

# Heptonstall News

## Winter 2023

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

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

Townfield Lane by Andrea Baldwin



Newsletter funded and published by Heptonstall Parish Council

## SEASONS GREETINGS!

Well its that time of year. The nights are longer. The days are shorter. But rest assured, Heptonstall Parish Council is running business as usual!

Firstly, we would like to thank everyone who came to Rogers Retirement Do! It was very well attended! After 60 years of hard work, we presented Roger with a Freedom of the Parish scroll and lots of other lovely gifts.

We also want to say a big thank you to everyone who attended the Remembrance Service! Special thanks go to Councillor Edwards for all his hard work in planning the event. It was a lovely, touching service!

The Parish Council welcomed two new Parish Councillors in September! Joanne Holt and Nick Dempsey are proving to be fantastic new additions and have hit the ground running.

### General Parish Council Business:

Over the past few months, both the Clerk and Parish Councillors have represented the Parish Council in various networks including the YLCA Branch Meeting, the Town & Parish Council Annual Conference, Safer Cleaner Greener and the Ward Forum. The Parish Council have considered nine planning applications since September. We have also discussed issues around the traffic on Towngate/ Smithwell Lane.

**Public Toilets:** Many of you will be aware that Calderdale Council have closed the public toilets on Townfield Lane and have no plans to reopen them. This obviously creates a problem for the increasing number of visitors to the village. What you may not know is that many other communities faced with a similar problem have taken over the running of their public toilets.

Following a successful meeting at the Parish Council in April, Heptonstall Community Assets (HCA), who run the Post Office, and Calderdale Council have been working together to look at the costs and practicalities associated with transferring the public toilets to the control of HCA.

There is a lot of work to do including a detailed look at the viability of running the toilets. It's likely that they will require some subsidy and also significant funding to reinstate them.

If things work out, then we should have public toilets available for people to use in the village again, possibly by next summer. It's a complicated process so nothing will happen quickly. There will inevitably be legal issues to resolve with an asset transfer.

HCA will keep the village and Parish Council updated on progress.

### **Calderdale Wind Farm:**

As you may be aware, a Scoping Report has been published proposing a wind farm on Walshaw Moor. This Scoping Report can be found on the Planning Portal on Calderdale Council's website under the reference 23/06010/EIA.

The Scoping Report is currently a proposal and no planning application has yet been submitted to Calderdale Council. If one is to be submitted, we anticipate it will not be before mid 2024. Heptonstall Parish Council have submitted a response to the Scoping Report which can also be viewed on the Planning Portal under the same reference.

Please be assured we are acutely aware of the potential the scale of this development has to generate a significant interest, comment and indeed concern in Heptonstall.

Parish Councillors from the fringe communities impacted by this proposal have met to identify issues of mutual interest and concern. Another meeting is in the pipeline for the Parish Councillors involved in this forum to put their concerns directly to the developers. It will be stressed by Heptonstall Parish Council that, prior to any planning application, the developers should also give communities the opportunity to engage with them directly, perhaps in the form of public meetings throughout the Upper Calder Valley.

Heptonstall Parish Council welcomes residents comments and involvement on this and other matters. Other key contacts include the Ward Councillors:

Councillor Courtney and Councillor Fenton-Glynn

**Finally, Heptonstall Parish Council would like to wish everyone a wonderful festive season and a happy and healthy 2024!**

**Bye for now!**

**Hannah Sherriff-Jackson  
Clerk to Heptonstall Parish Council  
Email: [clerk@heptonstallpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@heptonstallpc.co.uk)**

## THANK YOU

Well, you thought you could relax having heard the last from me when I told you I was retiring as Clerk to the Council and attending my last meeting on 4th July.

But what I was unaware of was a special 'do' that had been arranged for Janice and myself on 9 September. And what a 'do' it was. That is why it is important I say a public 'thank you' for everything that happened on that day. So many gifts. So many goodwill messages. So many hugs and handshakes. So many people.

Goodness me I was so overwhelmed by all that occurred – most notably being awarded the Freedom of the Parish (a first for Heptonstall Parish). It is prompting me to begin so many sentences with a preposition, nothing you have seen before if you have been a regular reader!

It was good to see everyone who had turned up to make sure I really was finally leaving! Civic dignitaries and officers (past and present), many of whom had travelled from afar, and all of you who came from this special community.

I cannot possibly record here to whom my thanks are directed, but your Council Chairman (Jean Crowther) and new Clerk Hannah have their fingerprints over all what happened. I do know they were most ably assisted by other members of the Council, some of whom have chosen not to stand at the last elections in May.

But (yes, another preposition) to all who attended the event and those who were responsible for all the background organising this is my heartfelt message – A HUGE THANK YOU



Finally..... Merry Christmas to you all. I hope you have a Happy and Healthy New Year!

**Roger M Greenwood**  
**The ex-Clerk (R.I.P.) of Heptonstall Parish Council**  
**The Mallards, 8 Underbank**  
**HEBDEN BRIDGE**  
**HX76PP**



*Heptonstall School PFA*

# **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

LOADS OF AMAZING PRIZES:

2 Night stay at Daisy Bank

£40 Nelsons voucher

Photography Session from Studio C

Julia Ogden Print, plus loads more

[www.heptonstallschoolpfa.co.uk](http://www.heptonstallschoolpfa.co.uk)

**Friday 15th December**

**Draw event : 3.30 - 4.30pm**

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Crafts

Get your tickets online

[www.heptonstallschoolpfa.co.uk](http://www.heptonstallschoolpfa.co.uk)

Heptonstall Post Office, The Cross Inn or

Mooch Cafe

Only £1 a ticket

# Heptonstall Repair Café

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month 10am- 1pm  
at Heptonstall School



*Let's mend stuff, save money and waste – and make friends!*

**Autumn news:** We held repair cafes in September, October and November. People brought in 105 items and our talented volunteers repaired the vast majority of them, provided advice including on parts and enjoyed hot drinks and tasty cakes.

**Our total in 2023: Over 335 items brought in, including lots of batches of things for sharpening, 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:** The Guides run our café and raise money for their summer trips abroad.

## 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 for 2024:

**Heptonstall School, from 10am – 1pm** (please arrive by 12.30pm.)

- ◆ Saturday 13th January
- ◆ Saturday 10th February
- ◆ Saturday 9th March

**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-repair-cafe/>

# 1st Heptonstall Guides and Rangers



As mentioned last time, Guides and Rangers are now running on different nights of the week with a slightly different line up of Leaders. Guides on Tuesday and Rangers alternate Thursdays.

We started the term with something we haven't done before and gathered all the Heptonstall Brownies, Guides and Rangers together with their parents for a presentation evening. Girls were awarded interest badges they had done over the summer, all the badges for 'nights away' were given out with one Ranger getting to the milestone of 50 nights away and getting her Young Leader Qualification on the same night. Two more of our Rangers also qualified as Young Leaders - well done to Matilda, Lily and Bea.

We have welcomed some new Guides this term and have been busy and productive as usual. Guides worked on secret code writing skills to earn a very special 'Olive' badge to commemorate the role Guides played in the 2nd World War. They had an evening of making shadow puppets and telling a story. We were also fortunate enough to have an activity day at the Robinwood Centre, with archery and trapeze challenges. The walk to Robinwood from the drop off point at Morrisons is a challenge in itself!

The bonfire and camp songs seemed like a great idea when we planned it, plus an exciting hike into Hebden Hey in the dark. The rain and deep mud made it a degree more exciting than anticipated but the Guides showed their usual mettle and still had a great time.

Emma and Chloe and their Mountain Leader friend, Kim, took a bunch of Guides and Rangers on a brisk walk and wild swim to select the candidates for our next international trip, this was a success and the cohort for Switzerland 2025 are now ready for adventure (and a lot of fundraising).

Rangers had a fun evening of 'minute to win it' games, always popular. We have also had an evening where the girls worked in small groups to create a radio show, using a proper sound desk - this had a host, guests, a script and music. They also had a campfire evening, but indoors!



Thanks to St Thomas's we enjoyed the ambience of a campfire - complete with plug in camp fire, snacks, hot drinks and singing. Oh and we went to the theatre to watch 'Singing in the Rain' with our very own Leader Sophie in the cast.

The Rangers spent another evening indoors conducting a tent audit - working out how to put up a new tent and checking the condition of our existing tents ahead of Winter Camp. Sadly some of our tents are showing signs of wear and tear; repairs were made and new poles ordered in anticipation. Fundraising is in hand to try and find some grant money to replace this equipment so we can keep on taking the girls away.

Then, in the coldest weekend in November we went camping. Waddow Hall in Clitheroe were hosting an event called 'Sparkle and ice' a weekend full of activities, including zip wires, climbing, crate stacking, archery, axe throwing, night line, bush-craft cooking and crafts. Friday night the temperatures dropped to -4 and Saturday was a balmy -1 in comparison. For once Sparkle and Ice really lived up to it's name! Our tents sparkled with frost and water froze in drinks bottles. Brr!! Sadly one tent had to be retired as beyond salvage and we bid a sad farewell to Number 5.

Christmas draws near and Rangers are finishing with an evening of Christmas crafts, board games and our friends from the Trefoil Guild are coming too. Guides have a visit from the Northern Powerhouse Boxing Academy to look forward to and some community activities and a Christmas party get together before we finish for the term. We're all off to the cinema in December for a special showing of 'Arthur Christmas' exclusively for Guiding and Scouting groups.

Guides and Rangers both have Instagram accounts where you can follow us and see some of the things we do:

**1stheptonstallguides** and **1stheptonstallrangers**



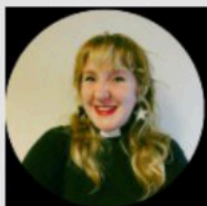
**Jayne Mackintosh**  
**Leader, 1st Heptonstall Guides and Rangers**

# Heptonstall St. Thomas The Apostle Church



St Thomas the Apostle Heptonstall held the Licensing service for our new Interim Priest in Charge Revd Ruthi Gibbons on the 26th October. Over 100 people attended the Church service with over 700 watching the online streamed service conducted by the new Bishop of Huddersfield Right Revd Smitha Prasadam.

## Hello from the new vicar!



Hello my name is Ruthi and it is a great joy to be the new vicar here in Heptonstall. Myself and my family are really enjoying to get to know the place and meeting lots of you. If you would ever like to contact me about anything my number is 07539128791 or my email is [ruthi.gibbons@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:ruthi.gibbons@leeds.anglican.org)

**God bless, Ruthi**

## Dates for events over Christmas:

- Sunday 3rd December Holy Communion service 10.45am
- Wednesday 6th December decoration of Christmas trees in Church, 3pm. All welcome.
- Sunday 10th December Holy Communion service, 10.00am
- Sunday 17th December Community Carol Service at St Thomas, 4.30pm
- Sunday 24th December Family Nativity Service, 10.45am
- Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve Carols in Weavers Square
- Sunday 24th December Midnight Mass at St Thomas, 11.30pm
- Christmas Day service will be at the Methodist Chapel, 9.30am
- New Years Eve Sunday Holy Communion service, 10.45am
- Sunday services will then continue in the New Year, 10.45am
- Coffee mornings are the last Friday of the month, 10.00 till 12. All welcome.

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



## Heptonstall Methodist Church

The Chapel will continue to be open for visitors on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 10.00am to around 4.30pm.

A Joint Village Christmas Day Service led by Revd. Graham Kent will be held at the Methodist Church at 9.30am. All are Very Welcome.!

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](mailto:kathie.heathcoat@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk)

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

.....

## Towngate Tearoom Heptonstall

Luxury **CHRISTMAS TREES** for sale, local delivery available call 01422 648868 or just pop in. **£5** from every tree sold will be donated to Heptonstall Junior & Infant School.

**OPENING HOURS** over Christmas:

- 20th –24th December, 9am till 4pm
- CLOSED Christmas Day and Boxing Day
- Open New Years Day, 9am till 4pm

### **FESTIVE TREATS THIS MONTH**

Turkey Reuben Toastie, Homemade Mince Pie, Homemade Brandy Soaked Christmas Cake, Hot Apple Cinnamon & Whiskey, Hug in a Mug (Bailey's Hot Chocolate).

Vegan, Veggie and Gluten Free also catered for !

**Coffee Cake and everything in-between!**

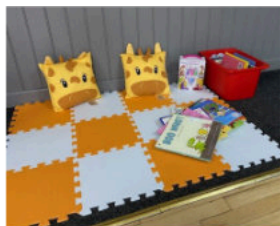
# Heptonstall Playgroup

**Every Monday 10:00 -11:30**  
**(During Calderdale School Term Time)**  
**£2.50 per child (siblings 50p)**



## About Us:

We are a parent run drop in stay and play for pre-school children (aged 0-4) and their **parents**/carers. Toys, books, crafts and playmates, to help get your little ones week off to an energetic start!



Heptonstall Playgroup has been located at Heptonstall Social & Bowling Club can you believe it for over 40 years now. Run by local parents, grandparents and carers it is attended by children from Heptonstall and the wider Calder Valley area.

It's a great place for meeting new people, socialising with other families and is a safe and stimulating space for pre-school children to play and get creative.

In 2022, with support from The Heptonstall Parish Council and Bowling Club, we were able to give the group a spring clean, updating the toys and equipment and as a result growing our numbers.

This year the group was awarded a very generous grant from Heptonstall Parish Council which has enabled us to buy new toys and equipment, including recently more tables and chairs for the growing number of children attending the group. We are now a bustling community group with a great range of toys, and are always ready to welcome new faces.

If you're looking for a warm, bright and comfortable space to meet/make new friends and play with your young ones, come try us out.

Refreshments and a good range of children's healthy snacks are provided. Tea, coffee and biscuits for adults!

***We look forward to seeing you!***

**For further information we can be found and contacted on Facebook @[https://www.facebook.com/groups/977804118928253/?ref=share\\_group\\_link](https://www.facebook.com/groups/977804118928253/?ref=share_group_link)**



# Heptonstall Village Team

We're still trying to get used to being without Jane. We've successfully (with a few hiccups!!) run all the trips that Jane had arranged up the end of the year.

Our TENTH Village Team Christmas Lunch is at the Bowling Club on 14th December, with villagers gathering for a full Christmas meal together.

We've planned a 'Cake and Conversation' event at the Bowling Club on Thursday 11th January. This will be specifically to hold a brief (very overdue) General Meeting to catch up with business, but mainly to look together at the future direction for the Village Team. All are welcome and all views will be listened to. Look out for information in all the usual places. Details will be individually posted through the letterboxes of all who are involved with us.

*Wishing you all a Happy Peaceful Christmastime*

**Jacky Kelly and Beth Hardman**



For any queries please contact **Jacky Kelly** on **07515 367744**.

# Heptonstall Fell Race 2024



## Save the Date!

**\*\* Sunday 24th March 2024 \*\***

Would you like to join us for this highly popular 15mile, 3170 ft fell race through some of the best countryside in West Yorkshire?

Starting from the picturesque village of Heptonstall the race covers some of the best countryside in West Yorkshire,

Pre entry via SiEntries—entries open 22nd January 2024

<https://heptonstallfellrace.wordpress.com>



---

## Heptonstall Lights and Planting Group (HeLP)

"The good news to report is that the hole for the Christmas tree in Weavers Square was recently reinstated and the tree is now in place and lit up. Thanks to everyone who came to help with getting the tree from truck to hole and with putting the lights up.

Some of you may have noticed that the lights in the rest of the Square look slightly different this year. There are the same number of lights but, as we discovered when we went to put them up, three of the six trees have been chopped down. Nobody seems to have any idea why."

**Eleanor Worley (HeLP Secretary)**

**Email: [hicestleanor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hicestleanor@yahoo.co.uk)**



# Heptonstall Social and Bowling Club

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

- Hilltoppers Community Choir: restarts 9th January 2024, 7pm

### Wednesdays

- Line dancing: 7pm - 8pm

### Fridays

- Chair yoga (over 75s): 11am
- Family Games Night: 6pm –close (*NB. notice will be placed on Facebook for any Fridays it will not run due to private functions*)

.....

## Remembering Barbara Stansfield

HSBC Committee were extremely saddened at the sudden passing of Barbara Stansfield, a dedicated colleague and friend to many. Barbara a well know village presence for many years worked tirelessly in support of the club as one of its committee members and trustees. Her support over the years ensured the club continued to offer a place for family functions and local events. Condolences are extended to her family at this time from all of us on the committee.

.....

The Committee would like to wish all our members and wider community of friends a

*Merry Christmas* and a *Happy New Year*

Thank you for your continued support!

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

Email at [heptonstallclub@live.co.uk](mailto:heptonstallclub@live.co.uk) or telephone: 07517394389

If you would like to contribute to the content of this newsletter then please get in touch. Closing dates for submitting content to future editions:

- **Sunday 3rd March 2024 (Spring)**
- **Sunday 2nd June 2024 (Summer)**
- **Sunday 1st September 2024 (Autumn)**
- **Sunday 1st December 2024 (Winter)**

Contact Andrea Baldwin at:

**Email: [HPCnews23@outlook.com](mailto:HPCnews23@outlook.com)**

or

**Telephone: 07727338300**

