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hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com

December 2024 Issue 3, Volume 15

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



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St Margaret's Church
Lowestoft Road Hopton

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ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

- The WOW bus route for your health checks
- Pumpkin carving competition photos
- Hopton in Lights 2024
- A ghostly tale for a dark evening
- Village People – back cover
- Santa's Sleigh will be touring Hopton
- Youth Club photos



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THANK YOU FOR A SPOOKTACULAR PUMPKIN CARVING & HALLOWEEN EVENT!



A massive thank you to everyone who joined us for the Pumpkin Carving & Halloween Event at the Recreation Ground on Sunday, 27th October.

With over 60 families in attendance, it was fantastic to see everyone enjoying the free spooky Halloween punch and trying their luck with Pirate Pete's hidden treasures.

Congratulations to our worthy winners of the pumpkin carving and fancy dress competitions!

As always, a big thank you to our supporters: Bubbles Amusements, Stardust Amusements, ASDA, and all the residents who donated. Also thank you as well to Hopton Parish Council for allowing us to use the Recreation Ground.

Another huge thank you to Daniel Harvey for joining us again this year with his spooktacular Halloween props, raising money for Heart 2 Heart Norfolk.

In total, we raised £157.92 for events in the village for 2025.

We look forward to seeing you all again at the upcoming Carols & Mini Christmas Market on Saturday, 7th December, at St Margaret's Church from 2 pm to 6 pm, with carols starting around 5 pm. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for further details!

*On behalf of the
Hopton Residents Events Team, thank you.*

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dear reader,

We hope you enjoy reading your monthly copy of Village News.

If you have a news article or something you would like published, please get in touch, using the contact details below.

advertising sales

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

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

production credits

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publication dates

Please submit material by the **12th 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

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

at St. Margaret's Church, Lowestoft Road, Hopton.

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!

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 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

DECEMBER 2024

- Carols and Mini Xmas Market Saturday 7 December St. Margaret's Church
- refreshments. Tickets available at the door or from 01502 731066.
- 18 December Santa's Sleigh will be touring Hopton starting at 6.30pm
- Crib service December 24th & Midnight service 11.30pm
- Carol concert with the Gold and Silver singers and the JPHU hospital Choir. Sunday at 2.30 on December 8th Tickets £10. Includes
- Candle lit Carol Service 7pm December 18th
- Hold the date: 12 July 2025. Party in the Park.

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!



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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The WOW bus is on hand for...

NHS Health Checks, Blood Pressure Checks, Covid 19 and Flu Jabs, if eligible plus Health and Wellbeing chats.

Pop along between 10am and 3pm, no appointment necessary.

2 December Waterland
Leisure Centre NR32
2NH

3 December
Lowestoft – 61 London
Road NR32 1LT

4 December
The Bridge Community
Lunch, Fastoff Avenue,
St. Mary Magdalene
Church Gorleston
NR31 7BZ

5 December
10am to 12
Pathways Café,
The Minster Mission,
Admiralty Road GY
NR30 3DG.
Afternoon
1pm to 4pm
at Great Yarmouth
Library – Tolhouse
Street, NR30 2SH



Royal Mail Last Posting Dates in the UK

UK inland services via Royal Mail and Parcelforce

Wednesday 18 December – 2nd class
and 2nd class signed for

Thursday 19 December – Express 48
Parcelforce

Friday 20 December – 1st class, 1st
class signed for, tracked 48. Express
24 and express AM Parcelforce.

Saturday 21 December – Tracked 24

Monday 23 December – Special
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for more information on DPD and
Evri deliveries.**

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 2024:

9 December

*(all welcome – come and have a mince pie,
sausage roll and refreshments).*

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

DECEMBER 2024

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	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 9.45 to 10.45 Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Saturday	Mini Ballet 10am to 11am Dance Academy 11am to 12pm
Sunday	Spiritualist Church 6pm to 9pm

How to contact Norfolk Constabulary

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

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

You can call to report a crime anonymously
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A ghostly tale for a dark evening...

Black Shuck

'All down the church in midst of fire, the hellish monster flew, and, passing onward to the quire, he many people slew.' (popular verse told by the people of East Anglia until the mid-20th Century)

East Anglia has long been associated with ghostly tales and strange, unexplained apparitions, perhaps it is something to do with the wide open expanse of the countryside, the ancient villages, ways and ley lines that criss-cross our part of the world. Perhaps there is something more ancient and menacing in this land, or perhaps these ghosts, creatures and apparitions that so often appear out of the icy mists so common in this part of the world, are, in fact, an imprint from a time long forgotten. There is no stranger and more haunting story than that of Black Shuck and his regular sightings in this part of the world. Black Shuck, a huge and wild hound, with long black matted fur, fiery red eyes that can cut through to your very soul, giant slaving jaws and huge, sharp paws that can kill a person with just one swipe. He is known to stalk this land and has appeared to hundreds of terrified souls over the generations. As well as numerous sightings, there is even physical evidence of the existence of this creature in the form of huge, angry claw marks gouged into the door of a church, not too far away from Hopton. He has been seen uncomfortably close by, with many a poor witness only too keen to tell their tale as a warning to others. It only seems right then that I should repeat this warning to you in these pages.



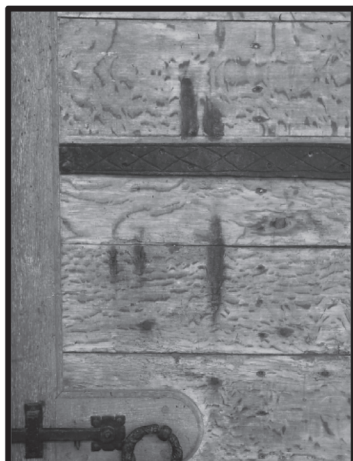
An artist's impression of Black Shuck, based on eyewitness accounts

First Recorded Accounts

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word 'shuck' derives from the Old English word, 'scucca' which translates as 'devil' or 'fiend'. The earliest account I was able to unearth of the appearance of these awful creatures comes from The Peterborough Chronicle (part of the Anglo Saxon Chronicles and written in 1127.) It talks about an encounter with '.... Hideous huntsmen on black horses and on black he-goats, with hounds (that) were jet black with eyes like saucers and horrible.....' These sightings went on for a whole day and night and left many of the monks shaken to their cores.

Bungay and Blythburgh

Later in 1577, there are two deeply disturbing accounts of events that occurred on the same day. On Sunday 4 August at Blythburgh, Black Shuck is reported to have, without warning, burst in through the doors of Holy Trinity Church in Blythburgh at the same time as a huge clap of thunder. He ran up the nave, past a large congregation, killing a man and boy and causing the church steeple to collapse through the roof. As the dog left, he left scorch marks on the north door which can be seen at the church to this day.

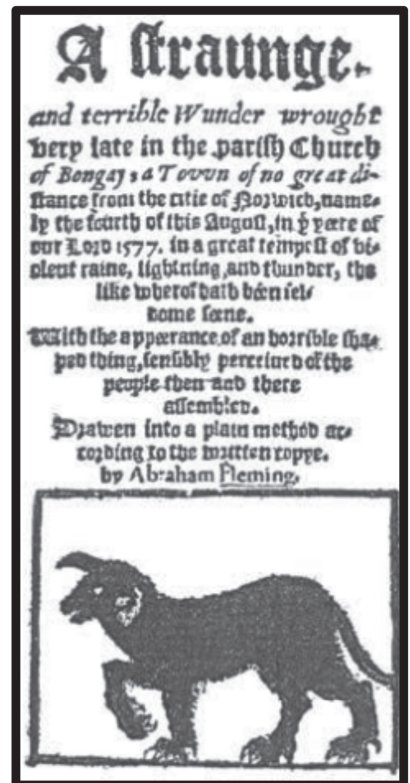


The clawmarks at Blythburgh Church. Irrefutable proof?

There was another encounter on the same day at St Mary's Church, Bungay and was described in vivid detail in 'A Strange and Terrible Wonder' by Rev. Abraham Fleming, published in the same year, 1577. I have copied an extract with the description of Black Shuck below and have adjusted the language slightly to modern English to make it easier to read.

'This black dog, or the devil in such a likeness... running down the body of the church with great swiftness, and incredible haste, among the people, in a visible form and shape, passed between two persons, as they were kneeling, and occupied in prayer as it seemed. He wrung the necks of them both at one instant clean backward, in so much that even at a moment where they kneeled, they strangely died.'

The front page of the original account



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Mob: 07721 827163
www.facebook.com/dirtbusterseastanglia
www.dirt-busters.co.uk
1 Dorking Road, Hopton, Gt. Yarmouth. NR31 9AZ.

More Modern Encounters

There are numerous more modern accounts of sightings of Black Shuck. In 1890, a young boy, who had to be rescued from the North Sea, told a terrifying tale of being forced to swim further and further from the shore by a huge black dog with burning eyes who had chased him into the sea. ??During the 1920s and 1930s there were numerous reports from the fishermen of Sheringham describing hearing a hound's malevolent howling on the cliff tops during stormy nights. As recently as 1970 a sighting of Black Shuck made the headlines when a huge hound was seen pounding over the beach at Great Yarmouth, uncomfortably close to Hopton.

What are we to make of these encounters? You may feel that there seems to be a huge amount of evidence of the existence of this terrifying creature. I, for one, will have my wits about me, when about on a winter's night.

Truth, they say, is stranger than fiction, so as ever, I'll leave it to you to decide.....

Perhaps you have survived an encounter with Black Shuck. If so, we'd love to hear from you.

News from St. Margaret's Church

**Sunday at 2.30pm
December 8th**
there is a Carol concert

with the Gold and Silver singers
and the JPHU hospital Choir.
Tickets £10.
Includes refreshments.
Tickets available at the door or from
01502 731066.

**December 18th candle lit
Carol Service 7.0'clock.**

**December 24th Crib service
Midnight service 11.30**

**Happy Christmas from all at
St Margaret's Church**



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

HOPTON IN Lights 2024

BEST DRESSED HOUSE - 1ST PRIZE £100
RUNNER UP £25

BEST DRESSED WINDOW 1ST PRIZE £50
RUNNER UP £25

WINNERS ANNOUNCED

TUESDAY 24TH DEC • 5PM

CLOSING DATE 18TH DECEMBER

Events Put On By The Residents For The Residents

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The Honesty Book Exchange Point

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

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 November 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: Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and seven members of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence.**
Parish Cllrs. Sue Hacon 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.**
No matters were raised.
- 4. To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 14 October 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. Annison reported via e-mail that the verges on the north side of the Lowestoft Road have now been seeded.
- 6. To consider the Clerk's reports.**
 - a) Correspondence.** Listing as previously circulated. Matters reported to NCC or GYBC this month: Faulty street lights - 330R, Manor Road. LO307R Coast Road. Light in the pathway next to the dental surgery. Light on Warren Road outside Westview bungalow near the entrance to Watsons Close. End of the cul de sac Old Church Road. The corner of Lowestoft Road and Hall Road needs sweeping urgently as the kerb and road are covered with leaves. All reported via GYBC app and acknowledged.
b) Planning applications: None.
Permissions Granted by GYBC: None
Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC: None
c) Finance. To agree November 2024 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 31 October 2024.
Eight payments and two direct debits totalling £3,611.37 (plus additional October payment of £92.43) as listed from the business current account. Cllr. Ames asked for his comment to be minuted that, in his opinion, the payment for chocolate boxes for the many volunteers who help out around the village, is ultra vires. He suggested that in future, all Councillors contribute towards the cost themselves. It was proposed by Cllr. K. Bradley and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to approve the list

of payments and bank reconciliation statement. Agreed by majority vote.

- 7. To receive information and consider matters relating to the Millennium Garden/Ruin.**
 - a) Water tap box installed with new set of keys.**
Matter completed.
 - b) Christmas tree and lighting.**
Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Windsor-Luck to set a maximum budget of £50 towards the cost of battery operated lights, with a timer, to be installed at the entrance to the village, rather than in the Millennium Garden. Unanimously agreed.
 - c) Activities around the ruin.**
The rough sleeper has moved from the Millennium Garden.
The annual bonfire to burn garden debris will be carried out next week.
- 8. To receive information and consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground/Pavilion.**
 - a) Defib monthly maintenance update.**
Monthly maintenance carried out by Cllr. Plaskett.
 - b) Request to use the Recreation Ground for Party in the park, 12 July 2025.**
The request is from the Hopton Residents Events Committee. They hold their own public liability insurance and have liaised with the football team regarding the date. Portable toilets will be supplied and additional refuse bins as last year. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Lee to permit the use of the Recreation Ground on that date, with the Parish Council having a stall at the event. Unanimously agreed.
- 9. To receive and consider paperwork from NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26. Road safety.**
Much discussion took place. Cllr. Lee has investigated the different types of speed cameras available and their effectiveness. Research suggests there is up to a 25% decrease in vehicle speeds with an effective camera/sign in place. A modern speed sign has a twin battery section with a solar panel which is efficient, only requiring 2/3 hours of daylight to achieve a charge of up to 50%. It is heavier than the existing SAM2 camera, but could still be moved around several locations. It can be connected via Bluetooth with mobile phone app to collate data which can be logged via computer to highlight speeding hot spots in the village. The cost is around £5,000. Non electric signage was also suggested at various locations. Speed humps and rumble strips were also muted. A working group could be set up to create

an action plan and strategy for the village. It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to apply for funding for a new camera under the Parish Partnership Scheme (deadline 6 December 2024). Unanimously agreed. Cllr. Lee is taking this forward.

- 10. Outstanding payment from an advertiser in Village News.**
The amount has been outstanding for almost a year. E-mail reminders have been met with silence. In view of the amount involved against the cost of legal enforcement, it was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. Ames to write off the debt. Unanimously agreed.
- 11. To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.**
 - a) New bench at St. Clare Court.**
Instructions have been given to install the concrete/slab plinth and the bench will now be ordered.
- 12. To pass a 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 item 13 below.**
It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to pass the Resolution above.
Unanimously agreed. Resolution passed. Members of the public and any press left the meeting.
- 13. To note the National Joint Council for Local Government Services agreement to salary award 2024/25 backdated to 1 April 2024.**
Noted.
- 14. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Monday 9 December 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**
Confirmed. Mince pies and sausage rolls (including vegetarian) and refreshments will be supplied. 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

A bit of self-care will do you good

I love this time of year, Autumn being my favourite season, taking every opportunity to enjoy blustery walks in the chilly air, followed by warming food and drinks by the fire. There is nothing quite like cosying up in a comfy armchair with a blanket and a good book or magazine.

I know that not everyone shares my preference and it seems that most people I talk to lament at the end of summer. Many dread the end of long, warm days and the opportunity to be out and about as much as possible. This is especially true of those who are bereaved, particularly those who now find themselves living alone.

Motivation can wane and doing anything can feel like more of an effort. However, it is more important than ever at this time of year, to make self-care a priority.

Self-care can sound a bit selfish but it really just means taking time to look after yourself and doing things that make you feel recharged and warm inside. It might involve spending time alone to rest and relax or reaching out to engage with others.

This could mean volunteering for an organisation or charity which gives a sense of purpose by knowing we are helping others and making a positive difference in the world.

We can also make time to meet others. Inviting someone round for a coffee or meal, or going out together, could mean a lot to someone who also lives alone.

Those who are bereaved can sometimes experience feelings of guilt if they start to enjoy life again and engage with others. This is not unusual and does not mean that we are leaving our loved ones behind or being disrespectful to them. It simply means that we are trying to make the most of the life we have now. We are all entitled to experience joy, happiness and connection in life – it's what makes life worth living.

So, this Autumn/Winter, make time for self-care: Meet with others, enjoy some good food, watch an uplifting film, read a good book, have a long soak in a fragrant bubble bath or whatever else makes you feel warm inside.

New Bereavement Cafes at your library

A time and place to meet and have a cuppa and chat with others who are bereaved.

Great Yarmouth Library	Every Tuesday 10.30am – 12pm
Gorleston Library	Every Thursday 2.30pm – 4pm
Caister Library	Every Monday 11.30am – 1pm
Martham Library	Every Friday 12.30pm – 2pm

No need to book, just drop in.

Chuckle Corner one liners

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



- Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?
A mince spy!
- What's every elf's favorite type of music?
Wrap!
- What do you call a reindeer ghost?
Cari-boo!
- What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs?
Candy canes.
- What kind of ball doesn't bounce?
A snowball.
- What kind of photos do elves take?
Elfies!
- What do snowmen eat for lunch?
Iceberg-ers.
- What do you call a greedy elf?
Elfish.
- * Why did Frosty's girlfriend break up with him?
He was a total flake!
- What's every parent's favorite Christmas Carol?
Silent Night.
- What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?
The abdominal snowman.
- What's the Grinch's least favourite band?
The Who!
- Which one of Santa's reindeer has the best moves?
Dancer!
- What's worse than a reindeer with a runny nose?
A snowman with a fever!
- What did one cranberry say to another at Christmas?
'Tis the season to be jelly!
- Why wouldn't Ebenezer Scrooge eat at the pasta restaurant?
It cost a pretty penne!
- What is a Christmas carol that you can sing to fruits on the happy event?
"Have Yourself A Berry Little Christmas."
- Why do reindeer like Mrs. Claus so much?
She sleighs.
- Why did the snowman get lost?
He didn't snow his way home.
- Why is it always so cold around Christmastime?
Because it's Decembrrr.
- What did the icy road say to the truck?
Want to go for a spin?
- Why are elves such great motivational speakers?
They have plenty of elf-confidence.
- What do you call a Christmas rom-com about bread?
Loaf Actually.
- How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born?
They had a weigh in a manger.
- What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum?
A meltdown.
- What's a dog's favorite Christmas treat?
Candy canines.
- How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet?
25—there's noel.
- Where did the mistletoe go to become famous?
Holly-wood.
- What's the best Christmas present to receive?
A broken drum, you just can't beat it.
- Why is the Grinch such an excellent gardener?
He has a green thumb.
- Why didn't Rudolph make honor roll in school?
Because he went down in history.
- Why did the cats hate their presents?
Because the gifts weren't up to scratch.
- How is a reindeer like a coin?
It has a head on one side and a tail on the other.
- What did the gingerbread man put on his bed?
A cookie sheet!
- Why is it getting harder to buy advent calendars?
Their days are numbered!
- What did one snowman say to the other snowman?
Do you smell carrots?
- What should you give your parents at Christmas?
A list of what you want.
- What kind of bug hates Christmas?
A humbug.
- What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!
- What do you call an elf wearing earmuffs?
Whatever you want. He can't hear you, anyway!
- What did the bald man say when someone gave him a comb for Christmas?
Thanks, I'll never part with it.
- What's the hardest thing about learning to skate?
The ice.
- What did the salt say to the pepper on Christmas?
Seasonings Greetings!

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.

By Kevin Lee

Lost treasures hidden away.

A bit of a different theme this month. Recently, I was asked to give a talk at Ritson Lodge about the First World War, to tie in with Armistice Day. As a keen history buff, I jumped at the chance, but I was keen to do something that involved artefacts of real events. I always believe that when you can actually hold objects that were actually part of the story you are being told about, it makes it much more real, it allows you to empathise with the people of the time and it also creates a connection that just talking simply can't. So I set about gathering together family heirlooms and bits and pieces I had collected over the years. I was pleasantly surprised with the results, and it got me thinking about how many every day and personal objects from those times that the residents of Hopton have stored away or on proud display in their homes.

What follows is just a few of the objects I collected.

Medals



I was given the responsibility of looking after my wife's grandfather's medals from The First World War several years ago. He was a Corporal in The Suffolks and fought on the Western Front. The most common combination of medals for the ordinary soldier were known colloquially by veterans as Pip, Squeak & Wilfred, but were actually (from left to right in the picture) the 1914 or 1914/15 Star, The War Medal and The Victory Medal.

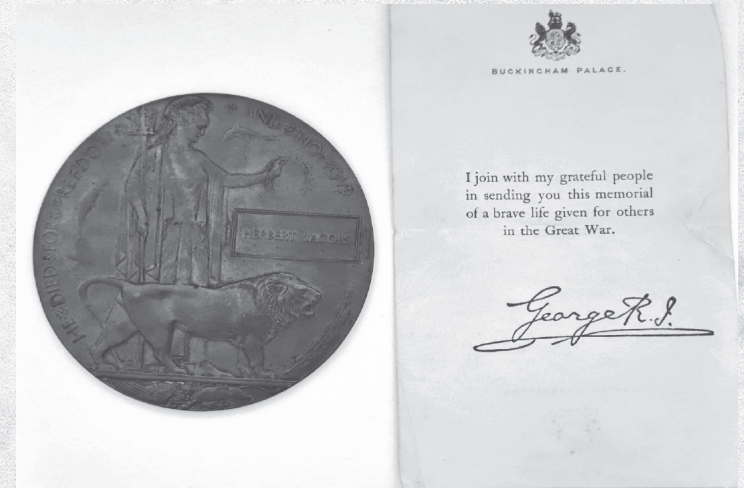
Trench Art

Perhaps unsurprisingly, daily life in the trenches, outside of battles, was a story of dull monotony in awful conditions, with the sad truth being that death could be around any corner at any time. Soldiers from all sides often kept themselves busy by making things. One thing there wasn't a shortage of was brass, in the form of spent shell cases. It became very popular



to make objects from this waste, as it was just lying around. Below is a sample of a couple of the objects I have collected over the years. These two are actually German, which makes them a bit different, and the soldier has crafted them into crude vases. There is some phenomenally detailed and beautiful trench art made by skilled soldiers still in existence. If you just type 'trench art' into a search engine, you'll find some beautiful examples.

The Death Penny



880,000 soldiers just from the British Isles alone died in World War 1. To compound this, approximately half of those have no known grave, meaning grieving families had nowhere to visit. After the war, families were sent what was commonly referred to as a 'Death Penny' as a token of their loss. These were large round brass plaques (about 12 cm in radius), with the name of the soldier written on them. Some families proudly displayed these, but for others, they were put away in a cupboard out of sight, because they were just too painful. Unusually, my example has its original cardboard case and certificate from King George V.

Above, I have included just a small selection of things that either I have collected over the years, or have been entrusted to me for safe keeping. My collection includes numerous cap badges, propaganda items, an original WW1 flag and even a 'bully beef' ration box imported from Australia. As I was putting the things together, it really got me thinking about what else is out there in cupboards or hidden away in Hopton. If you have anything, please do get in touch and perhaps include a photo, I'd be fascinated to find out!

Final night of Youth Club for 2024 will be Friday 13th December and we will return Friday 17th January 2025, these dates are subject to volunteer turnout so please join the Hopton Youth Club Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/265693031523615 to keep up to date with any date changes and current events.

We have had a very exciting and busy month with members getting creative in the



(1st Robbin (centre) 2nd Jessica (left) 3rd Jesse (right))

Halloween Disco Poster competition, the winners taking home a fun notebook. Well done to all members who took part, we were very impressed with the creativity and scariness of them all.

Members also created Halloween drawings using glue, salt and food colouring and baked yummy poppy cookies. Next month they look forward to painting firework scenes and lots of Christmas crafts and cooking activities.

We wish all our members, their families, and the village a very Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year.

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).

For enrolment to start 17th January 2025, please pick up a form from the Village Hall when we are there Friday's 6:30pm till 9pm until 13th December 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 February 2025.

All forms are to be completed and returned by Tuesday 31st December.

If you would like to volunteer and support the youth club even if it is 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.



Santa's Sleigh will be touring Hopton on Wednesday 18 December 2024, from 6.30pm, courtesy of the GY Lions Club.





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 Chair of the Parish Council, Jan Windsor-Luck. Many thanks to Jan 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

By Kevin Lee

Village People - Jan Windsor-Luck

1. Describe Yourself in 5 words.

Spontaneous, dishevelled, sociable, honest, chaotic/organised.

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

I am always juggling tasks and can get distracted, but tend to know where things are in the chaos! Much as I would love to, I do not 'scrub up' well. I no longer wear make-up as I would get it all over the place and would feel as if I was hiding behind a mask. I love company and interacting with people. I cannot abide dishonesty as there is no justification for it.

3. Tell us about a typical day in your life

I dislike typical days, I aim to get up at about 6.30am but am often up at 3am and then go back to bed and oversleep. I stretch my muscles, particularly feet and hands, then take the dogs out for their morning run on the recreation ground, (unless it is the weekend and I have overslept!!). I will get home and give the dogs their chew. I check emails and do household chores. I will eat anytime between 11.30 and 3pm, having cooked from 'scratch'. I do a Tai Chi classes 3 times a week to maintain my mobility and balance. I take the dogs out again in the afternoon for a longer, mentally stimulating walk, either through woods, along various beaches or parks. This gives me time to contemplate and relax (unless the dogs have found some deceased creature!). I feed the dogs at about 3pm on home made food and kibble. In the afternoons I tend to get items ready for

sale, (my husband recently passed away and has vast collections of tools, clothing, shoes etc. I am also downsizing my wardrobe). If the weather is reasonable I will do some gardening. In the late afternoon/ evening I will catch up with friends, watch TV. I tend to go to bed at about 11pm, having made bread, if needed.

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

The people, their friendship and support.

5. What is important to you?

My dogs, my family, friends and neighbours. My ability to manage day to day living, mobility and pain thresholds.

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

For many years I was either confined to a wheelchair or staggering around on crutches. I used to try to walk a few steps every day. Eventually I was able to walk a few hundred yards and felt that I had regained my freedom. Suddenly my ability to walk disappeared and I was again hobbling about on crutches.

I met a friend in the pub car park who asked why I was looking so fed up. I waived my sticks. Her response was " So what! You never expected to walk again, so every day that you had mobility was a bonus. Cherish it! If you cant walk again it doesn't matter, it was never expected!" These were the best words ever spoken to me, I have lost the ability to walk many times but know that I have recovered it before and can do so again (hopefully).

Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council
wish all residents a very happy
Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Thank you to the many volunteers who help out around the village, including litter pickers, dog wardens, delivery of this magazine, speed camera location changes, gardening etc.

Your help is invaluable to us and the whole community.

Thank you.

