

NETTLEBED VILLAGE NEWS

News from Nettlebed Parish Council



Goodbye to Mel - and the end of an era *but we still have our Post Office*

As the Village Shop closed its door for the last time in February we said farewell to Mel Bullock who made a really great effort to keep our village shop going for the last few years whilst under pressure to increase performance for the Post Office. The Field Kitchen was the scene for a fine send off for Mel after her last day with a warm tribute from Parish Council Chairman, Barbara Lewis. Although Mel had wanted to retire at the end of last year she kindly offered to stay on over the Christmas period. The Post Office is now open in the Spar shop and BP filling station.

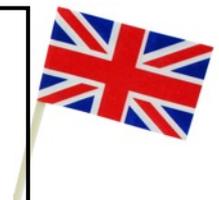


Post Office Hours: Mon-Fri 6.00am -10.00pm. Sat. 6.00am -12.00pm. Sun. closed.

The Parish Council has been working closely with Oxfordshire County Highways, Post Office Ltd and the site owners and the footpath and the pedestrian access to the Spar shop have been improved and marked out. We now have confirmation from OCC Highways that money will be available at the start of the new financial year to install the bollards that we have requested - either side of the 'pinch point' on the dangerous corner of the footpath leading to the Post Office.

Do please support the Post Office - we fought hard to keep it!!

Celebrations to mark the 90th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II



Village Street Party June 11th - page 5

The Royal British Legion - Nettlebed Branch is putting on a number of events to mark this very special occasion - [page 6](#)

Nettlebed Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting

on Saturday 30th April from 10.00am to 12.00noon
in The Community Hall at the school

This is an informal "drop-in" meeting for all
Do come along and raise any concerns with your
parish councillors, the police and others
Tea, coffee and biscuits too



Nettlebed Village
Fete
Saturday 25th June

NETTLEBED NOW HAS A FOOD BANK

Nettlebed Village now has a food bank, which is supporting the work of Readifood in Reading, providing food to people in real need across the Reading area.

On your next food shop, please consider adding a few extra ingredients (see suggestions below) to support people who are in desperate need of our help. Just pop any donations you can into the green box which is located in the church porch.



Great Ingredients for the Food Bank

Rice, Pasta (dried), Chocolate,
Sugar, Coffee, Tea, Cereal, Jam, Honey
Tins: meat, fish, tomatoes, fruit, vegetables,
baked beans, condensed milk

For more information on other ways to help please contact Lotte on 01491 641707

Nettlebed School & Community Centre (NSCC) & Floodlit All-Weather Sports Pitch (AWSP) *'Meeting the Needs of our Community'*

10th Anniversary Party:

At the time of writing we have just shared a 'Special' lunch with all the children and staff of the School to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the NSCC. We were honoured to be amongst the invited guests to the Party and everyone was presented with a badge to mark the occasion:



Update on the AWSP:

Some of you will know that we have recently experienced some problems with the surface and particularly the line markings. The Pitch gets a lot of wear - by the children during school days and by adults in the evenings - and, although we have ensured that the surface has been regularly serviced, we believe the time has come to look at all the options to replace the surface with an updated version of the present MUGA. We have now discussed all the options with S and C Slatter Ltd, who installed the original AWSP, and are awaiting quotations. Our urgent priority will be to deal with the line-markings so regular hirers can continue to use the AWSP. I'll keep you posted!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Don't forget one of Nettlebed's most important annual summer events! –

'NETTLEBED ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION' on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th August.

The '*Community Centre*', including the All-weather Sports Pitch and the car park, is available for hire outside school hours *i.e.* evenings, weekends & Bank Holidays in term-time and daily during the school holidays.

Our current regulars are:

Monday: Netball Club

Wednesday: Adult 5-a-side football 7.30-8.30pm (AWSP)

“ “ “ “ 8.30-9.30pm (AWSP)

Thursday: 1st Nettlebed Brownies 6.00-7.30pm (*in term-time*)

Week days in the School Holidays: Advanced Sports Ltd (based in Chinnor) run a daily holiday club (8.30am-4.00pm) for children of primary school age. Check them out on-line.

For hire details please go to the Nettlebed community website www.nettlebed.org/nscc or contact Bookings Secretary: Barbara Lewis on 01491 641648 or nscc@nettlebed.net for further information.

News from the Commons

Nettlebed and District Commons Conservators Acid Wetland Project 2015/2016 Nettlebed Common Clay Pits



Many people are aware that a great deal of work has been undertaken by the Nettlebed and District Commons Conservators on the Nettlebed Common Clay Pits close to the Stradwell Pond off Chapel Lane.

A project headed up by Rod d'Ayala our Conservation Consultant.

The large number of ponds on Nettlebed Common and the generally acidic nature of the habitats make it a very important site in a county context. The project has restored, enhanced existing, and created new ponds over an area of about one hectare on the north east section of the clay pits, leaving a larger area of wet wood with numerous other shaded (more mature) ponds in this the remaining part of the clay pits and elsewhere on the Common. We are grateful for the funding from TOE2 who have made this project possible. Work began with tree felling on 17 September (while the ponds were more or less dry and access was easier) with this felling being more or less complete by the middle of November. Tree felling was followed by management work to hold water up at all levels of the system using existing or new banks and dams. There are over 60 individual ponds in the work area alone, including pre-existing and new water bodies varying from small to medium / large in size. This work is still ongoing, but at the time of writing the current phase of work is more or less complete. The ponds will be monitored over the spring and summer and a further phase of work undertaken late summer / autumn 2016 using the remaining grant funding, topped up (as required) from a local donor. This phase of work should include the enhancement of the existing ponds and creation of a new complex of ponds on the bank below Mill House. To date a total of 580 hours has been spent on the project of which 121 are from our band of very dedicated volunteers.

A walk to show the work to local people was held on 6th February 2016, attended by some fifteen people. TOE2, the main grant funding organisation for this project, visited the site in March.

Whilst this work is going on and the pond levels are being adjusted, we regret that some of the paths have become difficult to walk on especially after such a wet winter. Once the levels have been stabilised and some drainage work has been done the paths are expected to dry out quite quickly. Rod d'Ayala is planning further guided tours of the site. Please contact the Clerk to the Conservators for details.

Team Nettlebed, local volunteers who turn out on most Sundays, complement the work being done by Rod and his associates. If you are interested in doing some work on the commons please contact: volunteers@nettlebed.net or on 07894 580413

More information can be found on our website www.nettlebed-commons.org

This work is funded by TOE2 (the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment)

If you are walking in the area please keep dogs under control and proceed with caution as machinery may be in use. Keep away from the pond edges.



Upper Middle basin
September and January



A message to Householders from the Commons Conservators

If you live in Nettlebed with common land adjoining your property, for example in front between you and the road, you need to be aware of two important facts. You may also have common land to the side or rear of your property.

Firstly the land is owned by somebody, in most cases Nettlebed Estate.

Secondly it is registered common land. In Nettlebed the land is subject to the Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Act 1906 and its byelaws and also the Commons Act 2006. You may have Rights of Access over the land but this does not give any other rights including parking of vehicles, gardening, dumping rubbish, lighting fires, tree and shrub planting, laying paths or any surfacing, or placing objects such as stones or posts. If you have queries about any of these things you should contact the Commons Conservators appointed under the Act via the clerk - clerk@nettlebed-commons.org

Please remember that our commons are open access land for all to enjoy.

Matters concerning Crocker End Common should be raised with the Parish Council clerk



Bonfires

ACTION if troubled by a bonfire:

Speak to the person who has the bonfire

If the problem continues, write to the person causing the nuisance and ask for it to stop; keep a copy of your letter

Keep a record of when each bonfire started and how long it lasted

If the problem still continues (three or more bonfires):

Contact SODC - Environmental Health on 01235 540555 (422403 after 1st May)

or Nettlebed Parish Council (If in doubt contact one of your parish councillors or the clerk)

Please be considerate. Thank you.

Clean for the Queen - March 2016

Pride in our Village

The Parish Council would like to thank the dozen or so people who turned out recently on a Saturday morning to carry out litter picking all around the village as a part of a national event ahead of HM The Queen's birthday celebrations. A considerable amount of rubbish was collected mainly from the road-sides. Litter pickers and hi-vis jackets were provided by SODC.

A litter event takes place every year and is well publicised. It is hoped that more people will make the effort in future years to help the few who turn out regularly.

Rubbish dumping anywhere is an offence. If you see it going on anywhere please contact the clerk who can organise for it to be removed.

Join Henley & Goring Ramblers for a healthy guided Spring walk!

No need to book, just turn up wearing your walking boots and join in. We are a friendly group and new walkers are always welcome.

See website www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk for full details.

Nettlebed Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
 on Saturday 30th April from 10.00am to 12.00noon
 Informal drop-in meeting - Tea, coffee and biscuits too



**THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY
NETTLEBED STREET PARTY
SATURDAY**

11th JUNE 2016

**from 12 Noon
at THE VILLAGE CLUB,
NETTLEBED**

**Hog Roast, Salads, Puds.....
Fun for all the family**

TICKETS: £5.00

**Available from LIFE@NETTLEBED
Or telephone Lou on 01491 641132**

Children under 10 years FREE

Numbers are limited so please book **NOW
to avoid disappointment!**



Nettlebed and District Branch Royal British Legion



Events to mark the 90th Birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Sam Brown

in association with

Nettlebed and District Royal British Legion

Present

A Ukulele Extravaganza

Sunday 24th April

6.30pm

Nettlebed Village Club

Tickets £5.00

Contact Anne Allaway – 07792 094 672



COFFEE MORNING

Cake Stall – Plants – Bric a Brac
Raffle

Saturday 14th May

10.00am -2.00pm

Nettlebed Village Club



We Will Remember Them

We have organised a Guided Tour of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea in London on Thursday 14th July. The cost is **£20.00.**

We will leave Nettlebed Bus Shelter at 10.30 am, returning at approximately 6.00 pm.

If you would like to reserve your place, please contact

Colin Malcolmson on 01491 641260 or *e-mail*

malco.northend@gmail.com. Alternatively send your details and your cheque made payable to Nettlebed RBL to “Little Green”, The Green, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 5AX

Nettlebed Policeman's son killed at Battle of Jutland 1916

Herbert James Mace



This year we commemorate the men of the Royal Navy who fought in the Battle of Jutland May 31-1 June 1916. Herbert James Mace, aged 27, was a Leading Signaller aboard the destroyer *HMS Tipperary* which was sunk whilst bravely attacking the giant German battleship *SMS Westfalen*. Only 12 of the destroyer's crew of 197 were rescued.

Herbert was one of the six children of James and Mary Mace who lived at Port Hill. Their father James was the local policeman. All the children were baptised in St Bartholomew's Church. Herbert is remembered on the Nettlebed war memorial. Sadly he left a widow Margaret: they had only been married for less than a year.

Eleven men from Henley and the local villages died in the battle in which over 6000 British sailors gave their lives defending Britain in the cold waters of the North Sea .



HMS Tipperary

Malcolm Lewis - Royal British Legion

We will remember them.

Nettlebed History

England's world renown for table glass developed only after 1674 when George Ravenscroft evolved a new formula and with this was able to make "the finest and noblest glass", then called flint glass, and now known as lead crystal. This glass was made in Henley after certain sand sent from **Nettlebed** enabled Ravenscroft to change his formulas and produce the beautiful examples of glass still in existence. A goblet with his seal c1675 produced from Nettlebed sand is pictured here. This very fine sand can still be found on the common near the Stradwell pond off Chapel Lane.



Parking on Sue Ryder Care (SRC) 'Sale Days'

We are all very aware of the valuable work of the Sue Ryder Hospice and also of the importance of their three-weekly 'Sales Days' as a source of income.

However, as you will know, for many years the Parish Council has worked closely with SRC, Nettlebed Estate, Nettlebed & District Commons Conservators, OCC Highways and Thames Valley Police to try and minimise the disruption to the village of cars parked 'everywhere'! Sadly, the problem has worsened in recent years and, now SRC is no longer moving to Townlands Hospital in Henley and the future of the Nettlebed Hospice remains uncertain, action has had to be taken.

You will have seen the earth banks that are now in place alongside the B481 from the roundabout towards Highmoor preventing cars from parking at the side of that road. The reason for these banks? -

Nettlebed Estate was concerned that the 'laybys' that had been created by cars regularly parking along the edges of the B481 were damaging the roots of trees which could then have fallen across the road. Of course, whilst this is vital remedial work, it has forced cars to park elsewhere in and around the village. We are trying to help SRC to ensure that more cars are parked within their grounds.

Safety is constantly an issue and Nettlebed PC is now working with OCC Highways for double yellow lines to be marked on the B481 (Watlington Street) at the junction with the A4130 and also at the corner of the junction with Mill Road. This will be carried out at the start of the next financial year (May). All parties will meet again on 4 May to assess the situation and decide what action will have to be taken next. BL

Nettlebed Art and Craft Show



Nettlebed Art and Craft Show will be held in the Community Centre at Nettlebed School on 6th and 7th August.

If you would like to show paintings or book a table for craft, please contact us through the village website at www.nettlebed.org/artshow or phone Susan on 641138

Nettlebed Churchyard Gardeners

Do you have a spare hour on Wednesday mornings? A small group of us meet to tend the borders and any uncared for graves in Nettlebed Churchyard on Wednesdays at 10 o'clock, weather permitting. We also welcome donations to help fund our replanting and caring for the graves. Our next project is to dig over uncared for soft-bottomed graves, lay down membrane and cover with gravel. For more information, please contact Nan McDonnell on 641710.



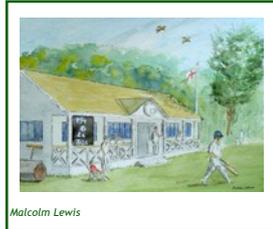
Nettlebed Cricket Club

The ground has benefited from significant investment and improvement thanks to Henley Cricket Club who play on Saturday afternoons, with a re-laid square and extensive work to the outfield, pitch covers, sight screens, nets and on ground parking. The pavilion has a bar, disabled access and toilets.

We are always on the look-out for new players and social members to join our club and enjoy its excellent facilities.

Nettlebed Commons volunteers have been working round the edge of the outfield to clear the scrub enabling lost balls to be located more easily. Several have been found near the stream.

Our Sunday fixtures list can be seen on the Nettlebed Community website at www.nettlebed.org/ncc



DRS BARTON & SILVER
Nettlebed Surgery, Wanbourne Lane, Nettlebed RG9 5AJ

VACANCIES FOR RELIEF MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATORS

We are a small and friendly medical practice looking to recruit unflappable and capable team members, to cover for our part-time staff holidays, sick leave etc.

Previous reception or NHS experience would be an advantage but is not essential as full training is given.

For further information or an informal discussion please ring the Practice Manager, Pat McGill on 01491 641204.

BONFIRES!
Think before you light one!!

POTHOLES - we all love them!

Many potholes are with us for seemingly ages. To find out when and if they are being fixed go to www.fixmystreet.com and follow the instructions. They will then pass on your reported items to the council. You can also get other things fixed in your local community (like blocked pavements, filthy signposts, abandoned vehicles, domestic appliances, and more)

Bus Services

Dial-a-ride Bus Service

Along with other cuts being made by Oxfordshire County Council, the Thursday Dial-a-Ride Bus Service will sadly end on Thursday 31st March. However, we have some good news! - which might already be in place by the time you receive this Newsletter!... The committee in charge of the 'Henley Handibus', an individually registered Charity not affected by current subsidies, has been liaising with 'Community First Oxfordshire' and I'm delighted to report that they have decided to support Nettlebed - including the present Dial-a-Ride passengers who live in Assendon, Howe Hill and Park Corner. To date the H.H. has not been used for the villages to the west of Henley.

The Henley Handibus has regular commitments on most weekdays but they are offering us 'every other Tuesday morning' for a 3-month trial period. As this Newsletter goes to print we are still negotiating the start date and the booking procedure but we hope there will not be too much gap after the Dial-a-Ride service ends.

This is excellent news, we know, for the current regular loyal passengers and we hope that others will make the most of this valuable service - this is really a case of 'use it or lose it'!

We'll keep you posted. BL

Watlington Bowls Club

The bowling season is nearly upon us. Watlington's club is one of the best in the county and will be active from Saturday 23rd April.

They will have an Open Day on Sunday 1st May and everybody will be welcome, whether they are experienced, novice, or just curious.

For all enquiries phone David Byers, on 641138.

Nettlebed Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Gardening time again so do make sure your valuable tools and mowers are locked away securely when not in use. A stolen mower can easily be sold on e-bay.



Fraud scams are on the increase with the elderly being targeted in particular. If you have elderly or vulnerable neighbours do make sure they do not give out confidential information such as passwords and bank account details if they are phoned up by strange companies. Should people be worried by unsolicited calls phone Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk You can also contact your Thames Valley Police neighbourhood policing team via the 24 hour non-emergency telephone number 101- don't hesitate to call with as much information as possible, the Police are there to help you.

Rogue traders cold calling offering home and gardening services are a constant problem. Check them out with the Trading Standards approved trader scheme <http://www.Oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/buy-confidence>

Keep this information handy by your phone.

Malcolm Lewis

Nettlebed Neighbourhood Watch Area

Co-ordinator 01491 641648



We support Henley Citizens Advice at 32 Market Place, Henley. RG9 2AH
www.caox.org.uk/henley
03444 111 444

Village Hall and Club

For hall hire please contact the club secretary on **0118 947 7974**.

For all other enquiries contact the club steward on 01491 641617 after 7.00pm

The Village Club has a website:

www.nettlebedclub.co.uk

Do visit our community website to find out what is going on in the village. The History Section is full of interesting articles and is being added to all the time.

www.nettlebed.org



Parish Council Meetings

Are open to all - watch out for details on the Village notice boards and the website
Engage with your community!!

Allotments

There are still some vacant allotments. If you are interested in taking one, or part of one on, please contact Pat Sparrowhawk on 01491 641621 or Norman Gibson on 01491 641559 or the PC Clerk

Nettlebed Village Fete
Saturday 25th June
2.00pm on the rec.



All the usual attractions. For offerings for the Cake Stall please contact Doreen Elms, for the Plant Stall, Alie Hagedoorn. For all offers of help and other queries contact Jodi Butler, Pete Leverett or Peter Ashby (641401) who can give you their phone numbers or email

Nettlebed Village News edited by Jeremy Simon

Nettlebed Sports Association

For hire of the sports pavilion and all enquiries regarding use of the recreation ground please contact the bookings secretary on 01491 641777 or email nsa@nettlebed.net

Are you new to the village?

The Parish Council likes to welcome new residents to the village with a welcome letter, activity and general information sheets, and we rely on receiving this information from neighbours or the "grapevine". If you have slipped through the net and would like to receive these please contact the clerk at parish.clerk@nettlebed.org or any of our parish council members.

Dog owners

The responsible actions of most dog owners are appreciated by all who walk in the village or on the commons. A few people seem to think that bagging up dog mess in bags and hanging it on a branch or bush is solving a problem. It does not. Please do think this through and finish the job properly. Most bins in the village can be used for this purpose. Or take it home!!!



Volunteers always welcome....

Team Nettlebed meet most Sunday afternoons on the commons during the winter months. Please contact volunteers@nettlebed.net or 07894 580413 if you would like to help with this interesting and rewarding restoration and maintenance work on the commons.

Your Parish Council

Barbara Lewis - chairman

Norman Gibson

David Butler

Bob Collier

Greg Cupitt-Jones

Jonathan Sedwell - vice chairman

Jeremy Simon

Geoff Bond

Jane Pryce - clerk **0118 947 5915**

www.nettlebed.org/npc

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