

# Heptonstall Newsletter

Aug 2013

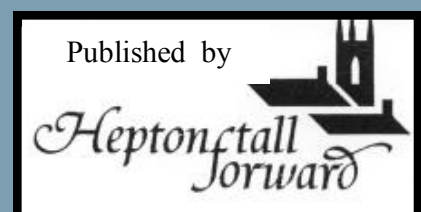


Photo by Michael Crowley

Funded by  
Heptonstall Parish Council

## Contents include

- Parish Council News
- Lee Wood Road Update
- Church News
- Heptonstall Forward Report
- Fell Race
- School Sports Day



Covering events and issues for everyone living within  
the Parish of Heptonstall

## **Heptonstall Parish Council**

The problems caused by the closure of Lee Wood Road continue and this, of course, affects most of our parishioners. I was hoping to be able to include a Calderdale Council update with these notes, but I regret I am still awaiting. Anything I receive will be placed in the Parish Council's notice boards.

I know your Parish Councillors are your first port of call but you will realise that this issue is one for the Highways Authority (Calderdale MBC) to deal with and provide information as to progress etc which means that we are not always fully up to date with regard to timescales. You can be assured we will continue to extract as much information as we can which, when available, I shall include in future newsletters as well as placing in the notice boards.

Two major changes occurred in May. First of all Mary Livesey resigned as a Councillor having served with great vigour for the past ten years. She has fit her council work in with being secretary to Heptonstall Forward and has therefore had a busy time. She was also Chairman of the Council's Planning Committee. Mary, can I thank you on behalf of the whole of the community for the work you have done for us all over the past ten years. It was always a pleasure working with you. When you joined the Council you said you hoped you could 'make a difference' – well you have. Thank you.

Secondly, the middle of May saw the end of our municipal year when positions within the council come up for grabs. This includes the personnel on committees etc. but, most importantly, the installing of the Chairman of Council for the next 12 months. Mike Edwards stood down to be replaced by John Dunford who will hold this post until May 2014. Mike has had a very busy and eventful year and was thanked for his hard work and professionalism as he left office. John has been Chairman previously and I know he will again conduct his work and lead the council in his energetic and enthusiastic way.

Mary's resignation has given rise to a vacancy on the council. No by-election was called in the allotted period after public notice was given of the vacancy, and so this will be filled by 'co-option'. The matter will be included on future agendas until we are back to full strength. If you are at all interested in serving your community in this way do not hesitate to either write to me expressing your interest OR get in touch and I will discuss what this entails. Serving your community in this is most rewarding.....except financially as it is an unpaid post.

Finally.....I don't know if you saw the Hebden Bridge Times at the beginning of July but there was an article (and, goodness me) a photograph of me being presented with an engraved salver from the Council Chairman recognising my 50 years' service to the Council as well as the wider (County and National) contribution I try to make to the local council movement. The event was not only unexpected for me but was also quite moving – John's words were very kind. What I must record here, though, is how much easier it is to perform this task when you have consistently served councillors who have always treated me with courtesy, respect and kindness, and have appreciated the advice I bring to the role. All the time members have been supportive of what I hope is a professional delivery. I have thoroughly enjoyed this half century thanks to all of them I hope to stay a bit longer. I have told members to let me know as soon as they think I should be walking into the water!

**Roger M Greenwood, The Clerk, Heptonstall Parish Council**

# Letter from Calderdale regarding Lee Wood Road

Economy and Environment  
Planning and Highways  
Northgate House  
Northgate  
Halifax  
HX1 1UN



Tel: 0845 245 7000 Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013

## **Residents Update - Lee Wood Road Heptonstall**

Reconstruction of the collapsed section of retaining wall that supports Lee Wood Road has been completed.

There is some additional work to be carried out before the road can be opened to traffic. This comprises re-laying the drainage channel to the edge of the carriageway, installation of an asphalt extruded kerb to narrow the road to keep vehicles away from the retaining wall, and trimming/removal of trees.

It is anticipated that the road will reopen on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013 or earlier once this work is completed and permanent traffic management signs and signals are in place.

## **Lee Wood Road between Tentercroft and Hollins**

Boreholes at this location have shown that this section of wall cannot be reconstructed using our current construction method as the wall will need to be founded over 6m below road level.

Ongoing monitoring has shown no further movement at this location and we will therefore be narrowing this section of road to 4m width with vehicle activated traffic lights to control traffic.

Monitoring will continue to identify any future movement and a design for a piled wall will be progressed as a contingency. Future movement and the need to construct a piled wall would obviously result in Lee Wood Road being closed and the current temporary traffic management system being re-introduced.

## **Traffic Management upon Completion.**

To prevent further deterioration of the full length of the wall the following traffic management will be required.

An 18t weight limit and 40mph speed limit along Draper Lane and Lee Wood Road.  
Reduction in width of Lee Wood Road between Northwell Lane and Tentercroft to 5.5m.  
Reduction in width of Lee Wood Road between Tentercroft and Hollins to 4m and single way traffic controlled by permanent vehicle activated traffic lights.  
Permanent signing of HGV diversion via Todmorden, Cliviger and Blackshaw Head for vehicles over 18t.

I hope that this letter helps to reduce your concerns and ask that you bear with us in the current circumstances. If you have any questions please **please ring the Council customer contact centre on 0845 245 7000**, or your Ward or Parish Councillor.

HEPTONSTALL COMMUNITY LED PLAN  
FURTHER ACTION FROM AUDIT MAY 2013

WHAT	FURTHER ACTION 2013/14
<b>COMMUNITY FOCUS</b>	
1. To establish an annual Parish event by means of the community participating in a school celebration.	Heptonstall Forward is willing to support the school in an event incorporating Maypole Dancing should the need arise.
<i>(carried forward from 2004-11 Parish Plan)</i>	
2. To actively encourage wider membership of Heptonstall Forward.	<i>To continue to encourage membership and to seek updates from the voluntary groups.</i>
<i>(carried forward from 2004-11 Parish Plan)</i>	
3. To review and renew the Community-led Plan.	<i>Review 2013/14 plan at AGM May 2014.</i>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>	
4. To improve the physical environment, including dog fouling and litter clean up.	Maintain a watching brief on dog litter issues and seek the support of the Dog Warden when appropriate. Use newsletters to identify problem areas and seek solutions. Litter- members of the public will be encouraged to participate in a clear –up should the need arise.
5. To add to the visual enhancement of the Parish e.g. bulb planting, floral displays and festive decorations.	HELP to seek local contributions to support an extended range of planting activities and Christmas lights. To organise a clean up of the church yard in May 2013. To secure the permission of CMBC with regard to putting a planter in place to improve the floral aspects of the village. A ‘best front of house ‘competition will be organised for summer 2013. Heptonstall Forward to organise the planting of spring bulbs in October 2013. They will seek contributions from the community in addition to the £100 provided by the Parish Council.
6. To provide Finger Posts.	To monitor and encourage CMBC’s activities in erecting finger posts (which have been ordered) at Hepton Drive Park and Weavers’ Square. When the final phase has been completed there will be an official opening and thereafter the Signage Group which has worked quickly and effectively on their project will cease to exist.
<i>(carried forward from 2004-11 Parish Plan.</i>	
7. To protect the interests of the community in relation to planning issue.	<i>Ongoing need as and when it arises in context of new planning regulations to protect the interests of the community in relation to planning issues.</i>
<b>HOUSING</b>	
8. To reflect the expressed views: 70% of respondents feel that additional housing is not needed, 88% value the landscape and 77% the value the tranquillity.	To support the Parish Council in respect of their role in the new planning regulations.

<b>LOCAL FACILITIES &amp; SERVICES</b>	
9. To support the preservation of important historic buildings.	A HF member will continue to attend/ support Heritage meetings for the Museum, Churches/Chapels.
10. To produce a quarterly newsletter. Continue to increase circulation.	To produce a quarterly newsletter. Continue to increase circulation, quality and make style changes where considered necessary. Parish Council to approve content ( see list of designated Cllrs.) and to finance via a grant to Heptonstall Forward, who hold responsibility for the newsletter.
11. To maintain and develop the community website.	Continue to encourage contributions from the community and extend the range of local information available.
<b>ELDERLY AND DISABLED</b>	
12. To establish a Good Neighbour Scheme.	The Good Neighbour group will meet biannually in order to respond to any changing need or circumstance. They will seek to promote the Community Car Service, Age UK Good Neighbour schemes, in addition to the Luncheon Clubs and the Shopping Bus, via a stall at Pennine Spring Festival and in any other community events. There will be a feature in each quarterly newsletter.
<b>COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE &amp; LOCAL ECONOMY</b>	
13. To establish a green & environmental action group, to explore the potential to take forward some, or all of the possible projects described e.g. allotments, community food projects, composting , renewable energy & community enterprises etc.	To support residents who express an interest in establishing a group. To raise awareness via newsletter and website that, should an individual wish to lead such a group, then HF will assist in promoting its establishment and membership.
<b>TRAFFIC, PARKING &amp; ROAD SAFETY</b>	
14. To establish a blanket 20 mph speed limit throughout Heptonstall Village and in other built-up areas within the Parish and to investigate and, if proved feasible, introduce a blanket 40 mph speed limit in areas of the Parish not subject to a 20 mph limit.	*Continue to elicit support of CMBC & Ward Cllrs to achieve aim. Complete feasibility study and progress project to completion if feasible.
15. To develop & implement solutions to the vehicle parking problems in Heptonstall Village.	Maintain a watching brief on existing parking restrictions and ensure there is adequate enforcement. Complete feasibility study.
16. To identify, develop possible solutions for & seek rectification of, the road safety hazards in the Parish.	* see above Properly designed speed survey to be conducted, financed by the Parish Council. If feasible, to establish robust evidence base in support of case effective action by CMBC.
<i>(carried forward from 2004-11 Parish Plan)</i>	
17. To ensure that cultural and entertainment events organisers are aware of the need to identify appropriate parking in their promotions.	To maintain a watching brief and give advice/support as and when appropriate.

## **Reports from Voluntary Groups July 26<sup>th</sup> 2013**

### **Heptonstall Traffic, Parking & Road Safety Group:**

#### **Results of a traffic speed survey carried out in Towngate and Smithwell Lane over the period 20-26<sup>th</sup> June 2013.**

Residents have long complained of the non-compliance of drivers with the 20mph speed zone through Towngate and Smithwell Lane. These complaints have grown in both number and volume since the Lee Wood Road closure forced increased traffic through the Village and serious road safety concerns have been voiced by an increasing number of the wider local community. The Group and the Parish Council have repeatedly taken up these concerns with Calderdale Council, first to try to obtain effective speed zone enforcement and second to get effective traffic calming measures in place. The Council's response has been to carry out some sporadic SiD/Radar gun surveys, the latest of which suggested average speeds of 12-13mph, maximum speeds of 20mph and 85 percentile speeds (the parameter used for determining speed limits) of 14-16mph. As a consequence of these results Calderdale Council proposed to take no further action.

To try to resolve this conflict between residents' and Calderdale Council's views and because in our opinion the Calderdale surveys are unreliable (random days & locations, short time periods, SiD/Radar gun visibility slows drivers down) the Group, with Parish Council support, decided to carry out its own more systematic, comprehensive and covert survey. Our objective was to provide hard evidence either, that drivers are compliant with the 20mph limit and that therefore residents have no cause for concern or, that drivers are not compliant and that therefore some enforcement and/or traffic calming action is needed from Calderdale.

The speed survey was carried out over the seven day period 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013 by Leeds City Council, which is contracted by Calderdale Council to carry out similar work for them. Traffic volume and speed data was collected by hour, for 24 hours per day in 5mph wide 'bins' from 0 to 60mph, using pneumatic tube sensors across the road and battery operated electronic recording equipment – a more discrete method of measurement than radar guns/SiD and much less likely to impact on normal driving speeds. Measurement was carried out for both 'up' (Northbound) and 'down' (Southbound) traffic at three points: at the start of the 'cobble' just uphill of the junction with Valley View Road (ie inside the 20mph zone at the lower entry to the Village); at the junction of Silver Street with Smithwell Lane; and, at the Lodge/Sandal House entrance drive (ie inside the 20mph zone at the upper entry to the Village). Unfortunately, due to technical

problems, the Silver Street equipment delivered only 3 full days of results but the other equipments delivered a full 7 days of results and we consider we have more than adequate data to draw some robust conclusions.

The survey produced a mass of data and analysis of it is on-going but a brief summary of salient facts of immediate interest is provided in the table below.

The most striking facts to emerge are:

800-900 vehicles travel up and down Towngate/Smithwell Lane per day (reducing to 500-600 at week-ends);

Of these 8-12% exceed the 20mph speed limit at the lower end of the Village, 7-9% do so at Silver Street and 32-33% exceed the limit at the upper end;

Amazingly, at the lower end of the Village 5 vehicles were recorded travelling at more than 45mph, of which 2 were exceeding 55mph, whilst at Silver Street (in just three days) 3 were recorded at more than 40mph and, at the upper end of the Village, 11 were exceeding 40mph, of which 3 were exceeding 55mph.

We consider the results of the survey lend substantive weight to the views of residents, that there is considerable non-compliance with the 20mph speed zone and that a significant number of vehicles are being driven at dangerously high speeds through the Village. It is our intention to use the evidence generated to try to persuade Calderdale Council to take effective action to achieve driver compliance with the 20mph zone.

	Lower End Of Village	Silver Street (3 days data)	Upper end Of Village
Mean vehicle speed 'up'	14.2 – 14.8	13.5 – 13.9	17.2 – 18.1
Mean vehicle speed 'down'	14.9 – 15.7	13.4 – 14.9	17.0 – 18.0
% vehicles at more than 20mph 'up'	8	7	33
% vehicles at more than 20mph 'down'	12	9	32
No of 'up' vehicles faster than 30mph	5	8	27
No of 'down' vehicles faster than 30mph	16	3	22
No of 'up' vehicles faster than 40mph	2	2	7
No of 'down' vehicles faster than 40mph	3	1	4
No of 'up' vehicles faster than 50mph	1	-	2
No of 'down' vehicles faster than 50mph	2	-	1

## **Reports from Voluntary Groups July 26<sup>th</sup> 2013 (cont.)**

### **Good Neighbour Scheme:**

Nothing further to report from recent months.

### **HELP (Heptonstall Lights and Planting Group):**

Work on the churchyard has continued, the number of weeds has been reduced and planting has taken place. There were a number of volunteers, but more are still needed. However grass cutting is still a problem and is difficult without petrol strimmers. From the funds raised over the year from the Festival stall and the Christmas Lights Launch, we have negotiated with CMBC about suitable planters and have purchased a planter which conforms to the Heritage Guidelines. Approval has also been given for siting it in Weavers' Square. The group plans to continue with fund raising in order to provide another planter next year.

There will be another Front of House competition to be judged at the end of August, a stall is planned for the Heptonstall Festival and also to have a 'Switch the Tree Lights On' event in December.

### **Signage Group:**

The Finger Posts are still in the process of being supplied and will be pursued as soon as possible.

## **Dementia Friends**

A dementia-friendly community may be defined as being a place:

- in which it is possible for the greatest number of people with dementia to live a good life
- where people with dementia are enabled to live as independently as possible and to continue to be part of their community
- where they are met with understanding and given support where necessary

In order to co-ordinate this campaign I have arranged for hour long training sessions during the months of July and August, and would ask people to go online and book a space at [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)

Jan Lymer

Dementia Champion

Or talk to me direct on 01422 847979/077712 168812

## **Heptonstall Methodist Church, Northgate Heptonstall**

**Minister:** Rev A.E. Buglass B.A M.TH

Glen Carr 55 Caldene Avenue Mytholmroyd HX7 5AJ

**Tel:** 01422 881706 E-mail: tonybuglass@tiscali.co.uk

**Services and Sunday School at 10-45 each Sunday.**

Contact :Miss Margaret Coupe, senior steward. Tel: 01422 842550

### **Forthcoming events**

**Sunday 22nd Sept** at 9:15am : Village Harvest Festival at St Thomas' Church.

**Sunday 13th October** at 10:45am : Chapel Anniversary and Gift day at the Methodist Church. Preacher : Revd. Christine Perry.

**Sunday 10th November** at 10.45am : Village Remembrance Service at The Methodist Church.

**Saturday 23rd November** from 11.30am : Christmas Fair at the Methodist Sunday School—lunches available. Opener Mr Roger Greenwood.

The Ladies' group will meet on Wednesday afternoons in October and November, exact dates yet to be confirmed - please see anyone from Chapel.

## **St Thomas' Parish Church.**

Services continue at St. Thomas' at 9.15am each Sunday.

On September 22nd this service will be the Harvest Festival which will be a joint service with the congregation of the Methodist Chapel - everyone will be welcome.

The 29th September is the 5th Sunday in the month and this will be a service using the order of service from Iona Abbey.

Sunday 15th September is the Heritage Open Day and the Church will be open throughout the day with information about the church on display.

September 21st is the Heptonstall Festival and teas will be served in Church

## Heptonstall Fell Race

Heptonstall Festival Fell Race turned into a fabulous battle between a string of worthy contenders with the ladies' race being won by the village's own Holly Page.

On a perfect summer's day, it was hard to imagine a better venue for a short fell race with freshly mown fields, glorious azure skies, breathtaking views and the faint sound of a German oompah-band in the background.

Organiser Stephen Grimley said: "We raised around £400 for the Festival (through the race) whilst Jan raised a further £300 through catering. "Big thanks to the 30 marshals (mostly from the village), we hope they enjoyed their free pints. A massive thanks to Lynn at The White Lion for hosting the HQ and providing all the prizes, and to Anthony Holt for letting us use his field for parking/ race route.

"Hazel Noble and Penny and Mark Wharton also kindly allowed the race to pass through their fields. We were really grateful to the Methodist Church for the use of benches and tables for the post race party in Weaver's Square, and to the residents in the square for putting up with the all the commotion. Mark Wigg and Mark Holman gave up a huge amount of their time helping us to set up and organise the race. And who could forget Alan Nethercott dressing up in Lederhosen to start the race – Wunderbar! What a community! Well done everyone!"

The six mile race, with 1647 ft of climb and very hot conditions, made it a lung-busting test of stamina and resolve. The descent into Midgehole, past the Blue Pig, is followed by a gruelling climb from the valley.

Tod Harriers' Nick Barber crested Pecket Well road crossing in the lead with Wharfedale's Dave Kirkham and Mark Sennett hot on his heels. Calder Valley's Joe Washington – fresh from his maiden victory on Wednesday at Cragg Vale – and new boy Jonny Helliwell were close up.

In the absence of some of Calder's bigger names, veteran Mark Goldie reached High Brown Knoll trig point in sixth and the scene was set for a rip-roaring return to Heptonstall.

As the group rattled past Little Stoodley and back down into Midgehole, Kirkham had nipped ahead of the rapidly fading Barber, with Washington and Helliwell pushing hard to stay in contention. Back past the Blue Pig again, the final, withering climb back up to the finish line bore its teeth.

Step forward Helliwell, who crushed the leading pack with a masterful ascent and powered to the finish line to claim his maiden victory. Kirkham and Sennet took second and third while Barber somehow hauled himself over the line in fourth place, only to collapse with exhaustion, requiring the local ambulance to navigate the tricky streets. Helliwell, Goldie and Washington helped Calder Valley claim the men's prize.

In the ladies' race, local lass Holly Page secured a comfortable victory and 15th place overall, and helped Calder to the ladies team prize along with Jackie Scarfe and new girl Sarah Tait.

Post-race fun was provided in the main square with fine German lager, frankfurters and bratwurst, and delicious strudel.

**Heptonstall Lights and Planting Community Group**  
**In partnership with Heptonstall Forward**

**Lets brighten up our  
village this summer!**

We are looking for the best displays of pots, planters, hanging baskets, shrubs or flowering plants at the front of your house.

**Prizes to be won!**  
**No need to enter.**

Judging will take place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and winners will be notified.

**Bulb Planting 2013**

Come and join us on Saturday  
October 12<sup>th</sup> 10. 30am.

Can you spare an hour of your time to add to the gorgeous array of spring bulbs you see around Heptonstall?

Meet at Weavers' Square –  
bring a spade or a trowel.

If you are unable to take part you can still help by making a donation.

Please look out for the box  
in the Post Office.

**Heptonstall School Sports Day**

The sun finally shone for Heptonstall School Sports Day, the first for three years due to poor summers.

A huge turnout of spectators at Heptonstall Park cheered on the children, who competed in traditional races including shuttle runs, hurdles, sprints, sack races, egg and spoon, skipping and balancing.

Some of the events proved challenging for the younger competitors.... the skipping race was particularly difficult for those who were turning the rope backwards whilst trying to run forwards.

Balancing a coit on the head even whilst waiting at the start line was problematic for the Class One boys. After a slow start to the race, teacher Peter Jenel assisted some by holding the coits on their heads for them as they walked over the finish.

The sack races were also speeded up by teachers carrying several competitors over the line in their sacks.

Egg and spoon techniques varied between double handed, single handed, or simply holding the egg onto the spoon. During some races, eggs changed ownership. Some older boys experimented with using the spoon as a racket to knock the egg over the final yards, which produced impressively close finishes.

The Heptonstall Parish Website's "One to Watch" award goes to Isla Lee-Grant, of Class 2, who won every race she entered.

**Next Newsletter: November 2013 Contributions by 8th October to :**  
**Jacky Kelly, 3 Townfield Lane, Heptonstall 01422 847328**  
**E-mail : jacandphil@talktalk.net**

A DAY OF MUSIC, MAGIC, FOOD AND FUN



HEPTONSTALL FESTIVAL 2013

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM

**NIZLOPI**

DAVID OWEN LEWIS  
TAYLOR JACKSON BAND + MUCH MORE



→ **SATURDAY**

**21.09.13**

**FREE ENTRY, 10.30AM - LATE**

**CHILDREN'S HIGHLIGHTS**

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND  
FANCY DRESS PROCESSION**

Dress up & join in or line the streets!

**10.30AM** meet at Heptonstall School  
**11.00AM** Procession leads through the  
village to the Church Ruins.

**A MAD HATTERS TEA PARTY**

With stalls, live music & special guest Cbeebies Mr Bloom!

Bring your picnic blankets, tea and cake and get  
ready to say 'Cheers!'

**11.30AM** in the Church Ruins

FOR MORE INFORMATION INCLUDING FULL LINE-UP VISIT  
**heptonstallfestival.org** AND FOLLOW **@hepfestinfo**

TWO STAGES, FINE FOOD, A PROCESSION & A TEA PARTY!