. In view of the break-ins to vehicles and use of the roads through Fittleton and Haxton by thieves on The Plain, the use of roadside cameras has been budgeted for. It is hoped that Tidworth Area Board will match-fund our contribution.

4. LED Lighting Poles.

The Council agreed not to ask Wiltshire Council to remove any lighting poles. Residents may give their views on lighting intensity levels for consideration by the Council.

Copies of the draft Minutes and Budget will be placed on noticeboards and on the Fittleton cum Haxton website.

Alan Wood

Chairman

Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Council

T:01980 671265 email: wood94@btinternet.com

You can find this newsletter and previous issues on the local parish council websites:

<https://www.netheravonparishcouncil.co.uk>

<https://www.fittletoncumhaxton.co.uk>

BEST DECORATED HOUSE COMPETITION

RESULTS:

- 1st Prize 4 Court Farm Close £25 Amazon Voucher
2nd Prize Mill View, Mill Road £15 Amazon Voucher
3rd Prize 31 Vicarage Gardens £10 cash

for the most imaginative and beautiful display of
Christmas lights and decorations in front gardens.

Advent Window Result:

Window number 14,
£25 Amazon Voucher

Organised by Netheravon Parish Council



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Your local Link Scheme needs you.....

Wiltshire Link Schemes are voluntary groups which offer a transport and good neighbour service to local people who are in need, perhaps because they are elderly, disabled, isolated and lonely, single parents, or temporarily in need because of illness.

Due to Covid-19, local Link Schemes are experiencing a shortage of volunteers who are unable to drive due to age and/or vulnerability.

They desperately need more volunteers to support those in need of transport to and from their Covid-19 vaccination appointments. Volunteering your time could make a huge difference in supporting the national Covid-19 vaccine effort.

If you are able to help, please get in touch to find out more.

Telephone: 01380 722 241 or;
Email: linkproject@communityfirst.org.uk

Corfe Jump Track

Netheravon Parish Council were very happy to finance improvements to the safety of the BMX Track at the Corfe. The boys have done a great job of putting up fencing and a gate at the entrance to the Track. Thank you everyone for your hard work. Please see photos on Facebook and the Netheravon Parish Council website www.netheravonparishcouncil.co.uk. The Netheravon History website www.netheravonspast.co.uk have some amazing photos of the Track being used by all ages. Well worth a look.

Mary Towle,
Clerk to the Netheravon Parish Council

NETHERAVON PARISH COUNCIL

Coronavirus Help

If anyone resident in Netheravon needs help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or anything else – including a chat on the phone, please contact:

npcemergencyplan@gmail.com

Or contact Mary Towle at

mary.towle@btinternet.com,

Tel: 01980 670748

or 07864 186271

Or contact a Parish Councillor – details on Noticeboard

KEEP WELL AND SAFE

Netheravon Working Mens Club

It is with great sadness that we have had to say goodbye to one of our long-standing members,
Alan Phillimore.

No doubt that Alan would have joined the Club on his 18th Birthday.

He joined the committee in 1976, and continued to do so until he became a Trustee in 2012.

Alan was " Mr Bingo", he ran the Bingo at the Club for many years, along with the Saturday night meat Draw. When I say many years, it was a very, very long time.

Another string to Alan's bow was the Christmas Draw, which he organised, again for many years. Alan would also paint and decorate the Club when needed. Any ongoing repairs he would sort out.

Alan wasn't a fence sitter in the Committee room, if anything had to be said, it was.

In Alan's latter years it was good to see Alan, Ron and the gang chatting about the "Good old days" on a Sunday Lunchtime.

He will be greatly missed..... **R.I.P Alan**

G.D Chairman

SPTA NEWS

For Salisbury Plain Training Area News, giving times of live firing, current and upcoming exercises, go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/salisbury-plain-training-area-spta-newsletter>

SECRET SANTA VISITS NETHERAVON

December 2020 was unlike any that most of us can remember. The joys of Christmas were dimmed by the threats posed by Covid-19 and many people were wondering how they might manage without the usual family and friends' gatherings. However, Secret Santa and the Christmas Elves brought some much-needed cheer to all the households in Netheravon. Each home received a small gift to bring some much-needed cheer.

The gesture was much appreciated and Facebook was awash with messages of thanks. Here are just a few:-

"Dear secret Santa. Thank you for delivering a special present through my letter box. Whoever thought of this has given Netheravon people a sense of belonging and community spirit. Thank you."

"Amazing idea and very well done to Santa and his Merry Elves"

"Thank you so much for our secret Santa pressie. How wonderful and thoughtful, it's got to be someone that knows us quite well because of what was included. I am so proud to be part of this village"

"Thank you so much for my secret Santa (vicarage gardens) I only moved here in July and have been amazed at how friendly everyone is"

"Thank you so much Secret Santa, very kind"

"Thank you so much for the secret Santa I got this afternoon much appreciated"

"Thank you so much for our secret Santa gift it meant a lot knowing there are caring people around"

"Thank you to the secret Santa! Very kind and very appreciated"

"Ahh a lovely secret Santa, thank you Santa from Harefield Crescent."

"Secret Santa is the best"

"Secret Santa what a great surprise, thank you"

"Thank you, secret Santa. It's in pride of place on the tree, nearly matches one already hung. Brilliant idea. Nice living in a village where people care."

"Thank you, Secret Santa, it's a really caring village we all live in and long may it continue."

"Thank you very much, secret Santa, for your very nice surprise it's on our tree."

"Thanks for the lovely Secret Santa. What a lovely and very kind idea."

"The kindest thought. Our lovely unexpected Secret Santa. Thank you so much"

"I just received a secret Santa, certainly unexpected but so very thoughtful. I would've been happy with nothing inside and just a note saying you're not alone, that's what the secret Santa meant for me, that I'm not alone this Christmas time! Thank you, secret Santa organisers!"

"Thank you!!! Secret Santa - I was having a dreadful morning and this truly changed that ... Such a lovely gesture "

"Secret Santa strikes again You're a star whoever you are, thank you"

What a lovely, caring and uplifting gesture.

Thank you, Secret Santa and your Elves.

You are the true spirit of Christmas



Report by Ian Blair-Pilling - Wiltshire Councillor for The Collingbournes and Netheravon Division

Over previous months I have tried to give our Parish Councils fairly detailed summaries of the Council's activities concerned with Covid Response and then Recovery. As we re-entered a national lock-down Wiltshire Council has reverted to Response mode, and much is changing at short notice.

To keep up to date with Covid measures and support please visit the Council Website. For regular updates - on the front page you will find 'sign up to our e-newsletter' Select the general news and information option to receive the weekly newsletter which includes all COVID-19 messaging - *or feel free to ask me!*

I highlight a few aspects:

1. Vaccines – the NHS is leading on this – it is free and when eligible you will be invited – beware of scams.
2. Infection rates – Wiltshire continues to enjoy rates below the national average, BUT they have been rising fast in the last 4 weeks and have not yet plateaued. While younger age groups (20-29 & 30-45 yrs) may not be prevalent in serious illnesses they are significantly higher in infection rates than the average.
3. Leisure Centres are now closed again.
4. Libraries have reverted to Order and Collect with bookable computer access for most that had already opened. See website for site specific details and hours.
5. The Well Being and Business Support Hubs have been fully manned to meet the expected demands.
6. Businesses who successfully claimed support grants in the past will be automatically processed against the new criteria.
7. We wait to hear whether Government may reschedule the planned May elections.
8. Many Council staff are now being redeployed to assist with:
 1. supporting our mass vaccination sites
 2. issuing additional business support grants
 3. introducing lateral flow testing in our schools and preparing for mass-scale community testing
 4. preparing for elections
 5. local contact tracing
 6. mobilising fleet services to assist residents to get vaccinations
 7. staffing the wellbeing hub and its services

The Local Plan review consultation is now underway until end March with virtual public meetings for a range of urban areas scheduled (Tidworth & Ludgershall – Wed 20 Jan 7-8pm) and Rural Areas (1 & 2 Feb 7-8pm). Need to book attendance (see Council Website). This is important as it sets the volumes and policies around development for the coming years. I shall be very happy to discuss any aspects directly with interested residents or parish councils.

Stay safe

Ian

Ian Blair-Pilling

Cllr for The Collingbournes and Netheravon Ward

Cabinet Member for IT, Digitalisation, Operational Assets, Leisure and Libraries

Home: 01980670812

Mobile: 07518942216

FITTLETON'S LOSS

As we start year 43 of this community newsletter, we pay tribute to Richard Sheppard who died on Christmas Eve.

He had delivered copies around Fittleton since its inception. The Busy Bees (a young women's group) had the idea and got it started.

We're grateful for his support and that of all our volunteers and contributors. We wish you all a healthy New Year.

Now we need someone to deliver those 35 copies, 10 times a year. Please call for details, if you have the time and the wellies.

Best wishes, Maggie 670122

The census is taking place in March 2021.

It's a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It helps plan and fund public services, like transport, education and healthcare.



By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure you and your community get the services you need.

Nearer the time, you'll receive more information. There'll be plenty of help to take part for people who need it.

Find out more at www.census.gov.uk

Follow the census

   @Census2021



Follow the newsletter on Facebook. Newsletter, Fittleton, Haxton & Netheravon.