

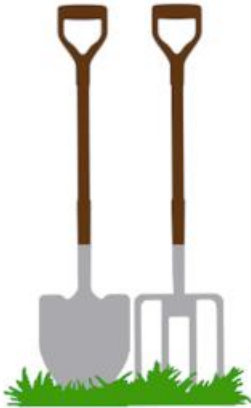
# Hepworth Herald

Issue 47 ~ June 2025

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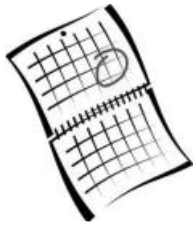
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# What's On?

This is what we know about at the moment. Please share any other events you have planned, or that you hear about. Send them to [hepworthherald@gmail.com](mailto:hepworthherald@gmail.com)

<b>Hepworth Art Group</b>	Every Mon @1000-1300 » Hepworth Pavilion
<b>Village Voices</b>	Every Mon @1900 » Hepworth Pavilion. p16
<b>Hepworth Coffee Morning</b>	1st & 3rd Thu @1030 » Hep. Pavilion. p16
<b>Suffolk Mobile Library</b>	19th June@1545 - 1600 » See p4
<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	19th June@1930 » Hepworth Pavilion
<b>Suffolk Mobile Library</b>	17th July@1545 - 1600 » See p4
<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	17th July@1930 » Hepworth Pavilion

## Events in Hepworth?

Many village events are supported by **Hepworth2Enjoy**. This is an engaged, friendly collective of Hepworth villagers who come together to put on village events and to help others put on village events, providing people-power, experience, and bags of enthusiasm! We now have a small budget to help. Please contact Clare (250 660)



## Do you have a new neighbour?

The Parish Council has prepared a Welcome Pack for people new to the village.

It can be found on the Village Website at

<http://hepworthvillage.co.uk>

# SUFFOLK LIBRARIES

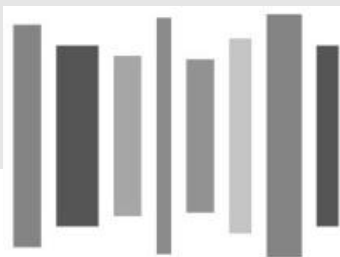
Did you know about the Suffolk Mobile Library Service?  
It visits Hepworth every 4 weeks on a Thursday, and stops at:

## **Half Moon, The Street between 1545 and 1600**

The coming village visits will be on

- 19<sup>th</sup> June
- 17<sup>th</sup> July

o stop in, say hello, and  
borrow a book or two!



**GREEN FINGERS**  
Garden Club

We are a local, informal, friendly garden club. Green Fingers meetings are held at Hinderclay Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in the evening. Annual membership subscription is £15 and our monthly meeting fees are £3 for members (and £5 for non-members) with refreshments included. You would be most welcome to join us.

**16th June** - WYKEN HALL GARDENS & TEA  
at Stanton (Afternoon Visit)

**16th July** - `PORTERS LODGE`  
at Cavenham (Afternoon Visit)

+ much, much more.

For more information, ring Val Hobson: 01359 251977

## From the Rectory

Dear Friends & Neighbours

The month of June with its promise of Summer is traditionally the beginning of the wedding season... and I'm excited to have six weddings across the Benefice in my diary for this summer.



There's something particularly special about a village church wedding. It's not just about the beautiful buildings, although our churches are full of character and charm, each within its own unique setting. It's not just about the photo opportunities either – although ancient stone walls and beautiful rural churchyards certainly do make for a good picture!

What makes a church wedding truly special is the almost indescribable sense of God's presence in the beautiful rich and timeless words that are spoken by the priest and repeated by the bride and groom. There is the deep sense of history and community to stand as a couple on the same spot where generation upon generation of couples have stood before and made the same promises before God, family and friends. There's something very moving about being part of that long tradition and it is a wonderful reminder that love is not just about the moment, but it is also about the years to come, and the shared life ahead.

The Church of England wedding service itself uses such beautiful, thoughtful language... not just romantic, but real. It talks about love that is patient and kind, that bears all things and endures all things... echoing the words of St Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:

***“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud...”***

It's a reflection of God's love for us... A love that remains faithful through the good and the difficult times, in sickness and health... a love that never gives up but keeps drawing us into a closer and better relationship . This is the kind of love we pray for, for every couple and it's the kind of love we pray for in our own lives too whether we are married or not .... And of course, a village wedding is never just about two people. It's a moment that brings families and the whole community together – everyone wanting to catch a glimpse of the bride, bells ringing out across the village , flowers arranged with loving care, ...tradition being continued and a real sense of celebration shared by all.

If you're planning to get married later this year or in the next couple of years or so why not consider getting married in one of our beautiful Benefice Churches and become part of that wonderful tradition. If you live in the Benefice of Stanton you can marry in any of our eight beautiful churches (Stanton, Barningham, Coney Weston, Market Weston, Hopton, Thelnetham, Hinderclay or Hepworth) so do get in touch with me ... I'd love to chat to you about it.

So, whether you're getting married in church this Summer or attending a wedding or simply passing the church as the bells ring out, do spare a thought and a prayer for those beginning their married life – and take a moment to think of the gift of love ... a love that first comes to us from God.. a love full of Hope, Life and New Beginnings.

God Bless, love Rev Cathy.

Email: [revcathybladen@gmail.com](mailto:revcathybladen@gmail.com)

Phone: 01359 250239



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# Speed Indicator Devices



## Device No. 1 at A143 end of The Street

68 days from 25/03/2025 to 31/05/2025.

Vehicles **arriving** into village from the A143:

Total number of vehicles:- **31171**

Average speed for ALL vehicles:- **28.8mph**

Total number of vehicle speeds above 30 mph:- **8779 (28.16%)**

No. of incidents 40mph and above:- **341** 50mph and above:- **7**

Highest speed recorded:- **59mph**

Vehicles **leaving** the village toward the A143:

Total number of vehicles:- **24812**

Average speed for ALL vehicles:- **29.7mph**

Total number of vehicle speeds above 30 mph:- **10113 (40.76%)**

No. of incidents 40mph and above:- **566** 50mph and above:- **17**

Highest speed recorded:- **61mph**

## Device No. 2 at Barningham end of The Street

This device has developed a fault, and we are awaiting repair or replacement.

## Speedwatch Along The Street:



For more information about Speedwatch, or to get involved, call Richard on 07979745990

Mar. 2025: 2 sessions 9 vehicles logged	max speed = 42 mph
Apr. 2025: 3 sessions 11 vehicles logged	max speed = 47 mph

**HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HEPWORTH PAVILION THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025 @ 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair), Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB) (Vice Chair), Councillor Perry Penn (PP), Councillor Louise Robinson (LR), Councillor Hollie Williams (HW)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Six members of the public

**25/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**25/26 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Marjorie MacPherson sent apologies which were accepted.

**25/27 PUBLIC FORUM:** DC/24/1622/FUL. Members of the public highlighted a range of concerns relating to this planning application:

- **Management** – It was not clear how the proposed business would be managed on site to reduce risk of noise or traffic disruption to nearby properties.
- **Opening Hours** – The opening hours were viewed as excessive.
- **Lighting** – Proposed lighting was considered disproportionate.
- **Fencing** – Proposed fencing around the site would impact on local rural landscape.
- **Noise** – There was concern that a 2nd dog business operating next to an existing dog business would increase risk of noise.
- **Location** – The proposed location was next to existing properties whereas alternative locations on the applicant's land could reduce such proximity.
- **Access** – There was concern that the proposed access would not cope during winter months and cars would be parked on the main road.

District Cllr Carol Bull arrived at 7.55pm

County Cllr Joanna Spicer arrived at 8.00pm

**25/28 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY**

**COUNCILLORS:** County Cllr Spicer provided the following update:

- **Devolution.** The ongoing public consultation for proposed Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor was highlighted. Elections for the Mayor would take place in May 2026.
- **Bus Shelter.** County Council support for bus shelter changes was available. It was agreed that LR would meet with County Cllr Spicer and an officer from the County Council transport team to discuss the aspiration further.
- **County Farms.** Discussions were still ongoing in relation to ditch clearing by a tenant of County Farms.
- **Western Lane.** The restoration of Western Lane has now been completed. Concerns were raised about continued presence of glass and the Parish Council would monitor the lane in the future.

• **Allotments.** LR enquired whether there was any County Farms land available to provide allotments for the village. County Cllr Spicer agreed to discuss this further with County Farms

District Cllr Bull provided the following update:

- **Local Government Review.** Two different Suffolk options were going forward as part of Local Government Review work; the County Council was proposing a single unitary authority while the 5 District/Borough Councils were presenting an case for two or three Unitary Authorities.



County Cllr Joanna Spicer left at 8.30pm

District Cllr Carol Bull left at 8.30pm

25/29 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2025 had been previously circulated and it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.

25/30 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: No matters arising were identified from the last meeting that were not included in the agenda.

25/31 HIGHWAYS MATTERS: No matters discussed.

25/32 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4,230.11, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,200 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payments were authorised: Noticeboard Company £36.24; Clerks Salary & Exps £985.20; Louise Robinson (Flowers) £17.99. LR agreed to authorise the first two payments and NB agreed to authorise the last payment.

25/33 PLANNING MATTERS: DC/24/1622/FUL. Considering the earlier public comments on this planning application, the meeting agreed to submit a HOLDING OBJECTION and to seek clarification of certain details that currently prevented a final position to be resolved:

- Location – Why was the location chosen close to existing properties when alternatives were available?

- On Site Management – Further detail is needed on how the dog business will be managed on site to reduce community impacts.

- Hours of Operation – Why does the business need to operate from 6am to 9pm, 7 days a week?

- Access – What highways and associated works are needed to provide safe all-weather access and what transport assessment has been undertaken to quantify traffic impacts?

- Local Landscape – What mitigation is planned to reduce the visual impact of the proposed site, particularly the new fencing?

25/34 CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. West Suffolk Local Plan Modification. The meeting noted the previously circulated email covering West Suffolk Local Plan Modifications.

- b. Review of Litter Bin Collections. The meeting supported the proposed changes by West Suffolk Council that had been pre-circulated subject to:

- The new bin at the pavilion gate being relocated to the other side of the entrance to avoid blocking the road.

- The litter bins in the bus shelters being left and these will be emptied via local arrangements.

25/35 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: None

25/36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Andy Osman, Parish Clerk.

28 March 2025

**HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HEPWORTH PAVILION - THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2025@7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair), Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB) (Vice Chair), Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM), Councillor Perry Penn (PP), Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO), District Cllr Carol Bull (CB),  
Eleven members of the public

25/37 APOLOGIES: Cllr Hollie Williams sent apologies which were accepted.

25/38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: LR declared an interest in Item 9b, Planning Application DC/25/0511/CLE.

25/39 PUBLIC FORUM: DC/24/1622/FUL. Members of the public highlighted a range of ongoing concerns relating to this planning application:

- Management – It was not clear how the proposed business would be managed on site to reduce risk of noise or traffic disruption to nearby properties.
- Opening Hours – The opening hours were viewed as excessive.
- Lighting – Proposed lighting was considered disproportionate to rural setting..
- Noise – There was concern that a 2nd dog business operating next to an existing dog business would increase risk of noise.
- Location – The proposed location was next to existing properties.
- Parking & Traffic– There was concern that cars would be parked on the verge and that persons using the site would add considerably to the traffic flows on roads where large sections are single track. Safety concerns in relation to the Beck Street junction and residents driveways were also raised.
- Stanton Rides – additional traffic and proximity to bridleways would deter riders.

County Cllr Spicer arrived at 8.10pm

25/40 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS: County Cllr Spicer provided the following update:

• County Farms. Discussions were still ongoing in relation to ditch clearing by a tenant of County Farms. It was agreed that JS would report the outcome of discussions at the next Parish Council meeting.

• Allotments. The meeting acknowledged that it was unlikely that land would be surrendered from County Farms areas. LR agreed to write an article for the Hepworth Herald to gauge support for allotments.

• Weston Lane. Suffolk Rights of Way have acknowledged that the new surface still has small pieces of glass coming through. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with County Cllr Spicer and Rights of Way to discuss the issue further.

• Planning Application DC/24/1622/FUL. It was noted from the public forum that the Suffolk Highways response to this application had not considered Stanton Rides. CB agreed to discuss this issue with the case planning officer. District Cllr Bull provided the following update:

• Bin Collections. Changes to bin collections over Easter were highlighted.

25/41 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the meeting held on 20

March 2025 had been previously circulated and it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.

25/42 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Minute 25/28: 20 March 2025 – Buses. LR reported some problems with the new bus taking pupils to school being late. This was thought to be caused by not enough time being put into the schedule to take fares. It was highlighted that Suffolk County Council had commissioned consultants to look at future bus options. The meeting noted a request for future funding for bus timetables. LR reported that a meeting with the County Council to discuss the proposed relocation of the bus shelter would take place on 30 April.

25/43 HIGHWAYS MATTERS: No matters discussed.

25/44 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £3,190.58, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,200 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payments were authorised: SALC Membership £269.90; SALC Payroll £22.80; NB agreed to authorise the payments.

25/45 PLANNING MATTERS: DC/24/1622/FUL. NB highlighted continued inconsistencies in proposed use following the supplementary information provided by the applicant to the Parish Council's points of clarification, eg states no intent to operate after dark and yet retains proposals for lighting and hours of operation 6am to 9pm. The meeting resolved that there were still material issues:

- Traffic. There would be increased traffic on a narrow lane with potential safety issues for existing users.
- Lighting. The proposed lighting would impact a currently dark rural area.
- Loss of Amenity. The operation would increase noise for neighbouring properties.

The meeting agreed to OBJECT to the application.

DC/25/0511/CLE. The meeting agreed to offer no comment on this application.

DC/25/0361/ADV. The meeting noted that the proposal was disproportionately larger than other signs in the area and agreed to offer this as a comment along with SUPPORTING the application.

25/46 CORRESPONDENCE: None

25/47 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN :‘The Stables’. NB asked the Chair if CB could provide an update re “The Stables”. CB updated the meeting on the ongoing monitoring of ‘stables field’ from a planning enforcement perspective and confirmed that the status of the field needed to be clarified. NB and CB agreed that if it is classified as agricultural land, the existing works could constitute unlawful development. CB agreed to clarify the status of the field, thought to be agricultural use only, in relation to the development thus far.

25/48 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 7.45 pm. This will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Andy Osman, Parish Clerk

24 April 2025

**HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING  
HEPWORTH PAVILION - THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025@7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair), Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM), Councillor Perry Penn (PP), Councillor Hollie Williams (HW)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)

**25/49 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:** The meeting agreed that Cllr Garry Bloomfield would remain as Chair and Cllr Nick Bennett would remain as Vice Chair.

**25/50 APOLOGIES:** Cllr Nick Bennett sent apologies which were accepted.

**25/51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**25/52 PUBLIC FORUM:** None

**25/53 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS:** County Cllr Spicer and District Cllr Bull were not in attendance.

**25/54 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2025 had been previously circulated and it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.

**25/55 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Minute 25/40: 17 April 2025 – Allotments. Cllr Louise Robinson was not present to provide an update on the action to write an article for the Hepworth Herald to gauge support for allotments.

Minute 25/40: 17 April 2025 – Planning Application DC/24/1622/FUL. District Cllr Carol Bull was not present to provide an update on the action to clarify with the case Planning Officer why the Suffolk Highways response to the application had not considered Stanton Rides.

Minute 25/47: 17 April 2025 – ‘The Stables’. District Cllr Carol Bull was not present to provide an update on the action to clarify the status of the field, thought to be agricultural use only, in relation to the development thus far.

**25/56 RISK ASSESSMENT:** The financial and asset risk assessment, previously circulated, was considered. It was resolved to approve this assessment.

**25/57 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £9,646.52, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,200 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payments were authorised: Hepworth Pavillion Hire £72.00; Malcolm Saunders (audit) £90.00; It was agreed to seek authorisation from Cllr Louise Robinson for the payments.

b. Asset Register. The meeting noted the contents of the Asset Register which had been previously circulated. It was agreed to write off metal bin 3 as this had been recently removed by West Suffolk Council and replaced with a larger bin.

c. Audit Report. The meeting noted the contents of the previously circulated audit report which raised no observations.

d. Governance Report. The meeting approved the previously circulated Annual Governance Report covered by Section 1 of the Hepworth Parish Council Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25. The meeting also confirmed that the Parish Council was exempt from a limited assurance review as

its gross expenditure for 2024/25 did not exceed £25,000. It was resolved that the Clerk was to return the signed Certificate of Exemption.

e. End of Year Accounts. The previously circulated Accounting Statements covered by Section 2 of the Hepworth Parish Council Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 were approved.

f. Donations. It was resolved to make the following donations: £250 to the Parochial Church Council of Hepworth for the churchyard.; £200 to support the Hepworth Herald magazine.; £150 to SARS.; £25 to the Royal British legion.

25/58 PLANNING MATTERS: None

25/59 HIGHWAYS MATTERS: No matters discussed.

25/60 CORRESPONDENCE: None

25/61 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN: None

25/61 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 19 June 2025 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.

Andy Osman, Parish Clerk

22 May 2025

## **Planning Matters Discussed Above**

DC/24/1622/FUL -  
North Hall Farm,  
Market Weston Road

DC/25/0511/CLE -  
Church Farm,  
Church Lane

DC/25/0361/ADV -  
Clay Lane, Hepworth

## **NEW COMMUNITY BUS**



A HUGE Thank You to all who have made it possible, by way of donations, to finally purchase our new bus. In particular, thanks to our three parish councils, Botesdale, Rickinghall and Wattisfield, who so generously made it possible.

Thanks also to so many local people : Irene who sells bric-a-brac collected on our bus, Lucy from Hopton who fund raises via a Christmas Light display at her home, and to numerous personal donations by way of monthly voluntary contributions added to their fares, and, of course, R W Lister & Son of Rickinghall for their excellent service and sponsorship. The list is endless.

Many thanks also to our volunteer drivers who give their time for this worthy cause every week, (currently some 3000+ personal journeys per annum).

In conclusion, THE BUS IS AVAILABLE TO ALL, IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER YOUR PARISH COUNCIL DONATES TO THIS CAUSE.

As usual for bookings just ring Gordon on 01379 897109 (24/7 ansaphone).



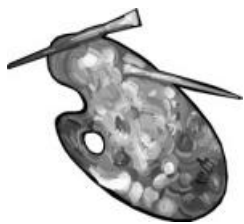
### Hepworth Weather (as measured on The Street)

March 2025:	Max. Temp:	20.1°C	20th
	Min. Temp:	-3.9°C	16th
	Total Rainfall:	1.6mm	
	Wettest Day:	0.8mm	12th
April 2025:	Max. Temp:	26.6°C	30th
	Min Temp:	-0.5°C	8th
	Total Precipitation:	15.2mm	
	Wettest Day:	10.5mm	14th

**March 2025:** Sunny, warm and an exceptionally dry month. Total rainfall 1.6 mm. The driest March in my record (2009) and the second driest month in any year. (May 2020 holds that record with 1.3 mm). Warm days but some sharp frosts at night, particularly during the first half of the month..

**April 2025:** A very dry, warm and sunny month but often tempered by cool easterly breezes during the day. Some ground and air frost during the first week. Exceptionally warm ending to the month, with some large diurnal range of temperature.

Kindly provided by Richard Hinton. See the latest weather and historical Hepworth weather data at <http://j.mp/HepworthWS>



## Hepworth Art News

We were delighted to welcome so many visitors to our Exhibition last September - and are very much looking forward to seeing you again this year.....**not once, but Twice!**

### SPECIAL NEWS!

This year, we accepted an invitation to become members of Suffolk Open Studios. Suffolk Open Studios is a large collective of artists from the entire region of Suffolk. Throughout June, artists throw open their doors (on allocated weekends) to share with visitors their artwork. A booklet featuring all artists and locations will be freely available from many outlets including libraries, The Apex etc and also the Pavilion – and on line. So this year **we will be also** ‘throwing open our doors’ at the Pavilion (village hall). Hepworth Art ‘Open Studio’ will be during the weekend of 21/22nd June from 10.30 am -4.00 pm. Free tea/coffee and biscuits will be available.

You are invited to come and see us in action. In addition to a display of artwork, Hepworth Art Club artists will be painting throughout the weekend. Visitors of any age can have a go too!

As usual, our annual art exhibition will also take place on 20th and 21st September 2025. in The Pavilion (village hall) We are also grateful to St Peter’s Church a wonderful setting in which to exhibit paintings. Altogether, there will be over 100 paintings.

Two sets of dates for your diary! We very much look forward to welcoming you to both.

**wendy.summerell@btinternet.com Tel: 01359 244693;**





## Village Voices

Announcing the relaunch  
of the Hepworth Angels!



This is an open invitation to join **Village Voices** our welcoming group of local people from Hepworth and surrounding villages who enjoy singing and/or playing an instrument as an accompaniment.

No auditions required. All abilities welcome.

**Monday evenings at the Hepworth Pavilion.  
From 7.00pm until 8.00pm**

Just £2.00

Singing everything from ABBA to Led Zeppelin.



### Allotments

To all you keen or budding gardeners and vegetable growers out there, Hepworth Parish

Council would like to know if there are any Hepworth residents still interested in having a local allotment. Over the years we have endeavored to find land to rent for this purpose, but so far, we have not found any. Is there still enough interest for us to pursue this? Let us know by emailing the Clerk [hepworthpc@outlook.com](mailto:hepworthpc@outlook.com) Equally, to any landowners out there, do you have a spare acre or plot you would be willing to rent out for this purpose? If so, please contact Andy Osman, the Clerk at [hepworthpc@outlook.com](mailto:hepworthpc@outlook.com).

### Hepworth coffee morning



On the first and third  
Thursday of each month at  
1030 -1200.  
Come and join us for a coffee  
and chat, meet new people  
and old friends.  
Just £4 a session.

## PASSION FOR PIGEONS - Part 8

The first sparrowhawk attack at my loft took place shortly after I the last article was published. The young birds were just starting to flip round learning to use their wings. I always stay very close to the lofts at this time but it came between the trees and hit the young birds. I was not sure if it took one and I looked around and tried quickly to get them in. I had checked over the fence but could not see any feathers. On counting up I was one missing and kept checking to see if it was around. I happened to look over the fence and there it was being eaten alive in my neighbours garden. Luckily for me my neighbour was at home. This was roughly 1 hour after the attack. I scared it off the baby which at this stage was still alive and it's back was being eaten out. Unfortunately it was too far gone to be saved. 1-0 to the sparrowhawk. On checking the ring number it was a young bird that I had bought for a special race within the Norfolk & Suffolk. Sods law. On speaking with my neighbour they told me they no longer feed the wild birds as none were visiting their garden. As I have said before "It's nature but this bit I don't like"

Regarding Racing to date. The scores on the doors are as follows.

Jimmy      2x1st; 2x2nd; 1x3rd;  
1x4th; 2x5th

John        3x2nd; 1x3rd; 2x4th;  
1x5th

Regarding Jimmy. He is one of the best fanciers I have ever known. He gets the best out of his pigeons and is a natural - my son calls him Ace Sprinter.

Just a short article this time as most of my time is tending the birds. As I type this they are currently at Perth 333 miles away and should be liberated Monday morning home in time for tea. Jimmy sent 9 birds, and John 2  
Until next time



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