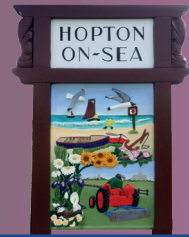


villagenews



February 2024 Issue 5, Volume 14

A monthly magazine for the residents of Hopton-on-Sea

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We make no apology for putting this picture on the front cover.

The amount of dog fouling left on pavements, pathways and fields in the village has increased considerably. Most dog owners are responsible.

It's the few that are spoiling it for everyone else. See inside for how to report matters to GYBC Environmental Health.



ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

- Youth Club urgently needs a Treasurer and Volunteers**
- Village People - who is featured this month?**
- Could you be a voluntary dog warden in Hopton?**
- School News from year 5**
- Jackets and Jockeys Race Night in the Village Hall**
- Greatest Showman Sing Along in the Village Hall**
- Special Birthday Celebrations - see inside back cover**

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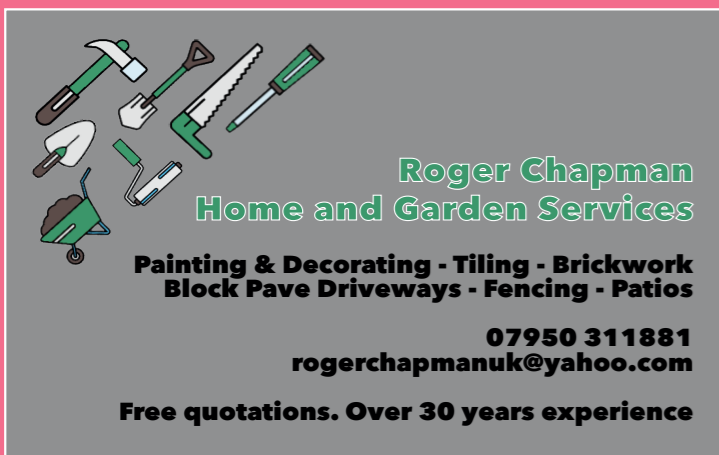
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village news

February 2024

dear reader,
We hope you enjoy reading your monthly copy of Village News. If you have a news article or something you would like published, please get in touch, using the contact details below.

advertising sales

If you are interested in advertising within this magazine, which is delivered free of charge to 1400 homes in Hopton every month and published on the Parish Council's website, then get in touch.

t 01502 730768
e hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com
w www.hopton-on-seapc.info

production credits

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publication dates

Please submit material by the **12th February** for consideration in the next edition.

Julie McNair
hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

Useful Contact Numbers

Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council	01502 730768
Hopton Village Hall	01502 730768
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	01493 856100
Norfolk County Council	03448 008020
Hopton Primary School	01502 730489
Hopton Medical Centre	01502 732246
Hopton Dental Surgery	01502 732124
Hopton Pharmacy	01502 733876
Hopton Co-Op	01502 731628
Hopton McColls/Post Office	01502 733617
Bus Times Information	0871 2002233
Cliff Park Ormiston Academy	01493 661504
Gas Emergency Service	0800 111999
Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance	999
Norfolk Constabulary (Gorleston Police Station)	101 non emergency
James Paget Hospital	01493 452452
NHS Direct	111 for non emergency
Samaritans	01493 842800 freephone 116123

Welcome to Hopton

If you are new to Hopton, welcome! A copy of Village News will be delivered through your door every month. It should help you keep in touch with what's going on in Hopton. If you have any queries or we can help in any way please contact Julie, Clerk to the Council on 01502 730768 or pop into the Office at the Village Hall, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm. The Parish Council's website also has information at the click of a mouse.

www.hopton-on-seapc.info

We look forward to seeing you at one of the many events being held throughout the year in the village. There is also a Hopton Residents Facebook page (managed by residents).

The large Cedar tree at **Seaview Rise** has been felled by NCC/GYBC. The Parish Council were not consulted and the tree did not have the benefit of a Tree Preservation Order.

GYBC advise that a large branch came down in early January which was removed and at that time an assessment of the tree was carried out. This is the response the Parish Council received:-

"This Cedar tree was highlighted to GYS by NCC due to a limb failing during the high winds and heavy rain in early January. Following the failure of one of the tree's main stems, the tree was assessed and was deemed that to avoid further failure and threat this causes the remaining tree should be removed. Due to the location of the failure, the remaining stem's structural strength and attachment/union to the rooting base were compromised and likely to fail. This is due to the tree being multi stemmed; which is unusual for a Cedar – the tree may have been 'coppiced' or cut down when younger, creating multiple stems that have had a detrimental effect on each other."

Some positive news is that a replacement tree has been reserved by NCC at the nursery, however, they have no stock for this planting season. Planting will take place winter 2024.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Make some room in your diary to support a local event ...

Are you involved in organising a local event? Let us know and we can spread the word. Contact hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com or phone **01502 730768** and speak to Julie. Copy deadline is **12th** of each month for inclusion in the following monthly edition.

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH:
Every Sunday at 11am Service

LITTLE FOOTPRINTS:
every Thursday at the church
9.15 to 11.15am (term time only).

DROP IN AT THE CHURCH:
every Monday 10 to 12. All welcome.

YOUTH CLUB:
every Friday 7 - 9pm (during term time).

- JUNE:**
D. Day celebration. Details to follow.
- Saturday 15th:**
Party in the Park at the Recreation Ground.
- Saturday 22nd:**
Summer Bingo in the Village Hall
- SEPTEMBER:**
Saturday 21st September:
Autumn Bingo in the Village Hall
- NOVEMBER:**
Saturday 30th November:
Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall

FEBRUARY:
Saturday 24th: Jackets & Jockeys Race Night at Hopton Village Hall

MARCH:
Saturday 16th: Greatest Showman Sing Along at Hopton Village Hall

Saturday 23rd:
Easter Bingo in the Village Hall

To find out what's on at Hopton Village Hall, view their website:
www.hopton-on-seavh.info
or phone **01502 730768**
and speak to Kye to book a party or event.

Parish Council website:
www.hopton-on-seapc.info

DOG FOULING IS ON THE INCREASE



Hopton, is covered by a Public Space Protection Order – Dog Fouling. Failure to clear up after a dog has fouled can incur a **fine of up to £1,000.**

Please carry a dog bag or other means to pick up your dog's mess and take it home with you, or put your bag in any public waste bin in the village.

The Environmental Health team can be contacted on 01493 846478.

Could you be a volunteer dog warden in Hopton? (There are currently only two and more are needed). The role is about raising awareness, providing advice and handing out dog poo bags if necessary. The GYBC Environmental Ranger team can provide full training. If you are

interested please contact the Parish Council who will co-ordinate with GYBC. Please call **01502 730768** and speak to Julie or e-mail: hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

Extract of a letter from a resident (name and address supplied)

Welcome to Hopton Dog Mess Village. It has got worse over time. I come home from work late in the evening and have never seen so many dog owners allowing their pets to do their business. They cannot be bothered to clear up and there's no one about to take action against them.

Dog fouling is on the increase in Hopton once again. There is a temptation for dog owners to allow their pets to foul and not clear up after them, or to clear up and then throw the bag in a hedge.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Environmental Ranger team would like to remind dog owners that the whole of Great Yarmouth borough, including

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

SING ALONG!

Saturday 16th March 7.30pm
Come along to a night like no other whilst helping to raise funds for Party In The Park 2024.

TICKETS
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Contact Carole and Ian Wall for tickets – see Hopton Residents Facebook

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EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION

Do you enjoy colouring and drawing? Send us your Happy Easter pictures and win an Easter Egg.

E-Mail your picture to: hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com or place it in the red post box on the wall outside the Village Hall. Please include your name and contact details (and age if under 18).

Entry closes 27 March 2024.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Hopton on Sea Parish Council meetings take place on the dates listed below commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Agenda is published on the Parish Council's website and on the three noticeboards in the parish. A public forum takes place during each monthly session where you can raise issues that are of concern to you.

Parish Council website:
www.hopton-on-seapc.info

Meeting dates 2024:

12 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May Annual Parish Council Meeting/Annual Parish Meeting, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December.

Your Parish Cllrs are:-

Jan Windsor-Luck, Chairman	07941145152
Sue Hacon, Vice-Chair	01493444271
Steve Ames	01502731759
Keith Bradley	07561266209
Yvonne Bradley	07879284973
Kevin Lee	07850555864
Pamela Oakes	07850584679
John Plaskett	07836251345
John Tonks	07956873232

Julie McNair, Officer of the Council 01502730768
(message service)
e-mail: hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

County/Borough Cllrs for Bradwell South and Hopton Ward
E-Mail: Cllr.Carl.Annison@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Tel: 01493 656854

E-Mail: Cllr.Katy.Stenhouse@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
E-Mail: Cllr.antony.capewell@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Hopton North Ward:
E-Mail: Cllr.paul.wells@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Your MP:
Brandon Lewis 01493 854550

HOW TO CONTACT NORFOLK CONSTABULARY

PLEASE REMEMBER IF AN INCIDENT IS ONGOING OR LIFE IS IN DANGER CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY.

For non-emergency please call 101 or REPORT IT on www.norfolk.police.uk.

You can call to report a crime anonymously on 0800 555 111

Are you celebrating an anniversary, birthday, birth of a new baby or to announce the death of a loved one?

Send your entry to hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com or drop your wording to the Office at the Village Hall by the 12th of the month, for inclusion in the following monthly edition.

As we are moving into colder weather, this is just a reminder of where the grit bins are located in Hopton.

1. Hall Road, off Lowestoft Road (near old Post Office).
2. Seaview Rise, next to 7 – 8 Manor Gardens.
3. Noel Close, junction Lowestoft Road.
4. Seafields Drive, junction Lowestoft Road.
5. Warren Road, junction Station Road/Coast Road, near Turnstone.

Please feel free to use the grit/salt bins for roads in your area (not private driveways) when the weather is icy. A request has been sent to NCC to replenish all the bins. They usually only fill half full each time.

NCC advise "GRIT BINS will be replenished on mass throughout the county once there has been a prolonged period of cold weather".

Gritting route by NCC:

A47 into Hopton, Station Road through to Coast Road (to the Suffolk border). No other roads in Hopton are gritted by NCC.

Caister Recycling Centre is located on Pump Lane NR30 5TE. It is open daily 9am to 4pm and open as usual on Bank Holidays but closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. The site also has a reuse shop where you can buy unwanted items for bargain prices. For more information go to: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/>

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Winter Warm and Well offer from Norfolk Libraries

This includes Gorleston Library at 1 Lowestoft Rd, Gorleston-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth NR31 6QU. Opening times Thursday 10am to 7pm. Friday 10am to 7pm. Saturday 8am to 4pm. Sunday closed. Monday 10am to 7pm. Tuesday 10am to 7pm. Wednesday 10am to 7pm. Open Library Access 8am to 10am – speak to a member of staff about an access card.

All libraries provide:

- **Free hot water bottles and blankets**, available for anyone in need and no questions asked
- **Free toiletries bag** containing deodorant, shampoo, bodywash and toothpaste. (Adults and children's toothbrushes are available to help yourself to, or ask a member of staff)

- **Free 'Tricky Period To Go' bag.** (Sustainable items are available while stocks last, including period cups, washable pads and period pants).

Visit the **Adult Learning page** for free courses at www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/adult-learning/courses

Other Services at Gorleston Library:

- Browse and borrow books and other library items
- Free access to computers and wifi
- Meeting rooms for hire
- Automatic doors
- Wheelchair accessible lift
- Accessible toilet
- Baby weighing facilities



Norfolk County Council

The history of makes Norfolk a great February as it is the home of Valentine! Dating back to 1477, the earliest known Valentine was sent in Norfolk in a letter from Margery Brews to John Paston, in which she described as 'my right well beloved Valentine'.

Fast forward 350 years and printed Valentine cards began to appear. In Victorian Norfolk more money was spent on Valentines than Christmas and postmen were provided with an allowance for refreshments to help them through the busy delivery days in the run up to February 14th. A classic Norfolk ritual is 'Jack Valentine', who, after knocking on doors and leaving gifts on the eve of St Valentines, disappears into darkness of the night.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS

During this cold spell it would be helpful if residents could keep an eye on their neighbours to make sure everyone is coping OK in this weather. A tap on the door and a quick hello is all that's needed, or an invitation for a warm cuppa and a chat. Please be mindful of vulnerable and elderly neighbours. Let's all do our bit to keep the community safe.



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PROTECT YOUR PLANET



**KEEP BRITAIN
TIDY CAMPAIGN,
SAVE YOUR
PENNIES!**

This January, Keep Britain Tidy's award-winning Buy Nothing New Month campaign returns! This campaign is all about moving beyond simply recycling, to reducing the amount of new stuff that we buy, and by extension, the amount of waste that we create.

We're encouraging members of the public to buy nothing new – bar the essentials – for just one month.

What's On at Hopton Village Hall Feb 24

www.hopton-on-seaVH.info

Hopton-on-Sea Village Hall Management Trust wish all residents and village hall users a very Happy Christmas.

Bookings via website or phone 01502 730768 and speak to Kye.

Main hall

Monday:	Dance Academy 3.30pm to 7.30pm Badminton Club 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Tuesday:	Latin Rhythms 9.30am to 10.30am NHS Private Hire 11am to 1pm Slimming World 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Wednesday:	Pilates 9.15am to 10.15am Phoenix Karate 4.45pm to 8.15pm
Thursday:	Pickleball 10am to 12pm Badminton Club 12.30pm to 1.30pm Dance Academy 4pm to 4.45pm Yoga Sculpt 6pm to 7pm Zumba 7.15pm to 8.15pm
Friday:	Dance Academy 3.30pm to 6.30pm Youth Club 6.30pm to 9.00pm
Saturday:	Dance Academy 8.30am to 3.30pm
Sunday:	Little Kickers 9am to 12am

Small hall

Tuesday:	Dance Academy 4pm to 6pm Spiritualist Church 7.15pm to 10pm
Wednesday:	Dance Academy 6.30pm to 7pm Phoenix Karate Adult beginners 7.30pm to 8.30pm
Thursday:	Dance Academy 5pm to 7pm Pilates 7pm to 8pm
Friday:	Fifit Weight Class 9.45 to 10.45 Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Saturday:	Mini Ballet 10am to 11am Dance Academy 11am to 12pm
Sunday:	Spiritualist Church 6pm to 9pm

EVENTS: 24th - Hopton Residents Event Race Night



HOPTON MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Hopton once per month.

The location and times are as follows:

- 2.15 - 2.30pm - Lowestoft Road Opposite White Hart NR31 9AH
- 2.35 - 2.50pm - Old Church Road lay by NR31 9BZ
- 2.55 - 3.10pm - Rogers Close NR31 9RP

NEXT VISITS (WEDNESDAYS):

21 February

20 March, 17 April,

15 May, 12 June

10 July

Please note this information is subject to change or amendment both on a permanent and temporary basis.

For all enquiries about this route please call NCC on 01603 222303

There is also a free book exchange at the Village Hall.



The Honesty Book Exchange Point

There is an Honesty Book Exchange Point in the Village Hall for everyone to use. Bring in a paperback you have read, browse the books on the trolley, and exchange your book for another one. This is a community initiative at no cost. The village hall is open daily. Please remember to sanitise your hands before exchanging a book. No hardback books please, just paperbacks on exchange only. Please do not leave books without exchanging.

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 January 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE.

Present: Parish Cllrs: Jan Windsor-Luck (Chairman), Sue Hacon (Vice-Chairman), Steve Ames, Yvonne Bradley, Keith Bradley, Kevin Lee, John Plaskett, John Tonks.

Also present: County/Borough Cllr. Carl Annison. Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and three members of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

1. To receive apologies for absence and welcome new Parish Cllr.

Apologies received from Parish Cllr. Pam Oakes. Welcome Cllr. Ames.

2. To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation.
There were none.

3. Public Forum.
Nothing raised.

4. To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 11 December 2023.
It was proposed by Cllr. K. Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Hacon to confirm the Minute. This was agreed by majority vote.

5. To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.

Cllr. Annison wished everyone a Happy New Year. Funding for new updated 20mph flashing speed signs on Coast Road outside the school is coming from County Highways budget. The signs should be installed within 8 weeks.

The works on Station Road are vital to maintain a safe gas supply to the village.

6. To consider the Clerk's reports.

a) Correspondence. As listed and circulated.

b) Planning applications.
The three planning applications outlined at the last meeting, as included in the December 2023 minute, have been reviewed by the Planning Committee and no objections raised.

Permissions Granted by GYBC. None.
Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC. None.

c) Finance. To agree January 2024 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 31 October 2023.

Eight payments and two direct debits from the business current account totalling £3,793.08. It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to approve the list of payments and bank reconciliation statement. This was agreed by majority vote.

7. To receive and consider a donation request from Centre 81.

Paperwork has previously been circulated. Following discussion concerning the level of funding the Centre receives from other sources, it was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett not to make a donation. This was unanimously agreed.

8. To receive and consider annual insurance renewal.

Insurance renewal is due 21 January 2024. Documents have been circulated. The renewal premium with Clear Councils (formerly BHIB) is £1,454.81 per annum. Quotation from Community Action Suffolk is £1,750.71, or a three-year undertaking at £1,669.02 per annum. Zurich's quotation will be ready by 12 January 2024. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to proceed with whichever insurance company is more competitive, with like for like cover, up to a figure of £1,500 per annum. To provide the Clerk with delegated discretion to renew with whichever company is more appropriate by the 21 January 2024. This was unanimously agreed. [Zurich quote has now been received at £2,400. Renewing with Clear Councils at £1,454.81 pa].

9. To receive information and consider matters relating to the Millennium Garden/Ruin.

a) Work carried out by Abate Pest Management Services Ltd to remove the pigeon poo from the base of the Tower and generally clean as per GYPT report.
The scaffolding inside the Tower is being removed next week. This will allow the final stages of the work i.e. netting, to be completed by the end of January 2024.

b) Possibility of LED lighting around the Millennium Garden. Public consultation.
Matter carried forward to a future meeting.

10. To consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground/Pavilion.

a) Report re Oak Trees east side.
A quotation has been received from Talking Elm Tree Services at £350 plus VAT. As this is within the budget approved by the Council at the December 2023 meeting, the quotation has been accepted and the survey will be carried out on 11 January 2024. A detailed report to the Parish Council will follow within 14 days.

b) One line of existing Laurels removed and replanted.
Work has been carried out.

c) Emergency repairs to stop leak south changing, back room.
The leak has been isolated. Work is due to be carried out this week.

d) Meeting with Hopton Harriers FC re fire risk checklist. Matter carried forward to a future meeting.

11. To receive information and consider new updated 20mph advisory flashing speed signs on Coast Road to replace the existing that are no longer effective.

County Cllr. Annison has kindly used his County Highways Budget to order the two new updated signs. Installation should be within 8 weeks. The Parish Council thanked Cllr. Annison.

12. To receive information and consider matters relating to overgrown pathways, blocked drains and pot holes.

Great Yarmouth Services reacted promptly to the Parish Council's request. The large mechanical sweeper has been around the village.

13. To receive information from NCC regarding Temporary Road Traffic Regulation Orders affecting Station Road and Hall Road.

Cadent and NCC are aware of the problems the gas works are causing and the diversion. There is vehicle access to homes and businesses on Station Road. Comments can be passed to the Streetworks North Area (Community and Environmental Services Department) at Norfolk County Council, telephone 0344 800 8020 or e-mail streetworks@norfolk.gov.uk Hall Road will be closed to facilitate the provision of fibre overhead cabling works between 9.30am and 3.30pm on 16 January 2023.

14. To receive and consider notes from the SNAP meeting held 14 December 2023.

Notes have been circulated and accepted as read.

15. To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.

a) Plans for the 80th anniversary of D. Day 6 June 2024.

Ritson Lodge would be willing to facilitate a WW2 style afternoon tea for residents. The school is being approached to ask whether some pupils would like to be involved. Other ideas put forward: A bell ringing event. Military vehicles. Boat at Millennium Garden planted in patriotic colours. Check archives to see what was happening in the village during the war. Asking residents for their input. Publish extract of archives in Village News May/June editions. Matter carried forward to the next meeting.

b) Draft Biodiversity Policy.

The draft model policy has previously been circulated. The action plan requires completing. Some discussion took place regarding re-wilding small areas of the village. As mentioned previously, to achieve

this all grass must be completely removed as the soil has to be poor for wild flowers. Unfortunately, it encourages brambles and nettles and any wild area would require maintenance.

GY Services cut the grass but do not remove the cuttings. Last year mowing was left until late Spring. The bug hotel at the Millennium Garden needs renovation. A meeting with the school is taking place to see how pupils can become involved in the action plan.

Matter carried forward to the next meeting.

c) Cutting back of sides and overhanging branches Warren Road footpath.

The Contract Gardener has carried out work from the Cliff Cottages end to the golf club crossing point. Further work is required to complete the job heading north. Some discussion took place and it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Hacon to ask the Gardener to continue the work, which should take one day, at a cost of £136. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr. K. Bradley offered to help the Gardener.

The use of woodchip, rubble or hardcore was discussed. It was generally felt that woodchip would make the wet muddy pot holes worse in winter. It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. Hacon not to use woodchip or any other material. The footpath does not belong to the Parish Council. This was agreed by majority vote (7 in favour, 1 opposed). A Service Level Agreement has been received from the Norfolk & Suffolk Probation Service. They would be able to carry out some cutting back of the pathway, free of charge, in between the Contract Gardener's visits, or in conjunction with him. The Probation Service would advise dates in advance. It was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Y. Bradley to sign the Agreement. This was agreed by majority vote (7 in favour, 1 opposed).

16. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Confirmed Monday 12 February 2024 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.35pm.

These Minutes are in draft format and unconfirmed until approved at the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk to the Parish Council can be contacted in the following ways:-

E-Mail:
hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

Tel:
01502 730768 (message service)

Website:
www.hopton-on-seapc.info

Address:
Office at the Village Hall Station Road Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE.

Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 9.30am to 1.30pm (flexible).

HOPTON-ON-SEA
Residents Events

JACKETS & JOCKEYS

RACE NIGHT

TICKETS £10

INCLUDES JACKET POTATO & CHOICE OF FILLING

SAT 24TH FEBRUARY

6:30 TILL 10:30

HOPTON VILLAGE HALL

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

Contact Carole and Ian Wall for tickets - see Hopton Residents Facebook

Love clean streets local

Want to report an environmental issue?

Use **Love Clean Streets!** The UK's leading and most used environmental reporting service.

The only app recommended and supported by Keep Britain Tidy, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Keep Wales Tidy. It is free and very easy to use.

It's simple to make an environmental report. Love Clean Streets make sure your reports reach the right team in the correct authority i.e. GYBC, NCC.

You can report graffiti, fly-tipping or

fly-posting, potholes, abandoned cars, dog mess,

and many other categories. You will receive an acknowledgement and update on the issue reported.

All apps work everywhere for reporting environmental issues. For a demonstration go to

<https://lovecleanstreets.com/reports/home> or download the Love Clean Streets app free of charge from the Apple app store on your iphone.

Or you can report direct on the GYBC website, link <https://www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/report-a-problem>

Some Vehicle Lights Are More Form Than Function.

As my current motor being pre 2011 isn't fitted with DRLs (daytime running lights), the operation of which, I wasn't familiar until now.

Whilst driving home from Great Yarmouth along the bypass during those monsoon-like showers, the car immediately in front of me didn't appear to have any rear lights showing, given the extreme conditions. I concluded that the driver hadn't bothered with lights at all.

It wasn't until later when I found myself in front of the car that I noticed there were 'some' lights on the front. After some minor research I have discovered the purpose of the little clusters of LED on many motor vehicles.

Seems DRLs, or Daytime Running Lights, the LED cluster which all post 2011 vehicles have by law has created another problem.

From Somerset Live 19 March 2023:

"Drivers could be slapped with a £1,000 fine for making a simple mistake at night or when the weather is bad. All new cars in the UK are legally required to have 'daytime running lights', or DRLs, that come on automatically when the engine is started. These low-wattage lamps are designed to increase visibility and reduce vehicle accidents during the day. In many cases, the DRLs do not automatically illuminate the lights at the back of your car and if you're relying on them during the winter when visibility is poor, or at night, instead of using your dipped headlights, which do automatically switch the rear lights on - you're asking for trouble.

In the worst-case scenario, if you mistakenly rely on your daytime running lights rather than your proper headlights, you could face a £1,000 fine if stopped by the police".

"Front-facing DRLs are required by law, however, rear-facing ones are not. If your car does have DRLs fitted in the rear, they will be a red colour and work in conjunction with the front ones, which are white. You should still always switch on your regular headlights when there is reduced visibility".

Maybe this timely reminder to read the operating instructions that came with the car may save a hefty fine or worse still, an RTA.

Richard Knibb.

SEEKING VOLUNTEER TREASURER



Volunteer's Needed!

Treasurer Required

Treasurer Required The club treasurer typically manages the finances of the club, reports on the club's financial performance and spearheads the fundraising effort to ensure the club has the necessary funds to be successful. If you have any treasurer experience or good with numbers and would like to get involved, please get in touch.

The treasurer responsibilities include:

- Creating and maintaining the club's annual budget
- Working with committee members to generate and collect funds
- Ensuring accurate and up-to-date records of all club income and expenditure
- Payments to third parties
- Prepare and issue invoices
- Manages the club's bank account
- Preparing financial statements ahead of the Annual General Meeting
- Reporting on the club's financial performance at the club AGM

Volunteers Required

The Youth Club can only run with the help and support of volunteers and we desperately need your support to keep the club running for our youngsters. We are open on Friday evenings at the village hall during school term times.

We require volunteers to do any of the following:

- Help set-up from 6:30pm till 7pm before the members arrive (some heavy lifting may be involved)
- Help pack away from 8:45pm (some heavy lifting may be involved)
- Assist anytime between 7-9pm with the members ensuring The rules are being obeyed (i.e. being a hall monitor)
One to one play (i.e. having a game of table tennis with a member)
Group play (i.e. refereeing a ball game, leading a cooking class)
Help run the tuck shop
- Be talented and creative in arts and crafts, sports or music and share these talents with the members

We welcome any parent/guardian of the current members who can support any of the above to get in touch, it would be very much appreciated.

With more volunteers we can remain open all term time, take some pressure off the regular volunteers and implement the requests from the members of additional activities/games they would like to take part in. We can never have enough volunteers so however small you feel your support might be to us please get in touch.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer and help out on an evening, please call Liz on 07729 093748 or email: hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com, we look forward to hearing from you.

Alternatively, pop in and see us, we are open on Friday evenings at the village hall during school term times from 6:30pm till just after 9pm.

Facebook users, don't miss out on what is going on; please join the Hopton Youth Club

Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/265693031523615
and keep up to date with current events.



School News from year 5

In their English lessons, year 5 have been learning about plastic pollution and the effects that this has on animals and the environment. They learned what happens to our waste if it is recycled versus what happens when it goes to landfill sites.

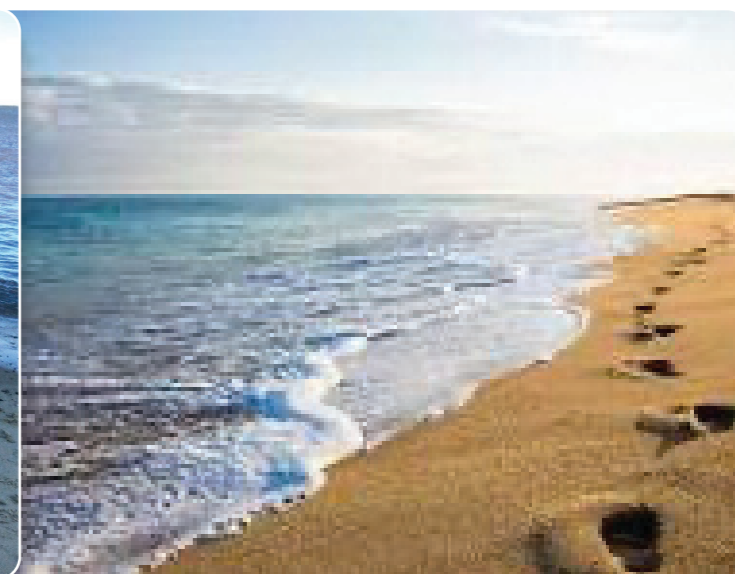
The children demonstrated a passion for making a difference to their local area and as part of their geography studies at the beach, they carried out a litter pick. They were amazed at the amount of rubbish that they collect during one afternoon, all of which was recycled or disposed of appropriately.

Mrs E Garrard, Class Teacher, Hopton Church of England Primary Academy **01502 730489**

A reminder to please leave nothing on the beach other than your footprints!

There has been a lot of litter and fishing gear discarded on the beach recently. There are litter bins on the clifftop, please use them, or take your rubbish home with you.

Thank you.



Look who's **80** years young on February 10th! ("I don't believeeeeee it!")

Our lovely mum, nanny and great nanny **Joan Segust.**

We all hope you have a wonderful birthday and enjoy all your Birthday treats. Lots of love always from Debbie, Sue and all the family xxx

Happy 80th Birthday Pattie Lincoln

Wishing you a wonderful weekend of celebrations. We are all looking forward to celebrating with you. We love you loads. All our love Always. Al, Donna, Raith, Robert, Sara and all the family xx



Calling all Bowlers.

Spring isn't far around the corner and Hopton Bowls Club are looking forward to the new season. If a game of bowls is something you'd like to try for the first time or have played before and would like to come along and see what we are about, you'll be met with a welcome smile and a cup of tea. We will be having an open day towards the end of April to

get the season started. Roll-ups are on a Wednesday evening at 6pm and Sunday afternoons at 2pm. Tuesday afternoon is interclub matches with a cuppa and cake, all weather dependent of course. There are interclub tournaments for the competitive bowler and this year we are entering the Lothingland League as well as the Sunshine League. We have a good social calendar

throughout the year so always something to look forward to. If bowling is something you're interested in, for more information ring Roger on **01502 732093** or **07716958289** or come along on a roll up Wednesday evening at 6pm. The bowls green is We are behind St. Margaret's Church on Lowestoft Road.



Village People

Village people is an interview series about the people who live and work in Hopton. The questions cover a bit about what they do, why they do it, the things that are important to them and hopefully, a bit of humour too. Each month, we ask the same six questions. This month, it is the turn of The Reverend Nigel Lacey, Rector for the Benefice of Hopton Corton and Gunton churches. Many thanks to Nigel for taking the time to answer the questions.

Hosted by Parish Cllr. Kevin Lee
Interested in taking part?
Email klee.hospc@gmail.com

1. Describe yourself in five words.

Friendly, interested, enquiring, hopeful & cheerful.

2. Can you say a little about why you chose those words?

I enjoy life and love interacting with different people. My job means that I come across all sorts of people and I am always interested in their stories, lives and just being alongside them in both the sad and good things. It is a joy to lead a happy event such as a Christening or a wedding but I also find taking funerals very fulfilling, trying to mark a life in an appropriate way. That is always a great honour.

3. Tell me a bit about a typical day in your life.

I am not sure that there is such a thing as a typical day as there is so much variety. One day I might spend most of it in front of a computer writing and catching up on admin, another I might be out and about visiting people. Or, I might be taking a funeral or a church service or going into the schools taking assemblies etc. There is so much variety - I don't get bored!

4. What's your favourite thing about the village?

The friendliness of people. There is a real sense of community in Hopton. I have often said that I wish we lived there (mind you living in Gunton isn't too bad!).

5. What's important to you?

My faith and how this interacts with

those around me. It is such a joy to be a part of people's lives in so many different ways. I am a Third Order Franciscan and this is both a support and a constant reminder that I could be a better person and follow God more than I do. There is always more to learn. One thing I do is to always take care to treat people the same and do not look up nor down on people. We are all equal in God's eyes.

I also enjoy learning more about faith and the world around us. I read a lot, on all sorts of subjects, and always have some sort of project on the go. I enjoy making things and working out practical problems. Currently I am building a model railway and I find this absorbing. Music is also a large part of my life - my favourite being electronic dance music - I love the energy of this and can often be heard playing music very loud.

6. Tell me a funny/strange/unexpected story involving something that has happened to you?

There are almost too many to single out one! Any job dealing with people will have its funny side. But, against me, I once wore a pair of sunglasses and didn't notice that one lens had fallen out - even after being in a couple of shops. It was only when Rosie asked me to look into a mirror that I realised what had happened. She likes to remind me of this one!

Village People