

NETHERAVON, HAXTON & FITTLETON NEWSLETTER

October 2023

Issue no. 457

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COPY DEADLINE for the November issue is **Thursday 26th October 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

October 2023

5th	7:00pm	Netheravon Parish Council Meeting	Phoenix Hall, Netheravon
10th	7:00pm	Enford Gardening Club – Commonwealth War Graves	Enford Village Hall, Enford
11th	1:15pm	Woodford Ukelele Band	Phoenix Hall, Netheravon
15th	10:00am	Fittleton cum Haxton Tidy Day	The Pound, Haxton

November 2023

14th	7:30pm	Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Council Meeting	Phoenix Hall, Netheravon
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MINI DIRECTORY

(01980 unless otherwise stated)

Phoenix Hall Bookings (Pam/Steve Perry)	670021
Day Centre (Caroline A-F)	670364
Rev. Gale Hunt, Avon River Team	670326
Rev. Barry Davis, Amesbury Baptist Centre	622355
Christ the King, Catholic Church, Amesbury	622177
Rev. Rosemary Fletcher, Amesbury Methodist Church	01722 703045
SSAFA Forces Help	632567
Plainwatch	674700
Durrington & District Link Scheme	07484 533559
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
Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers contact	girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Avon River Team Service Schedule for October 2023

Parish\Date	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Bulford	11.00 HC	10.30 Team Service at Fittleton	10.30 Family Service	11.00 HC	11.00 Morning Worship
Durrington	9.30 Fun Church		9.30 HC	9.30 Informal HC	9.30 HC
Enford	9.30 HC Harvest		9.30 Breakfast Church	18.00 Evensong	9.30 HC
Figheledean	18.00 Evening Worship		11.00 HC	11.00 Breakfast Church	11.00 Morning Worship
Fittleton	With Netheravon		6.00 Evensong Harvest		11.00 HC BCP
Milston	9.30 HC BCP Harvest		9.30 HC BCP	9.30 Matins	
Netheravon	11.00 HC		With Fittleton	11.00 Morning Worship	17.00 Songs of Praise
On-line	8.00 pm Zoom Compline	8.00 pm Zoom Compline	8.00 pm Zoom Compline	8.00 pm Zoom Compline	8.00 pm Zoom Compline
10.00 Every Wed HC at Bulford 10.30 Every Thursday HC at Durrington HC=Holy Communion; BCP=Book of Common Prayer; CW=Common Worship For Video streams please access the website at avonriverteam.org.uk					

Netheravon Working Men's Club.

Forthcoming Events:

- ❖ Follow England Rugby in the World Cup
- ❖ Fortnightly Quiz on Sat 7th & 21st

Sunday 22nd Lunchtime - Pumpkin Day 2pm

- Weigh in of Pumpkins
- Join in with The Pumpkin Song.
- Enter your Pumpkin Carving
- Colouring Competition for Children
- Draw a Pumpkin, colour it and bring it along.

Don't forget our Christmas Draw is up and running.

Sat 28th October Halloween Party

Oke Doke Disco

Childrens Party 5pm

- Best Fancy Dress
- Mummy Game and Lots more party Games.

Adults 8 pm 'til late

- Best Fancy Dress
- Dress to Scare!!

Sunday November 5th

. **Polar Bear Swim:** followed by
 10:30: Bacon & Egg Rolls. Coffee & Teas
 Bar Open at 12:00

Time to re-focus?

October is a time to be thankful for all we have. As summer slips away and we embrace Autumn, many of our churches and schools celebrate all that our farmers have brought in, we call it Harvest. The festival originates in the Sukkot festival in Judaism. It is a time to be thankful, but also to retreat from materialism and embrace other areas of life like community and spirituality.

At a time when Christmas (sorry I said the C-word already!) has become extravagant, perhaps spending time investing in other areas of our lives may be helpful. Much of modern life is about consuming, whether that is streaming boxsets, watching your team (which is a struggle for us Everton fans!), enjoying food with friends, or investing in your favourite things like Manolo Blahniks or Aston Martins. So, how about taking time where you intentionally re-focus? October is a great chance for that, with holidays over & back into the swing of things, but before any other big season.

Perhaps either take some space and list those things in your life that you are thankful for, or simply prioritise a walk with a friend?

I'll be spending time focussing on this bible verse;

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. (Philippians 4:6)

I worry too much and need to remember to take time out – perhaps you could join me.

Anything we can be praying about for you this autumn? Drop us a line.

Every blessing, Rev Simon Pope (Team Curate)

Website: www.avonriverteam.org.uk

REVELATION GROUP

'I'm going to run a weekly group on Revelation. It's not going to be an in-depth study but will cover the whole book and, hopefully, it will inspire you to study it further.

Each week you will be asked to read chapters before the meeting, for the first meeting please read the first three chapters. Make a note of anything that catches your attention then bring the notes and your bible to the group.

Dates: Wednesdays 25 October to 29 November 2023

Time: 7 - 9 pm

Venue: 3 Birchwood Drive, Durrington, SP48ER

Contact: Rachel 07780 164662'

Wiltshire Connect

Wiltshire Connect is a new type of bus service operating in the Pewsey Vale and Marlborough area. Unlike a typical bus service, Wiltshire Connect vehicles operate on a pre-bookable, on-demand basis, allowing you to travel between any designated pick up and drop off point within each zone. Rides can be booked using the app or by phone; 01225 712900 (web booking portal also coming soon) and the smart technology will match up your journey with any other passengers travelling in the same direction. The service is now operating in the Pewsey Vale and it will be extending to Marlborough from 4th September.

In addition to the pre-bookable on-demand service, Wiltshire Connect also operates a number of timetabled and semi-flexible services in the Pewsey Vale and Marlborough area.



**Netheravon All Saints C of E Primary
School**
Tel: 01980 670339



WELCOMING SEPTEMBER 2024 PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES

**Please contact the school office to arrange a visit to
come and have a look around and meet our
headteacher, Mrs Lucy Jones.**

**01980 670339 or
email admin@allsaints-netheravon.wilts.sch.uk**

**The deadline for applications for entry into Reception
Class 2024 is 15th January 2024.**

***[https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions
-online](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-online)***

We look forward to meeting you.

Netheravon All Saints CofE Primary School, High Street, Netheravon, SP4 9PJ

NETHERAVON PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES

The Parish Council were very pleased to welcome the prize winners of Netheravon in Bloom to the recent Parish Council Meeting. They were given a glass of wine and presented with certificates and garden vouchers. It has been a difficult season for gardening but all the winners did very well and we hope for a better weather season next year. Special mention was made to the people who work hard on the Community Allotment. They had a very successful season and have provided vegetables for the Community Larder.

NETHERAVON IN BLOOM PRIZEWINNERS

ALLOTMENTS

- 1st Community Allotment
- 2nd Leighton Phillips
- 3rd Bob Rogers
- 3rd Dave Wilson

VILLAGE TUBS

- 1st Queensway - Pam and Andy Panther
- 2nd Phoenix Hall - Pam Perry
- 3rd High Street - Maureen Mitchell

FRONT GARDEN

- 1st Val Butler - 5 Westcourt
- 2nd Sandra Addleton - 18 Vicarage Gardens
- 3rd Andy Merritt - 16 Avon Park

HANGING BASKET

- 1st Paul Farrant - 27 Court Farm Close
- 2nd Kim Sheppard - 109 High Street
- 3rd Linda Allen - 20 Vicarage Gardens

Well done everyone!

A345 SPEED REDUCTION TRIAL

In early November the speed limit on the A345 is going to be reduced to 40mph for a trial period of one year. As well as new signs signifying 40mph we will be putting up 3 Speed Indicator Devices (SID) along the stretch from Stagg's Lane to Mill Road. We have also got a very keen Netheravon Speed Watch Group who are being trained at the moment and will be on duty at designated places to monitor speeds with a speed camera. The police have also agreed to be on duty with speed cameras on occasion. If it is proved that these measures make a difference and people noticeably drive within the 40mph speed limit the speed reduction will become permanent.

SAD NEWS

The Parish Council were sorry to hear the sad news of Cecil Phillimore's passing. He was a very loyal member of the team for at least 25 years and we do miss him.

WILTSHIRE CONNECT – ON DEMAND BUS

An exciting new bus service has been extended to Netheravon and surrounding villages. It is a bookable, on-demand service which operates between 6am-8pm Monday to Friday and 7am-7pm on Saturdays. Journeys can be booked up to a week ahead and on the day with 30 minutes notice, subject to vehicle availability. Download the app or call 01225 712900 between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is being held on **Thursday, 5th October, 2023** in the Committee Room of the Phoenix Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is a session of Public Questions at the start of the meeting where you are able to make a contribution.

Mary Towle, Clerk to the Council, 01980 670748 clerk@netheravonparishcouncil.co.uk,

Magnum Spirit. Navigational Trial - 2 December 2023

This event is being organised by us in accordance with the Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations and the General Regulations of the Royal Automobile Club, Motorsports UK Ltd. This is a navigation event; please be assured that is not a race. Competitors will use military and civilian Land Rover type vehicles and there could be some motorcycles.

This event will use public vehicular rights of way and will pass through your parish. We'll be grateful if you would kindly make this information known to dwelling holders within the parish, by whatsoever means you deem to be appropriate. Where the route passes through villages or past isolated dwellings they will be designated as 'Quiet Zones' and will be marshalled to ensure compliance by competitors of rules to prevent public nuisance. The event will start in Larkhill Garrison at 7pm and we anticipate that all will have completed the circular route by 11pm.

Motor rallies and trials are permitted through the provisions contained in Section 1, of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and detailed in the Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations. In seeking authorisation, the relevant Police Authority and where applicable National Park Authority have been notified in accordance with the legislation.

The British Army Motorsports Association is grateful for your cooperation and tolerance, particularly as this is a valuable training and recreational activity for young service personnel. It also enables service personnel to participate in sport with members of the community which they serve.

At the recent meeting of
Fittleton cum Haxton
Parish Council,
the **Jubilee Cup** was
presented to
Cameron Miles.

Cameron has helped with
many of the preparations
for the big events that
happened in 2022 and
2023.

He has been a significant
member of the team that
puts up bunting and
signage at events like the
Platinum Jubilee and the
King's Coronation.



The Woodford Ukelele Band
are playing at
Netheravon Day Centre, Phoenix Hall
on Wednesday 11th October

at 1.15 pm

followed by tea and cakes

Please do come and join in

- for more information please telephone:

Philippa Lackford: 07906 814176 Caroline A-F: 07855 441874

ENFORD GARDENING CLUB



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES



**Rebecca Smith from the CWGC will
talk on "Gardening the World"**

TUESDAY 10th October 2023

7.00 for 7.15 pm **ENFORD VILLAGE HALL**

Bring and buy plant stall. Raffle

Tea and coffee, entry £5

ALL Welcome!

Further details from Steve Stringer 07899 758222

email: steve.stringer@outlook.fr

Volunteers needed to help at Netheravon Library

We are looking for few more local people to get involved as volunteers at Netheravon Library. Our Community Library Volunteers operate the library during opening hours.

This is a great role if you have a few hours to spare twice a month, enjoy meeting people of all ages and have a love of books and reading.

Our volunteers provide a friendly welcome to all visitors and assist them with using the library services. This includes dealing with enquiries; assisting with the self-service machines; shelving the stock and helping customers to log onto the public computers.

If possible, we are looking for volunteers who can be flexible and are able to do at least two sessions of two hours per month. Please see below for the current volunteer operated opening hours. All volunteer sessions are within these opening hours:

Netheravon Library opening hours

Monday 1 - 5 pm

Thursday 1 - 5 pm

If you are interested in volunteering at Netheravon Library and would like further details about the Community Library Volunteer role please contact Jane Hunt either on **01225 713792** or by email at [**jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk**](mailto:jane.hunt@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Council

Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Council held its most recent meeting on 12 September 2023. A number of issues of concern to the community were discussed, including traffic, street lighting, and mowing of the verges.

The next **Tidy Day** will be held on **15 October 2023**. Everyone is encouraged to come along and get involved in this community event to spruce the area up before winter sets in.

The Council is still looking for someone to co-opt as a councillor. If you want to make a difference to your community and have significant ties to the parish, please get in touch with the clerk for further details, on [**clerkfittletonhaxton@gmail.com**](mailto:clerkfittletonhaxton@gmail.com)

There is one vacant allotment available. For details, please contact the parish clerk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 14 November 2023 at 7:30pm, in Phoenix Hall. Members of the public are very welcome to attend, and to bring any issues they may have to the attention of the Council.

Stephen O'Grady,

Clerk to Fittleton cum Haxton Parish Council- clerkfittletonhaxton@gmail.com

01980 464262

RAF Police at Netheravon Camp in the 1950s

Netheravon Airfield has been home to many units of the British forces since it opened for service in 1913, including, during the 1950s, the RAF Police Training Centre, which included a Police Dog School and a Police Driving School.

Don Friend, now living in Haxton, had signed on for his 'stint' of National Service in his home town of Middlesbrough and at the end of his basic training had chosen to go into the RAF Police unit, which meant making the long journey, of 290 miles, south to Netheravon. His memories of his time there remain fresh as he often passes the camp on his regular walks.

The entrance to the camp was very different then. A small, one room, Guard house, manned by RAF Station Police, stood at the T-junction at the top of the hill; an electricity cupboard now the only clue of its position. A short distance up the road, to the left of the present guard room, were the huts where the single soldiers were billeted; the foundations of which can still be seen beyond the buildings that were once the Soldiers Dining Hall and the NAAFI and it is here in February, 1956, as a young 18, year-old that newly arrived Don Friend was billeted.

After a fortnight's basic Station Police Training the new intake of recruits were asked which of the three branches of the RAF Police they preferred: the Station Police who seemed to do little more than man the Guard Room, the Provost Marshalls - which meant committing to a longer period than National Service required, or Police Dog Handler. Don chose the Police Dog Handler section:

'On our first morning we were taken to the kennels and told to pick our dog. The dogs were kept in compounds, each one had wire runs for seven dogs separated from each other by low mounds on each side and a kennel at the end. The dogs were usually eighteen months old, never more than two years and were usually gifts from the public. There were exceptions, we had a dog called Max – a comedian, he was the last dog bred by the RAF. Each run had a kennel maid, they were all WAAFS and they exercised the dogs that didn't have a handler.

There followed a six-week course; 'six new recruits and six new dogs. There were usually six courses running simultaneously each with an Instructor and two Assistant Instructors. The Instructor was a man called Charles Fricker, a civilian with the honorary rank of Wing Commander. One of the Assistant Instructors was called Bob Bruce and he lived down in the village somewhere.' Eventually Don became an Assistant Instructor and as such it usually fell to him to act as the 'criminal' for the dogs' attack training.

Spare time was spent playing football, playing pool and watching T.V. in the NAAFI or writing letters; the only means of communication with friends and family apart from the red telephone box beside the Guard Room. The work was quite physical so food was important. Don thought that 'The food wasn't bad. It was cooked by RAF cooks. Deficiencies could be made up by enjoying steaks at the NAAFI. For other ranks there was a Corporals Club, the Sergeants Mess and the Officer's Mess. When duties allowed 36-hour passes were given; a coach could be caught to London to see a foot-ball match or see the sights, an overnight stay in the Union Jack Club, staying cheaply in a dormitory or paying a little more for a room. Then a late coach back to camp. There were occasional church parades. 'Not very often. We didn't parade to Netheravon. We marched to Fighledean, to the church of England when the Roman Catholics and other persuasions were told to 'stand fast' and had to stand at ease outside the church until the service was over.'

Donald Friend with Jennifer Murray

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Thursday from 1 - 7, Sat 8.30- 2

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