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January 2025 Issue 4, Volume 15

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



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Youth Club activities – see inside for full report



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ALSO IN THIS EDITION:



- Music and Tapas at the Village Hall
- Mobile Library 2025 dates
- Working Party – Safety in our Village
- Travel Blog
- Village People
- Youth Club News



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Following the new multi play equipment installed at St. Clare Court recently, the Parish Council has installed a new bench in the play area.

We hope you enjoy using the new equipment and watching your children play.

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January 2025

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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Please submit material by the **12th January** 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!

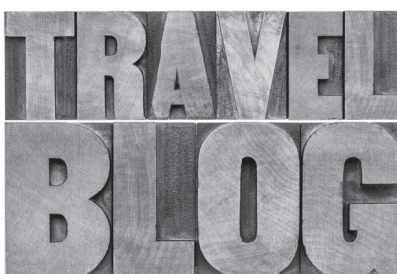
A copy of Village News will be delivered through your door every month.

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

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).



Setting off very early on the morning of Saturday 7 December 2024, we travelled during storm Daragh, arriving at Southampton port around 1pm. We were soon permitted on board P & O Cruise Ship Iona, and went to our cabin. Our luggage arrived and we went off to explore the ship and all it had to offer. Iona was decorated for Christmas which made the surroundings very special.

Unfortunately with the storm raging it meant we couldn't set sail for a day or so, which meant we didn't travel to Hamburg. Our first port of call was Rotterdam, followed by Zebrugge and Le Harve. Although we lost a day and a half we still enjoyed the fabulous food on board ship and the wonderful entertainment.

It was lovely to have a pre Christmas break.

John Tonks (resident)

If any residents would like to share their travel adventures, please get in contact.

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.

Dates for your Diary

2025

- **Saturday 15 February 2025.**
Music and Tapas in the Village Hall
6.30pm/food from 7pm. Tickets £20
(bring your own drink) from Carole
07999318803
- **Saturday 12 July 2025.**
Party in the Park at the Recreation
Ground.

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

Have you considered volunteering?

Volunteering is a fantastic way to support people, and research shows that volunteering can boost happiness and confidence. There are plenty of ways to get involved, and anyone, regardless of age, can make a difference.

Volunteering helps build connections, bringing people together and fostering friendships. It's a great way to meet new people, develop skills, and take pride in our communities. Norfolk & Waveney boasts beautiful countryside, tight-knit villages and bustling market towns and our volunteers help keep this special part of the country strong, united, and supported.

By giving just a few hours a week or more, you can have a real impact on the lives of those around you. You're not only improving life for others but for yourself. Whether it's helping at your local hospital, supporting the vulnerable to stay in their own homes or return home after a hospital stay, or driving them to their non-urgent medical appointments, assisting Voluntary Norfolk behind the scenes or helping with community initiatives, every contribution counts.

Visit Voluntary Norfolk at www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk to explore roles that, with your time and energy, will make a real difference.

You'll be amazed by the positive impact you can have and how rewarding it feels to lend a hand!

VOLUNTARY NORFOLK Services
 Volunteer Engagement Coordinator
 Mobile: 07384 113998.
 Mondays to Friday, 8:00 – 16:00,
 except Wednesday when I finish at lunchtime

Voluntary Norfolk, Units 4-6, 83-87 Pottergate, Norwich, NR2 1DZ
www.voluntarynorfolk.org.uk

Voluntary Norfolk is a registered charity No. 1112017.
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We need you!

Are you concerned about speeding/safety issues in the village?

The Parish Council is setting up a Working Party to look at ways of making Hopton a safer village. For example, there are a lot of issues surrounding speeding vehicles.

If you would like to join the Working Party please e-mail hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com or phone 01502 730768 and leave your name and contact details.

If enough residents come forward, the first informal meeting would be February/March 2025.

Thank you.

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

Meeting dates 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

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

MP:

Rupert Lowe
 E-Mail: greatyarmouth@reformuk.com

Hopton On Sea
 RESIDENTS



Selling Page

New Facebook page set up for Hopton Residents to sell unwanted items

What's on at Hopton Village Hall

JANUARY 2025

www.hopton-on-seaVH.info

Main hall

Monday	Baby Singing Group 9am to 11.45am 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	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
Friday	Baby Singing Group 9am to 11.45am Dance Academy 3.30pm to 6.30pm Youth Club 6.30pm to 9.00pm
Saturday	Dance Academy 8.30am to 3.30pm
Sunday	Available for private hire

Small hall

Monday	You and Me Moments 9.30am to 3.30pm Yoga 6pm to 7pm
Tuesday	Dance Academy 4pm to 6.15pm Warbling for Wellbeing 6.15pm to 7.15pm 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 9.45am to 10.45am Old Time Dance 2pm to 4pm Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Saturday	Mini Ballet 10am to 11am Dance Academy 11am to 12pm
Sunday	Spiritualist Church 6pm to 9pm

How to contact Norfolk Constabulary

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

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An account from my Aunt's notebook: The

I had an old aunt, who was a great collector of things. She was renowned for her meticulous records of local life, including many accounts of the people she came into contact with. As I was helping to clear her cottage after she had passed away, I came across a notebook on one of her bookshelves. On the front page, in my aunt's own distinctive, meticulous hand, was written the following:

"This ledger contains a number of unusual and unexplained stories that have been shared with me over the years. Although I cannot verify their verisimilitude myself, all, I consider, are from irrefutably reliable sources."

I have copied one such account from the notebook myself below. All I have changed are the names of people and places (the house for example), in case there are any descendants still in the locality.

My name is James Harrington. My grandfather was Edmund Harrington, he wanted to ensure that this account was recorded for those that followed him. He made me promise that I would share it with somebody I trust implicitly, so I shall.....

"I consider myself a man of science, but there is one event in my life for which I have no explanation. It concerns an unexpected inheritance when I was a much younger man. This is that story, you must make of it what you will.

I remember vividly the wind howling over the barren marshes of the Norfolk coast, carrying with it the sharp bite of sea spray. It was the dead of winter, and Marshfleet Manor stood like a shadowed sentinel against the storm-wracked sky. Built upon a rocky promontory overlooking the North Sea, the Manor was an austere edifice of grey stone, its jagged spires reaching skyward like skeletal fingers clawing at the heavens.

Inside, I was restless, and paced the dimly lit drawing room, the light of the roaring fire casting flickering shadows on the walls. I remember my leather boots creaking against the polished wooden floor, and I recall feeling very odd indeed, I was filled with unease. It was this place, I was sure of it. I had inherited the Manor two months prior upon the unexpected death of my uncle, Lord Marshfleet, and had arrived just that morning to take possession.

The storm outside had grown fiercer as dusk fell, and the howling wind now sounded almost like a voice, wailing through the cracks of the ancient Manor. I remember pausing by the window, and peering out into the tempest. Beyond the glass, the sea churned and frothed, its dark waves crashing violently against the rocks below. The sight filled me with a strange sense of foreboding.

"Will there be anything else tonight, sir?" asked Mrs. Wilkins, my inherited housekeeper, breaking the silence.

I turned, startled by her sudden appearance. She was a small, wiry woman with a perpetually worried expression, her grey hair pulled back in a tight bun.

"No, thank you, Mrs. Wilkins. You may retire for the evening," I replied, trying to sound confident despite the unease coiling in my chest.

I remember, Mrs. Wilkins hesitated, glancing toward the window before speaking. "If I may, sir... there's an old tale about this Manor. Some say it's best to avoid the east wing after dark."

I raised an eyebrow, trying to look nonchalant. "The east wing? Why is that?"

The housekeeper shifted uncomfortably, wringing her hands. "They say it's haunted, sir. By the Wraith of Marshfleet. She was the lady of the Manor two centuries ago, driven mad by grief after losing her husband to the sea. They found her body at the foot of the cliffs one stormy night. Since then, her spirit is said to wander the east wing during storms, searching for her lost love."

I found myself chuckling, though it seemed to me a hollow sound. "A charming tale, Mrs. Wilkins, but I assure you, I don't believe in ghosts."

Mrs. Wilkins pursed her lips but said no more, nodding curtly before leaving the room. Alone once more, I tried to shake off the lingering unease her words had stirred. I poured myself a glass of brandy and settled into the armchair by the fire, determined to dismiss such superstitions as the fanciful imaginings of rural folk.

Yet as the hours passed and the storm intensified, I found it increasingly difficult to ignore the strange noises echoing through the Manor. At first, I tried to attribute them to the wind—low moans and distant thuds, the creak of ancient wood shifting under pressure. But then came the footsteps.

Soft, deliberate, and unmistakable, they echoed faintly down the corridor outside the drawing room. I froze, my glass halfway to my lips. The sound stopped abruptly, leaving an oppressive silence in its wake. Gathering courage, I rose and took a candle from the mantelpiece, I knew what I must do to avoid being driven mad.

I recall that as I stepped into the corridor, the air seemed colder, the flickering candlelight barely penetrating the darkness. The footsteps resumed,

fainter now, leading toward the east wing. I have always believed that I am a rational man, so I told myself it was likely Mrs. Wilkins or one of the servants, but my hands became clammy and my heart raced nonetheless.

The east wing was in a state of disrepair, its rooms unused and neglected since before my uncle's time. As I ventured deeper, the air grew colder still, and a faint, but most unpleasant scent of salt and decay filled my nostrils. The footsteps stopped once more, and I found myself standing before a heavy oak door at the end of the hall.

I don't mind telling you, I hesitated, the words of the housekeeper ringing loudly in my mind. The Wraith of Marshfleet... shaking my head to try to dismiss this ridiculous notion, I pushed the door open.

The room beyond was a grand bedchamber, its furnishings covered in dust and cobwebs. Heavy velvet curtains hung over the windows, stirring slightly despite the absence of any breeze. In the centre of the room stood a great four-poster bed, its canopy sagging with age.

And then I saw her.

A figure stood by the window, her back to me. I can see her in my mind's eye now, as clear as if

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Wraith of Marshfleet Manor.

she was standing here before me, she was dressed in a flowing white gown, her long dark hair cascading down her back in tangled waves. My breath caught in my throat.

"Who's there?" I demanded, hearing my voice shaking despite my best efforts to sound authoritative.

The figure did not respond, nor did she move. Summoning my courage, I stepped closer, the candlelight casting an eerie glow.

Finding my last vestiges of strength, I said "Madam, you are trespassing. Identify yourself,"

The figure turned slowly, and I recoiled in horror. Her face was pale and translucent, her eyes sunken and hollow. Her lips twisted into a mournful expression as she raised a hand toward me.

"Leave this place," she whispered, her voice barely audible over the howl of the storm.

As if given the most firm push, I staggered backward, the candle slipping from my grasp and extinguishing as it hit the floor. The room plunged into darkness, I scrambled to relight it, but when I finally managed to get my shaking hands to obey me, the figure was gone. Only the sound of the storm and my own ragged breathing remained.

As fast as my legs would carry me, I fled the east wing, gratefully bolting the door behind me as I returned to the drawing room. There, I poured myself another glass of brandy, my heart raced and my whole body trembled uncontrollably as I tried to make sense of what I had seen. A trick of the light? A dream? But no matter how much I tried to rationalise it I could not shake the feeling of icy dread that had gripped me in that room.

The storm raged on through the night, and sleep eluded me. As dawn broke, the wind subsided, leaving a fragile calm in its wake. I resolved to investigate the history of the Manor further, determined to uncover the truth about the Wraith of Marshfleet.

Over the following days, I pored through my uncle's papers and the Manor's archives. What I discovered sent a chill through my very soul. The records confirmed Mrs. Wilkins's tale: Lady Eleanor Marshfleet had indeed thrown herself from the cliffs during a storm two centuries ago, her body never recovered. But there was more. I discovered that my own distant ancestor, William Harrington, had been her lover, accused of abandoning her for another. The scandal had been hushed up, and the Harrington family had fled the area soon after.

I was haunted by the realization that my presence at Marshfleet Manor might have awakened something long buried. Though I stayed for several more weeks, I was cautious and not at all my normal self. The wraith appeared to me only once more, standing silently at the cliffs' edge during another storm. This time, I did not approach, watching instead as she faded into the mist.

By the end of the winter, I resolved to abandon the Manor, leaving it to crumble beneath the relentless assault of time and tide. I could not live with the constant fear of coming into contact with the wraith and feeling anything but at home. I remained in correspondence with Mrs Wilkins until she passed away. She told me that the Wraith of Marshfleet still roamed the east wing during storms, her mournful cries mingling with the howling wind. On rare occasions, she told me, there are reports of a solitary figure in white at the cliffs' edge, gazing out to sea, not through guilt about her poor husband's death, but, in fact, forever searching for the lover that betrayed her."

Truth, they say, is stranger than fiction. My aunt was renowned for never embellishing the stories told to her, so could this one be true? I'll leave it to you to decide.



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

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



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.

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Every Friday 12.30pm – 2pm

No need to book, just drop in.



HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 December 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-Chair arrived 7.35pm and gave apologies for being late), Steve Ames, Keith Bradley, Yvonne Bradley, Kevin Lee, John Plaskett.

Also present: Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and five members of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**
Parish Cllrs. Pam Oakes and John Tonks. County/Borough Cllr. Carl Anison.
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.**
In summary:-
a) Could Hopton residents have a small indoor food waste bin, and possibly a larger one for outside? The Parish Council will make enquiries of Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC).
4. **To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 11 November 2024.**
It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. Lee to approve the Minute. Unanimously agreed.
5. **To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.**
County/Borough Cllr. Anison sent an e-mail wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. He is unable to attend due to the GYBC civic carol service.
6. **To consider the Clerk's reports.**
 - a) **Correspondence.** Listing as previously circulated. E-mail from GYBC regarding the 8 week public consultation on the Final Draft Local Plan and Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule, commencing 6 December 2024 and closing 31 January 2025. This has been circulated, and Cllrs. Windsor-Luck, Hacon and Plaskett will be attending a briefing at the Town Hall on 17 December 2024. Regarding the Final Draft Local Plan, the proposed development areas are HOP1, Longfullans Lane. HOP2, Potters car park Coast Road. URB21 – Links Road south side.
Matters reported this month: Obscured 30mph sign reported to GYBC. Fallen tree branch end of Julian Way reported to GYBC. Faulty street light outside St. Margaret's Church (now repaired). A request has been received to litter pick Longfullans Lane now that the hedging has been cut back.
 - b) **Planning applications:**
06/24/0830/HH 16 Seaview Rise. Removal of conservatory and erection of single

storey extension. No objection by the Planning Committee.
06/24/0861/HH Farside Sidegate Road. Single storey rear extension with first floor terrace balcony above. Front porch extension. Erection of a detached garage in front garden.
No objection by the Planning Committee.

Permissions Granted by GYBC:

None

Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC:

None

- c) **Finance. To agree December 2024 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 30 November 2024.**
Five payments and two direct debits totalling £2,660.68 plus additional November payments totalling £617.61 as listed from the business current account. It was proposed by Cllr. K. Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to approve the list of payments and bank reconciliation statement. Unanimously agreed.
7. **To receive and consider information relating to .gov.uk domain for e-mails and website.**
Several quotations have previously been circulated to all Parish Cllrs. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett not to proceed at this time. Unanimously agreed.
8. **To receive Minute of the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee meeting held 18 November 2024 and consider recommendations made in relation to budget/precept for 2025/26.**
Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Ames not to increase the precept. This proposal was not seconded. In view of the increased tax base (number of homes in the village), it was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to increase the precept by 7%, which equates to £0.38p per year increase on a Band D property. Agreed by majority vote. It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. Y. Bradley to approve the Minute of the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee meeting held 18 November 2024. Agreed by majority vote.
9. **To receive information and consider matters relating to the Millennium Garden/Ruin.**
 - a) **Annual bonfire carried out.**
The annual bonfire to burn garden waste has been carried out.
10. **To receive information and consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground/Pavilion.**
 - a) **Defib monthly maintenance update.**
Monthly maintenance carried out by Cllr. Y. Bradley.

b) Licence Hopton Harriers FC.

The football team will be raising some enquiries regarding the Licence. Matter carried forward with the Recreation Ground Working Party.

11. **To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.**
 - a) **Installation of new bench at St. Clare Court.** The concrete base/slabs are in place. The bench has been delivered and installed.
 - b) **Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26. Speeding vehicles. Working party.**
Due to time constraints and insufficient supporting data, the application has not been progressed. However, a Working Party is to be set up to look at safety aspects in the village and information from the Working Party, along with SAM2 data can be used to support a future application, or future spending on road safety. Members of the public put forward some helpful ideas. A call for a small number of residents to join the Working Party will be advertised in Village News magazine. Matter carried forward to a future meeting.
 12. **To consider replacing the damaged grit bin Seaview Rise.**
Quotations have been circulated for a new grit bin at £129.99 (200 litre) and £199.99 (350 litre). Following a brief discussion, Cllr. Windsor-Luck will assess the damaged bin to see if it can be repaired or whether it needs replacing. Matter carried forward to the next meeting.
 13. **To consider a candidate for co-option.**
It was proposed and seconded not to proceed with the co-option. A counter-proposal was put forward and seconded to co-opt the candidate. Voting took place and it was agreed by majority vote not to co-opt the candidate at the present time.
 14. **To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Monday 13 January 2025, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**
Confirmed. All residents are welcome to attend.
The meeting closed at approximately 8.10pm.
- 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

Chuckle Corner one liners

Any good jokes, or bad ones, please submit to hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com



- I went to the aquarium this weekend but didn't stay long. There's something fishy about that place.
- What do you call a sad cup of coffee? **Depresso.**
- What do you call a well-balanced horse? **Stable.**
- Why does a tiger have stripes? **So he won't be spotted.**
- What did the triangle say to the circle? **You're pointless.**
- Why do cows wear bells? **Because their horns don't work.**
- What do you call an angry carrot? **A steamed veggie.**
- What's a ghost's favourite kind of store? **.... A booooootique!**

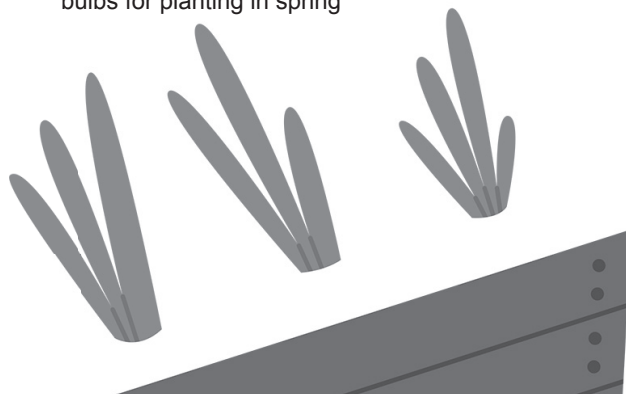
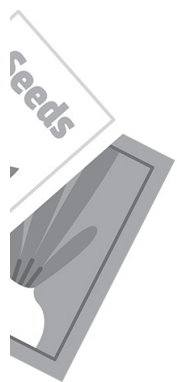
Essential gardening checklist for January

Flowers

- Plant bare-root roses, shrubs, hedging and ornamental trees, as long as the ground isn't frozen
- Take root cuttings of fleshy-rooted perennials such as oriental poppies, acanthus and verbascums
- Establish new colonies of snowdrops and hellebores by buying plants in flower, so you can choose the prettiest blooms
- Clear away soggy, collapsed stems of perennials and compost them
- Take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, willow and viburnum
- Remove and bin hellebore foliage marked with black blotches, to limit the spread of leaf spot disease
- Press mistletoe berries into the bark of apple trees to establish your own mistletoe plants
- Check that small alpine don't become smothered by fallen leaves and other wind-blown debris
- Deadhead winter pansies and other bedding regularly, and remove any foliage affected by downy mildew
- Move deciduous shrubs that are in the wrong place to more suitable sites
- Check for rot on stored bulbs and tubers, and ensure dahlia and canna tubers haven't totally dried out
- Continue pruning climbing roses, while they are dormant

Fruit and veg

- Winter-prune apple and pear trees to remove any dead, damaged, congested and diseased branches
- Sort out your seeds, throwing away empty or out-of-date packets and noting down any to buy for the coming season
- Plan this year's crop rotation to ensure you grow each type of crop in a different bed to previous years
- Prune gooseberries and redcurrants, cutting sideshoots back to three buds from their base
- Clear old crops and weeds from the veg plot, then dig over the soil, mixing in compost as you go
- Regularly inspect stored crops, discarding any showing signs of rot or deterioration
- Plant bare-root fruit trees and bushes into enriched soil, as long as the ground isn't frozen
- Ensure netting is in place over brassicas, such as kale, Brussels sprouts and cabbages, to protect from pigeons
- Cover rhubarb plants with a bucket or terracotta pot to force an early crop of tender long stems
- Feed spring cabbages with high-nitrogen feed to encourage leafy growth
- Prune blackcurrants, if you haven't done so already, removing about a quarter of the old stems
- Order seed potatoes, onions, shallots and garlic bulbs for planting in spring





The Hopton on Sea Residents Events Committee would like to wish everyone in the village a very Happy New Year.

We are already looking ahead to next year's Party in the Park, which will take place on **Saturday 12th July 2025**.

This much-loved event is a highlight of the village calendar, and we are excited to bring another day of fun and entertainment for the whole community.

Throughout the year, we have organised events that we hope brings joy to the village, including the Easter Egg Giveaway, Pumpkin Carving, Carols and Mini Christmas Market, and the Hopton in Lights Competition.

These events are only possible thanks to the support of our wonderful community and the local business that back us.

A huge thank you to the businesses who supported us throughout 2024.

Potters Resorts, Haven, JD Taverns, RwR Renovations, DB Builders, Hippodrome, Hopton Pharmacy, and Carp Hunter Giveaways.

Your generosity has been instrumental in making these events a success!

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our team of volunteers,

Amber, Abigail, Daniel, Jack, Steve, Darren, Anne, Jade, Zoe, Anthony, Paul, Simon and Paula.

A special mention goes to Helen, who retired from the committee in the summer. Thank you, Helen.

As you all know, we are a small group of residents who volunteer our time to raise funds and organize these events for everyone's enjoyment. If there are any local businesses interested in sponsoring future events, or if anyone in the community has a skill or expertise they feel could add value to our committee, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with Ian or Carole Wall by emailing hopton.residents@gmail.com

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported our quiz nights, music events, and race nights throughout the past year. Your attendance and enthusiasm make all the difference! In the New Year, these popular events will return, along with some exciting new fundraisers we are planning to unveil soon.

Our first big diary date for 2025 is **15th February** when we will be hosting an evening of music and sing-alongs from the 1950s onwards. It promises to be a fantastic night of nostalgia and fun, so make sure to mark it on your calendar.



From all of us on the Hopton-on-Sea Residents Events Committee, we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at our events in 2025.

Warm regards

Ian Wall

Chairman for The Hopton-on-Sea Residents Events Committee

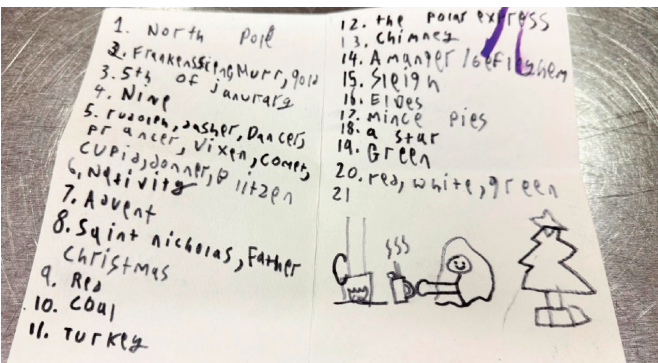


Happy New Year to all, we look forward to welcoming all the members back on Friday 17th January 2025. Membership forms were required by the end of 2024.

To enrol your child to start 28th February 2025, please pick up a form from the Village Hall when we are there Friday's 6:30pm till 9pm until 14th February this can also be filled out at the time or alternately email hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com to be sent a copy. Completed forms can be returned during Youth Club times at the Village Hall, to the inbox or posted in the Village Hall post box. If this date is missed the next membership enrolment will be for April 2025.

We had a fun filled December making Christmas Tree cornets and Christmas cards.

Well done to Rudi and Ethan who won the Christmas quiz competition and taking home a selection of chocolate goodies.



Winning Christmas Quiz Answers

On our final night members enjoyed hotdogs, ice creams, and took part in many party games with prizes to take home. Well done to Charlie H winner of musical chairs and Ezra who was the runner up, Kelly and Ameila on getting the final pass the parcel prizes, and Sophia and Reggie for both being extremely good at musical statues. A lot of fun was had by all.

Musical statue winners - Sophia and Reggie choosing their prizes



We have been very fortunate to take on 2 new young volunteers Finley and Issac who are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, they have already been a great help. We are always looking for additional adult volunteers even if this is just to support once a month, on an emergency basis or to just help set-up the equipment from 6:30pm before the children arrive, we would love to hear from you.

Membership is open to youngsters from Hopton, Corton and Blundeston who are currently in Year 5 up to 17 years of age. Entrance fee is £2 per member. We are a non-profit club open on Friday evenings at the Village Hall during school term time, from 7pm until 9pm.

Members can look forward to participate in the following weekly activities

- Alternate weeks, Playstation 4 and Wii
- Table Football • Pool Table • Table Tennis
- Arts and Crafts usually 1 activity per evening although any request I'm sure would be catered for (card making, knitting, sewing, painting, hama beads, nail painting, drawing, colouring. etc)
- Board Games
- Hands on supervised activities such as cooking, making slime or playdough

Special Activities – these may happen at the end of term

- Disco and party games
- Hotdogs and ice cream
- Birds of prey, magician, or other external party

Tuck Shop – sells cans of drink/squash, crisps, chocolate bars and sweets (free tap water is also available).

We will be closed Friday 21st February for half term.

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.

Hopton-on-Sea

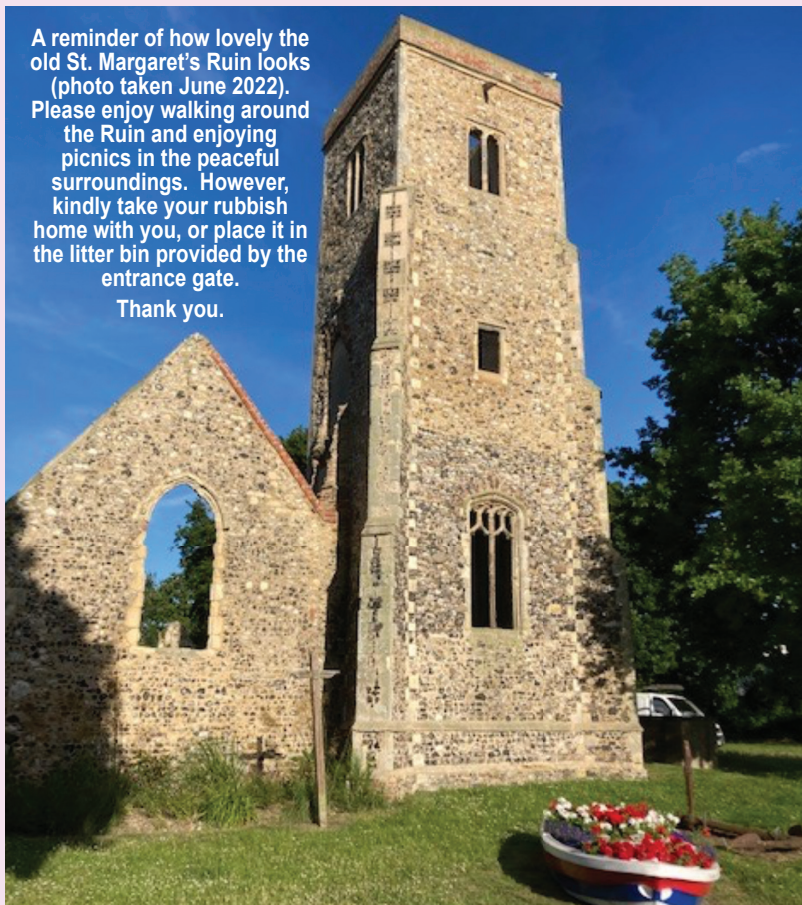
village hall
 management trust

We are looking for **Volunteers** to join the **board of Trustees**

For more information, please call
01502 580942
 or email
hoptonvillagehall@hotmail.co.uk

A reminder of how lovely the old St. Margaret's Ruin looks (photo taken June 2022). Please enjoy walking around the Ruin and enjoying picnics in the peaceful surroundings. However, kindly take your rubbish home with you, or place it in the litter bin provided by the entrance gate.

Thank you.



Village People



By Kevin Lee

Village People – Katerina Spencer (94 years)

- 1. Describe Yourself in 5 words.**
 Italian, normal, healthy, happy, set in ways.
- 2. Can you say a little about why you chose those words?**
 No different from my generation, we do what we can do.
- 3. Tell us about a typical day in your life**
 Wake up at about 7 o'clock, have something to eat, take medication. Shower, dress and go to the shops in the village. Both shops are very helpful. Visit drop in at Church to meet friends once a week. Afternoon is spent listening to music or watching TV.
- 4. What's your favourite thing about the village?**
 The friendliness of the people, the two shops and the drop in centre at the Church.
- 5. What is important to you?**
 Family, friends and neighbours.
- 6. Tell a funny/ strange / unexpected story involving something that has happened to you.**
 An unexpected trip on my daughter's boat that they had restored.

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, it's the turn of resident Katerina Spencer who is 94 years of age. Many thanks to Katerina for agreeing to take part. If you'd like to have a go, don't hesitate to get in touch with me by email: klee.hospc@gmail.com