

PARISH HOMES TO DOUBLE

The race is run and 400 houses are going to be built at Stobhill in our Parish.

There are some 24 conditions as part of the approval, and we have set up a small group to monitor these under Ken Reed. We have to ensure that the conditions are met, especially those affecting flood prevention and sewage, along with landscaping, site management and traffic arrangements. Work is officially to start on site 1st July. It is worthwhile us reviewing the lessons learned from this application and I would welcome any input you might have. Our main aim is to prevent the next major scheme; if ever we needed a fully-functioning Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan it is now!

The consultation on the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) started on Weds 14 January and runs for 6 weeks to Weds 25 February. Leaflets explaining the main points have been delivered to every house (let me know if nothing has dropped through your letter box) and the full plan is on the MNP website (themorpethneighbourhoodplan.org.uk). It is essential that the people of the Parish respond to this, not just the Parish Council. As many people as possibly please reply (last time we were the top parish in our replies to the consultation). This is a vital part of preparing the plan and evidence gathered from you will weigh heavily in the Examiner's decision to approve or not. It is especially important to complete the comments 'box' at the end of the leaflet, either manually or on line (MNP website). You might want to refer to the housing plans, flooding policies, village identity, village boundary—it is up to you—but please make the effort to respond before 25 February! Remember two (or more) replies from a household count as two (or more) views to be registered as part of the evidence base.

In my view the Stobhill decision means MNP is now more important not less. We aim to complete the MNP and present it in its 'submission' form to Northumberland County Council (NCC) by 31 March. Recently a piece of good news—a High Court ruling (Gladman) indicates that we can have a Neighbourhood Plan with statutory powers *without* having to wait for the County's Core Strategy. We could have a statutory Morpeth NP by late summer which will help greatly in determining where housing in the Morpeth area is located.

PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Spirit of Christmas was alive and well at The Wreath Making Evening



I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and thank all the people who support the Hall by coming to events, using it for private parties and for a variety of clubs. All of which appear to be very popular. The New Year's Eve party again was a great success and we have a few more places if anyone would like to come along next year. Bill as usual was wonderful overseeing the games. Welcome to the new folks from The Orchard, Chris and Suzanne, who popped in to say hello and stayed to join in the festivities. A great time was had by all.

We have a variety of shows and events coming up. The one I think will be the most popular is the Northumbrian Night with Ernie Coe.

We also have a highlights show in May. This is the same people who put on UNMYTHABLE about Greek myths and went on to perform in Athens and New Zealand to wonderful reviews. This time it is NORSESOME with Thor, the naughty Loki and friends - all the stories from Norse mythology. This show is not for the under 12s or the faint-hearted. That means most of Hepscoth can attend as, after their performance of the Twelve Days of Christmas at the Mulled Wine Drop-in, I don't believe we have many faint hearted people here in Hepscoth.

The Jazz in the Village show was well attended with lots of new faces just what was needed to brighten a dull cold January evening. The winter coffee morning had a slight variation on the summer ones, because it was so cold and dreary as well as scones and cakes we also had soup. This went down a treat so we are repeating it at the next one. We have an array of books, videos and DVDs in the hall if anyone would like to borrow any of them please feel free. If the hall is closed give me a ring and I will open it, also I am in the hall most Friday mornings at the Keep Fit, again feel free to drop in between 10.30 and 12noon.

Katie McDonald chairman 514031

MORE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Dear all—Happy New Year!

More things going on at the moment which affect us all.

Planning applications update

Clifton application for 35 houses: the County Planning Committee recently had a site visit and it is on their agenda for their Feb 5 meeting.

Turner Square and Langdale have been refused.

3 Fieldhouse Close: a national Inspector has approved the appeal to demolish the existing house and rebuild.

NCC's Core Strategy. This is different to the MNP but is also out for consultation at the moment and is County-wide.

Again it is important for us all to give a reply, before 11

February. We can just concentrate on matters that affect us—housing, flooding and Green Belt I would suggest. Details of the Core Strategy are on NCC's website (Google Northumberland County Council Core Strategy and follow the links).

The Green Belt proposals are a key issue for us, and only the

Core Strategy can deliver the Green Belt, the MNP cannot. If, after all the travails of the Barratt application, we can secure Green Belt around Hepscott and Morpeth it will be a major achievement. It is far from a done deal though and we can expect other pressures on NCC, so please express your views on Green Belt.

5) Other items

The speed sign has been resurrected at the Parish Hall and Fred Dye is now trained in the use of our hand held speed camera. You have been warned!

We will have 2 vacancies on the Parish Council from our AGM in May, so if you are interested in helping your community and wish to be considered, please give me a call.

Finally, please visit our website: hepscottparishcouncil.org.uk and if you wish to receive email updates of Parish news as it occurs, drop me a line.

Phil Ashmore, Chair. (516726)

(philipashmore@hotmail.co.uk).

Hepscott Women's Institute

2015 is a significant year for us as it is 100 years since the W.I. was founded and we look forward to a year of celebrations.

Noise and creativity have dominated our autumn meetings. In September the village hall echoed to the sound of clogs clattering on a glass stage as Anne Walton demonstrated her talents. World War I was the focus of Member's Night in October and it proved to be an evening to remember as readings and reminiscences gave the meeting a very personal and emotive feeling. The November meeting was hosted by some of our own creative members and everyone went home proudly bearing two hand-made decorations for their Christmas tree. Christmas was, of course the focus of the December meeting when a festive pooled supper complimented the seasonal entertainment provided by "The Border Tarts".

Other activities kept members busy too; you may have met "Mrs. Mop" (a vision in pink) who welcomed visitors to the café at Heighley Gate in October, she was our lovingly created entry to the scarecrow competition; the garden centre was also the venue for a winter garden workshop and those who attended were delighted to emerge with a beautifully planted pot of winter flowers. The annual W.I. Carol Services at Guidepost and Hexham Abbey were well supported and provided a joyous start to the festive season.

The programme for 2015 began with a talk by Paul Christianson on "The English Civil War" – a must for all historians, especially as he brought along some genuine artefacts!

Meetings of the W.I. take place at the village hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm and visitors are warmly welcomed. If you want to know the theme of the next meeting please read the poster displayed outside the hall.

Hepscott Rainfall in 2014

The year's total 733.7mm 29.96ins. Average annual total over 17 years 28.88 ins. Wettest month in 2014 August 3.88 ins. Driest month in 2014 September 0.9ins. Wettest day August 5th 18.3mm 0.72ins. The annual rainfall varies from 22ins. in 2004 to 44ins. in 2012. Paul Kidd and I measure the daily rainfall in millimetres and convert to inches, a unit more easily visualised. Our readings vary a little. Our year's total for 2014 were the same even though the readings are taken half a mile apart.
David Scales, Rudchester.

Volunteer opportunities.

The Parish Council will have two vacancies for **Parish Councillors** after the AGM in May. See above for more information.

There have been enquiries from people willing to undertake **practical tasks in the Old Orchard** beside the Hall. It is proposed that there will be a monthly work session beginning on Saturday 21 February at 10.00 am. Anyone willing and able to contribute is welcome. Contact

Anne Finlay 518888 or just turn up.

The Parish Hall Committee take this opportunity to thank Kathryn Scott for all her hard work overseeing **The Hundred Club**. As Kathryn has been doing this for over three years she would like to pass the mantle on to someone else. If anyone is interested in taking it on please get in touch with Kathryn or Katie (514031)

100 club winners

First of all, an apology to Mr W Ridley for the misprint in March, all due to Kate's inability to read Kathryn's writing! Sorry to both.

June: 1st Mrs H Whitaker, 2nd Mr and Mrs D McKay, 3rd Mrs P Kidd, £50 special draw, Mr G Killen.

July: 1st Mrs M Tate, 2nd Mr S Grant, 3rd Mrs E Gebhard

August: 1st Mrs C Reed, 2nd Miss C Reid, 3rd Mr B H Dickson

September: 1st Mr and Mrs A Leja, 2nd Mr and Mrs D McKay, 3rd Miss C Reid

October: 1st Mrs S Myers, 2nd Mr C Temple, 3rd Mr D Hicks

November: 1st Mr and Mrs D Malia, 2nd, Mrs S Myers, 3rd Mrs J Bridges

December: 1st Mrs J Stephenson, 2nd Mr H Cone, 3rd Mrs A Reid, Special prize Mrs M McAndrews

January: 1st Mr D Hicks, 2nd Mrs J Stephenson, 3rd Mr B Kirkpatrick

Kathryn Scott would like to thank the new members for 2015 and all those who continue to support the 100 club

Views from County Hall

Ian Lindley: Independent County Councillor for Morpeth (Stobhill Div.) including Hepscott Ward of Stobhill Manor

Hello Hepscott. First two hard issues:

Barratt's is approved; so its time to accentuate the positive. For me these are: an excellent design (following Design Council's 10 principles – very few do), flood protection (if EA is correct) and 30% social housing for rent - nicely mingled in with commercially-sold homes. Also, I have met with Barratts (luckily their lead is a supporter from the old Morpeth Action Group) and have negotiated a minimum £20,000 donation for community projects in Stobhill (additional to their required s106 contribution). They didn't have to do this and I am grateful.

County Hall closure

Three reports have been produced (2 by independent consultants, 1 by a party politician strongly against the closure in Morpeth) All agree that the current building is not fit for purpose and with the principle of basing services in the area they work. I agree. I am also happy to see regeneration in other parts of Northumberland, especially where it is hard to attract private investment (eg Ashington!) Two of the reports support this. One thinks all functions should be held in Morpeth.

The elected leadership of NCC will move HQ functions to Ashington. Thanks to my role to develop Leisure, Tourism and Arts across Northumberland, I have been able to engage constructively with the Administration in order to ensure the County hall site is not used for housing - but rather we can ensure appropriate investment here. As a result I am happy to report that the agreed outline for new Leisure, educational and cultural facilities on the site fits this bill – and crucially that the seed capital to make this happen is in the Administration's budget. I am asking NCC officers to work with GMDT, MTC and others to assure this project. Full consultation process will be rolled out as it progresses.

I believe this is a win-win. (Especially bearing in mind the previous Lib Dem Administration's fixed intention to privatise all services - which in my view would certainly have closed County Hall and taken jobs galore out of county – let alone Morpeth)

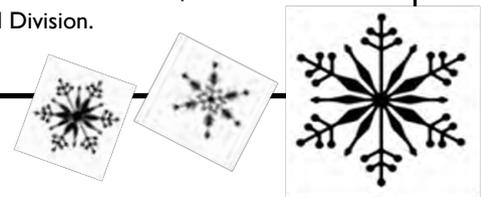
Other big stuff

Streetscape – Europe's leading exponent is working on outline designs for key locations across the County and I am confident we will implement this in the main route in Stobhill around the A192, Shields road, key roundabouts and estate entrances/exits.

Field at 9th Ave - We now have an effective partnership of NCC, ISOS, Groundwork and good funding streams are identified and over the next two years we will be developing this large area to cater for games, health and social needs of all age groups.

Key Partners: I have helped fund the following projects: **GMDT**; Station redevelopment for business incubators, **Community Link** who provide social support including employment services, handyman, community allotment, computer access and training, **Bad Apples** who provide activities including circus skills, dance, music, bingo, for youth and older people. **St Aidan's**—to develop the new Beacon community centre and outreach work to combat social isolation; with St Aidan's we are looking to develop small social homes for rent on the site of the old Parish Hall when this is redeveloped to make way for the new Beacon centre. **Barnabas** to improve the Community Centre on 9th Ave. **Groundwork** to deliver green improvement works across Stobhill Division.

Please get in touch if you need any help or have any ideas to improve our area (07833293718)



Glen Sanderson: County Councillor for Hepscott Village

All best wishes for 2015

The disappointment of the Appeal decision for most of us over Christmas and the general uncertainty of what housing project might suddenly pop up in and around Hepscott hasn't made for the best starts to the new year. No effort was spared to put the case by local residents and the Parish Council and now we have to make the best of what we have.

Better news is that the resurfacing is due to begin on February 2nd and preparatory work is due to start before then.

The interactive sign that had gone AWOL has been tracked down, and it is being repaired. I have been assured that it will reappear in the next month or so all being well. *(It went up in the centre of the village on 29 January)*

At Barmoor, there have been a number of meetings with the Council and the Police about finding a suitable location for the camera van but sadly this is proving difficult because certain criteria need to be met. There is a possibility of a fixed camera, but nothing firm.

So I have decided to try to fund a speed sign similar to one that I obtained for Longhorsley - this will tell drivers the speed they are going and which hopefully will help slow down the speeders. I think that the work that has been carried out recently has helped, but we need a bit more.

These things take time, and are subject to finding the funding, but I am hoping that we can crack on with this and have a sign in place before too long.



In the meantime, please get in touch anytime if you have any queries of any kind and I will be glad to try to help. glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk or **07730 979737**.

HEPSCOTT HERITAGE GROUP



In November the group presented an exhibition entitled 'Wartimes in Hepscoth'. This owed its origin to a wish to find out more about the men behind the names on the memorials in the Parish Hall. In the event it achieved much more than this with displays covering many aspects of the 'home front' in the immediate area. Particular thanks are due to Anne Finlay, Dorothy and David Cowans for all their hard work in research and presentation.

It is probably worth mentioning that over the last 15 years the group has built up a considerable archive of materials relating to the village and its immediate area and we would be very willing to share this information with anyone embarking on individual research.

The Heritage Group
Present
**THE RECRUITING
SERGEANT
by Old English**
20th March
7- 30 pm
in the Parish Hall
**In aid of MacMillan Cancer
Support**

This will be a musical evening to entertain and inform with **folk songs and tales** of persuasion, parting, lost love, adventure, courage and bravado

led by Peter Cryer.
Please bring your own shilling and grog, (perhaps in a tankard with a glass bottom)"

ALL WELCOME
Tickets £5 (tel:518888)

BYO Drinks

Regular activities in the Parish Hall

Mondays
Hepscoth Quilters 10.00 a.m.
Tai Chi 6.30 p.m.

Tuesdays
Bridge Classes 10.00 and 2.00
W.I. 3rd in month 7.30 p.m.
Village Tea
Last in month 2.00 p.m.

Wednesdays
Yoga Class 7.00 p.m.

Thursdays
Art at Hepscoth 9.00a.m. – 12.15 p.m.
Bridge for All 1.30 p.m.
Parish Council 6.30 p.m.
3rd 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Hall Management Committee
Coffee Morning with Soup
Saturday 7 February 10.30 a.m.

Hall Management Committee
for Henry Dancer Days Charity
**Northumbrian Night with
Ernie Coe and Friends**
Friday 13 February 7.30 p.m.

Orchard Work Session
Saturday 21 February 10.00 a.m.

MARCH

Hall Management Committee
Quiz Night
Friday 6 March 7.30 p.m.

Parish Council Meeting
Thursday 19 March 6.30 p.m.

Hepscoth Heritage Group
The Recruiting Sergeant
Friday 20 March 7.30 p.m.

APRIL

MAY

Hall Management Committee
Norsesome by Temple Theatre
Sunday 2 May 8.00 p.m.

**Hepscoth Herald DEADLINE
Friday 26 May 2015**

Editors: Anne 518888
Kate 515504

Morpeth and District Red Squirrels



I have not provided any contribution to the Herald recently as the reports of squirrels in Hepscoth and the surrounding area have been few and far between, and even worse, all but one have been of greys. We are getting many reports of increasing numbers of greys across the area. Last summer was a great time for them with abundant amounts of natural food and good conditions for breeding which have resulted in a "population explosion". I am assuming the reds also benefitted from the excellent conditions but sadly, not in Hepscoth. Possibly the ongoing disruption caused by the building work is putting them off while the less nervous greys carry on business as usual. However, thank you to those of you who continue to report greys, it enables us to deal with them and hopefully create an environment into which it will be safe for reds to return.

Kate Weightman 01670 515504

Hepscoth Herald is a community newsletter provided by Hepscoth Parish Council. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the council or the editors. Whilst every effort is taken to check accuracy of the information contained herein, no responsibility can be taken for errors or omissions.

Tau Tong School of Tai Chi

There's a good crowd now at the Hall every Monday Evening 6.30-7.30pm but there is always room for more as not everybody comes every single week. It doesn't matter if you miss some classes as there's always time to catch up. It's not like normal evening class where there's a set lesson plan or curriculum to follow. No dead-lines and no tests, homework or exams. The only pressure is the pressure you put on yourself! The most important thing is you come along and have fun and as a by-product you slowly learn the moves and techniques of the complete system of the ancient art of Tai Chi Chuan.

Also once a month is 'Breathe & Relax' 7-9 pm normally on the 3rd Friday unless the Hall is booked for something else. You can check the details & dates with me or see all the classes on www.tautong.co.uk

Amanda 01670 820464 or 07885 682078

Parish Council Contacts:

Chairman: Philip Ashmore 01670 516726
Vice Chairman: David Cowans 01670 516397
Village Ward: Ken Reed 01670 513017
Merle Heppell mheppell@btinternet.com
Fred Dye 01670 514871
Stobhill Manor Ward:
Philippa Raper 01670 503436
Hollie Ross 07974 002446
Parish Clerk: Sylvia Johnson 01670 503883