

# Heads - Up !

*The newsletter for Headon, Upton, Grove & Stakeham*

*September 2024*

## Wildlife Rescue

Back in March 2021, Heads Up carried a report of a possible otter sighting in the area. No more sightings were ever reported .....until on one Saturday lunchtime in July of this year a couple were walking along a local footpath that they often walked, when in the middle of the footpath they saw a very young otter cub. The cub was completely out in the open and appeared to have suffered an injury.

They tried to seek advice but being a weekend were unable to raise any local wildlife organisations. They then contacted the UK Wild Otter Trust, which specialises in rescue and rehabilitation. They advised that because of the cub's location, its young age and its condition it should be brought in to be cared for. The only downside to this plan was that the Otter

Trust is based in North Devon, so a hastily arranged rendezvous was made for a handover just south of Tewkesbury.



The handover was duly made and the cub was confirmed to be a young female, which the Otter Trust has subsequently named Maya. I'm pleased to say Maya has settled well in her new surrounds and has been paired with a young male cub recently rescued in the Brigg area. Young otters will usually stay with their mother for up to 18 months so it will take around a year in the Trust's care before this pair will be ready for release back into the wild.



*Maya, shortly after arrival experiences her first introduction to water*



*A more recent photo; Maya in the foreground with her new male companion*

The work of the UK Wild Otter Trust can be found on their website [www.ukwildottertrust.org](http://www.ukwildottertrust.org) where donations in support of their work can be made. Otters are heavily protected under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act, but despite this otters are still a target, so it is on the advice of the Otter Trust that details within this article have been left deliberately vague.

Hopefully we will be able to report on Maya's progress in future editions.

## Stokeham Church—Ride & Stride

On Saturday 14th September St Peters Church at Stokeham will be open all day to welcome not just cyclists but everyone. There will be as usual lunch (sandwiches, cake, crisps), tea, coffee and juice for sale. Also running, until sold out, there will be a foody tombola, raffle and of course jams, pickles and marmalades - all to raise funds for Stokeham Church.

We look forward to meeting friends old and new.

## HUGS Parish Council

I'm writing to introduce myself as the new Parish Clerk at Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council. Thank you to Parish Councillors for making me welcome and I am looking forward to working together to benefit the Parish. If you have any questions or queries please feel free to email me at [headonpc@gmail.com](mailto:headonpc@gmail.com) or contact one of your Parish Councillors – their details can be found in the Parish notice boards.

The Parish Council held 2 meetings in June to catch up with business, and elected Cllr Sean Whelan as Chair and Cllr Nigel Greenhalgh as Vice Chair at the annual meeting. Councillors have responded to Planning applications, discussed flooding issues, reported potholes and submitted their annual financial reports to the external auditor.

The village is maintained by Suzanne the Lengthsman who keeps the villages looking great. The Parish Council meet at 7pm on the first Monday of each month at Headon Village Hall (excluding August and February). The next meeting is on Monday 2nd September and then Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, residents are very welcome to attend.

Clare

## Free to a Good Home

Wine rack for 36 bottles going free to a good home.

Contact Dave Burton (Upton) for more information. Email: [jimsdad7@btinternet.com](mailto:jimsdad7@btinternet.com)

## Puzzle Corner

Four different numbers between 1-9 are required to open a safe. From the clues below can you work out the correct four digit combination.

1. The number is greater than four.
2. The first is less than the third.
3. The sum of the second and third is a square.
4. The second is two more than the fourth.
5. The sum of the third and fourth is a prime number.

Answer on the bottom of the back page.

## Headon Cum Upton Cinema Club Presents

### Wicked Little Letters (15)

Based on a true story, when people in Littlehampton--including conservative local, Edith--begin receiving letters full of hilarious profanities, the rowdy, Irish migrant, Rose, is charged with the crime. Suspecting that something is amiss, the town's women investigate. Starring Jessie Buckley, Olivia Colman and Timothy Spall

**Saturday 7th September**

Headon Village Hall 7.30pm. Entrance £3.50

Contact Pat - [paddythorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:paddythorpe@btinternet.com) or on 248368

## Letter to the Editor

### HEADON CHURCH

Headon Church is a medieval gem but it is in danger of being decommissioned for use as a place of worship. The Parochial Church Council has already suggested that the church should be closed and kept locked but at the moment it is still unlocked and certainly upon request it can be used for baptisms, weddings and funerals. However, no services have taken place since February. This situation has come about due to the very small congregation and it seems that services are not viable. When there has been a group service however, other worshippers from East Markham and Drayton in particular, do attend. The future of the church is therefore uncertain and it would be a shame if it fell into disuse on our watch after 800 years of constant use. Let us try and ensure that once again the church can play an active part in our community.

Jill Walker, Upton

### Things you might not know about St Peter Church, Headon

Have you ever wondered how long Headon's church has been there, in the centre of the village? The earliest record I have found about the church says that William Russel, who was the "parson of Headon" had been in big trouble for hunting hares in the king's manor but was pardoned by the king in 1234. He was rector from 1226 – 1248.

So, the church was already there in 1226, but we don't know when the building work started, except that it must have been way before 1226, and went on for many years. Work must have been interrupted when the Black Death struck in 1348 – 50. In 1349, the worst year of the plague, Headon's vicar, John de Crofton died. At around the same time a massive chest was made from the hollowed out trunk of an oak tree and brought into our church. It's still there!

A tomb slab, showing a knight wearing chain mail armour, was discovered in the 1980s. It is probably from the tomb of Simon de Headon, the lord and owner of Headon. Simon was High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire in 1259. Was he Robin Hood's adversary?

The church once had two bells, but only one remains. It bears the inscription "Cum voco venete" meaning "Come when I call". The two-bell frame is made from wood felled between 1408 and 1428.

The churchyard was fenced by volunteers in 1885. That fence lasted for over 130 years, until, once again, volunteers from the village were called upon to replace it.

#### Come when I call!

Our church has been here for more than 800 years! It has been used by thousands of people. It has been used for worship and as a peaceful place for contemplation, but also as a community space, where people could meet to celebrate, protest or discuss events. In all these years, it has never been unused – until now.

You are the successors of all those people! Will you support the church in its time of need? There is a very real risk that it will be closed by the diocese, if we can't turn things around.

The church needs to be used and it needs your support. Of course it needs financial support, but, more than that, it needs people.

We aren't asking much! If everybody did a little, that would make such a difference! Could you be a key holder, keeping an eye on the building for signs of problems? Letting visitors into the church and chatting with them? Could you dust and vacuum from time to time as necessary?

Not long ago, there were flower festivals, various exhibitions and art displays and evenings of music. Surely some of these beautiful events could happen again. Could you, maybe with a friend or partner, organise such an event? It really wouldn't be difficult!

Would you be prepared to attend church services either occasionally or regularly? Or make a regular or one-off donation to the church?

**Please would you let us know if you feel able to support us in any of these ways by contacting me Janet Landon [janet@thorpe-house.com](mailto:janet@thorpe-house.com) or phone 01777 248282.**

## Church News & Services

Following the retirement of Rev Canon Bronwen Gamble in January 2022, the process of appointing a new Rector is still continuing. During this period the Church will continue as near normal as possible.

The Church contact is Reader Gill Rann on 07518 543868 or [riversretfordgill@gmail.com](mailto:riversretfordgill@gmail.com). Gill will be able to help with enquiries on matters such as baptisms, weddings, funerals, or home visits by putting you in touch with the appropriate person.

### The Parish of The Rivers, Retford

serving the villages, hamlets and communities of :

Askham, Cottam, Darlton, Dunham on Trent, East Drayton, East Markham, Fledborough, Grove, Headon, Nether Headon, Laneham, Church Laneham, Ragnall, Rampton, Rockley, Stokeham, Treswell, Whimpton Moor, Woodbeck, Woodcoates, Upton.

	St Nicholas Askham	St Peter East Drayton/ Dunham on Trent	St John the Baptist East Markham	St Helen Grove	St Peter Headon	St Peter Laneham	All Saints Rampton	St Peter Stokeham	St John the Baptist Treswell
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**1st September** 10.30 am, Benefice Holy Communion, **St John the Baptist, East Markham**

**8th September** 10.30 am, Holy Communion, **St Peter, East Drayton**

15th Sep	5.00pm Harvest Songs of Praise					10.30am Holy Communion			
22nd Sep			10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Harvest Festival			10.30am Harvest Festival		

**29th September** 10.30 am, Benefice Holy Communion, **All Saints, Rampton**

**6th October** 10.30 am, Benefice Holy Communion, **St John the Baptist, East Markham**

### Headon Village Hall Social Club

The bar is open every Friday night between 8pm - 11pm. Why not come along and have a relaxing drink at the end of the week.

#### Re-cycled Cycles

All in very good condition and various sizes available

Contact John Parker 07939 412542 (East Drayton)

