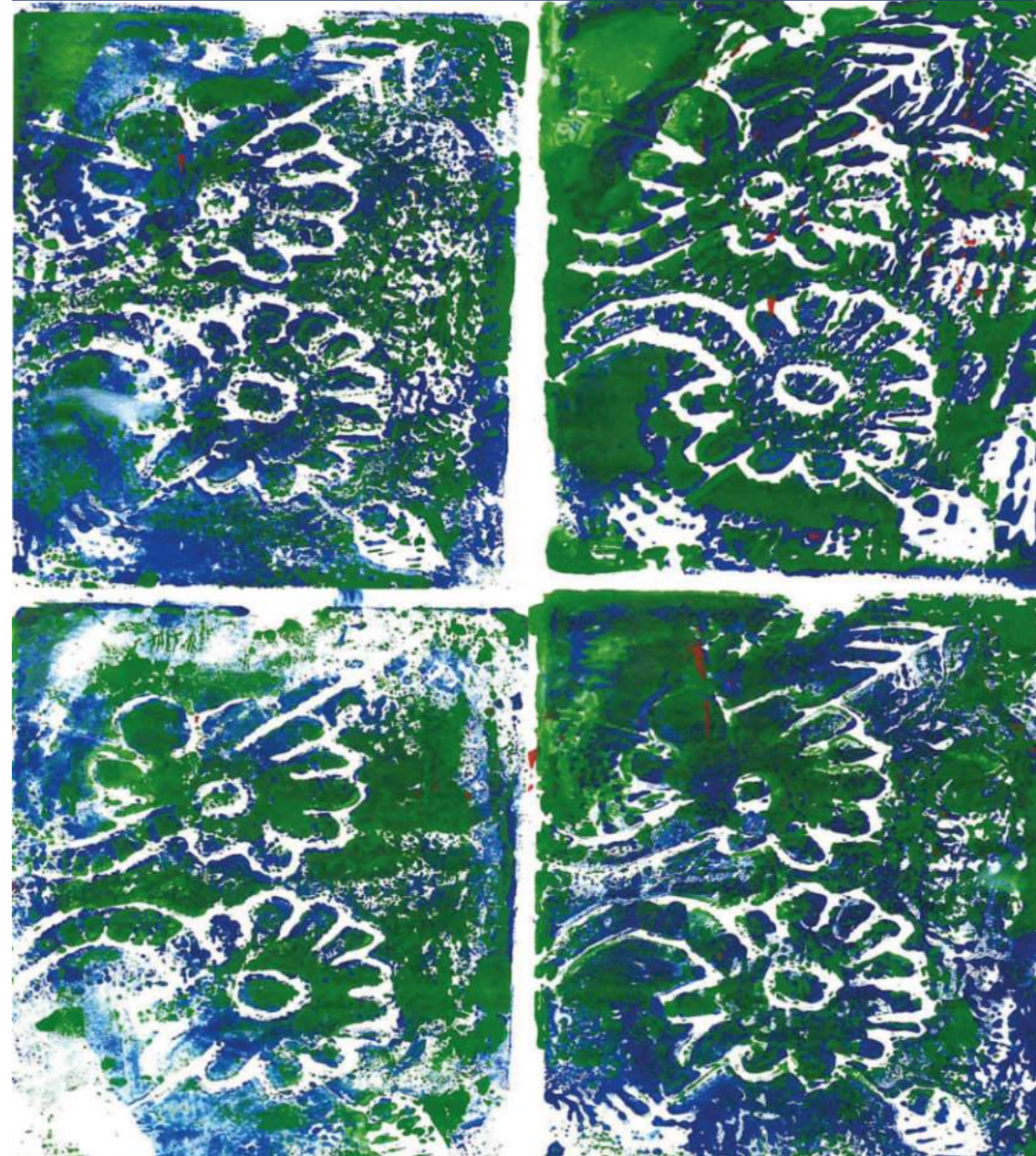


Focus

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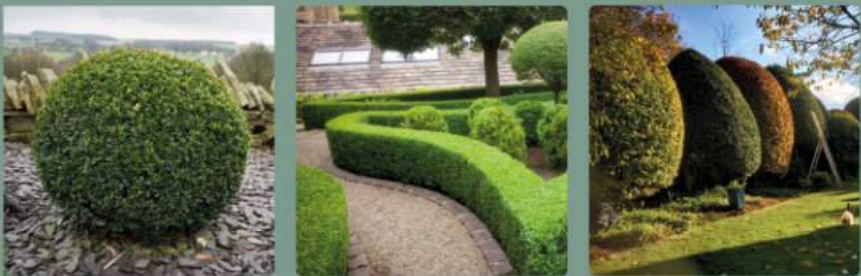
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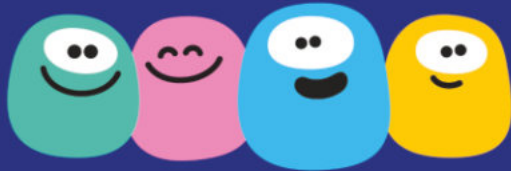




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Above: Dixon's Milk Ices (Holmfirth) has been a real hit with Hepworth residents (of all ages) since their opening back in April this year.

Below: "Creatures of the Walk" a project from the Sharing Memories group, funded by the Coop, the Parish Council, the Arts Council and Groundwork. See page 34.



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Simon Cave visits Wentworth Woodhouse (near Rotherham) for our summer 'Days Out' feature. See page 46.



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Focus looks back at last year's glorious
Feast Day (June 2025)



Welcome to Focus...

Summer is finally here so welcome to this special Feast edition of Focus magazine and congratulations to James Ashmore, winner of the spring cryptic crossword. There are Read Bookshop vouchers up for grabs this edition so don't forget to send your summer solutions to the mysterious Mitchell. Email: focushepworthcrossword@outlook.com

Hepworth in the sunshine is a sight to behold and there's such an abundance of fun summer events listed in our Diary pages this edition with festivities, garden parties and galas galore. Once again, we are delighted to bring you the full guide to this year's Feast, an event that somehow gets better every year- our huge thanks to the organisers and everybody who supports them. Along with plenty of exciting local news and reports, we have some great local history, a new recipe and day trip suggestion, expert nature and gardening tips and we hear from Emma at The Honesty Store & Co, an exciting new village shop coming very soon to Hepworth.

The autumn edition of Focus will be published in September. If you have any news, articles or diary dates for this autumnal edition, please email me (Lisa Hoad) focushepworth@gmail.com before our copy deadline of **Friday 28th August 2026**.

Thinking of advertising in Hepworth's favourite magazine? Our distribution list is growing, we currently deliver over 700 copies of each edition FREE to homes in Hepworth, Jackson Bridge, parts of Scholes and the surrounding area, as well as providing digital copies to Hepworth School families and friends, so it really is a cost-effective way of getting your business seen. For more information, please email our marketing manager, Mary Wrathmell mary@wrathweb.uk

Please note that the views expressed in Focus are not necessarily those of Hepworth Community Association. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions to the magazine, and it is our policy not to publish anonymous or unattributed articles or letters.

Prize Crossword Solution #7

Across: 3 Wing 5 Boombastic 10 Latch 11 Fig 12 Utter 13 Owl 14 This And That 15 Aggravation 20 Cock And Bull 23 Chi 24 Peach 25 Lot 26 Onion 27 Cockchafer 28 Bear

Down: 1 Swallow 2 Accrete 4 Nutella 6 Magma 7 A Quadrillion 8 Titch 9 Photographic 11 Frida 16 Adult 17 Nicoise 18 Ice Pack 19 Sinners 21 Craic 22 Delia



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Focus Guide to the Hepworth Feast (Monday 29th June 2026)

The annual, historic day when the whole village community and our guests come together and celebrate what a great place Hepworth is.

The Feast organisers take you through all the events of Hepworth Feast Monday (and Sunday). We hope to see everyone out and about and as always, the Feast takes place on the last Monday of June.

Sunday 28th June 2026: the hugely popular 'Eve of Feast Music Night'

8pm onwards in the Village Hall - free entry, bar open. Come along and enjoy an eclectic mix of music and song by talented village artists; current line-up includes: The Hepworth Singers with new songs and compilations, Clive, Rob and their Guests (including an up-and-coming young Hepworth Band), The Tipplers, dance music to finish

A hat/ bucket collection will be taken during the evening – proceeds from this help fund the Feast on the Monday, so please support us where you can!

Monday 29th June: Hepworth Feast Day

The Hepworth Feast is held on the last Monday of June each year and has taken place for hundreds of years; historically to commemorate the end of a plague in Hepworth and in more recent years to support the school(s) and village children. Perhaps many centuries ago the Feast had its origins as a mid-summer festival. See the displays in the village hall for more on Hepworth and the history of the Feast – as always, we have new additions: a detailed history of the pubs and landlords of the village, going back to 1822! Plus, previously unseen village maps and Feast reports from nineteenth century local papers.

During the afternoon a procession of villagers and schoolchildren from Hepworth J & I School (2pm) complete a circular walk from Hepworth to Scholes to Jackson Bridge and back. Volunteers carry the Hepworth School Feast banner and the renowned Hepworth Band (Yorkshire Champions in 2026!!) accompanies the procession and at several stopping places hymns are played by the band and sung by all. At the end of the walk the local school children are given a free afternoon tea and the adults may also purchase refreshments (the Public Tea) at the Village Hall.

In the early evening, at 6.30pm, everyone is invited to the centre of the village for the Public (United) Sing, where Hepworth Band (conducted by John Turner) play more hymns and everyone joins in the singing.

Afterwards (approx 7pm) children (aged 4 to 12) from local schools - Hepworth, Scholes, Hade Edge and New Mill take part in races (including sack races) in the Recreation Ground. Prizes are awarded to the winners in each event, and the Hepworth Co-op Centenary Trophy is presented by a former pupil of Hepworth J & I School to the school team that wins the relay race. In 2025 the winner of the Hepworth Co-operative Trophy was Scholes School.

The races are followed by evening entertainment back in the centre of the village.

Prior to the Feast Day, on the walk and during the Public Sing, the organisers ask the public for donations to support the costs of putting on the Feast. In addition to the costs of hiring bands and musicians, providing refreshments for the children, insurance, entertainment, gazebos, lights and bunting, music and prizes, the Hepworth School Feast Committee also donates a £10 book token to every child in their final year at Hepworth J & I School. All the organisers volunteer their time free of charge. Approximately £5,000.00 needs to be raised.

We thus ask for the community to financially support the event when we collect. A 'Just Giving' account specifically for Hepworth Feast has been created, or bank transfer into the Hepworth School Feast Bank Account or cash on the evening / day. – details below.

Timings, Monday 29th June

2.00pm Procession

The procession of Hepworth Band and children, parents, villagers and guests will leave Hepworth Junior and Infant School at 2 pm. It will proceed through Hepworth village; along Dean Bridge Lane, Chapelgate, Scholes J & I School playing field, Wadman Road and Paris Road into Scholes village; to Jackson Bridge via Scholes Road; up Butt Lane and back Hepworth village; finishing in Towngate and then to the 'Feast Tea' in the Village Hall. Everyone is invited to come along and walk behind the Band and the Feast Banner. Hymns are sung at each of the stopping places.

Please note that bus services and cars run on almost all the roads on the procession's route, and that everyone taking part must co-operate with the Stewards' instructions for the procession to progress safely. Children must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times and all children must keep in the procession behind the band. The procession should keep to the left-hand side of the road.

The stopping places for hymn singing will be as in previous years; we continue to improve the safety and convenience of the procession:

- Hepworth village centre near the Butchers Arms
- Scholes School playing field
- Junction of White Wells and Paris Roads, but not straying onto Paris Rd
- Scholes, St George's Road near Scholes shop – please keep the bus route clear and stand on the pavement or along St George's Road
- Jackson Bridge – the procession will stop opposite the White Horse. Please keep Scholes Road clear
- In Kemps Way, to keep Butt Lane free for traffic

4.15pm Children's Tea and Public Tea in the Village Hall. As last year, party bags will be provided (out of the kitchen door) for the children and tables to use will be set out in the village centre. Visitors and guests will be able to join the band and stewards for the public tea in the hall.

6.00pm Towngate closed until 11 pm

6.30pm The United Sing

Towngate - between Barracks Fold and the Butchers Arms. Come along and join in the singing of traditional Feast hymns (led by the Reverend Bill Henderson) played by Hepworth Band, conducted by John Turner.

7.00pm Children's Races

Recreation Ground. Cheer the races between children of all ages (4 to 12) from Hepworth, Scholes, New Mill and Hade Edge schools. All children are welcome to participate. The inter school relay for the Hepworth Cooperative Trophy will start at approximately 7.30pm.

7.45pm – 11.00pm Evening entertainment in the village centre

There will be a variety of entertainment for young and old alike, including the popular children's entertainer, 'Mr Dan' with his Punch and Judy show (at 7.45pm sharp!); the world famous Rapide Entertainment – award winning clowns; 'The Sloths' will be back!! And his third year at the Feast we have Chris Stewart Magician performing wonders and illusions in the street. From 8.45 pm onwards, live music and dance. Enoch's Hammer' will play, sing and call a street ceilidh and from 9.45pm Rob, Clive, Rick and guests will play popular, sing-and-dance-along music. So, come along and sing and dance the evening away! Things end with a bang at 11pm.

The Village Hall will feature its popular and ever-changing old photographs exhibition plus local maps and Hepworth histories (an updated history on the pubs and landlords of Hepworth is an addition this year) – a quieter place to escape the crowds and catch up with old friends. Of particular note this year will be further extracts from the Shaw family collection, several unseen village maps and nineteenth century Feast recollections. The Hall will be open from 6pm for viewing and bar/refreshments.

Food and drink

The Butchers Arms will be open from lunchtime with an outside BBQ (buy a ticket at the bar) available all afternoon and evening, ending around 8pm; the bars will stay open until 11pm. After 6.30pm, further along the village, Shaun Heap's traditional pig roast will start serving (many thanks to the Platt family for providing the space!!). Please support them all. The Feast organisers will provide tables and chairs nearby to the pig roast and pub for people and families who wish to sit to enjoy their refreshments.... And please use the bins!! Dixon's ice cream van will also be on the street. As in recent years Hepworth Football Club will also set up a pop-up bar and sweet stall in the village centre. The Village Hall will be open all evening for drinks and refreshments; the toilet facilities in the Hall and in the Pub, including disabled, will be available to use.

It must be stressed that at all times during the procession and at the school tea, children must be supervised by parents or appointed guardians; neither the school nor the organisers can take on this responsibility. Please note: the school and its grounds will not be open after the procession.

Volunteers required

The Feast is organised and run by volunteers so please get involved – contact any of the organisers named below. How you can help:

- Help putting the village lights and bunting up on Sunday morning (21/6)
- Help on the Sunday morning (28/6) to put up gazebos and to clear the recreation ground ready for marking out.
- Help on Monday morning (29/6) in preparing the recreation ground, erecting the village stage, tables, gazebos etc
- Don a yellow jacket (provided!) and help to steward the children and procession on the walk in the afternoon
- Help serve the teas in the Village Hall
- Join the rota (1/2-hour max each) to stop traffic along Towngate from 6pm until 11pm.
- Help to clean up on Tuesday morning

Important – The village will be closed to motor traffic from 6pm to 11pm and we ask residents not to leave cars in the village after 2pm - we will be setting up for the evening. This includes the pub car park as well. If you need parking, there is limited space at Uppergate Farm – please contact Steve Booth on 07762634498 to arrange. Thank you.



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Donations and Financing the Feast

Hepworth Feast is run and organised entirely by volunteers, approximately £5,000 has to be raised each year and is financed as follows:

The School Feast, band procession and service, children's teas, book tokens, medals and prizes, stewarding, licensing, insurances etc are paid for entirely by public donation, so please give generously during the procession hymns and at the United Sing. We no longer collect door to door– but we do need these monies so please donate via the following link - thank you:

Hepworth Feast donation page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hepworthfeast2026>



The children's evening entertainment, music, children's acts, safety and security, village lights, bunting, banners, fireworks etc are funded by sponsors and villagers, a big thank you (this was at the time of going to press) and any additions will be gratefully received - names will be displayed on the night:

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(If you've been missed off apologies, let us know and we'll acknowledge on the day and in the next magazine!!)

We also have many sponsors and individuals who wish to remain anonymous and hopefully more businesses/ individuals will come forward before Feast Day

Please support our sponsors and their businesses!

We are also very grateful again to the One Community Foundation and the Longley Farm Fund for granting the monies for temporary traffic management expertise. This is now a requirement where road closures and processions take place.

Contingency for bad weather:

In the event of bad weather causing the cancellation of outdoor events, the alternative arrangements will be:-

- At 2 pm Hepworth Band will play in Hepworth Church, and the public will be invited to join them to sing the hymns that would have been sung on the parade.
- At 6.30 pm the United Sing will be held in Hepworth Church

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Financial support for the feast can be given in 3 ways:

1. Cash collections will be taken at the hymn stops on the Feast procession and at the United Sing in the Village. Also, at the Sunday Eve of Feast of Music in the Village Hall.
2. Businesses and individuals can pay by Bank Transfer to: HEPWORTH SCHOOL FEAST COMMITTEE BUSINESS CURRENT ACCOUNT 09-01-28 47837107 (Santander)
3. Hepworth Feast 'Just Giving Account' via the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/hepworthfeast2026>

Any questions about Hepworth Feast or sponsoring or donating or volunteering, please contact any of the following organisers:

Steve Booth 07762634498 (Secretary)

Alan Brook 07591542865 (Chair)

Sarah Dixon 07962318022 (Treasurer)

Stephen Lindley, Darrell and Sally Hampshire, David Cartwright and Ruth Lockwood, Mo Biggins, George Heathcote, Joe Wheelhouse, Cam Kelly, Mark Crouch, John Turner.

A Local Shop at Last: The Honesty Store & Co

Emma Doyle writes... We're very excited to announce that this summer we'll be bringing a new family-run village shop to Hepworth: The Honesty Store (Hepworth Road).

Our aim is to champion local produce wherever possible, offering fresh farm goods, baked items, and a carefully chosen range of British brands for everyday essentials, all with a focus on natural, high-quality ingredients.

We'll also be serving self-service bean-to-cup coffee, making it easy for anyone passing through the village to grab something warm on the go.

I grew up in Hepworth and attended the village school, so it feels very special to be bringing something back to the community. We hope The Honesty Store can support village life in ways that go beyond simply feeding people and give back wherever we can.

What makes The Honesty Store a little different is that it will operate predominantly as an unmanned, self-service shop built on trust. Customers will be able to let themselves in, choose what they need, scan their items, and pay using the honesty checkout system.

We're incredibly excited to open our doors this summer and create something useful, convenient, and community-minded for the village. We can't wait to welcome everyone through the doors.

Changes at Hepworth Church

Sheena Blunden reports... For the past few years, six Anglican churches in the Holme Valley have worked and worshipped together under the heading of Upper Holme Valley Team Ministry. Because of movement of clergy, this had to change and the churches have been divided into two new benefices - West Upper Holme Valley and the East Upper Holme Valley. Hepworth church is a member of the latter one along with New Mill Church and St Thomas Church, Thurstonland.

Whilst they await the arrival of their new vicar, the churchwardens of each church will continue to oversee the running of their churches. At Hepworth Church, there is a major change in the times of services. The good news for Hepworth is that we will have a service at Hepworth Church three Sundays out of four and all these services will start at 9.30am.

The pattern of worship will be as below until further notice:

1st Sunday in the month: Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in the month: Holy Communion

3rd Sunday in the month: Service of the Word (that is without a priest and without Holy Communion)

4th Sunday in the month: Joint service with the three parishes and this will rotate between each church - Thurstonland, New Mill and then Hepworth and that service will be at 10.00am.

If there is a 5th Sunday in the month each parish will have Holy Communion in their church

Full details of services - and events - can be found on the church web site - www.hepworthchurch.org.uk - or on the Facebook page - Hepworth Parish Church.

Afternoon Tea a Delicious Success!

Gill Wallis writes... The Afternoon Tea held in the Village Hall on 6th May was again a very successful event. The atmosphere in the hall was amazing with everybody chatting and savouring the delicious sandwiches, scones and cakes on offer. Many enjoyed a glass (or few) of Prosecco so that in itself lifted the already happy mood.

We, the Events Committee, took great delight in seeing everyone chatting and laughing together. It really was a great afternoon. So, thank you all for coming along to support the event, and thank you for the lovely compliments we were paid, they are always very much appreciated. Many thanks also to the other committee members and everyone who worked so hard on the day - a fantastic £730 was raised for church funds.

Hepworth Ladies' Group

Liz Tunaley reports... Since the last edition of Focus we attended an Open Evening at Scholes Methodist Ladies and enjoyed a very interesting talk about the visit to Holmfirth of King George V and Queen Mary. As this was pre-TV days the number of people hoping to catch a glimpse of royalty was enormous.

In April we met at Cynthia's to reminisce about our best (and worst) buys, some of which were quite surprising. Future meetings will include lunch at the Weston, afternoon tea in Yvonne's garden, another lunch at Canon Hall Garden Centre and a faith lunch at Christine's (a familiar theme is emerging!). Do come and join us if you fancy any of these, just ring Christine (684998) or Liz (684989).

'We Shouldn't Have to Be Here': How Women Are Building Their Own Mental Health Support in Holmfirth

Edith Berryman writes... A women's open-talk group in Holmfirth has marked two years of providing a safe space for conversation and support, as organisers say gaps in mental health services continue to leave communities stepping in.



The group meets twice a month at the Holmfirth Tech, providing peer support. Image by Edith Berryman (Own photo, CC0)

Nicola Mills, 49, from New Mill, decided to start the group after she felt she had no women locally to talk to. She said: "If there was an equivalent for women of Andy's Man Club, I would go, so I asked on Facebook if anyone else would be interested, and we decided to set a group up in Holmfirth with the help of the Women's Open Talk in Todmorden."



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The two-hour sessions take place twice a month at the Holmfirth Tech, offering informal, peer-led support. While the group has welcomed attendees consistently since launching, organisers say there is still space for more women to attend.

Victoria Marsland, an organiser and attendee, spoke to me in person before one of the sessions at the Holmfirth Tech and said: "We don't want to charge people.

We do ask for donations, but things like milk, coffee, and tea often come out of our own pockets. In realistic terms, we shouldn't even have to be here. It should just be a standard thing for everyone to access."

When in office as a local councillor, Moses Crook said community-led initiatives are becoming increasingly important as pressure on formal services grows; he added: "The degradation of 'official' support has meant that smaller community-led groups are increasingly important."

Crook also said that the council can play a practical role in helping volunteer-led groups thrive: "We can provide guidance on running a group, help access funding, and connect organisers with other local services," he explained. In practical terms, this could mean financial assistance to cover room hire and resources, access to suitable meeting spaces, or links to professional mental health services, helping the group expand without relying entirely on volunteers' own contributions.

While groups like Women's Open Talk are not a replacement for professional care, they offer an accessible, judgement-free space for those who may be reluctant to seek formal support.

Despite its success, the group remains largely self-funded. Organisers have received small amounts of funding, but most of it has gone towards room hire, leaving little for other essentials, like a banner to go outside.

As the group enters its third year, organisers hope to reach more women across the Holme Valley, continuing to provide a space where for many, simply being heard can make all the difference.

Women interested in joining the group can attend the sessions at Holmfirth Tech, 140 Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AR. Meetings take place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. All are welcome to drop in and participate in the informal, peer-led discussions.

Holme Valley Parish Council News – Summer 2026

Community Grants – Applications Now Open

Holme Valley Parish Council is inviting applications for the latest round of Community Grants, supporting projects and activities that benefit residents across the valley.

The grants programme helps local groups, charities and organisations deliver a wide range of community initiatives. This can include support for village events and festivals, sports clubs, youth activities, environmental projects, equipment, building improvements and other local projects that strengthen community life.

Two grant schemes are available:

- Grants of up to £5,000 for community assets and facilities
- Grants of up to £1,500 for projects, activities and events

In the last financial year, more than £75,000 was awarded to organisations across the Holme Valley, supporting projects large and small in towns and villages throughout the area.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2026. Full guidance, eligibility criteria and application forms can be found on the parish council website at www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants

For further information, contact Holme Valley Parish Council on 01484 687460 or email deputyclerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Contacting Holme Valley Parish Council:

Jen McIntosh (Clerk) clerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Rich McGill (Deputy Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)
deputyclerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Gemma Sharp (Assistant Clerk)
assistantclerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Our office is on the third floor of The Civic, Huddersfield Rd, Holmfirth, HD9 3AS Office. Open to the public: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am - 2.30pm. Phone: 01484 687460 (leave a message outside office hours).

For contact details of all 23 Parish Councillors and all the latest news please visit our website: www.holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Celebrating Sixty Years of Holmfirth Artweek

Mick Kirkby- Geddes reports... Greetings from Holmfirth, Artweek. This year is a special one because we're 60 years old. So, to mark the occasion, as well as the usual two floors of the biggest open art exhibition in the North, we're putting on a special exhibition on the top floor. We've decided to invite six new artists, whose work we really think should be in the exhibition, to exhibit ten pieces each, thereby making 60 pieces of fresh talent on show! As it's our 60th, we've gained some media attention too, so look out for us in the Yorkshire Post, on Calendar and Look North.

With that in mind, the three floors of the Civic Hall will be practically bursting at the seams with the work of over 450 artists. There'll be the usual market area where purchases can be taken away on the day and the café where you can rest a while after the cultural overload.

As it's our 60th exhibition we tried to get 60 fringe venues to take part but as with all best intentions it fell slightly short at the last minute, so we've actually got 55 for your perusal.

Anyway, these 55 venues will be exhibiting artists work spread across the local valleys, in places ranging from galleries, shops, cafes, pubs and artists' homes.

The free Artweek guide with all the details of the various fringe venues, a list of all the exhibiting artists and general information to help you plan your visit will be out in early June.

The money raised goes to help support both Macmillan and The Kirkwood. Everyone who works for the Exhibition is a volunteer – stewards, tearoom staff, sales desk staff, (not to mention those behind the scenes who you may not see – organisers, screen builders, picture hangers etc). If you'd like to get involved and help with the running of this event, just drop us an email to vounteers@holmfirhartweek.org.uk

The success of Artweek depends entirely on the enthusiastic help willingly given by so many people. We'd like to thank everyone for the part they played in last year's event, whether by exhibiting work, staffing the exhibition or the market, demonstrating their craft, helping in the construction and dismantling of the display stands, donating their goods, or in any other way. Whatever your contribution it was very much appreciated by us all.

Full details can be found on our website www.holmfirhartweek.org.uk

Hepworth Mothers' Union: Coffee, gardening, ceramics, and a whole lot more...

Margaret Overend writes... Summer is upon us and Hepworth Mothers' Union has a full-on calendar of talks, activities, projects and fund-raisers planned for the coming months.

On Wednesday, July 8th, we are staging a coffee morning in the Village Hall to raise funds for the Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership, a cause close to our hearts since Mothers' Union nationally launched its Rise Up campaign against domestic abuse. Our branch has already achieved a Rise Up gold award for the work we have done to raise the issue of domestic abuse but we are pressing on with our work.

Thanks to the amazing generosity of our members and the whole Hepworth community, we will be able to hand over to PDAP bag upon bag of toiletries which have been donated to the appeal we launched earlier in the year. The bags will then be passed on to women and children who turn up at the PDAP refuge centre, often without even the basics. We will let you know the exact numbers of items donated and bags produced in the next issue of Focus but believe me, it's already astonishing and we cannot thank you enough if you have donated.

Better weather (hopefully) is allowing the gardening group to continue their work in the graveyard, which is now seeing us starting to tidy up a small number of graves, as well as maintaining the areas we have "adopted".

Our June 23rd meeting will start with a business discussion and then members will be able to enjoy a delicious faith supper – after packing and finishing off the PDAP toiletries bags mentioned above.

On July 28, we welcome Annabel Howarth, who is going to give us a talk and demo about reflexology and in August, we will be celebrating 150 years since the founding of Mothers' Union with a service in church, starting at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to join us (of course, there will be tea and cakes afterwards).

Then, on September 22nd we will be learning more about ceramics when our speaker is local artist Gail Dooley. Our final speaker of the year will be Mark Gibson, whose talk on October 27th at 2pm is called 'Kidnapped 25, a walk through Scottish history'. All our meetings are open to everyone, so why not come and see what we are up to. Life is never boring if you are a Mothers' Union member!

Foodie Focus with Hepworth Mothers' Union

Why not try this recipe from Hepworth Mothers' Union for your tea – honestly, it's delicious!

Tuna or Salmon Quiche

You will need one baked pastry case (10" shallow flan or 8" deeper)

Filling:

1 tbsp cornflour
1/4pt of both single cream and milk
3 large eggs
½ level tsp salt
10 grinds black pepper
1tsp Worcester sauce
1 tbsp snipped fresh chives, dill or parsley OR 1 tsp dried herbs
4oz grated sharp cheese (e.g. Cheddar)
1 medium can (7oz) tuna or salmon

Topping:

1oz finely grated cheese and 1oz butter

Method:

Put cornflour in a bowl and slowly stir in cream and milk. Add eggs, salt, pepper, sauce and chives and whisk until smooth.

Stir in the cheese and fish (drained and flaked roughly with a fork). Pour into the baked pastry case, sprinkle with remaining cheese and dot with butter. Bake at 375F for 25-30 minutes until puffed and golden brown

Holme Valley Mountain Rescue Team Update

Phil Allen reports...Mat and Alison are off on their travels, so he has asked me to write an update for Focus, which I'm delighted to do.

As one of the 10 trainees who joined the team in early 2025, it's great to see that all 10 of us continue to play active roles in the team. We are all full operational members now, having attended numerous callouts, and several of us have taken on additional roles. Richard Townsend has brought his expertise to the Buildings Officer role and was recently elected to the Council as our Secretary, whilst others have taken on the Vehicle Officer role, supporting the training team, joining the rope/crag team, and myself as assistant to the Vehicle Officer.



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Richard and I, and two others from our cohort, have also taken on additional training to become part of our Water specialist team.

Water rescue is one of the skill areas that every team member has to be trained in, and maintain, to Level One (in each of the 'disciplines' of stretcher work, water, rope/crag, search, navigation, medical, and communication) to ensure our personal safety, safety of the team, and enable assistance to the casualty. Individuals can then undertake further training to reach Level Two or Level Three competence, and maybe up to Instructor level.

As a Level 2 water team member, Richard and I have attended additional training sessions at our base, but also in North Wales, on the River Dee at Llangollen. There, we learnt defensive and aggressive swimming, safe wading, and throw line techniques, to ensure we can support rescue situations where we can wade and stay non-buoyant, but not swim, in fast flowing water. We also had to avoid two dead sheep as they were swept by us in the fast-flowing river!

Next year we will have the chance to train to Level Three, to qualify as a Swiftwater Rescue Technician, which means we can undertake swimming or sled (think raft/boat) rescues, as well as advanced rope work in water rescues. We also train alongside West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue service, as happened recently at Blackmoorfoot Reservoir.

We may not get deployed very often, but when the water team are required, we can assist in flood situations (like Hebden Bridge a few years ago), or search scenarios, where someone is believed to have entered the water and may be at risk, or unfortunately may require recovery if deceased. If you ever see a rescue team in action, look out for the different coloured helmets, white for team leader, red for Level 3, and yellow for Level 2.

Always be safe around water, if you need to help someone in difficulty, remember to Shout, Reach, Throw, before entering the water. Your personal safety has to come first.

A couple of recent callouts are worth a mention. A 91-year-old man went missing overnight recently on a very cold spring night. The team were deployed for around 6 hours from 11pm, stood down as he hadn't been found, only to be called out again later that same day. He had been found, alive and remarkably well, but our team (and members from Calder MRT) were required to extract him safely from brambles and steep ground - a fantastic outcome and we wish him well.

We were also deployed to assist a Yorkshire Ambulance crew rescue: a horse rider who had been thrown from her horse and had a broken ankle. The stretcher party had to work with Network Rail as they needed to safely cross

the Wakefield-Hull main railway line to get the casualty to the waiting ambulance! My role? To hold a gate open so that the team could quickly cross the railway line, every little bit helps!

Fundraising is a key part of our activities, as Mat has mentioned before, we are 100% reliant on donations to support our ongoing work. I recently attended Golcar Lily Day, and our stall raised over £100, on a very wet and chilly May Saturday!

Scholes Cricket Club are celebrating their 150th anniversary this year and have generously chosen HVMRT as one of their charities during the 2026 season, we wish all teams the very best and thank them for their support.

The HVMRT will be at Hade Edge Gala on Saturday 4th July, and also at Scholes Cricket Club on Sunday 30th August, if you're free come and say 'Hi'.

Hepworth Community Singers: Best Ever Spring Concert

Angela Berry reports...Our Spring concert took place in March in the Village Hall. Unfortunately, we had to turn some people away who had not reserved tickets. The hall was full to capacity before the start time. The ladies on the door felt really bad turning people away but they had no choice. The posters and other publicity detailed that it was a ticket only event, but we did have some seats still available on the day. The hall has a limit of 100 people including performers and bar staff. It is wonderful that so many people wanted to come to our concert, to avoid disappointment next time please book in advance.

Our concert this year was truly a musical extravaganza. We have sung many different genres of music and this time Julia and Christine decided to test us with opera pieces: The Toreador Song and Habanera (one by the ladies only) both by Bizet from the opera Carmen.

Next came the piano trio of Christine, Julia and Rachel who entertained us with three pieces finishing with the familiar waltz from Sleeping Beauty. We were treated to a selection of songs from the Madri-gals who sang a section of English and Scottish folk songs. They just get better and better, as a group of eight from the choir they make a beautiful sound.

We had a new and very welcome addition to our concert in the form of Valley Flutes who played an American piece called Rose Cottage. Apparently flute groups are very popular in America.

This was followed by a piece by Hayden following a visit to London, the last piece was Eleanor Rigby a well-known Beatles song arranged for six flutes.

We finished the first half with the Madri-gals singing in French which many of us know as the duet from The Pearl Fishers again by Bizet. The choir then sang the Chorus of Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco a very poignant song when you think about what is going on in the world today.

After the interval Linthwaite Band started with a selection of pop songs finishing with Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines. The Madri-gals sang a selection of Irish Folk songs and the choir ended the concert with songs from Carousel: If I loved You, You'll Never Walk Alone and June Is Bustin' Out All Over. We had lots of people comment how they had enjoyed the afternoon to various members of the choir which was very much appreciated.

In April we lost one of our former choir members, Charles Battye. Those that knew him know that he faced his illness with courage and dignity. He kept his wicked sense of humour right to the end. His funeral was a fitting send off for a well-loved 'character' of the village, he will be missed. Our thoughts are with Margaret and her family during this sad time.

Coming up... We are currently practising for Eve of Feast 28th June. Think Wigan Casino and expect a medley of songs from that time and probably one of the best-known pop songs ever with an iconic video. September 13th we will have our passports ready when we travel to Scholes for a Sunday afternoon concert at the Methodist Church. We will be having our usual open rehearsal and social evening on Friday November 27th – all welcome.

As always if you enjoy a good sing song come along and join us and as previously said there is no obligation to take part in any performances we may do.

New members are always welcome; we practice every Friday in the Church 7:00pm to 8:00pm. There is a charge of £2 to go towards the use of the Church and buying music etc. We are a friendly bunch, have a laugh and some of us a few drinks at the pub after. Watch out for updates on the Hepworth Facebook page and Hepnet.

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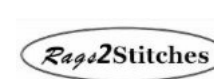
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Hepworth Diary – What's On this Summer!

Tuesday 9th June	Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church.
Wednesday 10th June	Charity Coffee Morning 10.00am-12 noon, Village Hall. In aid of FOHS (Friends of Hepworth School) Cake stall, bring & buy stall, raffle.
Friday 12th June	Hepworth Film Night - "Blue Moon" 7.30pm, Village Hall. Bar opens at 7.00pm. Entry £5, pay on the door (cash or card).
Friday 12th June - Sunday 14th June	Holmfirth Arts Festival Annual celebration known for its high quality street theatre, parade and co-created community events. For more details visit www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk
Saturday 13th June	Hepworth Club Day 10.00am onwards, Hepworth Football Club, Far Lane. An event for the whole community. Junior football games, netball games, bouncy castle, BBQ, live music, bar and free parking. Everyone welcome. Sculpture Lounge Summer Exhibition Open each weekend from 13th June to 12 July. A curated exhibition. This year is the building's 100th birthday, marked by 100 artworks priced at £100.
Saturday 13th June - Sunday 14th June	The Hepworth (Wakefield) Print Fair 10.00am-5.00pm Discover over 60 artists from across the U.K. Buy affordable prints, posters and cards. Family activities, street food and discounted entry. £2.50 in advance/ £3.50 on the day or free for members. Book at hepworthwakefield.org
Sunday 14th June	Hepworth Garden Party 1.00pm-4.00pm, Hepworth Church Grounds. Games, stalls, food, refreshments – fun for all the family. Admission free
Tuesday 16th June	Charity Community Coffee Morning 9.15am – 11.00am, Scholes Methodist Church. In aid of Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Entertainment from the Year 5 children of Scholes J&I School.
Friday 19th June - Sunday 21st June	Emley Moor Motor and Steam Transport Rally Bunkers Hill Farm HD8 9TD from 6pm until late on Friday, 10.00am until late on Saturday and 10.00am until 4.00pm on Sunday. A spectacular collection of vintage machinery and live entertainment for the whole family. Tickets on the gate or book at ticketebo.co.uk
Saturday 20th June	Author Event - An Evening with David Gange Afloat. 7.00pm, Read Bookshop, Holmfirth. Tickets £5 available in store or from https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Tuesday 23rd June	Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church. Mothers' Union 7.00pm, Hepworth Church. Business meeting, followed by Bring & Share Supper.
Saturday 27th June	Honley Show Gates open 9.00am, The Showground, Thurstonland Road, Farnley Tyas. Agricultural show. For tickets and event entry information visit: https://honleyshow.co.uk/home/ Coffee, Cake & Chat 10.00am-12noon, Hepworth Church. £2.50 per person. Book stall; walkers and friendly dogs welcome.

Saturday 27th June	Author Event - An Evening with Matson Taylor Roman Mornings. 7.00pm (doors at 6.30pm), Read Bookshop, Holmfirth. Tickets £5 available in store or from https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Sunday 28th June	Church Service 10.00am, Hepworth Church. Joint service with New Mill and Thurstonland churches Eve of Feast Evening of Music 7.30pm Village Hall. Full details in this edition.
Monday 29th June	Hepworth Feast Full guide in this edition.
Wednesday 1st July	Classics Festival including Emily Hauser and Jennifer Saint 4.30pm-6.00pm, Holmfirth High School. FREE more info at Read Bookshop or https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Saturday 4th July	Hade Edge Gala 1.00pm onwards, Hade Edge Football Ground. Stalls, activities etc. with this year's theme "the Football World Cup". Procession leaves the Band Room for the ground at 1pm. A great day out for all the family! Cuppa and Cake (back by popular demand) 2.00pm- 4.00pm, Scholes Methodist Church. Music and mystery.
Sunday 5th July	The Holmfirth Duck Race More info at: http://theduckrace.co.uk
Sunday 5th July - Saturday 11th July	Holmfirth Artweek - Celebrating 60 years! Exhibits in the Civic Hall and all around the local area. One of the UK's Largest Open Art Exhibitions.
Tuesday 7th July	Light Lunches , Scholes Methodist Church. Booking is essential.
Wednesday 8th July	Charity Coffee Morning 10.00am-12noon, Village Hall. In aid of Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership (PDAP). Cake stall, bring & buy stall and raffle.
Thursday 9th July	Author Event - An Evening with Leigh Radford One Yellow Eye. 7.00pm, Read Bookshop, Holmfirth. Tickets £5 available in store or from https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Saturday 11th July	Summer Fun Day and Classic Car Rally and Display Crow Edge Community Centre (HD9 7TP). Classic car rally. Meet at 9.00am. Entry £25 per car (driver and navigator) includes hot sandwiches and drinks. Cars return to the venue to join the static display. Fun Day – starts mid - late morning – static display of classic cars and vehicles, "Meet the Animals", food and drink, live music, stalls, fun for all the family. Free Entry Online Author Event - I Am Ready for School! 10.00am Camilla Reid and Kate Hindley join Read Bookshop for a live virtual event for children and families starting school in September. Tickets are £8 and include a copy of the book https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Sunday 12th July	Fun Sailing, Cake and Chat Afternoon at Huddersfield Sailing Club Boshaw Whams Reservoir – All welcome, come along for a taster sail, or just for a slice of cake, please email Rachael.lockley@talktalk.net to book your free spot.

Monday 13th July	Community Association and Village Hall Meeting 8.00pm, Hepworth Village Hall - all welcome.
Tuesday 14th July	Charity Community Coffee Morning 9.15am – 11.00am, Scholes Methodist Church. In aid of Action for Children. Entertainment from Reception and Y1 children of Scholes J&I School. Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church. Author Event - An Evening with Lucy Lapwing and Tom Aspinall Love is a Toad 7.00pm, Read Bookshop. Tickets £5 available in store or from https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Saturday 25th July	Holmfirth Pride Day and Night celebration of love, respect, freedom and acceptance. See 'Your Holmfirth' Facebook Page. Coffee, Cake & Chat 10.00am -12noon, Hepworth Church. The title says it all. £2.50 per person includes coffee/tea refills.
Saturday 25th July	Children's Author Event - Jodie Lancet-Grant The Glamorous Grandmas, 11am, Read Bookshop's cosy event space beneath the shop. Tickets £3.50 available from https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Tuesday 28th July	Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church. Mothers' Union 7.00pm, Hepworth Church. 8.00pm Talk by Annabel Howarth about Reflexology
Saturday 1st August	Emley Show Gates open at 9:00am Last Entry at 3:30pm - Show Ends at 5:30pm, Factory Lane, Emley Moor, Huddersfield HD8 9TE. Agricultural show. For tickets and more information visit https://emleyshow.co.uk
Tuesday 4th August	Light Lunches , Scholes Methodist Church. Booking is essential.
Saturday 8th August	Beer Festival at the Boshaw Trout 12 Beers on draft including guest ales. Beer, music and food available.
Sunday 9th August	Holme Moss Hill Climb 10.00am – 4.00pm The Fleece Inn, Holme Village. Celebrating the history of the early competitive hill climbs up Holme Moss in the 1920s. Classic cars and motorbikes running up the hill, static displays, food and drinks, family fun. Non-competitive, turn up and register if you want to drive up the hill.
Tuesday 11th August	Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church.
Wednesday 12th August	Charity Coffee Morning 10.00am-12noon, Village Hall. Sharing Memories. Cake stall, bring & buy stall and raffle.
Saturday 15th August	Fun Sailing, Cake and Chat Afternoon at Huddersfield Sailing Club Boshaw Whams Reservoir – All welcome. please email Rachael.lockley@talktalk.net to book, FREE
Tuesday 25th August	Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church Celebration Service 150 years of Mothers' Union 7.00pm Hepworth Church.
Friday 28th August	Focus (Autumn 2026 Edition) Copy Deadline

Saturday 29th August	Coffee, Cake & Chat 10.00am-12noon, Hepworth Church. Catch up with friends and neighbours, £2.50 per person. Book stall; walkers and friendly dogs welcome.
Monday 31st August	Summer Bank Holiday Hepworth vs Scholes Cricket Village Challenge 2.00pm, Scholes Cricket ground (part of the 150-year anniversary celebrations at Scholes CC)
Tuesday 1st Sept	Light Lunches , Scholes Methodist Church. Booking is essential.
Saturday 5th Sept	Hepworth Garden and Craft Show Open to all ages and not exclusively to Hepworth residents.
Tuesday 8th Sept	Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church.
Wednesday 9th Sept	Charity Coffee Morning 10.00am-12noon Village Hall In aid of Hepworth Church. Stalls and raffle.
Saturday 12th Sept - Sunday 13th Sept	Holmfirth Food and Drink Festival All stalls will be open 10am – 6pm on Saturday (all stalls in the Towngate area are open until 8pm) 10am – 5pm on Sunday
Sunday 13th Sept	Autumn Serenade Afternoon Concert 3.00pm, Scholes Methodist Church. (An A in Many Forms...) a feast of music with Hepworth Community Singers.
Monday 14th Sept	Community Association and Village Hall Meeting 8.00pm, Hepworth Village Hall - all welcome.
Tuesday 15th Sept	Charity Community Coffee Morning 9.15am – 11.00am, Scholes Methodist Church.
Sunday 20th Sept	Harvest Festival Service 10.30am, Scholes Methodist Church. Led by the worship team.
Tuesday 22nd Sept	Come Singing 2.00pm-3.30pm, Scholes Methodist Church. Mothers' Union 7.00pm, Hepworth Church. 8pm Gail Dooley, local artist, talking about ceramics.
Saturday 26th Sept	Coffee, Cake & Chat 10.00am-12noon, Hepworth Church £2.50 p. person.
Saturday 26th Sept - Sunday 27th Sept	Holmfirth Children's Book Festival A full weekend of live children's author and illustrator events from authors all over the U.K. www.holmfirthbookfestival.co.uk
Thursday 8th October	Book Launch - Sleepers in the Snow 7.00pm (doors 6.30pm) Holmfirth Parish Church - tickets coming soon in store at Read Bookshop or from https://to-be-read.co.uk/magical-events/
Saturday 17th October	The Big Breakfast 8.30am-11.00am, Village Hall. Full English breakfast cooked to order. Just turn up on the day or, to reserve a table call Richard Southam on 01484 681600

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“Over Exposed” – the tragic last flight of a Boeing B29 Superfortress

Simon Cave writes... Wednesday 3rd November 1948 was going to be a routine flight for the crew of United States Air Force Boeing B29A Superfortress “Over Exposed”. The Superfortress belonged to the 16th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron of the 91st Recon Group of the USAF. The plane was previously employed photographing nuclear testing at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific in 1946 and later had taken part in the Berlin Airlift. The B29 was the largest four engined bomber developed during the Second World War and mainly saw service in the Pacific. The RAF operated versions of the aircraft in the early 50s, under the name of “Washington”. These were replaced from 1954 by the Canberra jet powered bomber, and the famous V – Bombers.

On this Wednesday, the flight plan was to depart from RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire bound for Burtonwood near Warrington. The flight crew of 11 was supplemented by two military passengers, and \$7400 of cash for wages for the large Burtonwood airbase. All was going well until “Over Exposed” flew into thick cloud over the Peak District.

On the flight deck Captain Landon Tanner and his co-pilot Harry Stroud were forced to fly on instruments, due to the very poor visibility. It appears the crew became disorientated, and thinking they had cleared the hills, started their descent towards Burtonwood.

At around 11am, the aircraft hit the ground some 600 metres up on the Bleaklow moorland plateau, close to Higher Shelf Stones. The aircraft burst into flames on impact and sadly everyone on board perished. A rescue team from RAF Harpur Hill located the wreckage, scattered over a large area, shortly before dusk, and the following day the bodies were located and removed to Burtonwood. The \$7400 survived the fire and was recovered intact.

Even today, some quite large pieces of the aircraft remain on the plateau. The site is accessible, but care needs to be taken, and proper preparations made if people set out for the site – it is in a very remote location and the weather conditions can change quickly up there. In 1988 a small memorial to the crew was erected on the site by servicemen from RAF Finningley (later Robin Hood Airport.) The author is planning to visit the site this Summer and hopes to report on the visit in the autumn edition of Focus magazine.

Footnote: There are several aircraft crash sites in the Peak District. In a previous edition of Focus we reported on the Flying Fortress which crashed on Meltham Moor towards the end of WW2. For people visiting a crash site, please do not remove any pieces of wreckage or other items as souvenirs, as these sites are often where crew died, and what is left of an aircraft is actually a memorial.

Westminster Debates Statutory Menstrual Leave for Women

Paul Davies, MP for Colne Valley, writes... Recently, I led a debate in Westminster Hall on statutory menstrual leave for women with endometriosis and adenomyosis. People may find it strange that I, as a man, am commenting on issues specific to women's health. Yet that is exactly why this debate was so desperately needed. Today, there exists a taboo, a culture, that is disturbingly dismissive of women's health. In the workplace, this has dangerous ramifications for society, economies, local communities and, importantly, equality. We must act not only to change policy, but to force a new paradigm in how we navigate menstrual health across society.

Endometriosis and adenomyosis are conditions of chronic pain related to the excess growth of tissue similar to the lining of the womb. 1.5 million people in the UK are affected, experiencing symptoms ranging from inflammation to severe pain, fatigue and in some cases infertility or disability. Every year, £8.2 billion is lost due to healthcare costs and work absences associated with these conditions. 23% of women report taking time off work because of period health issues, with a further 80% feeling the need to lie about not coming into work if it is due to period-related issues. Menstrual health therefore has a major impact on our society and workplaces.

Yet horrifically, it takes on average 9 years and 4 months to receive an endometriosis diagnosis. Even upon diagnosis, workplaces are often unwelcoming and inaccessible for many facing the harshest battles with these conditions. Chronic pain is dismissed as 'painful periods', a patronising description of what can be a disabling condition. Nevertheless, policy and culture remain unchanged.

Menstrual health issues, including endometriosis, hold a vice-like grip on our economy and society, especially in the workplace. This must be tackled head on for the sake of economic productivity, social responsibility and, most importantly, equality.

That is why this debate was so important: a chance to secure tangible changes in employment rights. But we must seize this opportunity to lead something much bigger than statutory leave alone and nurture nuanced, holistic, menstrual-positive policy and culture across society and workplaces. Whether endometriosis, adenomyosis, fibroids, or heavy menstrual cycles, we must ensure all symptoms historically left out of policy and culture are accounted for.

Including menstrual health within the Employment Rights Act, building a national menstrual-friendly employer scheme, ensuring adequate toilet access, and providing flexible uniform sizing are just some of the changes that

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could drastically improve how menstrual health is experienced in the workplace. This is not just about accommodation, but progress towards equality.

If you would like to watch the debate, please visit <https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/01af3868-1c16-4385-8663-7fcb4f905b4c>



Paul Davies MP and Emma Cox, CEO of Endometriosis UK

Sharing Memories Update

Viv Jebson writes... We are in the middle of our "Creatures of the Walk" Project, a fairly lengthy ceramics project funded by the Co-op, the Parish Council, the Arts Council and Groundwork. We have been exploring through clay, the creatures that you might see whilst out walking. It is divided up into several mini projects - Creatures of the Grass, River, Land, Sky and Trees. Currently on Creatures of the Sky, you can see in the colour section photo that our members and children from Meltham Primary School were making when they worked together in May.

Our project will complete in July when we will be displaying our work from this project in two ways:

- We will be putting some of the ceramic creatures along walks that we will publicise on our social media - Facebook and Instagram for all to enjoy whilst out walking. Some pieces will be hanging from trees, some propped up against tree trunks or stones - you'll need to keep eyes peeled to find them.
- We'll also be displaying some of our best pieces in Holmbridge Church, as one of the fringe venues during Holmfirth Artweek (5-11th July), all will be available for sale with a percentage going to Macmillan and the remainder towards keeping Sharing Memories Group going.

In September (subject to funding) we will start a whole new intergenerational project, exploring "Our culture". Entitled "It's all in the tea leaves", it will involve learning about and practicing different printing techniques, again finishing with an exhibition of our work, most likely in Huddersfield. More details available soon...

There are now three members and one volunteer from Hepworth - so if you're interested in joining us now or from September, you'll be in good company and likely to know at least one person already! For more details contact: Viv Jebson 07850622918

Celebrating 150 Years of Cricket in Scholes

John Andrews writes... So, the 150th year of cricket in Scholes has begun. It is currently damp and not too warm, I wonder if other things have remained a constant in all those years? We played our early games on the field situated below the Boot and Shoes before moving to Chapelgate in around 1880. The earliest recorded match involving Scholes CC was on 29th April 1876 when New Mill CC were the visitors; the Huddersfield Examiner reported that the match was drawn with Scholes scoring 93 runs, no New Mill total is reported. The next game to be played was on 6th May 1876, a local derby against Hepworth at Uppergate. It is interesting to note that both clubs fielded a professional player; Scholes lost the game by 20 runs and lost in the second team game played on the same day, Hepworth amassing 103 runs with Scholes only scoring 32 in reply.

In 1887 we played under the name Scholes Moor CC and by the following year we were called Scholes Clarence – no reason behind this, or derivation of the name change are recorded. Thank you to Duncan Dyson for this potted history of the early years.

The celebrations for the 150th anniversary are in full swing and will include a beer festival, family fun day, plenty of food, music and of course the resumption of the village rivalry when we entertain you Hepworthers at Chapelgate on August Bank Holiday Monday.

All our teams are now in full swing – this season we are fielding seven senior and seven junior sides, so there is usually some cricket to be enjoyed weekends and evenings. Whenever cricket is on, the clubhouse is open – do call in, have a drink with us and watch some cricket.

Information about Scholes Cricket Club can be found on our websites: scholescc.co.uk and scholeshuddersfield.play-cricket.com or via our social media sites: Facebook: Scholes Cricket Club (Holmfirth) and scholescc.huddersfield.

We are always open to new players and members so, come along and be part of our extended family. Email: info@scholescc.co.uk

All first and second team home games will be live streamed on our You Tube channel and live scores on all games can be found on Play Cricket.

As usual we would like to thank all our sponsors without whom it would be almost impossible for a small village club to survive at this level of our sport.

Hepworth Village XI vs a Scholes Village XI

Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August 2026. 2pm. The inter-village cricket match takes place this year on Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August. Hepworth presently hold the Maureen Buckley Village Challenge Trophy (it sits proudly on the shelf behind the bar in the Butchers Arms).

Having won in 2025 the Hepworth team levelled the long running annual match series at nine wins each, so this year it is expected to be a fiercely contested affair.

This year is the 150-year anniversary of the formation (in 1876) of Scholes Cricket Club, and the match will be the culmination of a festive weekend at the Scholes field: music, BBQs, children's games and entertainment, bars and refreshments.

Come along to celebrate and support. New players are always welcome – contact skipper Rob Lowson for further information (07769204210).

From the Wildlife Garden – Ask Allan...

Question: Hi Allan, what is the best way to get rid of aphids without using harmful chemicals. (H of Old Mill Court)

This does depend on the location:

For house plants, I would recommend spraying them with dilute soap solution (1 tsp to 1 litre). Leave it on for a little while before rinsing thoroughly. The soap dissolves their waxy outer cuticle, disrupting cell membranes, leading to rapid dehydration of the aphids.

In a garden situation nature can do the work for you. Every year my rambling rose will be covered in greenfly but then all of a sudden, the bluetits find them and they are gone. Other small birds, Ladybirds (especially their larvae), hover flies, lace wings, numerous beetle all eat aphids. Feed and water the plant well, a high nitrogen food like chicken manure will help encourage growth and be patient. Nature will find a balance.

Question: I have loads of tadpoles in my pond, but they never seem to develop further from this stage. What can I do to help them survive? (T of Dean Bridge Lane)

It may be that you are just not seeing the froglets when then develop. Statistically less than 5% of the spawn with complete the metamorphosis to become froglets.

And sadly, less than 1% will reach full adulthood and return to your pond to spawn themselves. This is why you get so much spawn; it's a numbers game.

- Predation is a big factor in the loss of numbers. Beetle larvae, newts and fish in the water will all eat tadpoles. But they are also a favourite of blackbirds (and other birds). This will account for the majority of loss.
- Water quality can be a factor, including the dissolved oxygen content. Try to avoid too much debris in the pond. Add oxygenating plants and/or something to move the water to help it absorb oxygen from the air.
- If you are lucky enough to have large amounts of tadpoles there will be a lot of competition for food which will limit the numbers. In their early stages tadpoles are herbivores, eating algae etc. However, as they mature, they become omnivorous or even carnivorous. It takes a huge amount of energy for them to transform into frogs, and this needs the right food. You can supplementarily feed with boiled cabbage or spinach, boiling well to soften them before feeding. For older tadpoles I may have been known to put small slivers of frozen chicken into my pond. Eggs can also be used if you have the patience to carefully pierce the shell and pierce the yolk membrane. Remember to remove what doesn't get eaten every few days.

Question: Why hasn't my hydrangea flowered for the past two years? (C of Carr View Road)

The most common cause here is improper pruning. They bloom on 'old wood', i.e. last year's stems. If you cut them back at the wrong time, autumn, winter or early spring, you remove the stems that will flower. Pruning should be done immediately after flowering.

Other possibilities include:

- Not enough moisture (quite possible in the climate we have now). Hydrangeas need moist soil, if they are too dry, they can abort their flowering.
- Too much nitrogen – a high nitrogen feed, like chicken manure, can give lush leafy growth at the expense of flower bud production. A balanced fertiliser is preferred.



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- Frost – as with many plants a late frost can damage the immature buds just as they are forming, although otherwise the plant looks healthy. Again, our current climate with inexplicably warm periods in winter months can stimulate early growth which then gets knocked back later in the winter/spring.

Question: I bought my camellia 10 years ago in wonderful bloom- it has never flowered since. Any ideas why? (S of Totties)

This is a remarkably common issue with camellias, they are fussy, hence why I no longer have one. Possible causes are, although it is most likely to be a combination (I hope ranked in order of probability):

- Water stress – flower buds are set in late summer/autumn ready for next spring. Keep it well watered July to September
- Fertilizer – camellias are ericaceous, they need acidic soil and specific nutrients. Feed with an ericaceous liquid fertiliser in spring. Avoid feeding after July as this will encourage more leaf growth and fewer buds.
- Shade – camellias like partial shade. They are best situated east facing with morning sun or in dappled shade. Insufficient light means they cannot generate the energy needed to make flower buds, so you just get lots of lush leaves.
- Wrong soil - Camellias need acidic soil (pH 5.5 to 6.5). If the soil is neutral or alkaline, it cannot take up the nutrients required for flowering, though it may still produce green leaves. Top-dress the soil with a thick layer of ericaceous compost or pine bark mulch to help retain moisture and keep the soil acidic

Question: I have a lovely pear tree with plenty of fruit, but why do the pears drop off at approx. 2cm long? (S of Totties)

This is totally natural and is known as "June Drop": The tree has more fruitlets than it can sustain to maturity. It self-regulates by shedding fruit that did not fully pollinate, ensuring the remaining fruit is of high quality. If spring was particularly dry, the tree may also shed fruits due to lack of moisture. Consistent, deep watering is essential for fruit retention.

Got a nature, wildlife or gardening question for Allan Senior?
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News

Hepworth Church are pleased to announce that The Revd. Sarah Cawdell, previously serving with the Church Mission Society in Uganda, has been appointed as Incumbent of Upper Holme Valley East in the Huddersfield Episcopal Area in the Diocese of Leeds. As of 1st May, Hepworth Church became part of the Upper Holme Valley East Benefice and share a vicar with Christchurch, New Mill and St Thomas's, Thurstonland. The licensing will take place on Saturday 8th August. With the tarmac laid, the church ramp is now accessible, and the church open daily once again.

Hepworth Band have earned their spot in the Nationals by winning the Yorkshire Area Championship in March and will be competing in three top U.K. contests this autumn, the Open September 12th, the National Championships at the Albert Hall on October 3rd, and Brass in Concert at The Glasshouse on November 14th. Please see Jon Amitage's band report for more details and dates of their upcoming contest marches.

Read Bookshop (Holmfirth) are recipients of the Penguin Children's Bookshop Grant. The independent bookshop will use this prestigious grant to fund their exciting new project: Read Together, Read for Pleasure. The project aims to increase parental engagement with reading and build parent's confidence to support their child's reading journey through workshops, author events, and bookshop and library visits. Congratulations to Louise, James and the rest of the creative team at Read for winning the grant and for devising a brilliant educational initiative.

Dixon Milk Ices are very dear to us here in Hepworth, a local, family-run business producing the best quality traditional milk ices. With queues for their milk ices often out the door and right along the Huddersfield Road since their opening back in April this year, the Holmfirth branch has proven to be a real 'cream' come true.

Focus gets the inside scoop from Mr. Charlie Dixon himself on the overwhelmingly positive community reaction to the new branch. "The shop has been a massive success, and we only wish we'd opened sooner in Holmfirth! The welcome we've received has been amazing, and you really do get a strong sense of community in Holmfirth- something that, as a family business, we truly thrive for."

Hepworth vs Scholes Cricket Village Challenge is planned for August Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August, 2pm start. At nine wins apiece it should be a thriller and will form part of the 150-year anniversary celebrations at Scholes Cricket Club.

Back in April, the Special Hepworth Village Hall Quiz presented by Heathcote and Wheelhouse raised £946.80 for the Forget Me Not Children's Hospice

from ticket/raffle sales and donations on the night. Organisers Sarah and Richard Townend commented that they were '...extremely grateful and overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and the team of helpers who stepped in when we very much needed them, true community spirit.' They will be walking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu to support this amazing charity this month, and we wish them the very best of luck.

The springtime play from the Hepworth Players: Confusions by Alan Ayckbourn, was a triumphant trio of comedy chaos. Lucky local audience members, some who remembered the Players' performance of these plays the first-time round, were certainly not disappointed with this 2026 reboot. When the Focus team went along for the Friday night show, the atmosphere in the hall was fantastic; from knowing smiles and giggles throughout to gasps of surprise and all-out belly laughs.

The standout performance for us had to be the middle play, 'Between Mouthfuls'. The acting was flawless and the cleverness of Lorraine Pollitt's waiter character stole the show. A masterclass in comic timing and superb lighting focus techniques made for a memorable and highly entertaining evening. Well done to the adept actors, the dedicated crew and the whole creative team behind the performance. The amateur production of CONFUSIONS was presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

The organisers behind the 'Save Jigby Club' community campaign have recently met and formed a new resident's committee in the hope that they can work alongside the owners or any new developers who may become involved with the future of the club. One committee member said "We'd like to extend a huge thank you to all our contributors and supporters. Following our latest meeting, a committee of local residents has been put together. We will continue our efforts to retain this asset for the community, whatever that may look like in the future. Your sustained support is so gratefully received, and our Facebook page remains the best place to read the latest updates."

News from Hepworth School

Headteacher, Mark Crouch reports... We have another staffing change to tell you about – sadly Miss Haigh will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. She has been at the school longer than I have – 13 years and is a fantastic teacher and school leader. She will be missed by us all and we wish her lots of success in the future; she has plans for future endeavours which are extremely exciting.

We have now appointed our new assistant Head – Victoria Bainbridge from Marsden will join us in September 2026. She is already playing a big part in school development for next year and is helping in recruiting Miss Haigh's replacement.

We are pushing on in our quest to gain The Bumblebee Friendly School Silver Award this year from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Mrs Brackenbury is working with our Reception pupils to design a garden area while I work with the older pupils. I am gardening at lunchtimes with pupils to grow wildflowers from seed and plant to attract bees to our garden. Here is a video link to show how you can help at home:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOAZYmINy_Q



Our pupils are currently learning Makaton in assemblies each week, led by one of our lovely parents who teaches it mainly through song. Makaton is a unique communication programme that uses symbols (pictures), signs (gestures) and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression. We are learning this to support a pupil who is joining our school next year and to help us communicate with anyone else who may need us to in future.

We have lots of sports going on both inside and outside school at the minute. I am doing a running club on a Tuesday night after school and am amazed that 35 pupils want to attend! It is great to see such enthusiasm. We then have lots who are competing at the Neiley Races cross country competition on Wednesday evenings at the minute against lots of other local schools or who hopefully are discovering the joy of keeping fit by running for fun.

We are on track to finish our conversion to academy status on the 1st June. We are working more and more closely with the Learning Accord MAT of schools. They have allocated us an 'Academy Improvement Officer' who has supported us with our recruitment of a new Assistant Head.

They will work with us on whatever school development we want each term. The MAT has a central team who specialise in different areas who can then come into schools to offer that support when requested; I feel that they will be able to help us develop and make progress over the next few years.

Our Year 6 pupils have just completed their SATs tests. They have worked really hard with a great attitude. Thanks to our governors who have been in to help invigilate and make sure all has gone smoothly.

Pupils' Report: Hello we are Noah and Ben; we are students at Hepworth J and I school. We will tell you all about what the school are doing currently and what they are going to do this summer.

Class 1 and 2's trip to Cannon Hall Farm will be linked to their farming topic and in Talk for Writing they'll be writing a recount. They are looking at where food comes from, sustainability etc, how we shopped in the past and now. In PSHE they are learning Healthy and less healthy, road safety and school trip safety.

Reception are doing forest school every Monday and Year 1 are doing science with a focus on plants. In Maths, reception are looking at addition and subtraction the topic is 'How many now?' Year 1 will be moving onto fractions.

The whole school have celebrated Mrs M. Hinchliffe's special birthday with a playtime and ice lollies.

Class 3 are doing lots of work on fractions, decimals and eventually money. They are also learning Mass and Capacity; Shape and Statistics. As for English, they're reading 'The Plague - A cross on the door' By Ann Turnbull. They're also writing informal letters and linking this to their Topic of 'Where in the World is Hepworth?' and 'What was it like in the past?'

During their PE lessons, they're having a go at Netball and Cricket with the upcoming competition. Class 3 are exploring Light and Sight in Science as part of their overall topic this term of 'Making Sense of our senses!' In Geography they will look at their overall topic of Water Inc. In PSHE their topic is on pollution and the importance of water worldwide; the journey and features of rivers; they will be visiting Yorkshire Water's treatment works at Ewden Water.

Class 4 will be starting a new class book written by the superb Michael Morpurgo: Kensuke's Kingdom. This will feed into their writing alongside some character description about a short-animated film entitled, The Eye of the Storm. In history they will be learning about the development of castles in Britain and travelling to Conisborough Castle to bring this to life. Science and geography will revolve around Brazil and the jungle still and PE will be lots of cricket and rounders with some athletics thrown in too! How to read and understand music will also be part of their summer learning.

Year 6 will also be leaving us at the end of the term so we will have our usual celebration of their time here and a night of pizza and games held after school including hide and seek inside the school! Thank you for reading all about the fun things happening this summer!



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News from Friends of Hepworth School

Kate Whitfield writes... Since last writing, we held our first ever Mother's Day Stall for Mother's Day. Children were able to come along to our pop-up stall, choose from a variety of gifts, and wrap up their gift ready for the wonderful people in their life. The children put so much care and thought into choosing their gifts – it was really heart-warming and lovely to see.

Our annual Easter Trail took place over the Easter period. You will probably have seen the beautifully decorated pictures of eggs and chickens dotted around the village. Thank you to all of you who supported the Easter Trail. We hope you enjoyed following the trail and admiring the children's amazing artwork. A big thank you to Helen who organised the trail for us.

We held another successful Games Afternoon for the children in May – over 60 children took part! A huge thank you to the teachers who helped make this day a success. It was great to see the children running around and enjoying themselves in the fresh air – fantastic for everyone's mental health!

Preparations are currently underway for our next community coffee morning, which is taking place at the Village Hall on 10th June. Please come along and join us for a cuppa and some cake and biscuits. We will also be holding a tombola and raffle on the day. We are also getting ready for our food stall at Sports Day, Father's Day, Summer Fayre and Festival of Fun. So, lots of exciting things in store for the next two months. Thank you as always to everyone who supports us, helps with these events, and contributes to making FOHS a success. We could not do this without you!

If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to get involved with FOHS, please contact us at friendsofhepworthschool@gmail.com. We are always open to new ideas!

Charity Coffee Mornings

Stella Southam writes... The amounts raised in recent months are as follows:

March 11th	Forget-me-not-Trust	£326
April 8th	Mothers' Union	£276
May 13th	Tanzanian Link.	£405.75

The total amount raised at these coffee mornings, since May 1997 is £78,418.98. The dates of future coffee mornings are as follows:

June 10th Friends of Hepworth School (Kate Whitfield)

July 8th Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership (Vikki Padgett)
August 12th Sharing Memories (Viv Jebson)
September 9th Hepworth Church (Stella Southam)

If you would like to book a date for one of these coffee mornings, please contact me on 01484-681600

Days Out

Wentworth Woodhouse – S62 7TQ Near Rotherham

Simon Cave writes... Many people may have already visited this amazing house and grounds, and indeed the wider area including Wentworth village and the large garden centre close by. But whether you have or haven't been, it is a place well worth more than one visit.

The house itself is steadily being restored, having been in a parlous state for many years. The house is one of the largest great houses in the whole of Europe. The front façade is very long – twice that of Buckingham Palace, and the house sports more than 320 rooms.

The history of the house is long and convoluted, which we will not go into here, save for its more recent history in the 20th and 21st century. The Fitzwilliam family ran the estate coming into the 20th century, having made their fortune from the development of coal industries – the Barnsley seam ran through the estate's land, with the estate benefitting from royalties on every ton of coal being mined, as well as developing their own collieries.

The 7th Earl, known as Billy, modernised the great house in the early years of the twentieth century, installing heating and electricity. By 1912, the house was ready for a royal visit, but the coming of the First World War started to bring huge changes – the grounds were requisitioned for a military training ground, and during the Second World War, the Army Intelligence Corps moved in, using the East Front of the house for officer accommodation, with the troops being billeted in the (huge) stable block and in hastily erected Nissen huts.

Bigger changes were to come after the war finished. There was a large need for coal as industries were rebuilt. The government urged the development of open cast mining, and Wentworth Woodhouse was chosen – and despite protests from the family, and even from the NUM, miles of parkland in front of the house were ripped up to create a huge open cast coal site.

Wentworth Woodhouse was no longer sustainable as a grand estate, and the 8th Earl Fitzwilliam reached out to his aunt, Lady Mabel for help. Mabel was a social reformer and had served on the National Executive of the Labour Party. She was instrumental in persuading the West Riding County Council to lease



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part of the house for a teacher training college. This college specialised in teaching physical education and ran until 1986.

Following the closure of the college, the house had two private owners before being sold to the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust, an independent charity set up to preserve and restore the house and grounds. Much work has been done – including a major re-roofing project, and a gradual room by room restoration. But there is still a lot to do!

Today there is much to see. Not only inside the house, but in the gardens behind the main building. Like the house, these gardens are being developed, and a visit to the recently restored Camellia House is recommended. For younger visitors, the “Forest of Bewilderment” within the gardens is a great place for fun, with all sorts of activities, including a mud kitchen and a place to make musical sounds. On some days a creative craft cabin is open for children to have a go at making things.

Within the house, there is a large café serving light meals and teas and coffees, and of course a gift shop. There is plenty of car parking in front of the house, now landscaped and showing no evidence of the open cast mining! Walking from the car park to the house one passes a field with deer grazing.

What does it cost?

Entrance to the House and Gardens	£16.50 per person
House only	£10.50
Gardens only	£ 9.50
Under 16s free.	

Also, members of the National Trust get a 25% discount on the above prices.

Nearby, there is a yard with various retail shops, including a clothing store and an antiques centre, and of course the large garden centre with a restaurant and a small collection of animals and reptiles, which is adjacent to the estate gardens (but a separate enterprise.)

The Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust will benefit from your visit, and they will continue to restore this important house and estate over the coming years. Watch out for special events taking place at Wentworth Woodhouse from time to time – for example “The Great British Food Festival” on 15th and 16th August.



01484 943843
Greave Road, Hade Edge, HD9 2DF
thehairbarn35@gmail.com

Monday 9 - Late
Tuesday Closed
Wednesday 9 - 5.30
Thursday 9 - Late
Friday 9 - 5.30
Saturday 8 - 3
Sunday Closed

Follow us or book an appointment through our
Facebook/Instagram pages - theHairBarn-HB





Flowery Field Farm Shop would like to invite both old and new customers to our new shop and new longer opening hours. Come and take a look at our home produced meat at discount prices. We have now opened a cooked meat area and are serving sandwiches.

Opening times

Wed: 8am 'til 5pm	Sat: 8am 'til 4pm
Thurs: 8am 'til 5pm	Sun: 8am 'til 2pm
Fri: 8am 'til 5pm	

Flowery Field Farm, Hade Edge, Holmfirth, HD9 2JG

Hepworth Gardening Club

Alison Booth, club secretary writes... Have you heard of the Chelsea Chop, no it's not a football fowl! Advice is that around the time of the Chelsea Flower Show it is suggested that cutting back a proportion of flowering perennials in your garden, such as Marguerites, perennial Corn Flower and similar allows for a later flowering thereby having a continuous display.

Of course that applies to the south, up here it is better to wait till at least the end of Spring bank holiday to do this to allow the plants to be a bit further on. At the same time Penstemons can be trimmed back as the risk of frost 'should' be over.

I have risked planting out a few vegetables. Mainly peas and beans, the rabbits and deer seem to be enjoying them, despite twiggy fortifications around them. My next line of defence is a string of old CDs along the row glinting in the breeze. It might work! Then there are the slugs and snails and caterpillars!

Make a note of date of the Garden Show on the 5th of September. As usual we shall deliver the entry forms to houses in and around Hepworth. The school children all get one in school to take home. Anyone who does not receive one and would like one can contact me Alison Booth on 07746953737 and I will happily drop one off. This year I will put an entry form in the Village Hall notice board too.

It's a good time now to think about perhaps what items you may like to exhibit. There are always people on the day to help to stage each section.

A popular category is the specimen rose, which is a single rose in your own container/vase. There is also a specimen sweet pea too, just one bloom again in your own vase.

It's always a lottery as what flowers and vegetables are ready, last year we hardly had any beans, usually the table is groaning with them. Jams, pickles and cookery are always popular too. Don't forget the photo sections.

This year we have decided to change a class from 'any other confectionery' to 'any other cookery' which could then include savoury items such as quiche or sausage roll or something more adventurous.

Children get your thinking caps on, veg monster, edible necklace, cookery, craft, miniature garden, let's get a few more entries this year. Staging starts in the Village Hall at 10.30am and last entry is 12.15pm. The doors reopen after judging at 4pm for prize giving.

Any items may be taken home then if required, but anything left after 5pm will be auctioned in the evening from 8.00pm in the Village Hall. All welcome to a fun evening. All proceeds go to funding next year's show. Good luck everyone.

Hepworth Band Report

Jon Armitage writes... The Band improved by one position on last year's third place at the Grand Shield on May 3rd—and second was enough to qualify for the British Open at Symphony Hall, Birmingham on September 12th. The test piece was "Star Crossed Lovers" by Stephen Roberts, who adjudicated along with Anne Crookston. Congratulations to Milnrow, who took the top spot.

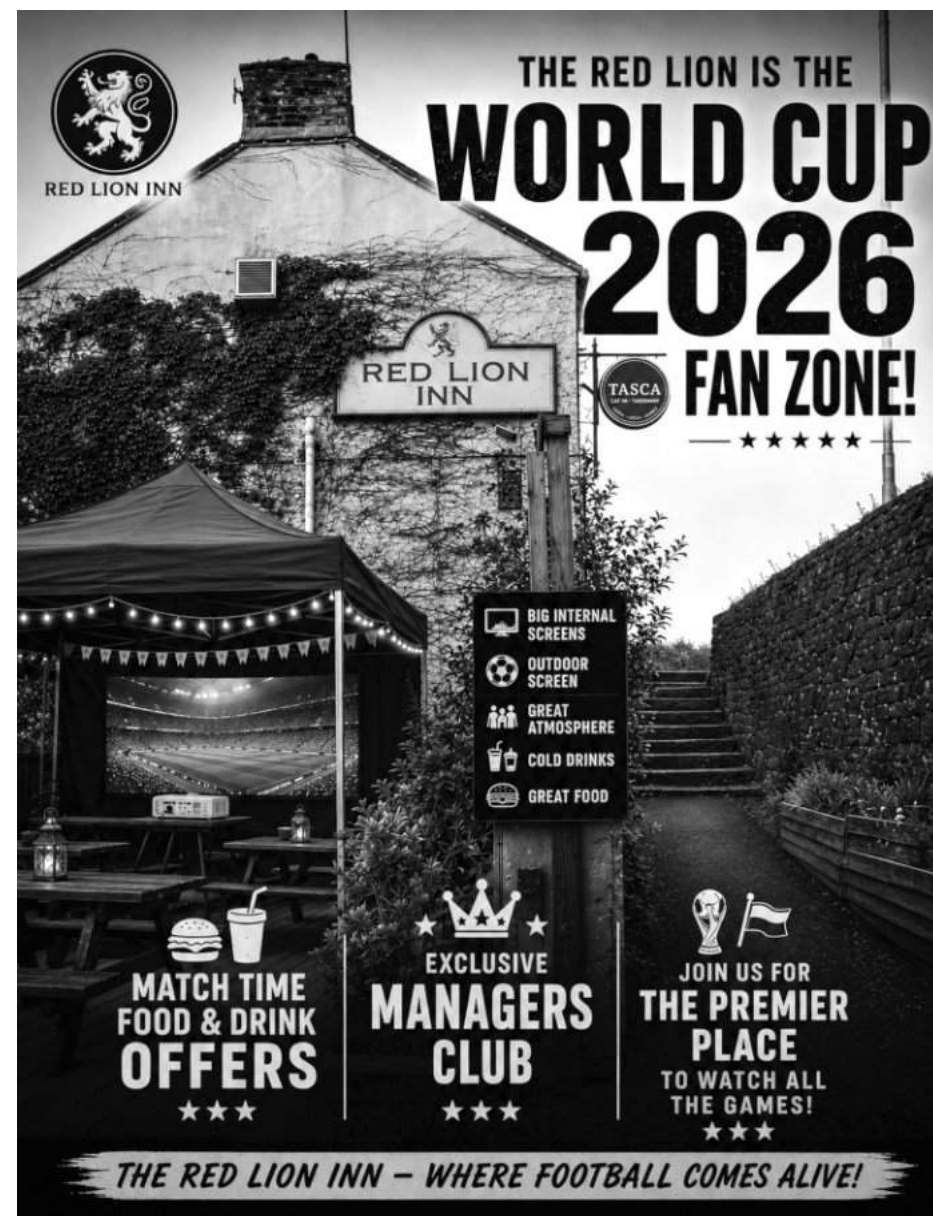
Hepworth will now be competing in three top U.K. contests this autumn, the Open, the National Championships at the Albert Hall on October 3rd, and Brass in Concert at The Glasshouse (formerly the Sage) on November 14th. The Band, as you will know by now, earned their spot in the Nationals by winning the Yorkshire Area Championship in March, with Grimethorpe second, Brighouse third, and Black Dyke fourth. A first in Hepworth's 140-year history.

On the concert stage, the Band joined forces with Slaithwaite Philharmonic at Huddersfield Town Hall on April 18th to play the Yorkshire premiere of Gavin Higgins's "Concert Grosso for Brass Band and Orchestra".

The Band will join forces with Brassband Burgermusik Luzern, the 2014 European Champions and one of Europe's premier brass bands, at Dewsbury Minster on Saturday, May 30 for a concert in aid of the Albie Sugden Foundation, which supports children living with cancer and funds research into brain tumours. Tickets available from Ticketsource.

The day before, Hepworth will, as usual, be competing in the Saddleworth Area Whit Friday march contests. They will also be playing at the following march contests: The Traveller's Rest Meltham, June 7; Blackburn and Darwen, June 21; Brighouse, July 5.

As ever, the Band will be up and away before dawn on July 11 to represent New Easington at Durham Miners' Gala. Last, but not least, the Band will be joining in the festivities at Hepworth Feast on Monday, June 29.



Regular Village Hall Bookings and Contacts

Mondays

(2nd in month, Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) 8.00pm. Community Association meeting.

Tuesdays

7.00pm to 9.00pm - Badminton - contact Gillian Holsey. 07855 154093.

Wednesdays

(2nd in month only) 10.00am to 12noon. Charity coffee mornings - contact Stella Southam 681600.

(2nd and 4th in month only) 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Art group - contact 687339.
(April and November) 7:00pm. Hepworth Players play and pantomime rehearsals.

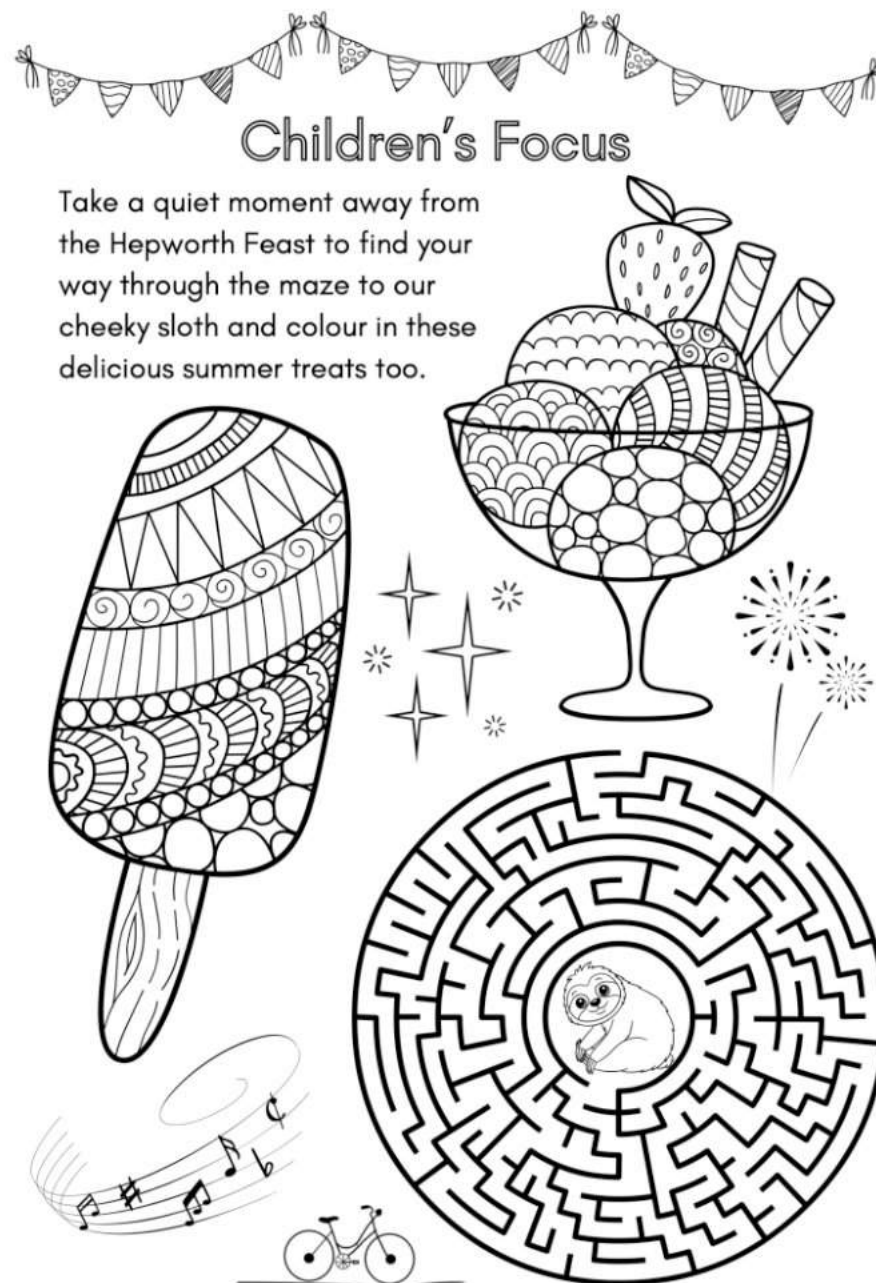
Thursdays

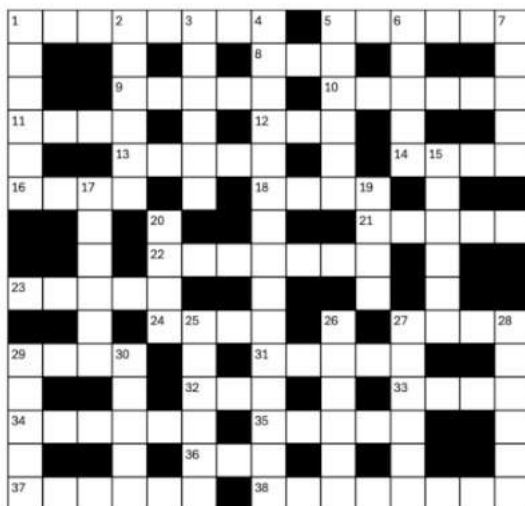
(February to May) 7.00pm Hepworth Players play rehearsals.

(September to November) 7.00pm Hepworth Players pantomime rehearsals.

Fridays

(Second in month, September to June) 7.30pm Hepworth Film Night





PRIZE CROSSWORD

No.8 compiled by
Mitchell

A £20 Read Bookshop gift voucher is up for grabs. Winner will be selected at random from correct entries received before midnight on 31 July 2026.

Email solutions to
focushepworthcrossword
@outlook.com

Across

- 1 Eurovision winner's unending, swelling vocal solo (8)
5/29dn Jeweller (not high) sneaks a look, I hear, at diarist (6,5)
8/27 Stadium sounds like new drag act (3,4)
9 Informal speech of the mad Angles (not East) (5)
10 Rabbit breed according to garden tool (6)
11 Remove Marcel, no adverts (4)
12 Tree-herder in green tights (3)
13/33 Confused muddle: "Ref Hunts Bugs!" (5,4)
14/18/23 Fifteen men on it? (4,4,5)
16 Father supports wall (4)
21 Hybrid promotion I use without energy (5)
22 Go back inside green terrace (2-5)
24 Self-satisfied dragon drops one (4)
29 Letter pole (4)
31 Outwardly within complex trope (5)
32 Chewing face back (3)
34 Arranging Teletubby: "Perform!" (6)
35 Send off? No start/stop. Period. (3,2)
36 Possess part of gown (3)

- 37 Poirot touches mixture with nothing taken out (6)
38 Cross partygoers go into extra time reversal (8)

Down

- 1 Plague symptoms initially, but under big or excessive stress (6)
2 Blew into August edition (6)
3 Concerning charity kingdoms (6)
4 Calming leaders follow headless danger (5,10)
5 Fruit loses a Muslim ruler (6)
6 Scooter sulked (5)
7 Zulu rider hides sensational details (5)
15 I, out of wonder, reset mystery (6)
17 Except French one reduced (6)
19 Nimble one is out of aerosol (4)
20 He leaves suit for culture (4)
25 Reading matter had larva (6)
26 Venues in pasta diorama (6)
27 Sounds like one who's coughed on drink (6)
28 Spillage: mixture held up (days not hours) (6)
30 Quad time elevated (5)