

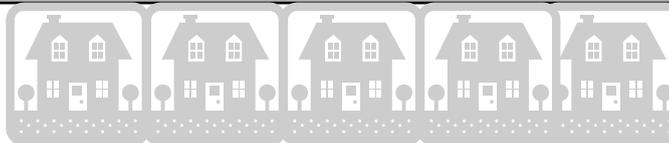


# HEPSCOTT HERALD

Issue No 55  
Autumn 2015

## PARISH COUNCIL Chairman's Report

### Barratt Stobhill update



I attended an update meeting with Barratt on 23 September. When Barratt was given the go-ahead to build last year, the Inspector said that permission was subject to many conditions, many of which needed to be satisfied before the development started. These included drainage and sewage. So when the development is 'deemed to have started' is important. Barratt said that was when they become Principal Contractor, when the site preparation work is completed. This will take about another month. It is at that point that they have full responsibility for the site and will have a Site Manager installed. Some of the conditions still need to be satisfied, but Barratt are confident that this will be achieved.

We have contact details and if any parishioners have questions or issues then I will be pleased to attempt to get answers to them. Some have made comments about the creation of a site entrance on the A192. This is known and allowed by NCC for access of heavy equipment for site preparation and will be closed at the end of September. Two show houses will be built first near the site entrance on the A196, by Christmas. The expectation is that the first 20 houses will be built by June 2017, and will be situated between the show houses and Stobhill roundabout, parallel with the A196. Working hours are 8am until 6pm, and should not be earlier although some parking-up of early deliveries may be necessary.

It all sounded well organised and we hope that we enjoy a good working relationship with them and the NCC team. We are due to meet again on 18 November.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Look out for  
each other



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Crime wise, quite a lot has happened since the last writing, with, as usual, the odd "you couldn't make it up" event. Here is a brief summary:

Probably the most alarming is the villager who woke at 3am with sounds of someone in the house.

She had been out at midnight chasing rabbits which were demolishing her flower display and relocked all doors except the patio door, which became the entry point. Easily done.

Living alone it was quite frightening but, all credit to her; she has put it behind her. The stolen goods have not been recovered.

Here was one door, probably in the entire village, unlocked for about two hours, yet criminals manage to find it. There are also reports of things being moved from their normal position at night, of gates, which are always shut, being found open in the morning, of cars, unlocked, being opened and goods stolen and all this confirms, without being paranoid, that undesirables are prowling the village at night looking for any opportunity to steal anything. The only positive point is that there have been no forced entries. All happenings are the result of failure of security. Hopefully, especially with the dark nights approaching, this tale will serve as a reminder.

**Be vigilant. Be warned. Have your time clocks ready.**

A large quantity of oil was stolen at night-someone must have seen this operation- but most odd was an escape of hens with a noisy cockerel, deliberately released from their pens at night and found wandering through the village in the morning.

Internet crime continues to dominate, although I am not aware of any recent attempted scams in the village. Although they can be persuasive, do not give out ANY personal or financial information to cold callers. Just put the phone down, even rudely, to end the call. JM 516309



PLEASE be a responsible  
dog owner  
PICK UP EVERY TIME

## PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Sunshine! Feasting and Dancing to live music at this year's Barbeque.

With the weather being so good it's hard to believe we are now in autumn. Although the days are lovely the nights are drawing in and we have planned a few good nights in the hall to keep everyone happy until the Christmas cheer takes over .

The summer barbeque was a great success and for the first time that I can remember, not a drop of rain fell.

The two best events at the hall, judging by tickets sold, have to be Bill Ridley's Wine night and Ernie Coe & Co. Both are a full house and as usual Ernie's show on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> went down a storm. This just goes to prove that the people of Hepscomb like to laugh and also like a good glass of wine. I have yet to discover which comes first the drink or the laughter.

We have a number of events coming up in the hall. Two are Highlights shows. The first on Sunday Oct 25<sup>th</sup> is the '3 Boxes', a trio who have played with some big names in show business—The Shadows, Duane Eddy, Mark Knopfler and the Everley brothers being just a few. Tickets for this show are selling well. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December brings us 'Parlour Tricks'. Morgan and West, two young men who have previously performed their magic act in the hall are back with new tricks. Those who saw them last time were greatly impressed. This show is also suitable for children. Ring 514031 to reserve tickets.

Coming up is the very popular Holly Wreath Making night led by Lee Walker. The Mulled Wine Drop-in on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December is in the process of being organized. Hopefully we may have an other coffee morning and as usual these will be advertised outside the hall. This brings us to New Year's Eve and again we will be opening up the hall to all.

Just come along, bring your drink and a plate (with food on) and expect to have a good time.  
Katie McDonald Chairman

We have replaced the chairs in the hall and have lots of old ones for sale at the bargain price of £2 each.

### More from the Parish Council

#### Northumberland County Council's (NCC) Core Strategy

The County's long awaited Core Strategy/Local Plan for the whole of Northumberland, the County's main planning and development plan for the next 20 years, is reaching its final draft (called the Pre Submission Draft) and is to go for buy off to the NCC Cabinet on 29 Sept. (You can see it on the NCC website under Cabinet papers). Hopefully it will not be amended too much as the good news is that this draft shows Green Belt coming right up to the settlement boundaries of Hepscomb and south Morpeth. If this goes ahead this is tremendous news for retaining a rural surround for Hepscomb. A consultation on the whole Strategy starts on 14 October and there is a drop-in at the Town Hall on 9 November, so please do what you can to support this Green Belt proposal. One exception, and a disappointment, is that land known to some as 'the triangle' south of Coopies Lane, land immediately east of Barratt Stobhill and bounded by railway lines to east and west, is proposed not be Green Belt but to be 'safeguarded' for future employment use. This is within Hepscomb Parish and is presumably for an extension of Coopies Lane Industrial Estate if needed. The safeguarding is, though, until 2031 so nothing should happen until then. However please feel free to give your opinion on that at the drop-in sessions, in the consultation or to the Parish Council or your County Councillors.

#### Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP)

This has been a challenging time for the MNP as it is currently (as I write this) undergoing Public Examination. We hope that it will be passed to go to public Referendum when the electorate of the MNP area (Morpeth plus the 4 surrounding parishes, including Hepscomb) will vote on it. If accepted it will be a major achievement in the housing, commercial and retail development of the Morpeth area in a positive but controlled way for the next nearly 20 years, and we are told will carry considerable planning weight. The Examiner may pass the MNP but with a recommendation to make amendments, which would need to be made before it can go to Referendum; he may of course fail the Plan, though I very much hope not in the light of the all the advice we have taken and the months and years that many people have put into it! We shall see very shortly.

#### Speed cameras

Our thanks go to the Community Speed Watch volunteers who have been out on deployment to slow down some of the hotheads that speed through the Parish. Also thanks to Glen Sanderson for providing funds for a pair of flashing speed indicator signs for the A192 to slow people through the parish, particularly at Coalburn and Barmoor Bank.

Have a good autumn everyone, Phil Ashmore.

## Views from County Hall

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

I've set Highways the priority of **creating safer pedestrian crossing points** from the A192 on the far side of the **Stobhill Manor** roundabout (from the bus stop to the estate side of the road). As well as **Deuchar Park to Allery Banks estate** entrance at the roundabout. Speed surveys are also being done here at a resident's request.

As previously reported I have won funding to improve **Shields Road & A192 streetscape**. This is a big project and the completion date for the first phase (around junction of Shields Road/First Avenue) is March 2017 and design work has started. Public engagement is scheduled to start in early November.

I met with Network Rail management in September and they have agreed to help with my aim to create yet another **new (free) station car park** – the numbers using the station will continue to rise which will lead to nuisance parking in Stobhill residential streets if proper parking isn't available.

Our **Allotment** project, led from Stobhill Link by **Lesley Tweddell** is going from strength to strength and received an award in the 'Best New Project' category, from the Duchess of Northumberland at the LOVE Northumberland awards ceremony in September. If you are interested in gardening or for info contact Lesley (07790656484)

The new **St Aidan's and Beacon community hub** is now open. I have been lucky to be able to help by provide the funding for it's heart - the kitchen!

After 7 years of working for this, the **field at Ninth Avenue** (at the community centre) is to be re-developed. Groundwork is Project Managing this for us. ISOS are providing money for an new **children's playground** and I have secured funding (by engaging with Barratt's) to help develop the rest of the field; with all-ages amenities including **exercise, teen shelter, kickabout area, basketball, gardens** etc. This has been a long journey for me but it will be completed before the end of financial year 2016/7.

Speaking of the still under-used **9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Community Centre**, I'm continuing to plug away and pleased to be working with a new (and effective) Barnabas management, to upgrade the interior and to make a plan to maximise activities, in conjunction with Active Northumberland. I have promised funds towards a **new gym**. The youth offer at the moment is:

Tuesday	5- 6:30	Youth Club drop-in	Age 13 - 18
Tuesday	6:30 - 8:00	Fitness and boxing session	Age 13 - 18
Friday	5 - 6:30	Junior Youth club	Age 9 - 13
Friday	6:30 - 8:00	Youth club	Age 13 - 18



On Sat 31 Oct there's a Halloween event which will include activities for children and a table top sale. Winter will be here soon, so, if you are on benefits and have an inefficient **heating boiler**, NCC will probably fit you a new one **for free**. Call 08003164320 to check.

If you have any ideas for improvements in Hepscott, Stobhill, Morpeth, Northumberland or would like to meet me anytime to discuss anything - or you need any help. Please get in touch; **07833293718 Ian Lindley** (Independent Councillor for Northumberland, Stobhill Division)



## **Glen Sanderson: County Councillor for Hepscott Village**

I had a useful walk around the village with members of the Parish Council and we picked up on some issues which either have been addressed or will be. You might have seen extra road markings and clearing of the verges at the entrance to the footpath as it meets the road through the village. That is potentially dangerous so hopefully the work carried out will help. I have also asked NCC officers to draw up some prices to resurface and repair some pavements and if it can be afforded I will ask for at least some parts to be attended to over the autumn/winter.

I am working with the Parish Council and local residents over planning applications which are currently lodged with the Council and doubtless there will be more contentious ones coming forward.

The interactive speed warning signs should be up and running by Christmas unless we hit further hitches. We are due to meet the manufacturers on site in mid September just to make sure we have the best locations which will have the most effect.

In the meantime, I am very grateful to the volunteers who carry out Neighbourhood Speedwatch locally - they really make a difference so thank you.

Please keep in touch if anything crops up with which I can help - glad to hear from you anytime -

**glen.sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk or 07730 979737**

## Hepscott Women's Institute

An experience never to be forgotten" said our four ladies, Dorothy, Carol, Margery and Elaine, who attended the W.I. Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Along with the original Calendar Girls they enjoyed afternoon tea in the gardens, presided over by Their Royal Highnesses the Countess of Wessex, the Duchess of Cornwall and Princess Alexandra.

Two days later several members went to the Tyneside Cinema to watch the first ever live screening of the W.I. A.G.M. from the Royal Albert Hall which was attended by the Queen.

In May we welcomed speaker John Robertson to tell us about "Lethal Lovelies" in our garden. An authority on poison plants and one of the founders of the Alnwick Poison Garden he surprised us with the number of poisonous plants that we all grow – Hepscott can be a very dangerous place to live! The annual photographic competition followed the natural theme with "Your garden through the seasons" and as always drew many entries.

In July our thoughts turned to social needs as Mary Kelly, a volunteer from the People's Kitchen in Newcastle, came to talk to us about this charity which provides an astonishing 35,000 meals a year to those in need. The committee's suggestion that we take on the challenge of providing one hundred useful items to help was enthusiastically agreed by all members present. Mary will provide a list of ideas to be shared at the September meeting.

There was no meeting in August but as ever our Summer Party proved a popular success, with delicious food, good company and an entertaining table quiz.

Autumn is with us again and we look forward to an interesting programme of evenings: Peter Reed will speak about H.M. Prisons, A themed evening about the first 100 years of the W.I. will be led by members, Christmas crafts to learn and to conclude this centenary year there will be a Christmas Party with a surprise entertainment (so surprising that only one person knows what it is!)

We love to welcome visitors and new members so if this information excites you and you think you would like to give us a try, please join us in the village hall at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month. The poster in the window will inform you of the details of the next meeting.



### Road Safety in Hepscott

***If I walk from Fieldhouse Lane to the A192, how many times must I cross the C132 to walk on a pavement?*** *(Answer at the bottom of the page.)*

There are concerns with two of these 'crossing points' as they are at corners with restricted vision. In July members of the Parish Council, with Councillor Glen Sanderson and a member of Northumberland County Council Highways department walked the route and potential risk areas were highlighted and discussed. Following that meeting 'SLOW' markings have been painted on the C132 at two sites, one particularly dangerous point where the public footpath from Coalburn Terrace comes out on the C132 on a bend. The vegetation at this point has also been cut back to improve the situation. Tripping points around pavement gulleys have also been dealt with.

The speed of vehicles through the village is a major concern of residents. The Community Speed Watch (CSW) volunteers have been monitoring the situation. There are three 'hotspots':

1. The centre of the village on the C132
2. The A196 from Stobhill roundabout to Coopies Lane – yes it is a part of Hepscott!!
3. The A192 at Coalburn Terrace (North) and approaching the junction with the C132 (South). This is a 40mph road.

In areas 1 and 2 vehicles speeding have their registration taken and drivers are sent 'warning' letters by the Police. Area 3: Speed surveys were undertaken and shortly interactive speed signs will appear to remind speeding drivers of the speed limit.

The CSW volunteers thank the residents for the encouragement shown towards them when on deployment. If you have any concerns regarding road safety in the village, please contact a member of the Parish Council.

*[An interesting analysis of the results is posted in the Notice Board & Hall —Editor]*

### 100 club winners

June, 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs M Dixon, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mrs H Whitaker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr and Mrs Molloy  
 Special prize of £50, Mrs M Forsythe  
 July, 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr B Kirkpatrick, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mrs P Cone, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mrs E Gebhard  
 August, 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs C Gray, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mrs K McDonald, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mrs J McPhail

**LIBRARY  
 VAN  
 Thursdays  
 @ Parkside  
 4.40—5.00  
 p.m.**

The Hepscott Herald is a community newsletter provided by Hepscott 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.

Answer: 5 times

### Regular activities in the Parish Hall

#### **Mondays**

Hepscott Quilters 10.00 a.m.  
 Tai Chi 6.30 p.m.

#### **Tuesdays**

Bridge Classes 10.00 a.m.  
 W.I. 3<sup>rd</sup> in month 7.30 p.m.  
 Village Tea  
 Last in month 2.00 p.m.

#### **Wednesdays**

Bridge Class 10.00 a.m.  
 Yoga Class 7.00 p.m.

#### **Thursdays**

Art at Hepscott  
 9.00 a.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.  
 Orchard Work Session  
 Last in month 10.00 a.m.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**PLEASE WATCH NOTICE  
 BOARDS FOR DETAILS**

#### **OCTOBER**

Hall Management Committee

#### **3 Boxes**

Sunday 25 October 7.30 p.m.

#### **NOVEMBER**

**Parish Council Meeting**

Thursday 19 November 6.30 p.m.

#### **DECEMBER**

Hall Management Committee

#### **Parlour Tricks**

Sunday 6 December 7.30 pm

#### **Mulled Wine Drop in**

Saturday 19 December 4 - 7 pm

#### **New Year's Eve Party**

Thursday 31 December

#### **JANUARY**

**Parish Council Meeting**

Thursday 15 January 6.30 p.m.

**HEPSCOTT HERALD  
 DEADLINE**

**Friday 29 January 2015**

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