

Heads - Up!

The newsletter for Headon, Upton, Grove & Stokeham

June 2020

Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council.

The Parish Council hopes that all the people that live and work in the parish remain safe at these difficult times. Much advice is available regarding Covid19 at www.gov.uk, www.bassetlaw.gov.uk, www.nhs.co.uk, www.nottinghamshirecc.gov.uk together with local and national TV and radio.

As a result of current Government advice, the Parish Council has taken the decision not to hold public meetings.

We will be holding our first Parish Council virtual meeting using Zoom on **Monday 1st June 2020 at 7.30pm**

Zoom allows you to hear what is being said and see other people that are logged into the Zoom meeting.

As a member of the public, you can speak but only at the public section of the meeting which will be after the introductions by the Chair. The public session lasts for ten minutes.

For the Parish Council meeting you can hear what the councillors are saying but will be unable to make comment about what is being said by the councillors.

You can log into Zoom using your computer, laptop, tablet, smart phone, or phone.

To gain access to the Zoom meeting please contact the Clerk who will provide the Zoom login details. The contact details for the Clerk are at the bottom of the update.

We will review the format of future meetings based upon emerging Government advice.

Thank you.
The Parish Council.

Contact details for Jim Blaik, the Parish Council Clerk are:
Mobile 07421 057404 or email headonpc@gmail.com

Books & DVD Library

Headon Church porch is currently being used as a library for any surplus books, games, DVDs that people may want to drop off for others to use in this time of lockdown. So if you have exhausted your own collection during lockdown, then why not pop along and have a look.

To keep people as safe as possible, it is suggested that Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday are drop off days, Monday Wednesday and Friday collection. The idea of separate drop off and pick up days is that there is then a minimum 12 hour window between drop offs and collections where items are untouched. It may be tempting not to pick up another item whilst you are there dropping something in, but please don't for the above reason.

Please put your names in/on the items - they may be returned to you once we return to normal. All appropriate social distancing should be met, people should wear gloves, and 1 person at a time in the porchway (unless couples/families) at any one time.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JULIA HARVEY CHAIRMAN OF HEADON UPTON GROVE AND STOKEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

For the benefit of those residents who do not already know me, I have lived in Headon for over twenty three years, having converted a barn into my home over the preceeding eighteen months, before moving in. I live next door but one to the church in Headon. I have been chairman of the parish council since May of 2019, and a parish councillor, both here and in Torworth, where I lived, prior to purchasing my then dilapidated barn at auction.

During the time since I have been a councillor, and Chair, the council has gone through a period of change.

We are very fortunate to have an extremely enthusiastic, and efficient clerk, and a group of councillors who are all dedicated to improving our villages.



An average week day for me involves getting up about 6.30am, and firstly turning out my horse, mucking out her stable, and doing all the other chores involved in taking care of a twenty-eight year old veteran equine. She, and I, are both retired now, but we previously had a lot of fun hacking around the area, and competing, mostly dressage. We were not exactly top flight, but we both enjoyed ourselves enormously!

I often check email for the first time in the day when I come back into the house, and deal with anything where no research, or little time, is involved, and which only requires a very short reply.

Then it's porridge for breakfast, a full Scottish, as my husband amusingly describes it, along with a look at the news on television or the radio 4 Today programme, followed by walking my two Whippets, and then a few domestic duties. I try to arrange to arrange these so that I have plenty of time available for other things, like parish council, and managing a rental property portfolio.

The rest of my morning will probably involve dealing with issues arising from said residential property portfolio, which I started in 1975. Since that time, my husband and I have purchased, renovated, and let many properties in Worksop, and we continue to manage our portfolio ourselves up to the present time.

A light lunch then, will be followed by outdoor chores like gardening and other errands. I often need to speak with tenants, possibly to look at work that requires attention. There is a lot of legislation attached to being a landlord these days, and compliance is a major issue to be addressed. If there is a change of tenancy, I would need to show prospective tenants around a vacant property and inspect their current home, before making a decision on whether to offer a tenancy, and on what terms. This process can be something of a minefield, and requires careful consideration. However, I usually have a long list of applicants from which to choose the most suitable tenant. Certainly, having so many years experience helps a lot. My first lessons back in 1975 were never to judge a book by its cover, and to take everything with a pinch of salt until its veracity had been determined.

Afternoon tea (though I do not drink tea, it would be juice for me), and a chance to take a short break, often involves reading one of the books I borrow from the library van service which calls in the village every fourth Wednesday.

I often deal with parish council matters during the afternoon or early evening, frequently spending several hours responding to emails, or preparing for the next meeting. Being a councillor means one has to learn about a wide variety of issues, from planning to Highways, budgeting to managing staff, complaints from residents to managing expectations. It is a very interesting role, certainly never boring!



Dinner is usually around 6.00pm (I am currently working my way through the Bosh vegan recipe books), after which I will finish off tasks which were not completed earlier in the day, or read some more. We do not have a television in our sitting room, but if time allows, and there is something I am interested in, I sometimes watch iPlayer for an hour, on my iPad, before skipping out to the stable for the last time, and walking the Whippets again before bedtime. If I can keep my eyes open, I will read some more before lights out.

No two days are exactly the same, and life always presents challenges, whether on a personal, business or parish council level, and is probably the main reason why I enjoy my life in Headon, and the wider local area, so much.

Chris' Beekeeping Year — June

The mild winter has seen the oilseed rape flower earlier and my first honey extraction of the year took place in early May. The extraction process is relatively straight forward but in the spring it is crucial to get the timing right. Nectar when initially brought back to hive has a high water content. The bees need to process this to drive the water content down to below 20% otherwise the honey will ferment. When the bees have completed this task and the honey is ripe they will cap it over with a layer of wax. The honey can then be simply uncapped and spun out of its frames in an extractor, which resembles a giant salad spinner. However in the spring the honey can crystallise in the frames very quickly and become solid. The consequence of this is that the honey cannot be spun out but has to be melted out of the wax frame which is a long and slow process and should be avoided if possible. During this time I constantly check the water content of the honey with a refractometer so I know when I can start to extract.



A frame of capped honey, ready for extraction

The reason spring honey crystallises quickly is that the nectar has a high glucose content, as opposed to nectar from summer flowers which has a high fructose content. This is why honey from the spring tends to be opaque and set whilst honey from later in the season tends to be clear and runny. So my bees situated in a single location will produce two types of honey in a season, set and runny, simply by visiting the variety of plants flowering at different times of the year.

Throughout May several of my colonies have shown signs of swarming and to stop this process I have had to perform some artificial splits. I am now waiting to see if my new queens hatch and become mated, once they do I can then decide

whether I want to keep them as separate colonies or merge the colonies back to together.

When a queen lays a worker egg it will take six weeks before the resulting adult bee becomes a forager, so in order to take full advantage of the main nectar flow in July / August, the queen is now laying between 1500—2000 eggs per day. However in early June the first flush of spring flowers has passed and beekeepers often talk about the 'June Gap' when there is a lull in the availability of major forage sources. Therefore the beekeeper has to keep a watchful eye on stores in the hive and ensure he only extracts what is surplus to the bees' needs.

Jobs for June are much the same as for April / May, a continuation of the weekly inspection to check the bees are healthy and that they are showing no signs of swarming or disease.



The queen (marked with a yellow dot) surrounded by her attendants

Alphabet Quiz

Many of us having been taking part in family quizzes during lockdown via internet conferencing. Hopefully you are not all quizzed out. The answers to each of the questions below begin the letters of the alphabet. Answers are given at the bottom of the page.

- A Which highly toxic A was once used in women's cosmetics?
- B Which B is the bear in the Jungle Book?
- C Which C in Berlin was the famous crossing point between East and West Berlin between 1961 to 1989?
- D Which D is a device to convert mechanical power to electricity?
- E Which E is a country that has its capital at Asmara?
- F Which F was founded as a Republican political party in Ireland?
- G Which G was the nickname adopted by the TV cook Graham Kerr in the early 1970's?
- H Which H is a leading character in the play Pygmalion and musical My Fair Lady?
- I Which I is the place of origin of Laphroaig whisky?
- J Which J is a football club based in Turin?
- K Which K is known as the laughing jackass?
- L At which L is the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe run?
- M Which M describes a violent whirlpool?
- N Which N is the Greek goddess of retribution?
- O Which O was a singer known as the 'The Big O'?
- P Which P is a famous art gallery in Madrid?
- Q Which Q is a borough in New York City?
- R At which R did Sherlock Holmes apparently meet his death?
- S To which island group do Yell and Unst belong?
- T Which T is a 1970s TV comedy series featuring Danny De Vito and Judd Hirsch?
- U Which U has been the name of eight popes?
- V Which V is a chamber in the heart?
- W Which W was the site of David Koresh's last stand in 1993?
- X Which X is a gas with the chemical symbol Xe?
- Y Which Y is a member of a Jamaican criminal gang?
- Z Which Z is a well known wine of California?

Answers

A Arsenic, B Baloo, C Checkpoint Charlie, D Dynamo, E Eritrea, F Fianna Fail, G The Galloping Gourmet, H Henry Higgins, I Islay, J Juventus, K Kookaburra, L Longchamps, M Maelstrom, N Nemesius, O Roy Orbison, P Prado, Q Queens, R Reichembach Falls, S The Shetlands, T Taxi, U Urban, V Ventricle, W Waco, X Xenon, Y Yardie, Z Zinfandel