

Heptonstall News

Summer 2026

FREE

WELCOME to this newsletter which includes information from within the Civil Parish of Heptonstall including:

- ◆ Parish Council Update
- ◆ Community News
- ◆ Local Events



Newsletter funded and published by Heptonstall Parish Council



Hello all it's finally Summer!

The Parish Council has been just as busy as always over the last few months!

General Parish Council Business:

- ◆ Over the past few months, both the Clerk and Parish Councillors have represented the Parish Council in various networks including the YLCA Branch Meeting, the Town & Parish Council Liaison Group, Safer Cleaner Greener and the Ward Forum.
- ◆ At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, Cllr Colin Jackson was appointed as the Chair of the Parish Council for 2026/27. Huge thanks to Cllr Susan Slater for her brilliant work as Chair in 2025/26.
- ◆ The Parish Council has considered seven planning applications over the three months since March.
- ◆ We have also discussed various issues including road works issues on Smithwell Lane, HGVs on Lee Wood Road and Widdop Road, and the possible creation of an outdoor exercise area on the playing field
- ◆ The Parish Council has given over £9,000 in grants to various community groups including 1st Heptonstall Rangers, Friends of Heptonstall Chapel and Sunday School and Heptonstall Playgroup. The Parish Council still has £1,000 remaining of the Environmental Grant. If your group has an environmental project in mind and would like to know more about this potential funding, please contact Hannah at clerk@heptonstallpc.co.uk.
- ◆ The Parish Council would like to give special thanks to Mr Gregory for his brilliant work in tidying and cleaning the old churchyard!

Grit Bins:

You spoke and we listened! The Parish Council is in the process of purchasing further grit bins for the village. It is hoped that these will be in place and filled before the cold weather hits!

Phone Box:

The Parish Council is in the process of adopting the phone box on Hepton Drive! This listed structure will be a valuable asset to the village. The Parish Council has loads of ideas of what it could become! Watch this space!



Towngate Car Park:

Many of you will be aware of the proposed parking charges at Towngate Car Park. The Parish Council has received over 20 very thorough and well thought out emails from concerned residents and, as such, has responded to the consultation objecting to the proposal.

Calderdale Wind Farm:

The results of the Parish Council's survey have been published on the Parish Council's website. The Parish Council has used the survey results to assist in it's response to the Statutory Consultation.

More information on the wind farm proposals and the consultations can be found on the Calderdale Energy Park website (www.calderdaleenergypark.co.uk).

As always, Heptonstall Parish Council welcomes residents' comments and involvement in all matters. Other key contacts include the Ward Councillors:

Councillor Courtney – councillor.SCourtney@calderdale.gov.uk

Councillor Mickleburgh-Benn - Councillor.HMickleburgh-Benn@calderdale.gov.uk

Councillor Puddepha - Councillor.MPuddepha@calderdale.gov.uk

Bye for now!
Hannah Sherriff-Jackson

Clerk – Heptonstall Parish Council

Email: clerk@heptonstallpc.co.uk Mob: 07301042083



FUND RAISING SUCCESS

We would like to thank everyone who came to support the Leeds Hospital Charity event hosted by us on the 23rd May, with music in memory of Bob Dean provided by 3 great DJs. A good time was had by all and attendance was phenomenal with over 200+ showing your support for this worthwhile cause; and to date we have managed to raise over £1500, so again **THANK YOU!**

BOWLING SEASON HAS STARTED!

We're off to a flying start with our Monday and Friday teams doing well in their leagues so far. Do come down and support us when we have our home matches. If you are looking for an activity for your club or society we can offer Crown Green Bowling sessions and Bowls Buddies sessions. Just get in touch. Contact Drew Marsh, heptonstallclub@live.co.uk

WORLD CUP FEVER

As the football World Cup kicks off we'll be showing the England matches live on our big screen, as they progress through the fixtures. Those matches confirmed to date are advertised in the flyer opposite. Looking forward to welcoming all you footie fans!

SUMMER TIMETABLE - see below

Monday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM - 11:30AM Playgroup (Term-time only) - Andrea 07727 338300 6:00PM - 7:00PM Zumba - Nicole 07900 642763 7:00PM onwards <u>BAR OPEN</u> (during bowling league fixtures)
Tuesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM - 9:00PM Hilltoppers Community Choir (every Tuesday except first of the month) - Ann 07799 268966
Wednesday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00PM - 8:00PM Yoga - Rachel www.yogamovementmassage.co.uk
Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00AM - 12:30PM Chair Yoga for over 70s (every fourth Friday of the month) - Debs 0113 3224771 6:00PM - 10:30PM <u>BAR OPEN</u> Games Night (pool, table tennis, snooker, board games, bowls, etc.) - Everyone welcome
Sunday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00PM - 7:00PM <u>BAR OPEN</u> - Everyone welcome





ENGLAND

WORLD CUP

GROUP FIXTURES

- **WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE KO 9PM**
V CROATIA
- **TUESDAY 23RD JUNE KO 9PM**
V GHANA
- **SATURDAY 27TH JUNE KO 10PM**
V PANAMA

Come and watch on the big screen. Bar open an hour before kick-off. Non-members welcome.

For enquiries relating to: private functions/ meetings/camper van accommodation, contact heptonstallclub@live.co.uk or telephone Jean on, 07517394389.

FRIENDS of HEPTONSTALL GRAVEYARD



Our volunteers have continued to work hard installing bird and bat boxes, tidying paths and clearing weeds and brambles. Two worked diligently to remove weeds from the Remembrance Garden with the exception of the forget-me-nots, which it was considered more appropriate to leave. The Church has also begun to extend this area to enable more interments.

Two new bins have been purchased, which help to enhance the sense of care for the graveyard. For those of you who have entered by the bottom gate you will notice that a lot of work has been done clearing the area just inside, which we had filled with the self-seeded saplings, removed when we first began our work in the overgrown graveyard. Unfortunately it has resulted in our two compost bays becoming very full. As we will shortly be



concentrating on ensuring the rosebay willowherb does not get a stronghold again we shall need every metre of space for it. Last year it filled both bays. Sadly we were informed that a person not connected with the church or doing voluntary work, was seen hurrying away after having tipped a full barrow of vegetation onto the already full compost bays, despite the notices placed on the gates by the church. We feel this is both thoughtless and disrespectful. What a contrast to the people who upkeep the graveyard voluntarily and Sean Gregory who singularly (often starting at 6am), has recently cleared much of the area around the two churches. Well done Sean!

However, to continue on a positive note! At the May Volunteer Day we had six residents in addition to the FoHG members! We worked hard, achieved a lot and wound up in church afterwards with a cream tea and a brew. We are thankful to Debbie for coming in and preparing this for us!

There will be a lot to do over the next 5 months. Look out for the posters which are outside the church, in the shop and the Bowling Club, a week before we meet. Do come along, you will be very welcome!

Saturday Volunteer Days: 10am to 12.30pm followed by a chat and a brew:

- July 4th
- August 1st
- September 5th
- October 3rd
- November 7th (We then go into hibernation until spring)

Spring bulbs in bloom on the edge of the meadow.



The meadow flowers emerging in April: ox-eye daisy, red campion, yarrow, salad burnett, lady's smock/ milkmaids, foxgloves and celandines. We are nurturing more foxgloves and primroses for 2027.

Note of Thanks:

The financial support which enables this work is as ever greatly appreciated. Our thanks to Heptonstall Parish Council for the recently received grant, to Caroline and Mark at Towngate Tea Rooms for their continued support, to the three people who have made private donations, and those who have donated via the QR code on the gates.

A nesting box on which a bluetit did some DIY on for a week, enlarging the hole! It sounded like a mini woodpecker! The boxes were made with different sized holes so I wonder if it ever discovered it could have saved itself the trouble had it looked around! However it settled in and is still seen darting back and forth.



The bank by the South Wall which the guides helped to plant produced some beautiful anemones. Other sections were planted with flowers nurtured in residents' gardens.

For further information email:

friendsofheptonstallgraveyard@gmail.com

HEPTONSTALL LIGHTS & PLANTING (HeLP)

The four planters (two in Weavers Square, one by the museum and one by the bus stop) have all been replanted. If anyone is able to help with watering when/if we have hot weather, please let us know.

Our annual 'Front of House' competition will be judged in July so now's the time to get your front gardens/pots/planters/window boxes/hanging baskets looking their best. The prize is a voucher for Gordon Riggs and there's no need to enter.

We also hope to have another Jumble Trail, probably around the August Bank Holiday. There will be more information nearer the time on posters and the village Facebook page. It's a chance to earn some cash from your unwanted items.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 30th June at 7.30 in the Cross. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Eleanor Worley (HeLP) Contact: help100@myyahoo.com

HEPTONSTALL FELL RACE

Race Report & Photos (As reported on Facebook)



Thanks to everyone who turned out to race on 26th May – we were all blessed with a magnificent day! Another bumper entry of 196 gathered in the lofty surroundings of St Thomas's church, before Rev Ruthi made a special appearance (taking a break from her maternity leave), to bless the assembled masses on the cobbled start line,

“...they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary...” ISAIAH 40,41.

First home was Mercia Fell Runners' Oliver Perratt in a scorching Heptonstall Fell Race victory. The Shropshire lad found himself lining up on the cobbles after the Heptonstall RO bumped into his partner Laura on a snowy run on a frozen Standing Stone Hill back in January (on her first visit to Calderdale).

It wasn't long before she'd been talked into signing up – and mentioned her other half would be joining her...Fast forward to March; the dark horse partner

from Ludlow, who turned out to be the last 2 year's winner of Long Mynd , flew over the bogs and puddles of Heptonstall Moor in a fantastic 1.51.50 to seize an impressive victory. Jordan Estwood of Slaithwaite Striders was 2nd in 1.53.13, with Fraser McDonald of Chorlton in 3rd (1.57.19). We're really proud of the top



quality field, including Calder Valley's Karl Gray who finished 4th (1.59.56). Karl is our current course record holder - in both V40 (2015) and V50 (2022) categories, a local legend!



Wharfedale's Molly Browne (02:21:22) skipped up that horrific final climb to arrive home as

Heptonstall's first woman, ahead of last year's champion Hinda Hardaker (2nd - 2:29.55), and Leeds based (unattached) Ann Burt (02:36:53).

Calder Valley Fell Runners cleaned up in the Team prizes, winning both the men's and women's titles (helped by the huge CVFR turnout as members competed for club champs points). It's a great testament to the 15mile 3300 feet ascent course that we're seeing such strong entries and top draw runners each year - we really appreciate everyone's fantastic support!



Oliver and Molly received the Heptonstall Trophy (Chris Goddard's Hand Drawn Race Map) £50 in Sportsshoes.com vouchers - all our winners across the categories received Sportsshoes vouchers and Chocolate Easter Eggs as we celebrated the start of spring with a beer and curry at the presentation at The Cross Inn.

For further fell race information Email: heptonstallfellrace@gmail.com

Website: <https://heptonstallfellrace.wordpress.com>



It's been a while! However, we're delighted to finally pull together everything ready for reopening at the end of June. In the last six months' whilst we've been closed, there's been plenty happening in the background in preparation for the new exhibition. In readiness, some of our volunteers got together recently with Calderdale Museums' Service, for a day dusting down the old Grammar School book collection and deciding on fresh exhibits to share in the forthcoming exhibition.



Heptonstall's history stretches as far back as 13 century records. Nick Wilding's vision to bring together an eclectic collection of 100 (at least!) fascinating objects and a wealth of new stories and fresh interpretations has been carefully curated and researched.

The new exhibition has really benefitted from help from Culturedale - funded workshops and a cohort of volunteers and researchers involved with 'Researching Heptonstall' which continues to meet monthly.



The Volunteer Trustee Team behind the Museum's charity has seen some changes too. Naturally, people's commitments and circumstances change. We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all those who have given endless hours of commitment and skills to reach this point in the Museum's story. In particular, we would like to thank Julie McGonigle, who has been pivotal, particularly during the long winter and contractual delays.



To help us take us to up to that next step, on 2 June, we are proud to welcome **Grant Lowe** as our new Museum Coordinator. Grant may be familiar to some Villagers already, having been a part of our Hebden Bridge Rotary Club part-funded, educational film “**Weight in Gold**”! Others may recognise him from ‘up the road’!

(Grant pictured on the right of the photo)

He’s spent nearly 10 years working at Hardcastle Craggs for the National Trust, so brings a range of skills and interests to the role. Grant is keen to get started and wanted to share a few words:

“I’m delighted to have been given this opportunity to play a part in the development of the next chapter of Heptonstall Museum. It’s brilliant to be back working with the people and heritage of Calderdale and in such a unique building at the heart of an amazing community. I’m joining at a busy time, with the Museum’s brand new exhibition and I’m especially looking forward to working with our dedicated volunteers and would love to hear from anyone who is interested and has time to get in touch to discuss the different volunteering opportunities available.”

Our Chair, Tim Machin added:

“The museum is at a major turning point, with the coiner’s exhibition removed, the welcome return of some favourite fixtures including the Schoolmasters’ Chair. We’ve proven that the museum is not only valued, but truly viable, but we recognise the need to make changes to successfully operate the museum in the long term. We welcome interest from new trustees and the addition of a part-time paid role will really offer significant help to open this exciting next chapter.”

We can’t wait to welcome back our wonderful volunteers and to see villagers and their visitors back through the doors and we hope that the next exhibition will offer something for you and your families to be proud of at the centre of Heptonstall’s historic heritage.

The group meeting for our Culturedale creative poetry workshop, did some wonderful work on creating a woven poem about Heptonstall. Sammy Weaver, who facilitated the session, kindly contributed a blog with her perspective on the afternoon



HEPTONSTALL

IF HEPTONSTALL WERE A COLOUR,
IT WOULD BE COPPER AND ASH.

IF HEPTONSTALL WERE A TYPE OF WEATHER,
IT WOULD BE MIST.

IF HEPTONSTALL WERE AN ANIMAL,
IT WOULD BE A HARE.

IF HEPTONSTALL WERE A TYPE A MUSIC,
IT WOULD BE A VILLAGE FOLK SONG
WITH HURDY-GURDIES AND FIDDLES.

IF HEPTONSTALL WERE A PERSON,
SHE WOULD BE A WOMAN
IN LONG SKIRTS CARRYING A BASKET
OF BREAD ACROSS THE COBBLES.

SHE WOULD SOUND BOOMING
AND AUTHORITATIVE.

SHE WALKS CONFIDENTLY,
BUT WITH A SLIGHT LIMP
FROM THE WEIGHT
OF HER BASKET ON THE COBBLES.

~ INK & TAPESTRY POETRY WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

 **HEPTONSTALL MUSEUM**

Ink & Tapestry
Connect | Create | Curate





Separately, Rachel Nisbet led a group, which included our Heptonstall Rangers and members of the community in exploring the stories of Heptonstall and creating links to the objects and landscape of our town. We have been able to connect those stories to past residents of the village and this ties beautifully with work that the Research Group have been doing exploring the census and homes of Heptonstall.



You can read more about both events on our website.

Our latest Culturedale workshop took place on 27th August - **'Threads of Sound'** is the start of work on a new community soundscape - led by Mike Crowley, the evening sparked some wonderful ideas that are now being developed into future dialogue and will be recorded with atmospheric sound effects incorporated to bring the stories to life.

The Researching Heptonstall group continues to meet regularly and organised two excellent tours of the village, with the help of local expert David Cant. This helped those with connections to the village to really contextualise their research with the homes their ancestors inhabited and to better understand the history behind the architectural developments of the town. Their next meeting will be a **'Bring and Scan' session on 20th September**. If you have any interesting photographs, maps, house deeds, pamphlets, personal research or documents, bring them along to the Bowling Club between 11am and 1pm on Saturday 20th September. We will have scanners on hand so that, with your permission, we can add them to our information bank. If you have an interesting tale to tell, come along and tell us about it. We're here for anyone interested in finding out more about their family, house, or any aspect of our village's rich past.

All are welcome.

If you'd like to stay updated on events happening with the Museum, do drop an email to info@heptonstallmuseumfriends.org.uk to be added to the mailing list.

We continue to welcome new Friends of Heptonstall Museum members who can support the Museum with a donation of £2 a month, giving free entry and discounted event tickets.

Volunteering is a huge part of keeping the Museum going - can you offer time and/or talent to help us?

Get in touch! Further information can be found by visiting our website at www.heptonstallmuseumfriends.org.uk or Linktr.ee/heptonstallmuseum



HEPTONSTALL REPAIR CAFÉ

2026 Round up.

Great news, that our MP Josh Fenton Glyn has signed the Repair and Reuse Declaration and met our sister repair café representatives from Mytholmroyd and Huddersfield recently at the Houses of Parliament. The Repair and Reuse Declaration is calling for legislation to:

- ◆ Make repair more affordable through tax reductions and repair vouchers
- ◆ Expand the UK's right to repair regulations for all consumer products to strengthen design standards and make repair easier
- ◆ Introduce a repair index to help the public chose more repairable and durable products (this happens in France already)
- ◆ Prioritise repair and reuse over recycling
- ◆ Support a new generation of repairers through training, accreditation and apprenticeships.

We are pleased to bring together older and younger repairers to start sharing these skills. We've repaired endless toasters, hoovers including some lovely Henry Hoovers, stitched clothing and bags, repaired furniture, buckets, chairs, strimmer's and toys. We can even mend broken zips with loose teeth – amazing. And of course we can sharpen your gardening tools and knives.



What do we do?



Since 2019 our 20+ volunteers have been providing friendly advice and repairing a wide range of items – anything in fact apart from microwaves. We repair: bikes, clothes, leather goods, electrics, electronics, chairs, toys, and wooden stuff, we sharpen knives and tools, and we love a challenge.

As well as repairing and sharpening we have volunteers from Hebden Tech Tutors (www.hebdentech.co.uk), who serve the Calder Valley, helping people to understand and use technology so if you're baffled by your laptop or flummoxed by your smart-phone come along.

As with all our services at the Repair Café, this is for a voluntary donation.

We have wonderful tea, coffee and an array of delicious cakes served by the Guides. And a chatty, friendly atmosphere. You can pop by to have a look if you just want a visit. We look forward to seeing you and sharing stories like these.

Please make sure your items for repair are CLEAN, especially clothing.

We suggest a voluntary donation towards our rent and insurance.

Upcoming events 2026:

Heptonstall School, from 10am – 1pm please arrive by 12.30pm.

- ◆ Saturday 13th June
- ◆ Saturday 11th July
- ◆ Saturday 12th September
- ◆ Saturday 10th October
- ◆ Saturday 14th November



NB. No dogs (apart from Guide Dogs). Dogs can be secured outside in the top playground.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you'd like to volunteer your skills as a repairer or receptionist or helper then please contact us on @Heptonstall Repair Café on Facebook or leave a note in the Post Office for Louise, email us on: heptonstallrepaircafe@gmail.com

1st HEPTONSTALL GUIDES and RANGERS



Guides and Rangers News — Summer

We always try and spend as much of the summer term outside!

Guides have had a term of doing First Aid, cooking on stoves, lots of preparation for summer camp - putting up and striking tents, washing up, knot skills, playing games and learning how to make friendship bracelets.



We've been on Summer Camp! Two nights in tents, all the weather, with activities such as crate stacking, axe throwing, moonlight raves in the fort, making lots of friendship bracelets, leap of faith, fires and smores, and lots of pioneering! Many thanks to the lovely people at Bowley Scout Campsite.

Coming up we have a really fun packed half term before the summer break - forest skills, wild swimming, Senior Guide adventure camp at Great Tower, a Hebden Hey campfire with all units, Rugby, and Dragon Boating.

Rangers have had a slightly more chill time with making Land Art, Scavenger hunts, an award ceremony & badge presentations and games. We have a summer camp in the planning and many of the Rangers enjoyed a two day hike and hostel trip to the Lake District.

We now have Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Ranger units running in Heptonstall. You can express an interest through the Girlguiding website. Guides is frequently over subscribed although we do hold a waiting list, best way to get a place is by coming up through Rainbows and Brownies!

If you want to see what we're up to, both Guides and Rangers have Instagram accounts. Lots of photos of the cool stuff they do!

<https://www.instagram.com/1stheptonstallguides/>

https://www.instagram.com/1stheptonstall_rangers/

Rainbows and Brownies also have Instagram accounts and have been posting recently about what they are doing.

Know a girl who would love to do this kind of thing? Register interest on the Girlguiding website, we sometimes have spaces in all age groups. You can register interest as an adult volunteer on the website too. <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk>.

Meet Times:

- Rainbows meets on Mondays and is for 4 -7 year olds,
- Brownies meets on Thursday and is for 7 -10 year olds
- Guides meets on Tuesdays and is for girls aged 10 -14 and
- Rangers is for 14 -18 year olds and also meets on Thursdays.

There are units in Hebden Bridge, Todmorden, Halifax and Sowerby Bridge too.



(Images from Instagram)

Jayne Mackintosh
Leader, 1st Heptonstall Guides and Rangers

I LOVE SUMMER



N V X J Y M H D E G B I T K W O
C Y G B Q C P L G K N C F Y T C
O G C E X Z R Y R O O D T U O K
L V N A D B Q I E Y Q H S K A D
C U O C H Q A V B X H U T M N H
P Y M H M J D R Q Z N P S R S O
E Z L R L T X B B J I X F U L
C O Z U H E P B L E H H U K N I
F A B C J N G O Z P Q N V J B D
K T M N G P C G R T M U E E A A
Z F U P S K A P P H A N E R T Y
S N P P I R H P Z S U U L Q H S
Q P J A D N A U S J K S G I E O
N B O E R E G J P F U F O U X Z
O N N U K K F I E N W B B T S O
T M L R I Y W E C X E D N Z E T

AUGUST
CAMPING
HOLIDAYS
OUTDOOR
SUNBATHE

BARBEQUE
FUN
JULY
PARK
SUNBLOCK

BEACH
GARDEN
JUNE
SUN



HEPTONSTALL PLAYGROUP

Every Monday 10:00 - 11:30

(During Calderdale School Term Time Only)

£2.50 per child (additional siblings 50p)

Warmer days are just around the corner and our pre-school children have enjoyed Spring with its Easter crafts, treats and spells of sunshine. The Easter bunny dropped a few eggs and fun was had by all hunting for them around the bowling green.



Attendees love our snack times where a selection of healthy foods are on offer, and exciting play remains one of our key priorities, often enjoyed by the biggest kids of all (although their face doesn't always show it!)



FUNDRAISER EVENT

We reported in the last newsletter that we hoped to organise a table top sale to raise funds for the playgroup, and I'm pleased to say this will take place on Hepfest Day (see next page for details). There will be cakes, hot drinks, tombola, children's clothes and toys and more on sale. Tables will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so don't miss out! As it's Festival day we hope we can entice you down for a look around before you enjoy the rest of what should be a great day on offer later in the village. Let's hope for sunshine!




It's not long now before our older pre-schoolers will leave us for their next journey on to nursery school. As a result their accompanying parents/carers will no longer be available to act as volunteers to help run playgroup. So we hope a few people can come forward before we break up for summer, to either help set up equipment, provide/preparing snacks or help with tidying up. Playgroup really is a valuable community asset and we'd like to ensure it continues this way, so all help is greatly appreciated.

Please approach one of the current volunteers or contact Andrea at:

bandrea789@aol.com or **mobile 07727338300**

If you'd like to see what we're about feel free to come along, a warm welcome always awaits.

For further information we can be found and contacted on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/977804118928253/?ref=share_group_link



HEPTONSTALL PLAYGROUP

FUND RAISER MORNING

at

HEPTONSTALL
SOCIAL BOWLING CLUB

SATURDAY
4TH JULY

11AM-1PM

£5
PER TABLE



CAKES, HOT & COLD DRINKS,
FUN TABLES AND MORE



TO BOOK A TABLE
07727338300

Pennine Spring Music Festival – another feast of music making

As usual Spring Bank Holiday week saw over 100 musicians gather in Heptonstall for the Pennine Spring Music Festival to rehearse and perform three concerts offering a feast of music in St Thomas the Apostle.

We opened with Rejoice in the Lamb by Benjamin Britten. That tested the choir, and Robert Schumann's Symphony No. 4 put the orchestra on their mettle. Musical Director Orr Guy delighted us all by proving that yes, he can play saxophone expertly by soloing in Milhaud's Scaramouche.

He was at it again on Thursday night in Heitor Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasilieras which absorbed elements from Johann Sebastian Bach European music into Brazilian music. A Handel organ concerto, a piece by Beethoven built round our national anthem, and a fantasy by Jules Demersseman from the musical world of 19th century Paris brought us back to Western Europe. But then we went to Eastern Europe with the Pennine Spring Choir performing four movements of Sergei Rachmaninov's All Night Vigil (Vespers) in Old Slavonic. Another test which they passed well, if not easily.

And then we went to Spain for musical influences in our Saturday night Finale with Maurice Ravel's famous Boléro the centring the concert which also featured orchestral works by Manuel de Falla, El Sombrero de tres picos, and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Capriccio Espagnol. But we came firmly back to England with Four Rivers, a choral and orchestral piece by our retiring choral director, Keith Orrell. In it he recalls his early years along the Ribble, then his career as a musician in Kirkby Stephen in the Eden Valley and in Shrewsbury on the Severn, before he settled in Liverpool on the mighty Mersey.

Four Rivers fittingly combined drama and emotion as Keith conducted his final performance for Pennine Spring after fifteen years as choral director during which he has helped us to raise the standard of our music and particularly our singing. We are recruiting to replace him so that by October we will announce the programme for our 2027 Festival, running from Monday 31 May until Saturday 5 June. If you'd like to play or sing with us get in touch at penninespringmusic@gmail.com. Finally, thanks once again to Heptonstall Parish Council for its financial support, the Church of St Thomas the Apostle for its hospitality, and particularly the Church wardens, and to the residents of Heptonstall for the welcome that you always give us. Looking forward to seeing you again next year.

Alan Tomlinson

Pennine Spring Music Festival Committee



**FRIENDS OF
& HEPTONSTALL CHAPEL
SUNDAY SCHOOL**



We've got huge plans to keep you entertained through 2026 - so far

21st June - Waiting for Dawn - see next page

4th July - Vocal Highs Choir opening the Spoken Word Festival - see below

8th August - Outside the Box & Square Peg

19th September - 8 sides of Percussion

14th November - Darkher - for a 2nd year

5th December - BBC Musicians of the Year

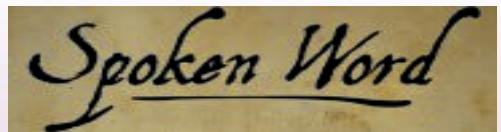
Tome McConville and Michael Biggins

AND!!! There are plans for more concerts throughout the year

**From 12 Noon on Saturday,
4th July - & it's FREE!**

Come and celebrate the power of voices in song, words, poetry, and storytelling at Heptonstall's glorious Octagonal Chapel!

Opening the day will be the glorious voices of the Vocal Highs Choir followed by a feast of Spoken Word performers. We are bringing together a fantastic line-up of local poets, storytellers, and spoken word artists for an afternoon of inspiring performances.



News Flash

The Friends Group have been busy and making progress towards saving the Chapel and bringing the Sunday School back to life. We are getting close to agreeing a lease with the Methodist Church which will open the way to all kinds of exciting new ways to enjoy these historic buildings. We will keep you posted. Please get in touch if you'd like to know more email to - Hepfriends1764@gmail.com

Tickets are selling fast for this treat for your ears in our wonderful
Octagonal Chapel on 21st June

Waiting For Dawn and friends

An afternoon of ACAPELLA HARMONIES
and ACOUSTIC MUSIC to welcome
in the Summer Solstice

Heptonstall Octagonal Chapel
Northgate, Heptonstall, HX7 7ND

Sunday 21st June

Doors open 13.30 Concert 14.00 - 16.30

Tickets £10, £8 concessions
available on the door - cash or card
or <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GMDY>

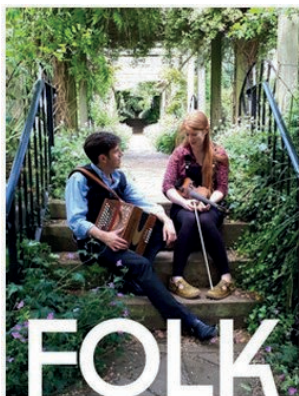
ALL proceeds for Heptonstall Octagonal Chapel
and Medical Aid for Palestinians



CONTACT - hepfriends1764@gmail.com



Previously ...



FOLK WITH EIGHT SIDES

SARAH LOUGHRAN & PAUL YOUNG

CONTEMPORARY INSTRUMENTAL FOLK
INFLUENCED BY ENGLISH AND IRISH
TRADITIONS AND THE MODERN EUROPEAN
FOLK SCENE

CALLING CORVIDS

WHISTLE, UPRIGHT BASS, CONTEMPORARY
ARRANGEMENTS OF TRADITIONAL TUNES
AND SONGS FROM THE ISLES.

.....

SUNDAY 10/5 • 18:00 - 20:00
OPEN 17:30 • REFRESHMENTS
£10 ON DOOR OR SCAN TO
PREBOOK:

In May we had the treat of hearing 'Calling Corvids' combine some wonderful whistle playing with the beautiful tones of a double bass. As if that wasn't enough we then heard some skillful and toe tapping tunes, some of which dated back through time.



In April we had sell-out crowds come along to be entertained by the wonderful Kimbers Men.

Really entertaining and a glorious blend of voices filled the Chapel, showcasing its lovely acoustics



Welcome once again to Heptonstall Octagonal Chapel as we open up for a new year of eight-sided concerts with **sea songs and shanties: Kimber's Men at the chapel**. Be prepared to sing along heartily. Captivating audiences

with fabulous harmonies and amusing banter since 2001, KIMBER'S MEN have performed at folk and shanty festivals spanning the length and breadth of the UK from Portsoy in the North to Jersey in the South and from Liverpool to Harwich in the West and East. The boys are regular performers at festivals throughout Europe and Scandinavia, honoured to be invited annually to the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France. Now on home turf in the Calder valley, the 'Men are delighted to be opening the year's programme at the chapel and warming its beautiful old chambers with heartfelt song and history.

Shanties With Eight Sides

**Saturday 11/4 • 19:00 - 21:00 • open 18:30
refreshments • £10 on door or scan to prebook:**

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Find 8 Differences in the pictures below.



SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Hard No. 1

				4	5	6
5			2		1	
						7
			2		4	
3						
	5	8	9	1		
	1		3		9	
	7	2		6		8
			4			

Hard No. 2

			4			9		
			8				1	2
				1		6		
							8	
1		2	3				5	
	7	4		9		1		
		8	2		4			5
	4							
	6							3



HepFest is Heptonstall’s very own community music festival is a one-day celebration of local musical talent and community spirit. Held annually each July, the festival transforms some of Heptonstall’s most iconic spaces, including Heptonstall Octagonal Chapel, Weavers Square and St Thomas’ Church, into vibrant hubs of live music, art and celebration.

Entirely volunteer run and community-funded, HepFest is built by Heptonstall residents, for Heptonstall. The festival champions local musical artists and performers while creating an inclusive, family-friendly and dog - friendly atmosphere that welcomes everyone, whether you’re a local or visiting for the first time.



More than just a music festival, HepFest is a reflection of the village itself: Independent, creative, welcoming and full of heart.

Support comes entirely through donations, volunteers and community goodwill - so whether you attend, donate, volunteer or simply spread the word, you’re helping keep culture and community alive in Heptonstall.

Sign up to volunteer at: <https://forms.gle/yzQuRrNfdUUvdD7t6>

Full details can be found on the festival website - www.hepfest.org

St Thomas's Church Heptonstall

Spring into early summer is always an exciting time at church, comprising as it does the end of Christmastide, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter and Whitsuntide, the church's birthday, which we conclude today (as I write) on Trinity Sunday. It was even more exciting this year as our priest-in-charge Ruthi continues on maternity leave, so the small but perfectly formed volunteer PCC (Parochial Church Council) has been keeping ministry and mission going thanks to Reverends Nat Gibbons, John Flood, Peter Jeffrey, as well as a handful of lay ministers. In April we held our annual meetings, and Graham Kidd and I were elected Churchwardens for the year ahead. The challenge for 2026 will be fund-raising, for which reason we remain enormously grateful to all the volunteers who help, with a particular shout out to the Friends of Heptonstall Graveyard, who tackle nature's best efforts to reclaim the New Graveyard; and Sean, who has single-handedly taken on clearing graves in the Old Graveyard.



Donations generated by the annual Heptonstall Fell Race in March (we provide a registration space, a minister's blessing, and about half a tonne of flapjacks) have helped too, so many thanks to Steve Grimley; and the Pennine Spring Music Festival, celebrating its 40th year, generously hired the church in May once more for rehearsals and concerts, with the additional benefit that we volunteers got to hear classical music talent from all over the world in the heart of the Pennines - admittedly from backstage!

This summer, we're looking forward to our own patronal festival (the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle is on 3rd July, and the Feast of the Translation of St Thomas Beckett is on 7th July, so take your pick), which serendipitously coincides with HepFest. And more immediately we're running our very own 'Rave in the Nave' family event on 20th June - tickets available on Eventbrite. It costs about £800 a week to keep the church and churchyards running as a place of worship, about half of which is operational costs for which we receive no diocesan financial support, so why not make your contribution in the form of dance?

And of course we'll keep the church open every day between about 9am and 5pm for quiet reflection or prayer; with Holy Communion most Sundays at 10.45, with Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel every Wednesday at 8.30pm.

Tristan Langlois - Churchwarden
stthomasheptonstall@outlook.com

If you would like to contribute to the content of this Parish Council Newsletter through sharing local community group/organisational news, events, village promotions and local activities then please get in touch.

Closing dates for submitting content to future editions are:

- ◆ **Tuesday 1st September 2026 (Autumn)**
- ◆ **Tuesday 1st December 2026 (Winter)**
- ◆ **Monday 1st March 2027 (Spring)**
- ◆ **Wednesday 2nd June 2027 (Summer)**



For further information please contact Andrea Baldwin at:

Email: HPCnews23@outlook.com

or