



Issue No 48

Summer 2013

# BIG CHANGES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Chairman's Report

Hepscott Parish Council has had an exciting time over the last 12 months.

We have had three chairmen - too much excitement! I would like to thank John Lewis and Derrick Melia for their efforts and commitment. We have three long serving councillors retiring: Norma Barker, Anne Finlay and Derrick Melia. May I take this opportunity of thanking them for the thousands of hours of voluntary work they have put in carrying out tasks like getting calluses and dirty hands tree planting, litter picking or tired minds supporting planning consultations and a million other Parish Council issues. Thank you to the three remaining sitting but not resting councillors: Philip Ashmore, Philippa Raper and newly elected Ken Reed.

We have embarked on a Neighbourhood Plan with three councillors. Thanks are due to Philip Ashmore, Ken Reed and planning adviser John Lewis for attending four committees – Heritage, Economy, Environment and the Steering Committee. Thank you. We are now at the editing down/draft writing stage, progressing but still a long way to go. The Plan will help to fulfil local wants, wishes and needs for development, renewal and conservation of the built, green and social infrastructure. It covers increasing facilities, prioritising local economic resources for housing, education, transport, health, supporting tourism, culture, business and employment.

We have changed our County Councillor. I would like to thank the outgoing David Towns for his support and work at County Hall on our behalf. We welcome incoming Glen Sanderson (for Hepscott Village Ward) and Ian Lindley (for Stobhill Manor Ward) and look forward to working with our two new County Councillors.

Finally our Parish Clerk is retiring due to health issues. She has carried out a very responsible and sometimes difficult job in an excellent fashion. Angela succeeded in being a friendly helpful member of the team. We wish her the very best in her retired life.

David Cowans Chairman



## NEW LOOK PARISH COUNCIL!

Hepscott Parish Council's AGM saw some big changes. As David has said above some long-standing members with a wealth of experience and wisdom have resigned. They are going to be greatly missed. Hepscott owes a terrific debt to these councillors who gave so freely of their time, and they go with a very big 'thank you'.

Thank you also to David Cowans who became Chair following John Lewis' resignation. David also has served the Parish Council for many years and therefore has a tremendous depth of knowledge and experience. He decided to stand down as Chair at the AGM but has agreed to continue as Vice-Chair to help me as the 'rookie' and new Chair.

Thanks also to Philippa Raper who has remained as Councillor and to new Councillor Ken Reed, and to several new faces who will be co-opted at the next meeting in July. Our Parish Clerk, Angela Parr, has agreed to stay on until we appoint a new Clerk. She has done a tremendous job for us and leaves with our thanks and gratitude.

With lots on our agenda—planning applications, flood prevention, the Green Belt and the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan—we will be busy. But if these items are not on your agenda, why not let us know what is? Contact details are given here. Philip Ashmore, Chair.

### Parish Council Contacts:

Chairman:	Philip Ashmore	01670 516726
Vice Chairman:	David Cowans	01670 516397
Village Ward:	Ken Reed	01670 513017
Stobhill Manor Ward:		
	Philippa Raper	01670 503436
Parish Clerk:		

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Look out for  
each other



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime wise, we've had prolonged quiet spells recently but now things have kicked off again. Several garden sheds have been broken into in the past few weeks and garden tools, mainly valuable lawnmowers, stolen. New to this area is the theft in the past few days of heating oil from several tanks in the Shadfen area. Both crimes require organisation and transport yet were unwitnessed so the plea is to maintain a healthy suspicion of strangers, such as door to door salesmen, to note unusual events and registration numbers and remain vigilant. Shed alarms are still available and recommended, as is security lighting specifically covering oil tanks.

But of course we are all vigilant and it is thanks to a sharp eyed dog walker that rusty left handed golf clubs, a knackered lawn mower and strimmer and other goods were spotted in the hedgerow awaiting collection. They had been "stolen" from a skip parked in a driveway behind locked metal gates and were returned to the less than enthusiastic owner who lamented that the hiring of the skip was all rather pointless.

And then there was a vigilant resident who spotted two men sawing down telegraph poles on a Sunday morning AND reported it. Vigilant because others driving past must have seen their efforts and ignored the situation. All this was for the small amount of copper cable in the telephone wires. Thanks to this observant villager, BT was able to retrieve the cable, replace the telegraph poles and return the services to normal within 24 hours. One does despair at the calibre of criminal these days!

Should anyone have noticed the odd pothole in the roads, the new number for reporting this is 0845 600 6400(NCC). This number will also swallow up complaints about fly tipping, unlit street lights etc, and is a useful addition to your list.

JM

### So What is the Neighbourhood Plan?

It's a local plan that we the community make, rather than a local plan that the Planning Authority (Northumberland County Council--NCC) make and consult us on. I have heard it described, perhaps unkindly, as a plan that is done by us rather than a plan that is done to us.

A Local Plan affects each and every one of us—it determines whether we are going to have massive super-markets in our Parish; whether we live in pleasant Green Belt or not; whether new developments in Morpeth, like South Loansdean, are going to put run-off rain water into the Hepscoth Burn.

The Neighbourhood Plan is a plan that we develop (along with Morpeth and the other surrounding Parishes) and that if passed by a 'referendum' NCC have to take into account.

So that is why Hepscoth Parish Council is directing a lot of attention to the Neighbourhood Plan, trying to preserve and protect Hepscoth's, along with Morpeth's, best interests. So please support us wherever you can!

Philip Ashmore

### Morpeth & District Red Squirrels

The good news is that the reports of grey sightings has significantly reduced, not only in the village but elsewhere in the Parish, so hopefully our small population of reds will flourish over the spring and summer. The pair of reds I wrote about in the previous edition seems to have reduced to a solitary squirrel, but as the male animals often leave the female to bring up the kittens this may be a "single mother" who is regularly spotted feeding in local gardens.

Please do keep up the work to protect the reds, if you are concerned about their road safety near your property it is possible to put up signs alerting drivers to the presence of reds as long as they are within the boundary of your garden and not on the road. I have signs if anyone wishes to purchase them, a bargain at £1.50! We can also provide feeders at a reasonable price and Joe's pet shop sells nuts at a "not for profit" price.

Thank you to those residents of Hepscoth who came along to our AGM, it was good to welcome interested people to the meeting. Another date for your diary is August 26, bank holiday Monday, when Woodhorn will be hosting a "Squirrel Fest". Come along to learn more about these fascinating animals together with an exhibition of birds of prey and other local wildlife initiatives.

Kate Weightman 515504

### SUPERFAST BROADBAND

A number of Hepscoth residents have already signed up to the new fibre-optic mediated superfast broadband, promised by BT at our village meeting in Feb 2012. If you want to increase your speed by at least 10 times this is the way to go. Just get in touch with your provider and ask for details. Haggle a bit and compare it with e.g. BT for price etc. most people will end up paying several pounds more per month. The provider will arrange for a BT engineer to connect you at the cabinet and fix up new BT modem and change the box where the line enters your house - a 15 minute job usually. You'll also need a new Hub provided by your company (I got all this for free by pushing them). A few minutes later you're online - very fast! Contact Otto for any more info (512889; jando@sky.com)

### TRAFFIC SPEED CHECK

Apparently the police have at last seen the wisdom of training villagers to operate a speed monitor in the village. If you are interested in being trained to do this you'll need to get a form from the Morpeth police station, though Paul Kidd may have some forms - and more information

Paul Kidd 01670 514866

## A View from County Hall

Until the election, I did not really know Hepscott. I had no idea that it would take so long to walk around the village but I am now much fitter and I think I know my way round now!

I found everyone extremely friendly which I appreciated very much.

As the new County Councillor for the Village Ward, I want to thank all of you that took the trouble to vote on May 2nd. I was very honoured to win the election and to be given a large vote of confidence - I will now make sure that I repay that trust.

The election did not produce a majority for any one political party. Given the difficult finances ahead for the County Council - something like £35 million will need to be cut - we hopefully will find a formula where we can work together.

And whilst there will be difficult issues to tackle I am looking forward to the next few years very much.

The new Longhorsley seat which includes Hepscott Village takes in a large area stretching almost to Simonside across to the edge of Bolam with ten Parish Councils.

Over the coming weeks, I am planning to drop off a card into every home which will give my contact details so that I am easily reachable.

In the meantime please get in touch if I can help with anything.

Glen Sanderson

[glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk)

07730 979737

Boundary changes to the areas served by County Councillors came into effect at the elections in May. The civil parish of Hepscott has two wards. Hepscott Village ward is now part of Longhorsley Ward of the County Council represented by Glen Sanderson. Stobhill Manor ward is now part of Morpeth Stobhill Ward of the County Council represented by Ian Lindley.

Contact details for Ian Lindley:

[Ian.Lindley@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Lindley@northumberland.gov.uk)

01670 515217

## PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At last we seem to be having a little sun. I'm not sure if the popularity of the last few shows has been because of the poor weather and a night out, which was on the doorstep with no travelling, being a boon or the fact that we had some excellent acts.

The Radio Revellers direct from the Theatre Royal, Unmythables who went on to play in Athens and the Quiz were all a sell out but the highlight for many was Bill Ridley's wine tasting night. With Bill's wit, charm and excellent Spanish Wines the night was a great success. The food wasn't too bad either. Most went home a little tipsy (some more than others) and everyone was happy. Many thanks to Bill and roll on the next Wine Tasting in 2015.

The next event in the hall is Muriel's Quiz. This night is always loud, noisy (most of the noise comes from Mu) but mostly entertaining. It is on Friday 14th June and tickets can be ordered from myself or Muriel. [Sorry if you received the newsletter too late for this—Editor]

With a little luck the weather may continue to get better and hopefully we will have another Saturday coffee morning.

There are a few ideas milling around for future hall events. These will be advertised on the board outside the hall so please keep a watch for them. If there is an activity you would like to see take place in the Hall please contact us and we will do our best to fulfil your wishes.

I would just like to thank all the people who come to these events as they make the hall the success it is.

Katie McDonald 514031

### 100 Club Winners

Anyone interested in joining the 100 Club at a cost of £12 per year please contact Kathryn Scott on 516805.

We raise money to support the village hall and have a monthly draw plus two extra prizes of £50 and £100 drawn in June and December. We would be pleased to hear from any new member.

January

1 Mr A Smith

2 J Gibb

3 Mr J Johnston

February

1 Mrs V Jennings

2 Mrs Parker

3 Dr P Robson

March

1 Mr and Mrs Randall

2 Mr and Mrs Melia

3 Mr D Cowans

April

1 Mr H Cone

2 Mrs E Gebhard

3 Mrs M Callf



## Hepscott Women's Institute



*W.I. Presidents, Lynda Wadge and Carolyn Reid, joined by neighbour, Joe Easton, try out the new village seat donated by WI Members to mark the Diamond Jubilee of HRH Elizabeth II. Hopefully it will be well used and as the weather improves we can sit and relax for a few minutes and watch the world, or rather the village, go by.*

We can't believe that the newly formed Hepscott WI has now been going for 6 years. We still have some considerable time to go before we catch up to the duration of the original Hepscott WI, but as we embark on our 7<sup>th</sup> year we felt it timely to let the ladies of Hepscott know about our programme for the rest of the year. In June we have our Photography Evening to look forward to, when members submit photographs on a given subject (this year it is Transport) and we invite a friendly judge to come along. In July we are having a Summer Soiree Members' Night and in August, which is not an official meeting month, we host our Summer Party and invite our husbands, partners, friends to join us.

We begin Autumn with a talk from Gail Mortimer about her Jewellery at the September meeting. In October we will have an evening with Ian Byatt of Moorhouse Farm to tell us about the farm and farm shop business. Approaching the festive season in November we have Makes and Bakes for Christmas and our Christmas Party Night in December.

Posters in the Village Hall window remind passers-by about the time and subject of our meetings. For ladies who may have recently moved into the Village, there is no better place to meet and get to know some of your neighbours. We are a friendly bunch and love it when visitors pop in, so if you see a meeting you would be particularly interested in, please just come along and enjoy yourself. We always meet in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of every month (except August) and we look forward to seeing you at one of our meetings. If you would like to find out more about the WI then please do not hesitate to give us a ring on one of the numbers below.

Joint Presidents: Carolyn Reid 01670 515308 and Lynda Wadge 01670 504909

### KEEP FIT

The fitness industry is so diverse now with Pilates, Yoga, Tai chi, Zumba, Boot camps and the usual aerobic classes. It's hard to know which one to take part in. You can even stand on a machine and it will give you a body like Jayne Mansfield (for those not in the know she had 44inch boobs & 18inch waist). (I wish). My advice is try them all and pick one or two you like best and give them a try for a few weeks.

After you have tried the rest come to the best: 10.30 Friday morning at the village hall. We don't charge a year in advance. You can come along as and when you want to. No fancy fitness clothes just comfortable shoes. Be prepared to laugh, sing, raise the heart beat and with all our fabulous machines strengthen the muscles, improve the balance and just enjoy the chat and tea afterwards.

Katie

### Regular activities in the Parish Hall:

#### Mondays

Quilting Class	10.00 a.m.
Tai Chi	6.15 p.m.

#### Tuesdays

Bridge Class	10.00 a.m.
Line Dancing Club	7.00 p.m.
W.I.	
3 <sup>rd</sup> in month	7.30 p.m.
Village Tea	
Last in month	2.00 p.m.

#### Wednesdays

Yoga Class	6.30 p.m.
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#### Thursdays

Art at Hepscott	
	9.00a.m. – 12.15 p.m.
Bridge for All	1.30 p.m.
Parish Council	6.30 p.m.
3 <sup>rd</sup> in month bi-monthly.	
Bridge Class	7.00 p.m.

#### Friday

Keep Fit	10.30 a.m.
Bridge for All	1.30 p.m.

#### Saturday

2nd in month	
Chatterbox Quilters	9.30 a.m.

#### Sunday

1st and 3rd in month	6.00 pm
North East Mandolin Band	

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### JUNE

<b>Hall Committee</b>	
<b>Muriel's Quiz</b>	
Friday 14 June	7.30 pm

#### JULY

<b>Hall Committee</b>	
<b>AGM &amp; Ordinary meeting</b>	
Thursday 11 July	6.30 pm
<b>Parish Council</b>	
Thursday 18 July	6.30 pm

#### AUGUST

### Hepscott Herald DEADLINE

**Friday 27 September 2013**  
Editors: Anne 518888  
Kate 515504

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