

Heptonstall News

Summer 2023

WELCOME to this newsletter which includes information from within the Civil Parish of Heptonstall including:

- ◆ Parish Council Update
- ◆ Community News
- ◆ Local Events



Newsletter funded and published by Heptonstall Parish Council

A SWANSONG

Well dear readers, this is my final 'goodbye'. I'm writing this with a degree of sadness near the end of June. I shall be attending my final meeting of this special Council in 4th July when I shall gain my independence.

It's been a long road. I started in May 1963. I was the youngest Clerk in the country and am probably the longest continuous serving Clerk (just over 60 years) when the national average is 3 years 4 months. Because of my longevity I have gathered quite a lot of moss, serving on the Joint Exec Board of Yorkshire Local Councils Associations for the past 30 years or so, being their Chairman and chairing their Finance & Scrutiny Committee. Similarly I was West Yorkshires representative in London on the National Association of Local Councils for about 30 years and chaired the National Scrutiny Panel.

I shall be standing down as Chairman of the Society of Local Council Clerk when there will be a lunch and a little presentation. I've already stood down as Staffing Committee adviser to Hebden Royd Town Council. I shall continue as a Councillor for Erringden Parish Council and my positions at YLCA – so I shall still have a finger in the pie as well as always being available for help, advice etc. But this is about Heptonstall.

Those of you who know me well will recognise that the well-being of this special community runs through my veins. I have serviced 933 meetings, having missed just one. Without exception the long list of Council members who have worked alongside me is a record of unpaid and industrious persons who have treated me with respect, professionalism and good humour.

I can honestly say it's been a pleasure serving under such circumstances. To each of them I say "Thank you – it really has been a pleasure".

I therefore approach my final meeting with understandable trepidation – I just want to quietly slide out of the door.

My successor is an enthusiastic young lady called Hannah Sherriff-Jackson. She has been a member of a Town Council for several years and so has a good steer on what local councils are all about. This is her first clerkship and she is already working towards successful qualifications. I am confident I am leaving my post in good hands. The Council's new e-mail is clerk@heptonstallpc.co.uk.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Meetings: Since I last wrote the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting was held (in May). This is a public meeting which gives the electorate the opportunity to raise Parish issues and vote upon them, asking the Parish Council to consider such matters.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was also held in May. This saw all seven members signing in for the next 4 year stint. A special word here to welcome Colin Jackson who has dipped his toe in the water and taken up his appointment as Councillor. Glad to have you on board Colin.

There are 2 vacancies which have been publicised and interest is already being received. These will be filled in September.

The Annual Meeting also saw the election of a new Chairman. Councillor Jean Crowther is back in the chair with a wealth of experience, and Councillor Bruce Cutts is her welcome Vice Chairman. Both will do well in the coming year. Mike Hughes retired as past Chairman and what a good year he had leading the Council. Well done Mike, and thank you.

Other Matters:

- Newsletter compiler: Pauline (Polly) Walker has stood down from this position. Thank you so much for all your work over the past few years. Andrea Baldwin has taken her place and is a welcome replacement. Thanks Andrea.
- Filming: Hannah has been in touch with the officer at Calderdale Council to try and alleviate some of the difficulties we suffered on previous filming's.
- Road works, Hebden Bridge: Out of our control but Ward Councillors have been made aware of the problems created for vehicles accessing our Parish. Efficient traffic management is the key.
- Visitor Experience: A Working Group has been created to address issues relating to the needs of visitors (public toilets etc.). This is a new venture and will embrace members of the public (so to speak!).
- Weavers Square: the works undertaken denied us of the Christmas tree hole. What a bog it was to get this put right.
- Roadway by garages: The garages between Longfield and Southfield has a roadway frontage that is crumbling and unsafe for pedestrians. Together Housing has been asked to rectify.
- DOG FOULING: How frustrating – will people ever learn?

PLEASE DO NOT EMPTY YOUR DOG IN THE PINFOLD PICNIC AREA, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND OR ON PUBLIC PATHS

DOGGY DOOS ARE NOT NICE WITH KID'S SANDWICHES

DOGGY DOODIDOODIES TAKE A LOT OF GETTING OFF KID'S CLOTHES AND HANDS WHEN THEY FALL OVER IN THE GRASS ESPECIALLY FROM THEIR FINGER NAILS

ROVER, WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL YOUR OWNER TO FOLLOW YOU WITH A BAG AND TAKE IT TO A BIN – EVEN IF IT IS STILL WARM!



Finally.....Goodbye. Thank you. It's been a pleasure.

Roger M Greenwood

The ex-Clerk (R.I.P.)

Heptonstall Parish Council

The Mallards

Underbank

HEBDEN BRIDGE

HX7 6PP

Tel : 01422 844283

e-mail : heptonstallpc@aol.co.uk

.....

Thank You

A heart felt "Thank you" to Roger Greenwood from myself, as current Chair of Heptonstall Parish Council, and from all the current members and the many many Parish Councillors who have worked with him for the community over the past 60 years.

Roger has always carried out his role as Parish Clerk not only with the utmost professionalism but also in a supportive, helpful, sympathetic and efficient manner, a true gentleman and friend to many. His love for the Heptonstall community and its parishioners have been evident over the years, where he has worked diligently on various causes for us all.

He will be sadly missed however I'm sure he's ready to put up his feet and enjoy a little rest from the demands of his many roles. I'm sure you would all like to join us in wishing him a healthy and very Happy Retirement .

Jean Crowther (Chair) on behalf of Heptonstall Parish Council

Email: rscrowther@btinternet.com

Heptonstall Village Team

The Village Team monthly coach trips continue to be very popular with our local community residences. In May, the outing to Ilkley and Saltaire was a great success, especially the tour of Saltaire, with so much interesting social history discovered during the guided walk of the village.



Our June trip to Trentham Estate was a treat, steeped in history with wonderfully landscaped gardens and a beautiful lake.



Village Team trips are filled quickly, so if you are interested in joining us on any of the following outings, then please contact **Jane on 01422 846675 or 07892 450911.**

PLANNED TRIPS

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 27 th July | Scarborough, £17 |
| 10 th August | Wentworth Woodhouse + house tour, £24 |
| 18 th August | Southport + carvery meal, £26 |
| 27 th September | Grassington & Settle, £16 |
| 12 th October | Chester, £15 |
| 14 th November | Manchester City Rivers tour, £23 |
| 7th December | Castle Howard + Christmas Displays, £33 |

Heptonstall Lights and Planting Group (HeLP)

We will be looking for this years **Front of House** winner in July, so get your front gardens/pots/hanging baskets looking their best and you could win a voucher for Gordon Riggs; There's no need to enter.

We are also planning another **Jumble Trail** on Bank Holiday Monday, August 28th. It's your chance to declutter and make money from your unwanted items. For more information and to book a stall please feel free to contact Chris Scarborough on Tel: 07787523617, or Email her at cscarborough@btinternet.com

It's a bit early to mention Christmas but we wanted to let people know that during the welcomed repairs to Weavers Square, Calderdale Council concreted over the Christmas tree hole feeling that it was unsafe and there was no permission granted for it. After considerable input from the Parish Council and HeLP, Calderdale Council accepted that the hole is not on their land, HeLP has £2M of liability insurance and appropriate permission, and that the site for the village Christmas tree is supported by Heptonstall Parish Council and the community alike. A senior Assistant Director has informed the Parish Council that a suitable hole will be reinstated so we can enjoy seeing our village Christmas tree safely installed for the festive season.

To date this has not happened, the Parish Council and HeLP await developments.

Eleanor Worley (HeLP Secretary)

Email: hicesteleonor@yahoo.co.uk



1st Heptonstall Guides and Rangers



Summer term is all about being outdoors. We try and take advantage of the light evenings and warmer weather.



Summer term also means Summer Camp! We've been practicing - putting up tents, checking for repairs needed before we go away, then taking them down again! Another evening we brought out the stoves and trangias and cooked a meal, then Introduced some girls to how we wash up on camp. Never anyone's favourite task

but discovering the joy of cleaning a sooty trangia with a Brillo pad turned out to be surprisingly satisfying. Our friend India took the Guides and Rangers out for a walk and taught them some navigation and we just enjoyed the summer evening. It's all been about knots too! Our trip to Sweden is getting closer and we need to be proficient in knot tying as we will need these skills in Sweden. All our camp, bar the tents must be built by us using rope and poles - so this includes benches, tables, washing up stations; but really



the highlight so far has been Summer Camp. We've been to Walesby Forest Campsite with Brownies, Guides & Rangers. A huge site with lots to do. Guides did crate stacking, leap of faith, 3G swing, kayaking, canoeing and body boarding,

Rangers also did climbing, cave maze, archery and the 3G swing. Great fun and lots of personal challenges. It was a scorching weekend and the girls were a credit to themselves and were a pleasure to take away.



We have one more trip to squeeze in! A short camp at Bradley Wood to put these knot tying skills to the test. We're taking tarps only and the girls have to build their own shelters for the night. Many thanks to the Ward Forum for Calderdale Council for a grant towards the costs for this. event.



As ever we're grateful to St Thomas's Church for storing our camping stuff, and a huge thank you to the Heptonstall Fell Race for their great donation towards costs for our up coming Sweden trip too.

It's lovely to be part of such a kind and generous local community that supports our organisations activities, enabling our members to develop life long memories and skills.

Jayne Mackintosh

Leader, 1st Heptonstall Guides and Rangers



Heptonstall Fell Race



Thanks to everyone who turned out to race on the 1st July at the Heptonstall Festival day, the 11th Heptonstall Fell Race was a real cracker! A fantastic entry of 102 saw the race get back to its old self as the music festival returned this

year too, enhanced by a free pint for all race finishers.

Steve Hall of Calder Valley Fell Runners was first home, completing the 6 miles and 1600feet ascent in an awesome 49.05 mins, followed by Fraser McDonald (Chorlton Runners) and Wharfedale's Chris Miller.



First Lady to finish was also flying the flag for the Calder Valley as Ambi Swindels arrived back in the village in 1.05 mins, ahead of Fran Whitworth of Holmfirth Harriers and then Rachel Beaumont also from Calder Valley.



Todmorden Harriers men (Dom Leckie, Graeme Brown and Duncan Cannon) were the first male team back, whilst Calder Valley took the women's team prize (Ambi Swindels, Rachel Beaumont and Rachel Johnstone).



We loved The Nightjar beer on the outdoor pump at the finish funnel, and it was great to see almost every single category winner stay for the post-race presentations.

We were really grateful to Sportsshoes.com for the donation of vouchers - great prizes for some well deserved runs on a super tough Category A route. We soon drained the cask of Nightjar Ale that was also generously donated by the brewers based in Mytholmroyd.

Huge thanks to all the Marshalls, HQ Team, sweeper, landowners and sponsors - super slick team work!



Some of the many friends and family who keep making it happen in Heptonstall—22 races since we started back in 2011 (2 races a year).

Hope everyone enjoyed their day out in Heptonstall, hope to see you at our 2024 races!

For all the race results please go to:

<https://heptonstalfestivalrace.wordpress.com/results-2023/>

More information on the March and July annual Heptonstall Fell races can be found on their Facebook page - 'Heptonstall Fell Race'.

Heptonstall Repair Café

2nd Saturday of the month 10am- 1pm
at Heptonstall School



We held repair cafes in March, May and June. People brought in 74 items and our talented volunteers repaired the vast majority of them, provided advice including on replacing parts and enjoyed hot drinks and tasty cakes.

Everyone is welcome – if you can't sew or don't know where to start on mending a vacuum cleaner – no worries – this is why we exist! So bring your items along and we can repair them for you – sharing skills along the way.

Running total in 2023:

189 items brought in, we repaired 70% of these!

Our expert volunteers have repaired: everyday items like lamps, kettles, toasters, vacuum cleaners and bikes plus an array of clothes and bags and boots/bags for the leather repair team and many more items and sharpened countless knives and garden tools. We also helped with food mixers, hair dryers, dehumidifier, toys, garden furniture and much more.

Guides: some of our original Guides volunteers have moved on through A levels and GCSEs and we have new volunteers helping at the café, serving tea, coffee and cake and learning new skills in customer care and communication as well as health and safety running a café kitchen.

What do we do?

Our 20+ volunteers provide friendly advice and simple repairs a wide range of items – anything in fact apart from microwaves.

We don't want to take work away from professional local repairers so for larger or professional repair jobs we'll refer people on.

Please make sure your items for repair are CLEAN, especially clothing or anything spider-webby.

We have wonderful tea, coffee and an array of delicious cakes served by the Guides. And a chatty, friendly atmosphere. There's even music when a record player or radio get mended.

We do this for a voluntary donation. And we encourage you to have a brew and a cake. The money we raise pays our rent and insurance, and supports the Guides' fundraising for expeditions. With the cost-of-living crisis, repairing things is a great way to save money and tackle the climate crisis.



Upcoming Repair Café events 2023: Heptonstall School, from 10am – 1pm (please arrive by 12.30pm.)

- ◆ Saturday 9th September
- ◆ Saturday 14th October
- ◆ Saturday 11th November

Our sister Repair Café in Mytholmroyd runs on a Sunday at the end of the month.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you'd like to volunteer your skills as a repairer or receptionist or helper then please contact us

on @Heptonstall Repair Café on Facebook or leave a note in the Post Office for Louise. Or visit us on: <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/>

Heptonstall Post Office & Village Shop

Celebrates its first year as a community owned business!



Any first birthday party is not to be missed, which was certainly the case for Heptonstall Post Office and Village Shop - which everyone still calls 'The Post Office'. After this community owned enterprise took over the business in 2022 it celebrated its very successful first year on 20th April 2023 in St Thomas a Becket Church in Heptonstall. The event drew in hundreds of customers and shareholders to sample the free tasting of five new wines, Little Valley beers, Porcus sausages, Pextenment cheeses and Suma products.

As well as providing a full Post Office service, the shop's stock has been dramatically expanded during the communities business' first year of trading. This now includes a fantastic range of local organic food, world wines and local beers, all at fantastic prices. While it is easy to think that a village shop will be really expensive, the Post Office is determined to serve its community by keeping its process lower than almost anywhere else. As a result, the business is going from strength to strength.



The Post Office is now proud to now be the only Porcus stockist outside of Todmorden. Not only did everyone flock to their free tasting counter at the party, but sales of their delicious sausages, bacon and charcuterie have been going incredibly well ever since.

The free wine tasting included a flight of five wines with the stars of the show being two new wines from Portugal, which were declared by pretty much everyone as delicious. So much so both the red and the white wine have been added to the permanent stock list and have been flying out of the door.

Many say the very best thing to eat with wine is cheese so this marriage of taste sensations at the party was created by Pextenment bringing their range of delicious cheese for tasting. The Post Office is very pleased to now carry a stock of this local organic cheese range, which is proving to be very popular.



We are all blessed to have Little Valley Brewery on the doorstep and the Post Office was all the more so by having them come along to the party and offer free tastings. The Post Office has been selling their beers through the last year at bargain prices and have just expanded the range on offer.

Because it is a community owned business the Post Office has an open door suggestion policy, so if anyone wants anything to be stocked the management group will do its best to fill the gap. This is precisely how the Post Office came to stock Suma products, which was in response to a demand for vegan and organic food. The initial monthly orders have grown to significantly weekly deliveries, with the range on offer growing week by week and all at prices lower than are often seen elsewhere.

Contact us on - Tel: 01422 844719 or Email: shop@heptonstallpo.org

Heptonstall St. Thomas The Apostle Church



MEETINGS & EVENTS

- ◆ Services are continuing every Sunday at 10.45am while the Church is in Interregnum
- ◆ All are welcome to join us to sample the delights of home baking at our coffee mornings on the last Friday of each month 10am - 12pm
- ◆ Joint Covenant service at the Methodist Chapel, Sunday 3rd September 10:30am
- ◆ Ceilidh at St Thomas Church, Saturday 30th September 7pm
- ◆ We are pleased to be hosting another Silent film night with live organ improvisation by Darius Battiwalla, Friday 3rd November 7pm (more details will be placed on social media)
- ◆ Remembrance Day service at the Methodist Chapel, Sunday 12th November 10:30am
- ◆ Hepton Singers St Cecelia's Concert Saturday 25th November 3pm

We are currently in the process of appointing a new Vicar for the church who hopefully will be joining us before Christmas.

**For further information please contact the Church Wardens:
Graham and Margaret Kidd on: 01422 845810**

Heptonstall Methodist Church



Readers are probably aware that the Methodist Church in the village is one of the oldest Methodist Churches in the world and had been in continuous use since it was founded in 1764. Sadly here in 2023 it has now ceased as a place for regular worship, however with continuing support from volunteers it will continue to be open for visitors on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 10.00am to around 4.30pm.

We're aware people continue to come from near and far to visit this Grade II listed building and absorb its remarkable history. Many of you will recall the wonderful services and events held within this church and those people who welcomed you through the doors. We would like to extend our thanks to all those dedicated individuals who so diligently ensured it played a key role within the Heptonstall community.

It is hoped there will be a few occasional services in the future, which will be advertised widely and on social media.

The Chapel is still available for weddings and funerals and for any of these please contact the Minister, Rev Kathie Heathcoat at:

kathie.heathcoat@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk

**For further information please contact Margaret Coupe on:
01422 842550**

Heptonstall Social and Bowling Club

What's On - July/August

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays

- Playgroup (during term time): 10am - 11:30am
- Zumba: 6pm - 7pm

Wednesdays

- Line dancing: 7pm - 8pm

Fridays

- Chair yoga (over 75s): 11am
- Bowling (all abilities 'come and have a go!'): 6pm -7.30pm

Other happenings for July:

The Local Bowling League have chosen to use our bowling green for matches to be played on a neutral green and we look forward to welcoming them. Members of the public are cordially invited to come and watch any of the following matches.



(Perhaps it will encourage you to help re form our own home team for next season!).

- ◆ Monday 17th July at 6.45pm (Pairs League match)
- ◆ Sunday 23rd July at 11am (Handicap Pairs)
- ◆ Monday 24th July at 6.45pm (Pairs League match)
- ◆ Monday 31st July at 6.45pm (Pairs League match)
- ◆ Wednesday 23rd August at 11am (Veteran Pairs)

Please contact us for private meetings, functions and overnight parking enquiries and bookings via;

Email at heptonstallclub@live.co.uk or telephone: 07517394389

The logo for Heptonstall Parish Council, featuring the name 'HEPTONSTALL' in a green, stylized font above 'PARISH COUNCIL' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A circular emblem with a textured, grey-green pattern is positioned between the two lines of text.

HEPTONSTALL
PARISH COUNCIL

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

Roger Greenwood's Retirement Do

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO JOIN US IN CELEBRATING ROGER'S 60
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PARISH!

SATURDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2023 4PM

FOOD AT 5PM : SPEECHES AT 5.30PM : MUSIC FROM 6.30PM

HEPTONSTALL SOCIAL AND BOWLING CLUB

WANT TO KNOW MORE AND RSVP

PHONE: HANNAH (CLERK) 07908855677

JEAN (CHAIR) 07947612560

EMAIL: CLERK@HEPTONSTALLPC.CO.UK

Closing dates for newsletter contributions for future editions:

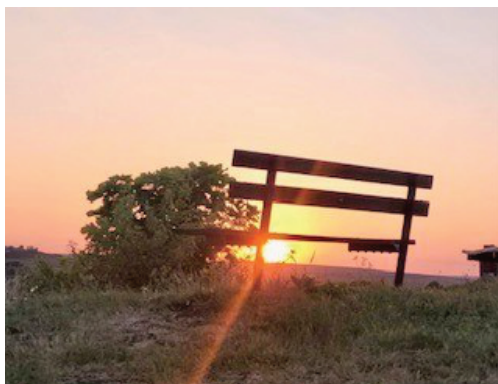
- **Friday 1st September 2023 (Autumn)**
- **Friday 1st December 2023 (Winter)**

If you require further information please contact Andrea Baldwin at:

Email: HPCnews@outlook.com

or

Telephone: 01422 845565



'Summer Sunset at Crown point' bench courtesy of Marguerite Eccles