

Heads - Up!

The newsletter for Headon, Upton, Grove & Stokeham

June 2026

Blessing of the Ladywell

In Nether Headon there is a spring of fresh, clear water flowing from the bank of a secluded, tree-bedecked hollow way. This spring has long been known as the Ladywell.

We believe that villagers and travellers have used this source of drinking water since time immemorial. Its very name indicates a pre-Christian origin, where the lady, or goddess, of the well was thanked for the pure water she provided. The hollow way leading to the Ladywell indicates many centuries of footsteps, both human and animal, seeking fresh water from the well. Nobody knows just how long the well has been there, but it is easy to imagine a Viking Warrior or Roman Legionnaire stooping to drink from its refreshing waters!

In 1718 Hardolph Wasteneys, the lord of the manor of Headon, had a brick arch built to surround the spring, hiding the even older brickwork behind it.

When piped water came to the villages the Ladywell fell into disuse until 1981 when the well was decorated like the famous Derbyshire well dressings. This tradition, celebrating St Peter's Day, continued for 10 years throughout the 1980s, then it was revived in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium, and continued until 2003.

After 2003 the Ladywell fell into disuse and became overgrown. Now, thanks to the landowner, it has become accessible again. To celebrate this, the Friends of Headon Church are organising a special Well Blessing ceremony, to be conducted by Rev Dick Lewis from West Retford rectory.

A walk to the site across the fields will be led by Jill Walker on Sunday 21st. June, meeting in the church at 2.15pm. All villagers are invited to join this walk and the ceremony which starts at 3.00pm.

The walk will take 30 – 40 minutes and stout footwear is recommended! There are no stiles but the ground can be uneven. For those whose mobility is not so good there will be parking at Mill Hill Farm (last farm on the right in Nether Headon before you join the main road) with a shorter walk along a field track from there to the Ladywell.

Afterwards there will be refreshments in the village hall. So please come along and see what is on your doorstep and join in this very special Well Blessing event!

Headon cum Upton Cinema Club

Hello film lovers – after 20/21 years of being involved with the cinema, I am letting you know that I am calling it a day. This is something I've thought about over the last year or so, and it is a decision not taken lightly, but a combination of several things have made me think it's the right time to finish, and the last film was indeed the last film.

Janet Landon, Dave Burton and myself were involved with starting this back in 2005 (I think), and I would never have thought it would have gone on this long!

Thanks especially go to Chris McGlen, John Parker and John Moseley for their ever-present help and assistance, and a massive thanks to all our lovely, lovely film goers – passed, past and present – for supporting us over the last 2 decades and 200+ films – The Good, The Bad and the Ugly – it's been fun!!! If anyone would like to take on the role of continuing to show films in the village hall then I would be only too happy to show them the ropes.

In the inimitable words, "That's all folks"!

Pat Thorpe

Editor's Note

On behalf of all those who have attended the cinema at Headon over the past 20+ years I would like to thank Pat for his hard work in putting on a monthly event which has allowed people to get together with a drink and an ice cream and watch an enjoyable film.

An update from Headon-cum-Upton, Grove & Stokeham Parish Council

Prior to the Parish Council meeting held 11th May at Headon Village Hall, there was held a public meeting to discuss the proposed Construction and Operation of a 49.9 MW Solar Photovoltaic ('PV') Farm with Associated Infrastructure and Landscaping, at Land East of Upton, and Land North of East Drayton'. This was well attended and the Parish Council would like to thank everyone who came along with their comments. Following on from this, the Parish Council meeting took place where Councillors decided to object to both applications.

As this meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, a new Chair and Vice Chair were elected for the ensuing year. We also have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor so please let us know if you'd like to express your interest.

Here's a reminder of your Parish Councillors:

Headon-cum-Upton

Cllr Nigel Greenhalgh (Chair), Cllr John Mosley, Cllr Janet Landon, Cllr David Landon

Grove

Cllr David Spencer, Cllr Robert Goulden, Cllr Craig Smith (Vice Chair)

Stokeham

Cllr Eric Briggs, Cllr Charlotte Scothern

The Parish Council are also aware of the pot holes and road damage locally and have written to the East Midlands Mayor to see if there could be any assistance with this to progress necessary repairs or resurfacing. We'll keep you aware of any progress.

Finally just a reminder that there are 4 Defibrillators in the villages. If you spot any signs of damage or anything not working please report this to the Parish Clerk. Here's a reminder where they are located:

Upton (Location AAE77) is at Barley House, Main Street, Upton, DN22 0RA

Grove (Location AAE69) is in the Telephone Box on Main Street, Grove

Headon (Location AAE69) is at Headon Village Hall, Church Street, Headon

Stokeham (Location AAE66) is in the Church entrance, Main Street, Stokeham.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7pm on Monday 8th June at Headon Village Hall, Church Street, Headon, DN22 0RD. As always, Parish Councillors welcome you to attend to ask questions and raise issues. Further details can be found on the Parish Council website: www.hugsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Solar Project Planning Applications Land East of Upton & Land North of East Drayton

Planning applications were made on both of these sites on the 30th March. The statutory consultation period has now ended but comments on the schemes can still be made on the Bassetlaw Planning website.



Headon Church Celebration Weekend

The weekend as part of the church's 855th anniversary highlighted the beautiful building we have in the centre of Headon. A flower festival and church history was on display throughout the weekend alongside welcome refreshments.

In addition there was an interesting talk by local historian Adrian Gray on the Saturday evening and a performance by the Lydian Choir on Sunday.

In total just under £500 was raised for church funds.

Bird Wise

I have just recently returned from spending a week ringing birds at a lighthouse on Portland just outside Weymouth. It's one of several bird observatories situated around the coast of the U.K. The majority of these observatories were established in the late fifties and early sixties, although there have been a number of relatively recent additions. Each observatory is expected to collect data on a daily basis of the birds within their area. Not surprisingly many of these observatories have extensive data sets detailing bird migration over many decades. For those of you who may be interested many of the observatories have a daily blog often with high quality photos which are free to access. I will post a couple each month should you feel interested in viewing them. When accessing the sites look for the link to latest sightings; below are the first two.

www.portlandbirdobs.com <http://spurnbirdobservatory.co.uk>

Many of our resident birds are now well into their breeding cycle and I've already seen newly fledged dunnocks and blackbirds in the village. In addition, many but not all of our local summer migrants have returned to their breeding sites and are currently busy establishing territories and nest building. Species such as spotted flycatchers are typically late arrivers on their breeding territories and commonly don't appear until late May. That said it's been several years since I've found a pair locally. Spring migration however, is far from over and many species that breed in the high arctic are currently migrating over our villages. Its therefore worth keeping your eyes open especially following a heavy shower for something unusual to turn up. I have seen a number of Greenland wheatear locally in such circumstances. Many species that breed in the far north don't arrive on their breeding grounds until the beginning of June simply because the local conditions are not conducive to them nesting at this time.

Glen Thomas (glenthomas8075@btinternet.com)

Vacancy For A Parish Councillor —Upton

A vacancy exists for a Parish Councillor for Headon-cum-Upon, Grove & Stokeham Parish Council .

No election has been called to fill this vacancy, so the Parish Council is permitted to fill this vacancy by co-option at the earliest opportunity. Any persons interested in this role are asked to contact the Parish Clerk via email, so that the position can be filled at a future Parish Council meeting.

Criteria

The applicant must be at least 18 years old and must not be debarred from standing as a Councillor.

The applicant's name must appear on the current register of the 'Voters List' or the applicant should during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date resided in or within three miles of the parish or the applicant's only place of work during the whole of the twelve months preceding the relevant date is in the parish.

How long does a Parish Councillor serve for?

Once elected Parish Councillors sit on the council for a maximum of 4 years at the end of which they can stand for re-election if they wish. The next elections will take place in May 2027. The period of co-option will be until this time.

How much time will it take up?

Parish Councils typically meet once a month (often excluding August) for the council meeting to which the public are invited. Meetings might last 1-2 hours, depending on the length of the agenda of items to be discussed. In addition councillors should also be prepared to attend occasional ad hoc meetings.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

By becoming a Parish Councillor, you become somebody your community will look to for help, guidance and support, a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

The most common areas that Parish Councils get involved in include crime prevention, planning issues and managing open spaces and village halls. It is fair to say that on their own Parish Councils have limited decision-making powers, but they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those organisations that do make final decisions, such as District and County Councils.

Interested?

Why not talk to your local councillors and find out what they think about the job. Alternatively contact the Parish Clerk via email clerk@hugsparishcouncil.gov.uk

Church News & Services

Following the retirement of Rev Canon Bronwen Gamble in January 2022, there is still no news on the process of appointing a new Rector. The Church will continue as near normal as possible during this time.

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

The Parish of The Rivers, Retford

serving the villages, hamlets and communities of :

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

	St Nicholas Askham	St Peter East Drayton/ Dunham on Trent	St John the Baptist East Markham	St Helen Grove	St Peter Headon	St Peter Laneham	All Saints Rampton	St Peter Stokeham	St John the Baptist Treswell
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31st May, 10.30am, Benefice Holy Communion, St Peter, Stokeham

7th Jun	10.30am Morning Worship					10.30am Holy Communion			
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14th June, 10.30am, Holy Communion, St Peter, East Drayton

21st June, 10.30am, Benefice Holy Communion, St John, East Markham

28th Jun			8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion			10.30am Morning Worship		
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5th July, 10.30am, Benefice Holy Communion, St John, East Markham

Puzzle Corner

Your alarm clock has failed to go off in the morning. Can you work out what the current time is using the following clue?

How many minutes is it past eight o'clock, when thirty five minutes ago it was twice as many minutes past seven o'clock

Answer at the bottom of the page

Headon Village Hall Social Club

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



Re-cycled Cycles

All in very good condition and various sizes available
Contact John Parker 07939 412542 (East Drayton)



Answer. It is 8:25. Thirty five minutes ago it was 7:50