

Heyshott Village



Richard Cobden 1804-1865

Newsletter

Heyshott Parish Council <https://heyshott.org.uk/>

November 2025



Remembrance Sunday 9 November

Our Remembrance Sunday service is at St James at 10.45 am on Sunday 9 November. It is a benefice wide service and will include the laying of wreaths for Cocking, Bepton and West Lavington as well as for Heyshott. Because it covers the whole benefice, the service is on a rota across the 3 churches in the benefice; this means that the last Remembrance Sunday service held in Heyshott was in 2022 and the next one will not be until 2028, so this will be the only time in a 5 year period that the service will be held in Heyshott. A full church is therefore expected, so please arrive early if you are able

Murray Downland Trust Annual Talk Tuesday 18 November

All Heyshott residents are warmly invited to join MDT members for the Trust's Annual Talk in the Cobden Hall on Tuesday 18 November. There will be refreshments from 6.40 pm and the talk will commence at 7 pm. This year's talk will be given by the renowned archaeologist Mark Roberts, who is Chichester born and resident. Mark is a former head of archaeology at the University of London and former Tutor for Fieldwork at the Institute of Archaeology at West Dean. He has worked on sites from all periods of British history

from the Middle Pleistocene to the modern era and is perhaps best known for his work at the Lower Palaeolithic site at Boxgrove. Mark has surveyed the Bronze Age barrow mound sites on the Murray Downland Trust reserves both at Heyshott Down (where his survey identified a previously unknown barrow) and at Devil's Jumps and he will be offering his insights into the enigmas presented by these sites.

HEYSHOTT PARISH COUNCIL DATE OF NEXT MEETING – PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7pm IN THE COBDEN HALL.

At this meeting, members will be putting forward budget proposals for the next financial year 2026-2027. If parishioners have any ideas, please talk to a parish councillor or email the clerk: clerk@heyshott.org.uk

Farm News from Sue

A brief farm report this month on account that at least one farm is celebrating a "dream season" for putting in crops. And doing it in the traditional way.

For Andrew Lovejoy at Leggs Farm the weather's been perfect and in four weeks he's ploughed over 150 acres, drilled wheat, barley, oats and beans and rolled it all. And this, a one man show, apart from Terry on the hedge cutter.

Ideal ground conditions added to the dream run. Torrential rain at the beginning of September followed August's heatwave which made the soil breakdown like bread crumbs when it dried off.

An electronic 175hp tractor with a drill on top of a power harrow then made light work of making a fantastic seed bed. In true Comber fashion, though, there were a few eve-

nings of working in the dark as if there weren't enough hours in the day.

Here at Manor Farm, a Cowdray Estate farm like Andrew's, contractors are in charge and have all the farm entered into an environmental scheme.

So it's down to those little green shoots emerging from the soil on Leggs Farm to provide us with a harvest next year, along with oats to be sown in the spring. We should add, God willing of course.

And give thanks to the kind, modest, hard working Andrew. A wonderful neighbour,

Editor:

Andrew certainly does a grand job. He and his farm are one of the best things about Heyshott helping to keep that real village and farming quality.



How terribly sorry we all are at the farm to hear about Laura. My heart goes out to her and Nigel and Monty whilst wishing her a steady recovery. Sue

And these sentiments are shared by the whole Heyshott community

COBDEN TALKS: AUTUMN 2025

BAR OPENS AT 6.30 P.M. AND TALKS START AT 7 P.M.

Thursday 13th November 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Peter Booth will talk and screen his film of The Booths' Adventures in Outback Australia.



Thursday 11th December 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Martin West on What did your mother/grandmother do during the War?

COBDEN CINEMA: AUTUMN 2025

MATINEES AT 2.00

Monday 22 December: Wicked (2hrs 40 mins)

EVENING SCREENING ON THURSDAYS

Bar opens at 6.00 p.m. Films start at 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 27th November at 6.30 p.m.
Going in Style with Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin (1hr 32 mins)

Thursday 18 December at 6.30 p.m. The Penguin Lessons with Steve Coogan (1hr 40 mins)



Heyshott Cook's Corner

Jane Constanduros recipe
Squash Soup with Ginger and Chilli

As the weather changes there is nothing better than a hearty home made soup.

Ingredients

1 squash peeled deseeded (save seeds for roasting)
Cut into 1 inch cubes
2 Onions chopped
1 clove Garlic sliced
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoon olive oil
1 tspn Ginger paste or inch of fresh chopped
1 mild red Chilli sliced deseeded save a bit for garnish.

500 m. vegetable stock
3 tablespoon creme fraiche.
Method.

Put chopped squash into roasting pan toss with oil and salt. Roast at 200 until soft and golden about 30 mins turning occasionally. Clean and rinse seeds pat dry and dry roast in oven with a little salt about 7/10 mins until golden. Leave to cool.

Put butter in pan add onions, garlic chilli cook slowly for 10/15 mins until soft and just turning in colour.

Add cooked squash, hot vegetable stock, creme fraiche and season to taste.

Blend with stick blender until smooth. Can also use large blender in batches.

Serve hot with roasted seeds and slices of chilli.
Enjoy.



An English sonnet to an oak tree

"Oh wondrous oak, majestic Zeus, you stand Above
my Lilliputian world of dreams,
As old as Father Time, your stature grand Imposes
on the woodland floor, it seems
A permanence that links the passing years
Of countless, toiling country folk who saw Your sapling
youth mature while hardship's fears
Of callow, press ganged men snuffed out in war,
And little lives scythed down, each in a grave
They rest, bone eaten shells of pestilence Marked
by mossy stones into which engrave Infant names of
cloistered, bible silence . And as I stand in church-
yard solitude,
To gaze up into your pulchritude,
I wonder how many acorns may fall
When I lie beneath your cradled limbs
To sleep the stoned sleep of bygone hymns."

Julian Neal.

Heyshott Nature Notes



The results of the 2025 Wealden Heaths Breeding Bird Survey were published in September, narrowly beating the publication by the Sussex Ornithological Society's Sussex Bird Report for 2024, demonstrating the speed of distribution of on-line results over hard copy publications which we now take for granted.

The heathland survey covers 10 Wealden Heaths including Heyshott and Ambersham Commons and focuses on 5 priority species, those of Nightjar, Woodlark, Dartford Warbler, Tree Pipit and Stonechat. Once again the survey shows that Heyshott and Ambersham have the largest number of Nightjar territories, with 19 out of the 77 territories across the heaths. This population of Nightjars appears stable year on year and so there is every expectation of the return of our birds next Spring. The mean arrival date in Sussex is 8 May and dusk walks next June can be expected to be rewarded with churring birds.

A story less often told is that Heyshott and Ambersham Commons also hold the greatest population of Dartford Warblers across the heaths, with a total of 10 breeding territories. Dartford Warblers are a bell weather species in the UK; they are primarily birds of the Iberian Peninsula and the southern Mediterranean, and southern England is at the extreme northern end of their range. Unlike our Nightjars, they do not migrate and are therefore very exposed to harsh winters; they experienced a severe population crash in 2010 and 2011, since when their numbers have steadily increased and can be expected to increase further as our mean temperatures continue to rise. They are distinctive warblers,

easily identified by their long slender tails and grey heads and their quick rattling warble; they can produce up to 3 broods between April and July, nesting low down in the gorse or the heather. Heyshott and Ambersham Commons do not top the table for the other 3 target species, although the small numbers of Woodlark and Stonechat appear stable. Tree Pipit is the only one of the target species where numbers have declined significantly across Sussex in recent years, and the survey indicates that there were only 2 breeding territories of Tree Pipit in our local common this year (Woolbeding Common topped the table with 7 territories). This is intriguing, for it indicates that the population of Tree Pipits on the relatively small reserve on the top of Heyshott Down is now greater than that across our local heathland. Are these different families, or has the population moved to a habitat which might be more suitable? It has not proved possible to graze Heyshott Down in 2025 owing to local TB concerns, but its grassland has been mechanically cut on rotation and the presence of isolated tall trees for song posts and display appears particularly suited to our red listed Tree Pipits. The Murra Downland Trust is already eagerly anticipating their return next April.

Nick Sherwin.

Editor

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**Material for the
December 2025
Edition to reach
Chris Boxley by 20th
November please**

The Unicorn Inn 01730 813486

Saturday November 8th

pub open all day
serving lunch from 12-2:30 pm
drinks only in the evening

HEYSHOTT LUNCH CLUB

The next Lunch Club Date is Wednesday 19th November
We will be serving Sausage and Mash followed by Strudel
If you are planning to attend, please let us know by Monday 17th
November



Summer Show 2026 –

new classes for flowers.
With the ongoing effects of
climate change and long hot
summers it's time to include
some new classes that
should be in flower in early
August. When you are think-



ing of ordering seeds or corms why not consider Zinnia and Crocosmia as they
will be in the schedule for 2026.

Saturday 8th November

Please note that there will be runners coming through
the village between 8.30am and 1.30pm using the
Cobden Hall for a pit stop.

Heyshott Church Notices

The morning services at St James in November will be:

- services of Holy Communion at 11.15 am on Sunday 2 and Sunday 16 November
- Remembrance Day service at 10.45 am on Sunday 9 November (see front page for further information)
- service of Matins at 9.30 am on Sunday 23 November.

On Sunday 30 November, the benefice wide Advent Carol Service will take place at St Catherine's Cocking at 3 pm. This is a candle lit service which shows the mediaeval setting of St Catherine's at its very best. There will be no morning service at St James on 30 November.

Evensong or compline will be said in St James at 6 pm every Sunday in November as usual.

The Heyshott PCC will be meeting at 11 am on Friday 7 November. If there are any issues which you would like the PCC to consider at that meeting, please email Jonathan at frjonathan@underthedowns.co.uk before the meeting.

Jonathan continues his monthly Study Groups on the Nicene Creed at 11 am on Tuesday 11 November in Cocking rectory. This month's session will, appropriately after Remembrance Sunday, cover the resurrection of the dead. As always, all are welcome and there is no need to have attended earlier sessions. Extra warmth is promised following some insulation at the rectory!

Nick Sherwin.

