

1998\*\*\*\*\*2003

# HEADS-UP!



**The newsletter for Headon-cum-Upton  
(website: [headon-cum-upton.org.uk/Index/Village/Newsletter](http://headon-cum-upton.org.uk/Index/Village/Newsletter))**

**February 2003**

There have been reports in the *Retford Times* (see below) about Bassetlaw District Council considering taking the axe to its tourism and arts budgets, and halving the grants it makes to Parish Councils. Although these have not yet been finalised, at its reconvened meeting on 12 February the Parish Council decided that it would absorb whatever cuts the District Council makes and not increase the precept for 2003/04, which will remain at £20 per 'Band D' property.

## **Village Ventures**

Four weeks ago, we learned that Bassetlaw District Council was considering cutting back on its Arts Service, which meant that we would lose Village Ventures. As I'm sure you know, this is the scheme which allows us to bring dramatic and musical productions to our Village Hall. These are an important part of village life, both here and throughout Bassetlaw, bringing theatre to people who perhaps would not otherwise have that opportunity, and giving much pleasure to people of all ages. We soon found out more about Bassetlaw's proposed budget cuts. Not only is the Arts Service threatened, but also the Tourism Service with the proposed closure of its Tourist Information Offices. In each case, the officers involved will lose their jobs if the proposals go through. Ruth and Karen from the Arts Service have provided our Village Hall with a great deal of support, and George from the Tourism Service has been invaluable in helping us advertise our Well Dressing. The loss of these people will directly affect our village. Then, to cap it all, Bassetlaw proposed to withdraw its grants to Parish Councils.

It seemed to us that all of this added up to a direct threat to the rural areas – Village Ventures, of such value to villages, and Tourism, when country people have been encouraged to turn to the tourist industry to boost the ailing rural economy. Perhaps our District Council thought it easiest to target the villages, where they would not expect any kind of organised outcry.

I got in touch with all the Village Venture contacts in Bassetlaw, and we met in our Village Hall to discuss how best to oppose these cuts and to form a protest group. As a result many people wrote letters to the Leader of the Council, we organised a petition and distributed leaflets. So far we have collected about 300 signatures, but most importantly, we have made the Council and the press aware of our opposition.

Bassetlaw's final decision will be made public after their meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>, but I have been reliably informed that there is no need for us to take further action. It seems that we won our case! Many thanks to all those, in Headon and Upton and other Bassetlaw villages, who helped, wrote letters etc.

## **Defibrillator – Community Responder Scheme**

We now have four volunteers, three from Headon and one from Upton. Thank you to those people, but we need more! Phone Janet or David if you are interested in joining this worthwhile scheme. (248282).

## Parish Council News

### Notes from the meeting held on 27 January

*(It should be stressed that these notes are based on my recollection of what was agreed at the meeting and not on the approved minutes)*

#### Precept 2003/04

It is at this meeting each year that the Council normally finalises its budget for the coming year and sets the level of the precept. However, a significant contribution to the costs of running the Parish Council comes from a grant from Bassetlaw District Council who, just before Christmas(!), advised that it was considering cutting the grants it makes to Parish Councils by half in 2003/04 and abolishing them altogether the following year. This decision, unsurprisingly, resulted in widespread dissatisfaction amongst all Parish Councils and the District Council held a special meeting of its Liaison Committee in January to which all Parish Councils were invited. Following this meeting the District Council has offered to rethink its decision. The Parish Council decided that it was unable to set the precept until Bassetlaw District Council had confirmed the level of grant.

(The point about the District Council's contribution is that people in rural areas already pay more Council Tax than those in towns. This is because some services provided by Parish Councils, which village residents pay for via the precept, are provided in Retford and Worksop by Bassetlaw District Council and paid for out of the general Council Tax. The contribution that the District Council makes to Parish Council costs goes a small way to reduce this iniquitous burden of double taxation.)

#### Parish Council Elections

The Parish Council is due for re-election this year. A 'Notice of Election' will be published on 17 March and nominations can be submitted after this date and before the closing date of noon on Tuesday 1 April. If the election is contested the poll will take place from 8.00 am to 9.00 pm on Thursday 1 May to coincide with elections for the Rampton ward of the District Council.

#### Road Safety

The Council is still awaiting the results of the traffic survey and a reply from the MP about staff travelling to and from Rampton Hospital.

#### Grass Cutting

Following a competitive tendering exercise, the Council has let a contract to cut the grass verges throughout the village to Leverton Landscapes at a cost slightly lower than last year. Leverton Landscapes work for other Parish Councils that I know and their standard of workmanship is universally praised.

#### Car Park

Progress is painfully slow. The Council previously decided it would lease the car park at a nominal rent but asked if it could do so and still retain the option to buy at a later date. It is proving difficult to get an answer to what would appear to be a straightforward question.

#### Rampton Hospital

The Council welcomed proposals from the hospital to incorporate tree planting within new hedge lines and to paint the new perimeter fence black as it has been found that this colour best helps to lose the overall impact of the fence. The Council noted that trees planted on 1995/96 are now becoming more noticeable in appearance.

#### Defibrillator

Further to the notes in the last issue of the newsletter, Rampton Parish Council has decided that it will provide funding for the Community Responder Scheme provided that grants for up to 50% of the cost can be obtained from the British Heart Foundation and provided that there are sufficient volunteers from Rampton and surrounding villages to make the scheme effective.

David Landon

## Village Hall News

### Burns Night

About 30 people enjoyed a delicious traditional Burns Night dinner in the Village Hall. Many thanks to Marian and Ruth for cooking a terrific meal – even those who were not too sure about haggis found it delicious!

### Kathryn Tickell & Karen Tweed

What a fantastic evening this was! The Village Hall was packed with over 100, mainly local, people in the audience. Kathryn and Karen played traditional music from Northumberland, Ireland and Sweden, which was hugely enjoyed by everyone. Preparing food for so many was quite a big undertaking – thanks to Ann, David and Janet for doing this.

### Missing!

Did you borrow a brown, pyrex, quiche dish, possibly to take home some left over food after the New Year's Eve party? If so, would you please return it to the Village Hall as its owner would like it back!

Also a large aluminium jug belonging to the Village Hall is missing. Please check if you have it.

### Social Club

Don't forget, if you fancy a drink and a chat with neighbours, you will be welcome at the Social Club, each Friday from 8.30pm.

## Theatre Club

The programme for the coming 6 months:

Venue	Show	Date	Booking
The Crucible	The Firework Maker's Daughter	Thur 13 March	Fully booked
Theatre Royal, Lincoln	Art	Fri 21 March.	24 Jan – 14 Feb
Lyceum, Sheffield	Madam Butterfly	Wed 9 April	12 Feb – 21 Feb
W.Y. Playhouse, Leeds	Midnight's children	Wed 14 May	26 Mar – 8 Apr
W.Y. Playhouse, Leeds	Reunion	Wed 4 Jun	9 Apr – 23 Apr
Theatre Royal, Nottingham	Fiddler on the Roof	Thur 10 July	15 May – 29 May

Booking forms and membership forms are available from Margaret (248053)  
Forms and payment must be in by closing dates to secure seats

### Cyber Café and Video Conferencing

The computers, printer and scanner are now available for use by any resident of the parish, on Friday evenings from 8.30, and at other times by arrangement. Contact Martin on 248767 or Janet on 248282.

Video conferencing/Telly Talk is available on Wednesday mornings from 9.30a.m. to 12.00 noon, when members of the public can speak directly to a representative of Nottinghamshire County Council or Bassetlaw District Council. They will be able to help with enquiries relating to their respective councils and much, much more:

- Business and Employment
- Concessions for Senior Citizens
- Highways
- Council House Advice and Repairs
- Council Tax
- Education
- Environmental Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Housing Benefits
- Leisure and Amenities
- Social Services
- Trading Standards
- Pest Control

If you wish to make use of this service you will need to make an appointment. Please contact Martin or Janet, as above.

## Forthcoming Events and Other Notices

Hunt Roberts Theatre (HRT)

Presents

### **Talking Heads**

By

Alan Bennett

### **Bed among the Lentils & A Lady of Letters**

**Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.30 pm**

Tickets £6, concessions £4,  
including light supper

### **Well Dressing Society**

#### **Quiz**

Friday 14 March at 7.30 pm

(Bar open from 7.00 pm)

£5, including pie & peas supper  
Teams of 6 maximum

### **Weightloss**

Nicola Mosley lost 12lb and 3 ½ inches off her waist in her first week on the programme.

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**&**

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[www.vitalife.org](http://www.vitalife.org)

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### **Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council**

**Next meeting**

**Monday 3 March**

at **7.30 pm** in the Village Hall

Members of the public are cordially invited

**The next all day Art class with Helen will be on Thursday February, 27<sup>th</sup>.**

### **200 Club winners**

**January draw:**

£25	Ann Spencer
£15	Judy Blacklock
£5	Pat Mosley

### **Advance Notice**

### **200 Club Grand Draw**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**More details in the next newsletter**

### **Pilates**

A gentle form of exercise.

Thursdays, in the Village Hall  
from 6-7p.m.

Just turn up if you're interested.

Best wishes to Alun McKiernon for a speedy recovery from his hip operation. We hope that you are soon able to get around!



### **Saturday collections of Bulky Domestic Refuse**

**Next collection: Saturday 8 March**

### **Baby sitting**

Responsible 15-year old girl  
available for baby-sitting.

**Contact Sophie McGlen on 248187**

**For further details of any notice please ring 248282**