

# villagenews

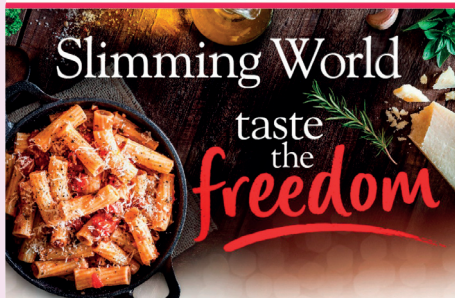
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November 2024 Issue 2, Volume 15

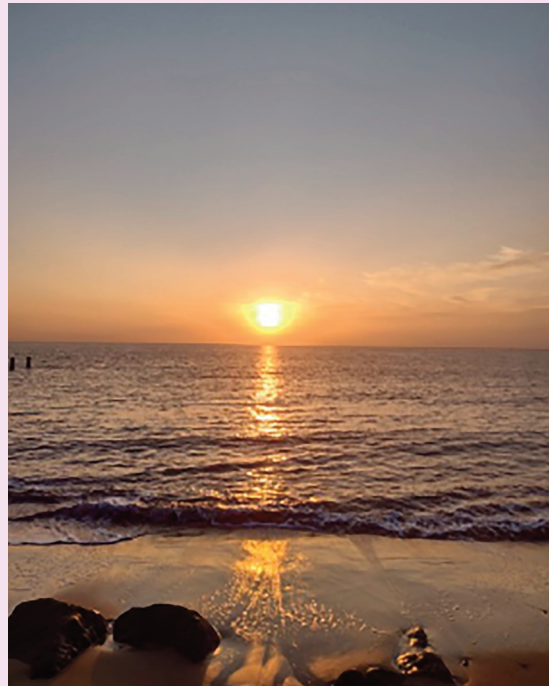
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Photo taken by **Isaac Davis** of Hopton (age 13). Many thanks Isaac.  
If you would like to submit a photo please e-mail: [hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com)

## ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

- Halloween Pumpkin Competition and Ghost Stories around the Ruin.
- School Year 1 Photos.
- New monthly travel article: Christmas Markets.
- New Money Matters.
- Prosecution for fly tipping in Hopton and dog fouling.
- Hopton Bowls Club.
- Youth Club News.
- Pension Credit poster.



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## New Play Equipment at St Clare Court (off Julian Way)

Your Parish Council secured funding for the new play equipment at St. Clare Court. There's now a new multi play and a trail. The old swing seats are being replaced shortly and the swing frame given a new coat of paint. The Parish Council will also be installing a new bench in the play area.

Feedback from the Hopton Residents Facebook page has been very positive. Thank you for all your comments.



We had a fabulous afternoon (15 Sept) heading down to Hopton Beach for today's coastal clean up. The best thing was seeing how tidy the beach was when we got there. However we still managed to do our bit and collect some rubbish along the beach side, even Loopy got involved.

Remember we need to look after our planet so we can keep having beautiful days like today.



Submitted by Broadland Sands Holiday Park

## Warren Road pathway cleared by residents

The clearing of overgrown hedges and overhanging tree branches on Warren Road has over the years been problematic, and has been well documented in the past.

Although the Parish Council does not own this strip of land, and does not have responsibility for it, we have asked the contract gardener to cut back in the past, which went down well with residents. The area becomes overgrown quickly, and the Parish Council were due to discuss this again at the October 2024 meeting. However, what a surprise to find that some residents have got together (again) and taken it upon themselves to trim and clear the area. A huge thank you to residents Emma and Gary Smith, along with Paula Triggs and Valerie McGee. What a great job and much appreciated by all.



Join us for a fun night on

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
at **Hopton Village Hall**

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start



- Prize Bingo
- Refreshments
- Raffle - tickets for Raffle available on the night



For more information call 07895 550168  
Event organised in association with PKPFC



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# village news

November 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

**Published by**  
Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council  
Office at the Village Hall,  
Station Road,  
Hopton-on-Sea, NR31 9BE

**Printed by**  
Blackwell Print, Charles Street,  
Great Yarmouth, NR30 3LA

## publication dates

Please submit material by the **12th November** 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

# 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](http://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).

Join us for our annual

## Carols with a Mini Christmas Market

on

### Saturday, 7th December

The market opens at 2pm, offering local stalls, gingerbread men, and holiday treats. Carols will take place from 5pm to 6pm, where you can sing along to your favourite Christmas songs.

Enjoy mulled wine, festive non-alcoholic punch, and more!

This event is organised by Hopton-on-Sea residents for residents. Make sure to wrap up warm and come enjoy the festive atmosphere!

LOCATION TO BE ADVISED.

Hopton Residents Events Committee.

# 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](mailto: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 at
- 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.

## Dates for your Diary

NOV / DEC 2024

- Craft Fayre at St. Margaret's Church 23 November
- Remembrance Service Sunday 10 November, St. Margaret's Church 10.45am
- Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall Saturday 30th November
- Carols and Mini Xmas Market Saturday 7 December
- Two choir concert at St. Margaret's Church Sunday 8th December at 2.30pm.
- Hold the date: 13 July 2025. Party in the Park.

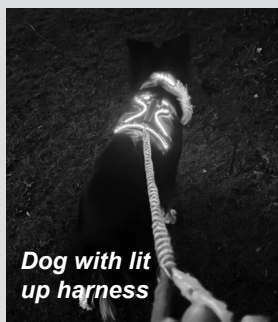
To find out what's on at Hopton Village Hall, view their website

[www.hopton-on-seavh.info](http://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](http://www.hopton-on-seapc.info)



# Council encourages responsible dog ownership as winter draws in



**Dog with lit up harness**

As winter approaches, Great Yarmouth Borough Council is urging all pet owners to be responsible and ensure that they clean up after their dogs during the colder months.

Winter brings unique challenges to pet ownership, and one of them is dealing with pet waste. Nationally, winter evenings bring with them an increase in mess in streets and parks as negligent dog owners use the darkness to dodge clearing up canine doings.

Failure to clean up after pets can result in unsightly streets, unpleasant odours, and potential health hazards for children, pedestrians, and other animals.

Pet owners are encouraged to carry poo bags while walking their dogs, especially during winter walks and promptly clean up after their dog, ensuring that waste is properly disposed of in waste bins. It is also advisable to carry a torch.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Environmental Rangers want to remind people that the borough is covered by a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which includes a borough-wide offence of dog fouling on any land to which the public has access.

Anyone caught failing to clear up after their canine friends risks a fine of up to £1,000 – in addition to making the area less enjoyable for other people.

The Environmental Rangers are responsible for investigating reported incidents, following up on tip-offs and appealing for information to help target those who blight the environment with dog fouling.

Cllr Paul Wells, portfolio holder for Environment and Sustainability, Waste and Licensing, said: "Keeping our streets and parks clean is not only a matter of civic responsibility but also reflects our respect for one another and our environment. We want to ensure that all residents, including our beloved pets, can enjoy a safe and clean winter season."

"For those that do not comply, our Rangers will enforce the law wherever possible."

Residents are encouraged to report incidents of irresponsible pet owners who do not clean up after their dogs. Anyone who witnesses a dog fouling offence in the borough can report it to Environmental Health on **01493 846478** or **environmentalrangers@great-yarmouth.gov.uk** or via the Love Clean Streets?app.

Evidence that can help the Rangers act includes photographs, a description of the dog and person walking it, the location, date and time of the incident.

*Great Yarmouth Borough Council*

# 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. Details are shown in 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](http://www.hopton-on-seapc.info)

**Meeting dates 2024:**  
**11 November, 9 December.**

**2025:**  
**13 January, 10 February, 10 March,  
14 April, 12 May.**

### Your Parish Cllrs are:-

Jan Windsor-Luck Chairman	07941145152
Sue Hacon Vice-Chairman	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](mailto:hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com)

### County/Borough Cllrs for Bradwell South and Hopton Ward

E-Mail: [Cllr.Carl.Annison@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Carl.Annison@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01493 656854  
E-Mail: [Cllr.Katy.Stenhouse@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Katy.Stenhouse@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)  
E-Mail: [Cllr.antony.capewell@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.antony.capewell@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

### Hopton North Ward:

E-Mail: [Cllr.paul.wells@great-yarmouth.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.paul.wells@great-yarmouth.gov.uk)

### MP:

Rupert Lowe  
E-Mail: [greatyarmouth@reformuk.com](mailto:greatyarmouth@reformuk.com)

## A tale of two funerals

I had the misfortune to lose my first husband 53 years ago on the eve of our son's christening. In those days there was no option but to have a formal funeral and I found it to be an enormous strain, the chapel was packed with his friends and it was expected that there would be a wake after the ceremony. Luckily, I had a supportive family, who organised the whole event. In September 2024, after a 25 year relationship, I sadly lost my second husband, Pot. He had been ill for some years. His funeral preference, like mine, was for a Viking burial off the beach (sadly not allowed in law). Instead, I opted for a non-attended cremation. I had a lot of pressure from family to have a formal

attended event, but was resolute. Memoria notified me of the date and time slot of the funeral and we were able to celebrate his life and raise a glass at home. Friends and family who lived further afield were also able to do this at their chosen places.

There was no stress and I was surrounded by the best of friends and son. There will be a further celebration of his life later when some ashes will be scattered on his mother's grave.

Of the two funerals I found Pot's to be personal and intimate and would recommend it as a stress free option. I could not have coped with the strain or expense of organising something traditional and would have re-lived my first husband's passing.

*Jan Windsor-Luck*





# What's on at Hopton Village Hall 2024

NOVEMBER

[www.hopton-on-seaVH.info](http://www.hopton-on-seaVH.info)

## Main hall

<b>Monday</b>	Baby Singing Group 9am to 11.45am Dance Academy 3.30pm to 7.30pm Badminton Club 7.30pm to 8.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Latin Rhythms 9.30am to 10.30am NHS Private Hire 11am to 1pm Slimming World 5.30pm to 7.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pilates 9.15am to 10.15am Phoenix Karate 4.45pm to 8.15pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Pickle ball 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
<b>Friday</b>	Dance Academy 3.30pm to 6.30pm Youth Club 6.30pm to 9.00pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Dance Academy 8.30am to 3.30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Available for private hire

## Small hall

<b>Monday</b>	You and Me Moments 9.30am to 3.30pm Yoga 6pm to 7pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Dance Academy 4pm to 6.15pm Warbling for Wellbeing 6.15pm to 7.15pm Spiritualist Church 7.15pm to 10pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Dance Academy 6.30pm to 7pm Phoenix Karate Adult beginners 7.30pm to 8.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Dance Academy 5pm to 7pm Pilates 7pm to 8pm
<b>Friday</b>	Fifit Weight Class 9.45 to 10.45 Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Mini Ballet 10am to 11am Dance Academy 11am to 12pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Spiritualist Church 6pm to 9pm

## How to contact Norfolk Constabulary

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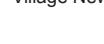
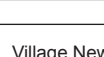
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# A ghostly tale for a dark evening

## Has the puzzle of the old man of Hopton finally been solved?

No doubt, many people from the village will be familiar with the tale of the old man of Hopton. For those who aren't, there have been many sightings over the years of a ghostly figure who appears out of the mists on the A47 near the church to startled motorists. Many describe seeing a shapeless figure wearing a long overcoat, with giant boots and a terrifying expression, but could the truth be far more benign and tell a tale of pluck, loyalty and determination?

One of the first descriptions of the old man appears in 1937, when a Mr J. Ling, then aged 66, was one evening cycling home to Great Yarmouth along the stretch of the A47 near the Hopton turnoff when he came across a "figure in the road crouching and waving his arms." As he got closer, the apparition appeared to melt away, but it certainly left Mr Ling badly shaken.

Fast forward to 1957, when Roger Hammersley of Lowestoft was driving on the same stretch of road on a dark, cold and wet

night. He describes seeing a "figure of a man wearing large boots, a large fawn overcoat and a hat crossing the road." Again, as he approached, the figure seemed to melt away.

Another sighting was recorded in 1980, when Frank Colby of the British Transport Police was able to give a detailed description of the figure that he saw. Again, it was late at night, wet and foggy. As he was making his way around the roundabout, the headlights of his car picked out a figure through the mists. He described it as being "stocky in build and wearing a calf-length, shapeless garment. He was hunched over and wearing huge footwear ...which he was lifting up as he plodded across the road."

Now, consider the tragic tale of William Balls, the Hopton postman, who was found dead on January 2nd 1899. Balls had been the village postie for 22 years and knew everyone and every part of Hopton, like the back of his hand. By all accounts, Balls was a fairly frail man of deteriorating health, but he was also fiercely loyal and driven by duty. Although he lived in

Gorleston with his wife Angelina, he grew up in Hopton, his father still farmed there (his land was close to what is now the roundabout at the entrance to the village) and he did his 16 hour round unfailingly every day.

On 2nd January 1899, William Balls set out once more to complete his round. Christmas had been especially busy and his father described the load that he had to carry on his round as being "particularly heavy" over the festive period. Balls himself was in poor health, suffering from what would now in all likelihood be diagnosed as Tuberculosis, but at the time was described as a very heavy flu, bordering on pneumonia. Just days before, the doctor had pleaded with him to rest properly or he risked death. Balls was heard to say "What can I do? I must do my duty!"

We know that the loyal Hopton postman set out on his round at approximately 4.30 on the morning of 2nd January 1899. His colleagues who saw him on the day described him as appearing unusually preoccupied and quiet, but seemingly in good health. It is difficult to



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1 Dorking Road, Hopton, Gt. Yarmouth. NR31 9AZ.



pinpoint the exact weather conditions for the date, but it is fair to say that with the proximity of the sea, it would be bitterly cold. We also know that there was up to a foot of snowfall along the eastern side of the country in the winter of 1899.

By 9.30 in the morning, the local postmaster was starting to receive complaints of mail not being delivered on time, highly unusual for the Hopton postman, so a search was begun. Tragically, the body of Balls was discovered face down in a pool of blood in one of his own father's fields, seemingly having succumbed to his illness and the conditions. He appeared to have been heading back for a rest or shelter at his father's farm, almost certainly knowing that he was in real trouble. Later, the coroner would conclude that Balls died from a ruptured blood vessel, brought on by illness, believed to be pneumonia at the time. One interesting detail is that several of the witnesses who saw Balls that morning, either alive or dead, described him as wearing a "full cape, stout boots and hat" in a forlorn attempt to try to protect himself from the weather.

Put all of this together and is it just possible that the old man of Hopton is in fact loyal postman William Balls and that the figure is actually him trying desperately to complete his final round before heading home to see his wife, who in a tragic twist was pregnant with a child that Balls would never meet? Truth, they say, is stranger than fiction, so I leave it to you to decide.....

Do you have any further information to add to this tale? Perhaps you or somebody you know has had an encounter....if you have anything you'd like to share, do get in touch ....



# HOPTON MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile library visits Hopton once per month.

The location and times are as follows:-

14:15 - 14:30 Lowestoft Rd.  
Opp White Hart  
NR31 9AH

14:35 - 14:50 Old Church Road,  
Lay By NR31 9BZ

14:55 - 15:10 Rogers Close  
NR31 9RP

Next visits: WEDNESDAYS

27 November 2024

22 January 2025

19 February 2025

19 March 2025

16 April 2025

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 IN**  
*Lights*  
**2024**

**HOUSE 1ST PRIZE £100**  
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RUNNER UP £25

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Decorate your house/front garden for the House category and stand a chance to not only have your family name engraved on the Hopton in Lights trophy, but also win £100 for 1st prize and £25 for runner-up. Alternatively, decorate your window for a chance to win £50 or £25 for runner-up, with your name on the Windows trophy.

To enter, text Carole at **07999 318803** or Ian at **07976 051305** no later than 18 December.

Winners will be announced on 24 December at 5pm. Good luck!

# HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14 October 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE.

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

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

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence.**  
Cllrs. Sue Hacon and Pam Oakes.
- 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.**  
No matters were raised.

**4. To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 9 September 2024.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to approve the Minute. Agreed by majority vote.

**5. To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.**

County/Borough Cllr. Annison advised that the verges on the right-hand side of the Lowestoft Road, heading north, have been levelled by NCC. The area will be seeded and next spring it is likely that GYBC will incorporate that area into their cutting regime. The section of cycleway/footpath has also been cut back. Bollards are to be placed across the top of the road to prevent fly tipping and County Cllr. Annison has offered to pay for this work out of his highways budget. Warren Road residents contacted Cllr. Annison regarding a fallen tree near Cliff Cottages and it was cleared within a few hours. Tom Cox the new NCC Highways Engineer for Area 4 (covering Hopton) is now in post and meetings have taken place regarding a number of highways issues.

**6. To consider the Clerk's reports.**

**a) Correspondence.**

Listing as previously circulated. Matters reported to NCC or GYBC this month: Rats along Beach Road and on the beach, see item 13 below. Litter bins overflowing on the Recreation Ground (now emptied). No street lights working on Teulon Close.

**b) Planning applications:**

06/24/0462/VCO Land east of Lowestoft Road 200 homes - amendment to reserved matters. Development Control Committee Hearing at the Town Hall. No objection by the Planning Committee.

06/24/0436/HH Tally Ho Hall Road Hopton on Sea. Two storey side extension. Replace existing roof tiles with new slate material. No objection by the Planning Committee.

06/24/0752/ESN re EIA Screening Opinion for full planning for development Links Road. See Agenda item 7 below.

**Permissions Granted by GYBC:** None  
**Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC:** None

**c) Finance.**

**To agree October 2024 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 30 September 2024.**

Ten payments and three direct debits totalling £3,314.95 from the business current account. It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley to approve the list of payments and bank reconciliation statement. Unanimously agreed.

**7. To consider planning application land south of Links Road and east of Lowestoft Road (Gorleston/Hopton) 06/24/0752/ESN re EIA Screening opinion for full planning application for the development of approximately 550 residential dwellings (C3) including 112 of these as individual care/retirement dwellings, community facilities and services, commercial, business and service units (Class E) or local community and learning (Class F) (c.375 m2) and associated landscaping, highway works and associated infrastructure.**

This application is a screening opinion only. A full planning application is expected mid 2025. The main objections relate to congestion on the A47 roundabout and extra traffic using Links Road. When the full planning application is received, the Parish Council will be notified by GYBC. Cllr. Plaskett has met with a member of Rupert Lowe MP's office, and the MP is opposed to this proposed development. Meetings have also taken place with Borough Cllrs. Paul Wells and Emma Flaxman-Taylor.

**8. To consider questions to be raised at the Parish Liaison meeting with GYBC, Wednesday 30th October 2024, 6pm at the Town Hall. Parish Council questions to be submitted in writing by 21 October 2024.**

One question raised in relation to the lack of maintenance cutting back overhanging trees and hedges on Dorking Road.

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

**a) Response from Abate (now OCS).**  
Bird proofing was completed and the Tower is fully netted. This work has been carried out free of charge.

**b) Water tap/box.**

The new box is in situ. The stand pipe/tap was leaking and urgent repairs have been carried out by a local person at a cost of £65. It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and

seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley to ratify this cost. Unanimously agreed. [A new padlock has now been fixed to the water tap box].

**10. To receive information and consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground/Pavilion.**

**a) Defib monthly maintenance update.**  
Monthly maintenance carried out by Cllr. Hacon.

**b) Strimming front of Recreation Ground and tidying up the Laurel bushes completed.**

Work has been finished by the contract gardener.

**11. To receive and consider paperwork from NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26.**

Paperwork has previously been circulated including a response from NCC Highways regarding SAM2 cameras and speed humps on Station Road, along with a brochure from Westcotec. The scheme is 50/50 funding. The criteria is limited with the deadline for applications 6 December 2024.

Much discussion took place regarding speeding vehicles through the village and the use of SAM2 and other similar devices, some of which NCC will not approve. Cllr. Lee will take this further forward with NCC Highways. Matter carried forward to the November agenda.

**12. To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.**

**a) Installation of new play equipment St. Clair Court.**

Installation by Creative Play has been completed and the play area is open. There have been many positive comments from the feed on Facebook. The swing seats are being changed shortly by Norse and the frame painted. It was noted that two entrance gates are missing and this will be investigated.

**b) New bench at St. Clare Court play area.**

Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley that a small number of Cllrs. would visit the area to ascertain the best position for the new bench and report back. The existing bench to remain in situ.

**13. Complaints regarding large numbers of rats on the beach, sea wall and Beach Road. Advice from OCS Pest Division.**

This is an ongoing problem and has been reported to the Parish Council on numerous occasions. OCS advise there is nothing they can do. A brief discussion took place regarding bait boxes. These would need to be checked on a daily basis. Cllr. Windsor-Luck will investigate the cost.



- 14. To receive and consider a report regarding CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) and GPC (General Power of Competence).**  
A report has been circulated to all Cllrs. Having read the report, it was felt there was no sense in pursuing. It was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Y. Bradley not to pursue CiLCA nor the GPA. Agreed by majority vote.
- 15. To receive and consider a quotation from the contract gardener to cut back/trim the sides of Warren Road and cut back any overhanging branches.**  
A quote has been obtained, however, a few residents have got together to cut back the pathway on Warren Road. This was noticed on the Facebook page and a vote of thanks given to Emma and Gary Smith, Paula Triggs and Valerie McGee.
- 16. To receive SNAP report.**  
Accepted as read. Thanks to Zandra Ward for taking part, and another resident of Hopton. The SNAP, Teams Meetings with Norfolk Constabulary, are open to everyone.  
It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Ames that the public and any press leave the meeting. Unanimously agreed.  
The Council passed the following Resolution: Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of items 17 and 18.  
Members of the public and any press left the meeting.
- 17. To confirm the Minute of the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee meeting held 9 September 2024 and consider recommendations.**  
It was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett that the Minute and recommendations of the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee be approved. Agreed by majority vote.
- 18. To consider recommendations by the Recreation Ground Working Party and Draft Licence Agreement.**  
Following clarification on a few points, it was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to approve the recommendations and draft Licence Agreement as read. Unanimously agreed.
- 19. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Monday 11 November 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**  
Confirmed.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.05pm.

These Minutes are in draft format until approved at the next meeting.

The Clerk to the Parish Council can be contacted in the following ways:-

**E-mail:** hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

**Tel:** 01502 730768 (message service in operation).

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

Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 9.30am to 1.00pm (flexible).

**Website:** www.hopton-on-seapc.info

## Essential gardening checklist for November

Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds.

Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging.

Plant tulip bulbs for a

spring display next year.

Prune roses to prevent wind-rock.

Plant out winter bedding.

Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem.



## Remembrance Sunday

is held in the United Kingdom as a day to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

A Remembrance Service is being held on **Sunday 10 November 2024,**

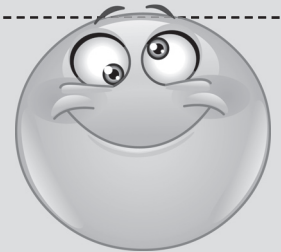
commencing at 10.45am at

St. Margaret's Church Lowestoft Road Hopton.

*All welcome.*

## Chuckle Corner one liners

Any good jokes, or bad ones, please submit to [hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com)



Five out of six people agree that Russian Roulette is safe.

What do you call a guy who's really loud?  
*Mike.*

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down?  
*It gets toad away.*

**Q:** Is Google male or female?

**A:** Female, because it doesn't let you finish a sentence before making a suggestion.

**Q:** What did the duck say when he bought lipstick?  
**A:** "Put it on my bill."

**Q:** Why did the witches' team lose the baseball game?

**A:** Their bats flew away.

**Q:** Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?

**A:** Because he was always spotted.

## Gold Ribbon Run



On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September Hopton Primary Academy along with Kessingland Primary Academy completed a Gold Ribbon Run. The run was to fundraise for Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG)

as part of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. The children at both schools completed a run during the day dressed in gold or as a superhero. Everyone enjoyed the event and as a collective, we raised £476.

*Mrs E Garrard - Class Teacher  
Hopton Church of England Primary Academy*



# HOPTON IN HISTORY

Ever wondered about Hopton in the past? Maybe you have stories and photos that tell some of our village history. If so, we want to hear from you. Hopton in History is a series that takes a look at events, characters or places from Hopton's past. If you'd like to contribute, send your photographs or recollections to [klee.hospc@gmail.com](mailto:klee.hospc@gmail.com).

By Kevin Lee

## More on Military Activity in Hopton

Further to the article last month, readers have got in touch to add some additional context to the history of military activity in Hopton.

### Soldiers on the Beach

Last month's article featured information about military activity in Hopton in the early days of the war. A reader has been in touch to supply two photographs which show a group of soldiers on the beach at Hopton some time in 1940. The majority appear to be involved in physical training, whilst in the second photo, some appear to be sitting in the foreground, perhaps receiving instruction. Barbed wire can be seen in the foreground of both photos.

### RAF Hopton

Additional information has been received regarding the accommodation centre for the RAF. This was situated away from the radar station on Station Road. The photograph below was taken in 1974, over a decade after the RAF base closed and was replaced by the (by this time also defunct) Mariners

Holiday Park. Some of the derelict RAF buildings can be seen in the foreground. The village church and Station Road can be seen in the background. The chalets and other buildings were demolished to be replaced by housing.

### Memories of the Radar Station

A local writer known as 'Peggoty' fondly remembers doing his National Service in Hopton in 1953-4. He recalls going to the actual radar site only once, and here he takes up the story "A friendly CO showed me around, and, against my better judgement, insisted we go up one of the towers and, despite my fear of heights, we ascended in a tiny lift cage.

As I emerged at the top, my head was nearly taken off by the rotating dish. "Sorry," apologised the CO, "I forgot to tell you to duck." I admired the views from the tower

and thankfully prepared to descend. Unfortunately, the lift was stuck at the top, but the CO said it was not worth phoning down for help because we could climb the open ladder!

When I repeated my vertigo fear, he retorted that I ought not to have joined the RAF if I did not like heights, so down we went. It was the most terrifying minutes of my young life as my sweaty hands gripped each rung and -despite advice- I looked down at the holidaymakers on the cliff path, their necks craned to watch those two apparent spidermen.

I survived but RAF Hopton did not and was bought by local property developer and businessman, Joe Larter, who turned it into a holiday camp named Mariners Park."

*(Quoted from The Great Yarmouth Mercury, August 4, 2000)*



Mariners Park is long gone, it was replaced by Bungalows that adjoin Station Road now. Do you have any photographs or memories from this time? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please send any correspondence or photographs to [klee.hospc@gmail.com](mailto:klee.hospc@gmail.com)





# Try Pickleball

Pickleball is fast becoming one of the most popular racket sports in the world, it brings together some of the best elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis. While there are many similarities with tennis, there are some key differences. It is an easy fun game to learn.

Played on a court the same size as a badminton court – and using a shorter tennis-style net – players use paddles and a plastic ball. It can be played singles or doubles. It's a great way to exercise with friends and meet new people.

Here at Hopton Village Hall we play from 10-12 on Thursday. Equipment is available, so if it interests you, send me a message on **07717520580 Judith Beale**



Members have been having a great time since we reopened at the end of September. Playing computer games, table football, pool/snooker, table tennis, board games and creating an array of arts and craft items. They have also had the opportunity to take part in assisted activities cooking savoury and sweet treats and making salt dough creations to paint. If you have any suggestions or members feedback for other activities, games, and fun things to do, please share this with us at Youth Club in the Village Hall or email your ideas to [hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com](mailto:hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com)

Unfortunately, we have had one issue where chewing gum had to be scrapped off the floor, please be reminded that one of the rules agreed to is that 'Only food and drink bought from the Club tuck shop can be consumed. Any other form of food and drink will be confiscated and returned at the end of the night.' This includes chewing gum. If you need to discuss this further, please see the contact details at the end of this article.

We are a non-profit club open on Friday evenings at the Village Hall during school term time, from 7pm until 9pm. Membership is open to youngsters from Hopton, Corton and Blundeston, in Year 5 up to 17 years of age. Entrance fee is £2 per member. There is also a tuck shop where members can buy an assortment of soft drinks, crisps, chocolate bars and sweets (free tap water is also available).

To enrol your child to start 17<sup>th</sup> January

2025, please pick up a form from the Village Hall any Friday 7pm till 8:30pm until the 13<sup>th</sup> December, all completed forms are to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> December. Alternately you can request a form via email [hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com](mailto:hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com) to be sent a copy. Completed forms can be returned by email, during Youth Club sessions at the Village Hall or posted in the Village Hall post box. If this date is missed the next membership enrolment will be for March 2025.

We run fully by the support of adult volunteers and are very thankful for our current dedicated team. Although with most having full time jobs and families of their own, commitment to the Youth Club can be demanding therefore, having a surplus of volunteers would be ideal. Any adult wishing to support fulltime, part time



or on an ad hoc basis the club we would love to hear from you.

### We require volunteers to do any of the following:

- Help set-up from 6:30 till 7pm before the members arrive
- Help pack away from 8:45pm
- Assist anytime between 7-9pm with the members ensuring
  - The rules are being obeyed
  - 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

**All new membership forms are to be completed and returned by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

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](mailto:hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com), we look forward to hearing from you.





# Phoenix Karate

An unbelievably successful week for eight **Phoenix Karate** students when they travelled to Warsaw, Poland for the WUKF European Karate Championships along with a squad from Kanzen Karate England, coach Alex Panteli and Instructor Vivianne Trorey.

Over the five days they won 2 Gold, 10 Silver and 7 Bronze medals, in Kobudo (weapons), Kata and Kumite.

**Cory Newton-Adams:** Silver Ippon Individual Kumite, Silver Ippon Team Rotation and Bronze Ippon Team

**Ollie Wadhams:** Bronze Long Weapon Kobudo, Bronze Short Weapon Kobudo, Silver Ippon Team Rotation, Bronze Ippon Team

**Thomas Hansell:** Bronze Long Weapon Kobudo, Bronze Individual Ippon Kumite, Silver Ippon Team Rotation, Bronze Ippon Team

**Kashia Wadhams:** Gold Short Weapon Kobudo, Silver Long Weapons Kobudo, Silver Individual Nihon Kumite

**Kayah Michorczyk:** Gold Long Weapon Kobudo, Silver Individual Kata, Silver Nihon Team Kumite

**Zoe Panteli:** Silver Nihon Team Kumite

**Deanna Panteli:** Silver Nihon Team Kumite

The squad members, their parents and the Phoenix Karate staff, would like to thank everyone who has supported the Bingo sessions at the Village Hall, which have raised funds to enable them to experience their sport at the highest level. Our next Bingo is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November when the funds raised will be used to take them to The WUKF World Karate Championships in Malmo. Sweden next July.

[Phoenix Karate train in the Village Hall on a Wednesday evening]

## 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, I ask the same six questions. This month features Lewis Crack. Many thanks to Lewis for agreeing to take part. If you'd like to have a go at answering the question, don't hesitate to get in touch. *By Kevin Lee*

**Interested in taking part?** Email: [klee.hospc@gmail.com](mailto:klee.hospc@gmail.com)

**1. Describe yourself in five words.**

Blind, partially-deaf, sociable, crazy and a computer-geek.

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

I love helping people to get to grips with technology. I also enjoy sharing my story with others being blind and deaf, letting people know that it is no bad thing; one can easily adapt to the world, especially today with technology being a great help. In short, the sky is the limit!

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

A typical day in my life is as follows: I rise at around 8:15am, start work at around 8:45am (this involves helping customers with technical problems via phone and email – I work for a company called HumanWare, specialising in products for the blind and visually impaired), have lunch at 12:00pm, back to work at 1:00pm, finish at 5:00pm then relax for the evening. I mostly relax at weekends, volunteering for a blind children's group showing them technology and gadgets I use every day to try to be a role-model to them and their parents. I also run a Tech Session once a month in Lowestoft Library to assist people with their technology. (Editor's note: There are details at the bottom of this article about the next session)

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

It's lovely and quiet. I can walk around safely here with my red and white cane (red is for the deaf). The sound of the sea is also a comforting backdrop.

**5. What's important to you?**

I enjoy helping people, particularly with Technology. I find it rewarding when I have managed to solve someone's problems or made them feel better. I also love sharing my experiences being deaf and blind with others, telling them that being so doesn't stop me doing what I wish to do.

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

When I was around 10 years old, my father and I were at the local park where he was teaching me to ride my first bike. He would run next to me or behind me and call out instructions to stop if I got too near obstacles. One day, I was cycling along and he was running after me, shouting "Stop!" as I was nearly in the brook. I couldn't hear him, as the wind was blowing in my hearing aids and he only just caught me in time!

**Finally, it only seems appropriate to give a shout-out for Lewis's tech sessions:**

**In need of technical help?**

**Have you received a phone, tablet or computer and don't know how to use it? No problem!**

Please come along to a Tech Session on every **3rd Saturday of the month** at Lowestoft Library in the upstairs rooms (please ask reception to tell you where to go).

**The next session will be on Saturday 16th November between 10:00am and 12 noon, so come along and get the help you need to get you started on using your tech!**