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October 2024 Issue 1, Volume 15

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

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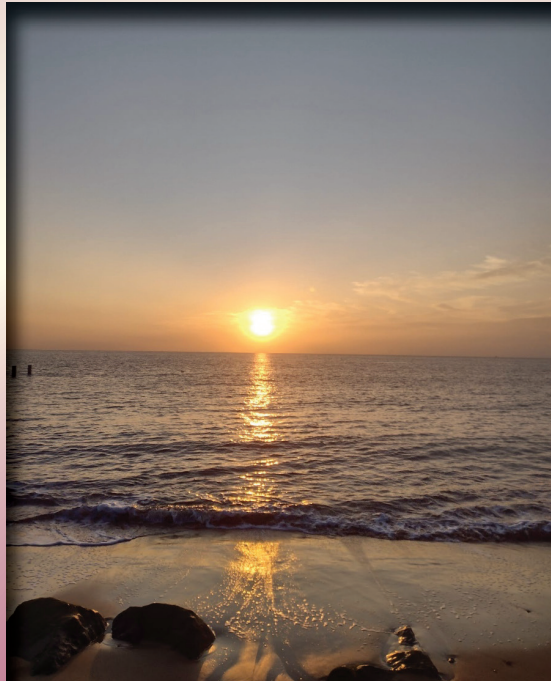



Photo taken by **Isaac Davis** of Hopton (age 13). Many thanks Isaac.
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ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

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



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village news

October 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.

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).



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Essential gardening checklist for September

1. Cover Winter Salads	5. Finish Picking Fruit
2. Cure Winter Squash	6. Clean Greenhouse Glass
3. Ripen Green Tomatoes	7. Order Garlic
4. Lift and Store Roots	8. Rake up Leaves

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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Hopton-on-Sea, NR31 9BE

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Great Yarmouth, NR30 3LA

We are watching you!

Two men have been prosecuted by GYBC for anti-social activity.

The men were fined after being prosecuted by Great Yarmouth Borough Council for fly-tipping and failing to pick up dog waste.

A resident of Gorleston admitted dumping about a dozen bags of rubbish in Hopton and was fined £253. He was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge to the council of £101, compensation of £269.24 and costs of £381.

On March 5, Great Yarmouth Magistrates' Court heard complaints had been received last August about fly-tipping in Longfulans Lane in Hopton.

When the rubbish was searched, items were found that were traced to the home address of the

Gorleston resident, who was charged under Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act.

A man living in Attleborough, admitted an offence under Great Yarmouth's Public Space Protection Order of failing to clear up after a dog had fouled.

Great Yarmouth Magistrates' Court was told on March 5 that the council had received a complaint last June that someone had failed to clear up after their dog in California Road in California.

CCTV footage identified the man as the offender and he was fined £40, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £16 and costs of £200.

Contact GYBC Environmental Rangers via email at environmentalrangers@great-yarmouth.gov.uk or by calling 01493 847478 to report incidents of fly tipping and dog fouling.

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publication dates

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

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).

- Remembrance Service Sunday 10 November, St. Margaret's Church 10.45am
- Christmas Bingo in the Village Hall Saturday 30th November
- Two choir concert at St. Margaret's Church Sunday 8th December at 2.30pm.

OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2024

- All Souls Day Service (Remembrance) Sunday 13 October at 3pm.
- Craft Fayre at St. Margaret's Church 26 October and 23 November
- Pumpkins and Ghost Stories in the Ruin Coast Road with Village Scarecrow Competition Sunday 27 October.

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

New Regular Travel Feature
by Tracy Hendricks

Christmas Markets

For me nothing evokes the Christmas spirit more than walking around the traditional town squares of Europe. All the senses are stimulated, the pretty fairy lights twinkling, the smell of warm gingerbread & gluhwein fills the air as you walk through the market stalls brimming with traditional crafts, the sounds of the street performers & musicians fill the background.

I am often asked which are the best European Christmas Markets to visit - it's so difficult to pick a favourite

Christmas Markets have evolved over the years, Brussels is a family friendly market to visit, not only does it have the easy access with the Eurostar their markets offer a friendly atmosphere with plenty to keep the whole family enthralled.

Strasbourg invites you in with its enchanting magical fairy tale vibe, known as Christkindelsmärik their markets originate back to the middle ages to 1570.

Vienna is home to the worlds largest market at the Rathausplatz Christkindlmarkt, the surrounding streets are filled with shops & cafes so sit back & watch the world go by as you enjoy the festive atmosphere & maybe some Sacher torte & kaiserschmarrn.

Berlin the German capital offers huge diversity it boasts over 100 markets with traditional German

as well as Scandinavian & Japanese markets each has its own unique features from 50-meter Ferris wheels, open air ice skating & performers. The Gendarmenmarkt sits close to the historic Checkpoint Charlie border in the shadow of the massive concert hall & it's famous tree.

Once you start to savour the European Markets, I'm sure you will be adding many more to the must visit list.

Tracy Hendricks
TRAVEL COUNSELLOR

T 01502 770 003

E tracy.hendricks@travelcounsellors.com

W <http://www.travelcounsellors.co.uk/tracy.hendricks>

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:
14 October, 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-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
(message service) 01502730768
e-mail: hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

County/Borough Cllrs for Bradwell South and Hopton Ward

Tel: 01493 656854
E-Mail: Cllr.Carl.Annison@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
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:
Rupert Lowe (Reform)
E-Mail: greatyarmouth@reformuk.com



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If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim Pension Credit, even if you own your home or have savings. People who claim Pension Credit may also be able to get:

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- A free TV Licence for those aged 75 or over
- Help with the cost of NHS services, such as NHS dental treatment, glasses and transport costs for hospital appointments

You could be eligible for Pension Credit if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner who lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances.

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Eligibility criteria apply *or the equivalent in Scotland.



Do you keep one or more poultry in your garden/shed/allotment?

In England and Wales you must (legal requirement) register up 49 poultry or other kept birds by 1 October 2024. This includes any birds you keep as pets. This includes just one bird up to 49. There are different rules for 50 or more birds.

You're breaking the law if you do not register.

You do not need to register psittaciformes or passeriformes (such as budgies, parrots, cockatiels and finches) if they are both:

- fully housed in a dwelling (your home or another indoor structure)
- kept indoors at all times with no access to outdoor spaces

By registering:

- the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will contact you with updates and guidance if there's a disease outbreak (such as bird flu) in your area
- you'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect all kept birds, including back yard flocks

For more information and to register go to www.gov.uk

St. Margaret's Church Hopton on Sea



A Service of Memories
3pm
Sunday 13th October

To remember loved ones who have died. A simple service with hymns, prayers and a time to light a candle in memory of special people. Refreshments after. All welcome
www.hoptoncortongunton.com

GY Services – telephone number/contact changes

With regard to any finance matters, as from Monday, 16th September 2024 the telephone number for GY Services Limited will change to (01493) 801745 and the e-mail address will change to support@greatyarmouthservices.co.uk

Please note that the telephone number (01493) 801750 and e-mail address admin@greatyarmouthservices.co.uk will remain for reporting fly-tipping, missed bin reports, tree issues, grass-cutting, etc.

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Considerate Parking Please

Recently it's been noticed that 5 cars regularly park with one side of the vehicle on the pavement, so photos have been taken, and 4 out of the 5 have been asked politely to park with all 4 wheels on the road, so not to make life harder for neighbours who are wheelchair users, which they have kindly agreed to do and have continued doing ever since.

harmony will be restored on our road, or hopefully this person may read these words and comply without being asked, fingers crossed?

(Hopton resident, name and address supplied)

Just need to catch up with one more car owner to complete the set and



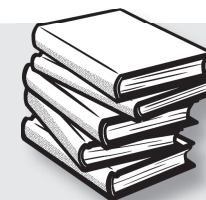
Spooky Halloween Colouring Competition

Do you enjoy colouring and drawing?

Send us your Spooky Halloween pictures and you could win a prize. You can either send one of your own creations or colour the picture above.

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 Monday 28 October 2024.



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):

2 October

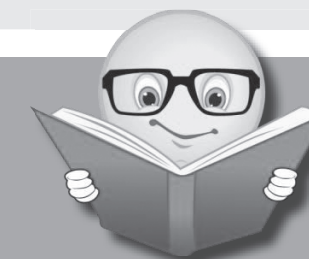
30 October

27 November

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.

Are you ready for the Halloween Pumpkin Competition – Sunday 27 October around the Ruin on Coast Road?

If you are looking to pick a pumpkin or two, here are some fun locations:

Hirsty's Fun Park, Hemsby – open during half term for Halloween activities and lots of fun.

Southwold Maize Maze, Reydon – pumpkin picking and a monster maze, trick or treat maze, go-karts, a fortune teller and a haunted house as well as pumpkin carving.

The Tacons, Rollesby – open weekends in October and daily during the half term week.

Field Farm, Wrentham – open during half term.

When picking pumpkins, avoid those with soft spots or cuts. Heavy pumpkins are best for carving. Carry the pumpkin around the sides, not by the stalk.

PUMPKIN COMPETITION



GHOST STORIES IN THE RUINS

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 3PM – 5:30PM

Bring your carved pumpkins between 3pm & 4pm for Judging at 5:30
Categories 12 & under - 13 & over.

Ghost Stories & Halloween Party Dances from 4pm - 5pm

Winners Announced at 5:30pm

HALLOWEEN PUNCH AND CREEPY CRAWLY SNACKS AVAILABLE

Hopton On Sea Residents - Event put on by the residents for the residents



HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 September 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, Kevin Lee, John Plaskett, John Tonks.

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

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs. Yvonne Bradley, Keith Bradley and Pam Oakes. County/Borough Cllr. Carl Annison.

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) New residents have received their first copy of Village News and commented that they enjoyed reading it, and finding out what is going on in the village.

b) The grates at the entrance to the play areas on the Recreation Ground are full of mud and grass. This will be reported by the Parish Council.

4. To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 12 August 2024.

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

5. To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.

A written report has been received from County/Borough Cllr. Annison which was read out. In summary:

Currently there is still an interim Highways Officer for our area. His name is Tom Cox, and there is also a new Regional Manager called Damian Jeffries. Cllr. Annison had a long teams meeting with them both to discuss various matters relating to Hopton.

a) Lowestoft Road (north). The verges to the right hand side of the highway as you drive up the hill will be dug, levelled and re-seeded within the next four weeks. These verges will then be included in the GYS cutting programme.

b) Various hedging along that cycleway should be cut back, including the section through to the A47.

c) Cllr. Annison has again stated that he has offered to use his Highways Members Fund to pay for a suitable gate to go across the end of Lowestoft Road (north) just past the

sub-station. He is awaiting a response on this from NCC.

d) Cllr. Annison has asked for all areas around Hopton, that are the responsibility of NCC, to be cut back, including the sides at Longfulans Lane.

He has also stressed to the officers that these issues have taken far too long to be rectified for the residents.

6. To consider the Clerk's reports.

a) **Correspondence.** Listing as previously circulated.

Matters reported to NCC or GYBC this month: Drain overflowing on Beach Road. Repairs needed to drain cover on Lowestoft Road (near the White Hart). Reported that rats have been seen on Coast Road and the beach. Litter bin overflowing on Coast Road (small grassed area). Cycle/pathway Links Road to A47. Faulty street light on Teulon Close reported for repair.

b) **Planning applications:** None

Permissions Granted by GYBC: None

Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC: None

c) **Finance. To agree September 2024 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 31 August 2024.**

Seven payments and three direct debits totalling £6,153.56 from the business current account. It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to approve the list of payments and bank reconciliation statement. Unanimously agreed.

d) **Notice of Conclusion of Audit year ended 31 March 2024.**

A clear certificate has been received from PKF Littlejohn, external auditors, and Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been published.

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

a) **Response from Abate.**

The job is being re-done by Abate at no cost to the Parish Council. The scaffold will go up again right to the roof line where they suspect a fixing has popped out due to the age of the mortar, allowing birds to freely ingress. They will change over the base canopy net to a smaller grade netting to prevent any possibility of pigeons flying hard into the net and getting stuck. The work is due to start 18 – 20 September 2024.

b) **Water tap/box.**

The new box will be made and installed

shortly.

c) **Replacement new Costessey seedling dessert apple tree.**

This tree has died in the apple orchard. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Ames not to replace the tree. Unanimously agreed.

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

a) **Defib monthly maintenance update.**

Monthly maintenance carried out by Cllr. Windsor-Luck.

b) **Working Party progress.**

A further meeting of the Working Party has recently taken place. The matter will come back on the Agenda for full Parish Council approval at a future date.

c) **Strimming front of Recreation Ground and topping off Laurel bushes.**

Quote of £150 from the contract gardener. Topping and tidying the Laurel bushes is free of charge. It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Lee to accept the quote of £150 to trim and tidy the Laurel bushes. Unanimously agreed. A request to the gardener to ensure the grass between the posts is cut to enable easier access through the bollards.

d) **Car park barrier.**

The high barrier still requires greasing. An approach will be made to the football club to see if they can assist.

9. Meeting of the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee re: Village News magazine.

It was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck to add Cllr. Hacon to the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee. Cllr. Ames gave an alternative view and suggested that there was no need as this is only an Advisory Committee and no formal decisions are made. It would also be unusual to alter membership of Committees half way through the year. Cllr. Windsor-Luck withdrew her proposal. The meeting of the Policies & Finance Committee will take place as scheduled this evening. Recommendations are likely to be made to the full Council at the 14 October 2024 meeting.

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

Paperwork has previously been circulated. The scheme is 50/50 funding. The criteria is limited with the deadline for applications is 6 December 2024. No response has been

received from NCC Highways regarding the initial enquiry about speed humps. This will be chased. An enquiry will also be made regarding signage under the white entrance gates and updated SAM2 cameras that show smiley/sad faces. Matter carried forward to the October meeting.

11. To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.

a) **Overgrown cycle paths Lowestoft Road to A47.**

One cyclepath has been strimmed. See County Cllr. Annison's report at item 6 above.

b) **Overgrown tree branches near the bus stop Lowestoft Road.**

Matter on-going. The tree roots appear to be on the highway. Matter referred to Cllr. Annison to progress.

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

Installation by Creative Play commenced today. The area is closed until the work has been completed. The installation company will be using water from the tap in the Millennium Garden.

d) **Location of new bench at St. Clair Court play area.**

A budget for the bench and installation agreed at the September 2024 meeting.

The existing bench to remain in situ. The opinion of Creative Play to be sought regarding a suitable location for the new bench.

e) **Watsons Close play area.**

Repairs have been carried out by GYBC and the play area has been re-opened.

12. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Monday 14 October 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Confirmed.

The meeting closed at approximately 8pm.

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).

Healthy Beverages

Water – is essential, preventing dehydration, constipation and kidney stones – also good for the waistline and scales.

Black coffee – the caffeine provides a jolt to improve alertness and may lower the risk of Alzheimer's disease and strokes.

Green tea – aids alertness, can improve the memory and attention with its blend of healthy chemicals.

Berry juices – home blended blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries are high in antioxidants.

Green smoothies – from spinach and kale, etc., are rich in brain-friendly nutrients and can be combined with various berries.

Turmeric tea – has anti-inflammatory properties and may improve memory and slow down Alzheimer's disease.

Beetroot juice – is high in antioxidants and has nitrates which could reduce high blood pressure and fight fatigue.

Ginseng tea – can increase stamina, aid concentration and improve the memory, while protecting against depression (it can have side effects, including trouble sleeping).

Hot dark chocolate – a little can improve attention, memory and protect against mental decline. It is high in fat, sugar and calories.

Lemon water – a squeeze of lemon to your essential water intake has nutrients which can assist in protecting body cells.

Red wine – in moderation, has chemicals that fight inflammation and can protect brain cell damage.

Tomato juice – homemade, it is as nutritious as fruit juice with less calories – if juiced with pulp it provides added fibre to the diet.

AVOID – soda, speciality coffees, speciality cocktails, mocktails, beers, especially craft beers, too much wine, energy drinks, smoothies and commercial fruit juices.



CHUCKLE CORNER ONE LINERS

• **What do you call a snowman riding in a car?**
A snowmobile.

• **Have you ever gone camping?**
It's in tents.

• **Why did the sun skip going to college?**
It already had a million degrees.

• **Why do tigers have stripes?**
They don't want to be spotted.

• **Why do golfers wear two pairs of pants?**
In case they get a hole in one.

• **What kind of shoes do bananas wear?**
Slippers.

• **What's the best way to put a spaceship to sleep?**
Rocket.

• **Did you hear about the deer that went to the dentist?**
It had buck teeth.

• **How do football players stay cool?**
They have many fans.

• **How do you make a tissue dance?**
Put a little boogie in it.

Any good jokes, or bad ones, please submit to:

hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

Hopton-on-Sea Youth Club

We are very pleased to welcome and see so many new faces at the Youth Club, as well as welcoming back our returning members. The hall has been positively buzzing.

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).

To ensure a smooth and quick entry into the club on a Friday night especially now the winter nights are setting in, first time members must have

- handed in a completed form to a volunteer at the youth club or posted in the village hall post box or emailed a copy to: hoptonyouthclub@outlook.com
- had approval from a volunteer that your membership has been accepted
- been advised of a start date

Members turning up at the door with their completed forms will be turned away as completed forms are required prior to their first night so that administration for the new member can be completed. We only accept new members at the start of each term.

To enrol your child to start 8th November 2024, please pick up a form from the Village Hall any Friday 6:30pm till 9pm during term time, all completed forms to be submitted by 18th October. Alternately you can request a form via email 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 January 2025.

All forms are to be completed and returned by Friday 18th October.

The youth club is run fully by the support of adult volunteers. With most having full time jobs and families of their own, commitment to the Youth Club can be demanding. Therefore, any adult wishing to support the club, even if it's just once a month, or emergency cover or to help set-up the equipment from 6:30pm before the members arrive, we would love to hear from you.



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.

Money Matters.

Do you have Fixed Rate savings maturing?

Some residents may be lucky enough to have put savings away in Fixed rate Bonds or ISA's. Some of these savings may be about to mature or may have already matured. The interest on these savings helps towards everyday living costs or towards annual holidays or towards other planned expenditure.

Remember that ISA's are tax free and wherever possible we should all utilise this form of saving to prevent us having to pay unnecessary tax.

When Bonds and ISA's mature the funds may be automatically moved into an easy access account or even your current bank account, both of which pay either minimal interest or no interest at all.

Many deals mature in September so it is important to review your savings now.



months. It is still possible to achieve 4.5% interest for a 1year fixed term and 4.0 for a 2year term. Longer term fixes are more difficult to find and a 5 year fix will earn around 3.65% per annum.

However, these rates are likely to fall further soon so don't miss out on the best deals and always check that the provider you choose is FSCS

approved. This means that any savings up to £85000 are protected should the provider fail.

Google best Fixed rate Bonds or Best fixed rate ISA's and you can quickly see what the best rates on offer are.

Cllr. John Plaskett (12.9.24)

If you have already set aside some money for emergencies and can afford to lock some money away then you should look to move these funds into fixed term bonds or a fixed term cash ISA. Stocks and Share ISA's are also available but the earnings/profit on these are dependent upon how the Stock Market performs.

As the Bank of England has started to reduce the Base Rate, we can expect interest rates to fall steadily over the next

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 new 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.

Kevin Lee

Hopton on Sea Radar Station & Coastal Battery.

You may have wondered about the barbed wire, observation post and ruins (now in the grounds of a private house) on the cliffs of Hopton. Locals often talk about the RAF radar station that was once part of the village, but when did it arrive and what was its purpose?

As with most things WW2 related, the story is a complicated one and consists of various uses, including training, coastal defence and a component of Britain's 'Chain Home Low' radar system.

Beginnings

The Hopton story starts at the outbreak of the Second World War. Like today, Hopton was a popular holiday destination and many holiday camps co-existed in the village. In the first few months of the war, and especially after the fall of France, invasion looked not only likely, but in many people's eyes, a certainty and there was a huge rush to build a network of defences, as well as strengthen our ability to withstand attack from the air.

There is aerial photographic evidence of a series of practice defence trenches built on the cliffs and the army commandeered the holiday camps to house troops, who no doubt would find themselves on the front line of any invasion battlefield. There are also photographs of soldiers training on a heavily barbed wired Hopton beach early on in the war. This suggests that Hopton must have been a hive of military activity, right from the early days of the war.

In early 1940 however, another strange object was being hurriedly built on the cliffs overlooking the village. This took the form of a 200 ft wooden mast and was completed with a collection of huts and a smaller nodding device. This strange tower and its associated buildings was part of a top secret system of defence that had sprung up across the coast of England, and which, even more remarkably, was coordinated without the Germans ever being aware of its true purpose.

The Importance of Radar

By the 1930's it was becoming increasingly clear that one of the biggest threats in the next war would come from the air. Britain had a series of defensive 'sound mirrors' around the coast that had been used to detect slow flying Zeppelins, but these were completely useless for detecting aircraft, so a new method had to be found. To cut a very long and interesting story short, step up Robert Watson Watt, scientist and radio engineer. He was able to demonstrate to the air ministry that he could detect an interruption in radio waves caused by an aircraft flying through them and was given the resources to produce some working prototypes. This top secret work took place at Bawdsey Manor in Suffolk and it was here that the first radar station was built. There is a museum there now and it is well worth a visit.

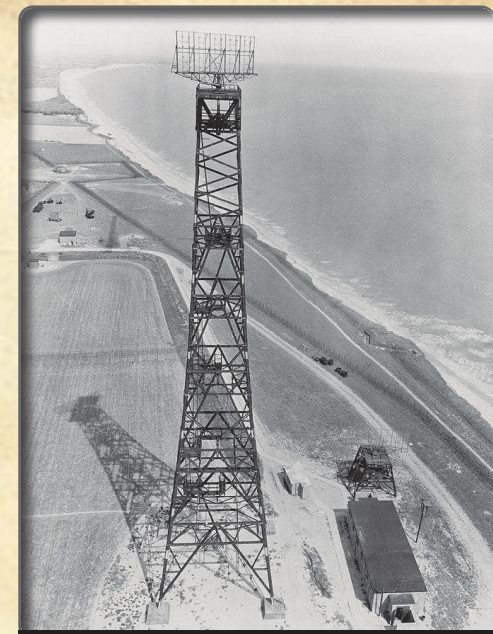
Fast forward again to 1940, and under Watson-Watt and his team's direction, Britain had built a series of defensive towers across the south and east of the country. Interestingly, although they knew about them, the Germans didn't really know what they were and so were uninterested in targeting them. The radar station at Hopton was part of this chain. It had two main masts initially, which were added to and upgraded as the war progressed. These were a 200 ft wooden mast, which gave a bearing on the objects and a 'nodder' radar, which was capable of ascertaining the height of the incoming aircraft. Through a process of triangulation from other stations,



Another view of the radar station, this time from 1945. The mobile 'nodder' radar can be seen in the lower right quadrant.

an accurate plot could be made on a map and this was used to direct British fighter aircraft to intercept their target.

The station, which was heavily protected by the military, had a small team of highly trained radar operators at its heart, who would scan the airwaves looking for signals that indicated that there were aircraft heading towards the coast. The operatives were women from the WRAF, as it was widely agreed by high command that they were superior to males in the job, as they had the concentration span, ability and dexterity necessary when handling the precision equipment. They also all carried a pistol and, in the event of looming capture in the event of invasion, they were to shoot the equipment, so that it could not fall into enemy hands.



Hopton radar station, WW2, exact date unknown.

Coastal Battery

In 1941, amongst the other military emplacements and activity on our stretch of the coast, there was also a coastal gun battery built on the cliffs overlooking Hopton. It consisted of two large gun houses, each housing a six inch gun and associated coastal defences, including searchlights, anti tank defences, air raid shelters and anti-aircraft guns. Our stretch of coast was considered to be prime invasion territory and Great Yarmouth was very close and an important military target.

Post War

After the second world war, the RAF maintained a presence in Hopton, with the radar station itself closing in 1949. A civil defence presence was maintained on site until approximately 1962. That's not the end of the story of radar in Norfolk however. Throughout the cold war, the small village of Neatishead played host to the most important radar station in the UK, as it was responsible for coordinating the entire defence of the UK from south of the Humber. You can visit it today, there is an excellent museum that tells the amazing story of radar. Not only that, but it hosts the only example of a complete cold war radar operating headquarters in the world. It's incredibly atmospheric and a great day out.

Share some Hopton History

Do you have knowledge of the history of Hopton? Perhaps you have some old photographs or postcards or some stories to share. If so, we'd love to hear from you! You can email Kevin at klee.hospc@gmail.com

Village People is taking a break, but will be back next month. If you'd like to appear and answer the questions, email klee.hospc@gmail.com

A great season for Hopton Bowls Club (behind St. Margaret's Church)



Roger Smith & Steve Griffin accepting the Challenge Cup from Roger Aldous

We came fourth in the Sunshine league, 7th in the Lothingland league, Steve, Roger & Hayley got a 'Hot Shot' badge and certificate for scoring all 6 points (maximum) one end in a Lothingland league match.

On the finals day Ray Milburn-Hughes & Margaret Nicholson won the mixed pairs, Steve Griffin won the mixed singles and Jane Turner won the ladies singles, Barry Jacklin won the Tuesday Club Competition, trophies to be presented at the clubs Christmas meal in December.

The Roger Aldous Challenge Cup

(31.8.24) was won by Roger Smith & Steve Griffin.

We had a fun day after the finals matches and played bowls by torchlight, some played better in the dark!

Overall it's been a great season, the green is now closed to be worked on over the winter for next year when the season starts again, sometime in April, watch this space

Hayley



A very warm welcome back to school year 1!

It has been so lovely to get to know you all over the few weeks.

They have all settled in so well and shown great perseverance while getting to know new routines.

We have been exploring 'How Our Brains Work' and have had incredible challenges to gain confidence whilst working collaboratively with our peers. One challenge the children had was an egg drop. They had to talk about how to look after their egg and think constructively about size, shape and the materials that they

would use so the egg didn't crack from a given height.

At Hopton we encourage the children to experience and explore new learning adventures and are looking forward to making our own art that makes us feel happy! This might be a painting, a model, a song, or a dance.

Karen Garforth
Year 1 Teacher