

Heyshott Village



Richard Cobden 1804-1865

Newsletter

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

September 2025



VJ 80 report from Andrew Ferrier

Small village though it is, Heyshott has a great reputation for producing top quality events. Like the VE80 Day event in May, The Service of Remembrance and commemoration of VJ80 on Friday 15th August was no exception.

Principally organised by members of the Cobden Hall Committee, this was no jingoistic affair but a quietly respectful church service led by Chris Boxley to remember those members of the so-called "Forgotten Army" who fought for us in the Far East in WW2. Those attending moved outside to hear a reading of The King's Broadcast on VJ Day 1945 by actor Tim Watson, with a flag-raising ceremony including the Last Post and Reveille bugle calls. Thence to the Cobden Hall where the mood was lightened with archive footage of VJ Day itself, 1940's music, cake, Singapore Slings and Spitfire beer to drink - all followed (admittedly by a very happy accident) by a Lancaster bomber overflying the village during the afternoon.

During the service itself, RN Captain Nigel Williams explained the role of the Royal Navy in the Pacific and included a great account of his father's part in making massive engineering repairs to his ship at sea in extraordinary conditions and in quick time - for which, not surprisingly, he received a commendation. Maureen Laking's daughter, Samantha, read passages from Frank Luff's

(Maureen's father) Burma wartime diary together with a moving poem which he had composed when on active service there and Fr Jonathan's piece, giving the perspective of a resident of Sarawak, was read by Rev Andrew Ashdown.

Former soldier Andrew Ferrier explained how VJ Day had come about - thanks to the multinational Allied land forces who operated in most difficult jungle conditions, assisted by those in the air, and how under new leadership the Allies regained what had been lost to the Japanese after the disasters of Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore.

He brought local colour to the commemoration by describing the raising in Chichester by Lt Col Templer (later Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer) of a new Battalion of our then local regiment (9th Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment) who went on to distinguish themselves in Burma. He encouraged a visit to the Regimental Chapel which lies within Chichester Cathedral where the pages of the Book of Remembrance are turned weekly, without fail, by one of the regimental members. Tribute was paid to other local people involved - including Lt General Messervy, one of General Slim's most capable and experienced commanders, who lived in North End House Heyshott.

Our thanks go to all those who put in a great deal of time and work - including those behind the scenes - to make this important event possible.



VJ80 DAY FRIDAY 15 AUGUST 2025
Thank you all for your support and generosity. The Retiring Collection raised £360 for The Royal British Legion.

HEYSHOTT HARVEST SAVE

THE DATE Do save the date for the Heyshott Harvest celebrations on Sunday 5 October. The special Harvest evensong, with choir, will held be in St James at 6pm and the Harvest supper will be in the Cobden Hall at 7pm. The High Sheriff of West Sussex, Dr Tim Fooks, will be attending both the service and the supper with his wife Sarah. There is some background on Tim and his role on the site westsussexlieutenancy.org.uk and this Harvest will give us a unique opportunity to find out more about his ancient office which dates from 1086. If you are able to provide a dish or a pudding for the supper, please email Dinah on dnah.lamming@btinternet.com.



Party in the Park at 50!

A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported our Party in the Park in our 50th year.

It was a great day with fantastic music from Supersonic Soul which created a proper party atmosphere.

A huge thank you to the many people who helped with putting up on the day and clearing away the next day, a to Steph for kindly donating one of her delicious Heyshott Lamb's.

And the Committee would like to thank Jane Riley, who has stepped down as Chairman, for her drive and passion - which enabled us to be able to install the new equipment. We are currently looking for more committee members to help. We don't hold meetings every month - just when something comes up, and we generally hold them in the pub or playground...

Two New Arrivals

Heyshott recently welcomed two new arrivals to the village at a presentation prior to the HPC meeting at the Cobden Hall. Katherine Hood and her business partner Carlos shared details of their plans to transform the Canine Partners site into a veterinary practise and hospital. It shall operate 24/7 and eventually have up to 7 vets working there, with all the necessary modern equipment and an on-site pharmacy. Externally there will be minor changes, with most of the investment spent on refitting the 2 barns. There will be opportunities for locally skilled vet nurses and some admin staff. We wish Katherine and Carlos every success on their way to becoming the new 'Supervets'.



Harrison Hide and Louie Blake have taken Dunford House on a long lease and are in the throes of changing it into a 20 room 'Wellness' Hotel and Members Club. It's going to be called 'Long Lane' and you can follow progress, ideas and opening dates on all the social media platforms. This is probably a new concept for most people in Heyshott, (it was for me) but makes a lot of sense: it's going to be a haven or retreat for winding down with no alcohol, a gym and natural swimming pond with an organic farm producing food for the restaurant. It's probably aimed at the younger crowd, but let's see. They've raised a substantial amount of money and have some great ideas for the site. Again, this venture should bring work for up to 30 staff in the hospitality sector. Addressing the three issues we have had with previous planning applications, Louie and Harrison were clear. First, they understand the historical significance of the house and will respect the legacy of Richard Cobden. Second, they intend

to use shuttle buses to limit traffic on the narrow lane and will clear the passing places so they can be fully utilised. At least the need for access will be staggered (as opposed to a wedding venue when everyone arrives and leaves at the same time) and it remains to be seen whether their guests and our residents further up the lane have a problem with it. Finally, the noise issue has probably been reversed. It is the village that needs to tell them when we are having a noisy event like Bonfire night!



We wish both ventures the best of luck. We hope you can make a success of your plans, will engage with the village and become a valuable part of the community.

Please note: the next HPC meeting is on Sept 9th at 7.30pm

Chris Weeks

COBDEN TALKS: AUTUMN 2025

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

Thursday 16TH October 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lewis-Jong will talk about The Psychology of Death

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 27 October: Frozen 2 (1hr 43 mins)

Monday 22 December: Wicked (2hrs 40 mins)

Do you enjoy singing?
Would you like to join a good local choir?



are recruiting new members for the 2025-26 season

Rehearsals every **Tuesday 7:30-9:30pm**
in Rogate Village Hall GU31-5BH

Sopranos, altos, tenors & basses all welcome - regardless of previous singing experience. **No audition required.**

Our season runs from September to May. We perform three concerts under the baton of our Musical Director Giles White and tend to sing and laugh during most rehearsals!

Last season the music included Vivaldi's *Gloria* as well as music by Purcell, Haydn and Gershwin. This year it's **Christmas carols** in December, **Verdi's Requiem** with orchestra for the Petersfield Musical Festival in March 2026, and **Schubert's Mass in G** for our final summer concert in May.

Why not come along to a rehearsal and give it a try?

rogatechoralsociety.com

EVENING SCREENING ON THURSDAYS

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

Thursday 9th October at 6.30 p.m.

Roman Holiday with Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck (113 mins)

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 Bonfire – Saturday 8th November

With the months flying by, it's time to start thinking about the Bonfire.

We will be holding a meeting on Monday 8th September at 8pm – everyone welcome.

We are also looking for someone to co-ordinate this year's raffle. Our thanks to Woppy and Andy for the last few years

Cookery Corner with Simon Hook

Whilst sitting outside in the sun I was contemplating what to do with the surplus garden produce. Here's a delicious recipe that's simple to make for those courgette growers who have a glut.

Courgette and mint soup

- 3 tbsp olive oil
 - 1 onion finely chopped
 - 3 cloves garlic sliced
 - 6 courgettes halved lengthways and sliced thinly
 - 750ml vegetable stock
 - 150ml crème fraiche (Soured cream or yoghurt) plus a little extra to serve
 - a small bunch mint leaves finely chopped
 - salt to taste
 - lemon zest (optional) to serve
- Heat the olive oil in a pan over a medium heat and cook the onion with a pinch of salt for 10 minutes until softened but not coloured. Add the garlic and cook gently for a few minutes then tip in the courgettes and cook gently for 20 minutes. Make sure the courgettes are soft.
- Add the vegetable stock and bring to the boil for a couple of minutes. Use a stick blender to whizz the soup until completely smooth, then stir in the crème fraiche and three-quarters of the mint and whizz again. Season to taste.
- Serve topped with crème fraiche and mint leaves, and if you like some lemon zest.
- Serves 6. Can also be served chilled



Look out for more tasty recipes in future Newsletters

HEYSHOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@heyshott.org.uk Website: <https://heyshott.org.uk/>

DATE OF NEXT MEETING
HPC MEETING at 7.30pm ON TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 IN THE COBDEN HALL.

All our meetings are open to the public and we warmly invite any resident who wishes to raise a subject matter with us to do so at the meeting.

Heyshott Nature Notes

Serotine Bat



detector (every home, especially one with children, should have one!) set to 45kHz, one has a good chance of picking up

Bats are newsworthy. Extensive 'bat tunnels' receive widespread criticism. His Majesty's Government considers that bats are over protected and impede development; it has suggested that a solution to its concerns would be to develop a list of UK only protected species. It is assumed that this list will be smaller than the current list of protected species and will reduce occasions when conservation concerns hold up planning processes. One wonders whether this assumption is accurate and, even if it is, whether it is right to be isolationist if and when the UK holds significant populations of species which are threatened across Europe.

18 species of bat have been recorded in Sussex. In recent years, the discoveries of populations of Greater Mouse-eared Bats and of Greater Horseshoe Bats in West Sussex have each been deemed worthy of nationwide attention on the BBC website, on the basis that these are amongst the UK's rarest mammals (and would presumably therefore retain their status on a UK only list of protected species). Here in Heyshott, we live within 5 km of Cocking and Singleton Tunnels, a site designated as a Special Area of Conservation because of the presence of Barbastelle and Bechstein's Bats. The latter species is considered to be the rarest bat in Western Europe.

If one has a summer dusk ramble in Heyshott with a bat

the echolocation sounds of one of the UK's commoner bats, the Common Pipistrelle. This tiny Pipistrelle, perhaps 40mm long and weighing only 5g, will fly at head height seeking invertebrates around our buildings and along our hedge lines and woodland edges. The increased seeding of wildflower meadows should increase (and in Heyshott probably already is increasing) invertebrate populations and in consequence increase our Pipistrelle populations; a Pipistrelle will eat thousands of invertebrates on each flight from its roost.

With a little good fortune, one might on reducing the frequency of the detector pick up one of our rarer bats. Heyshott is certainly within the foraging range of the Cocking Barbastelles, and these medium sized, pug-nosed bats have indeed been heard in Heyshott at a setting of about 32kHz. Reducing the setting further to about 25kHz gives a greater possibility of picking up one of our larger bats, the Serotine Bat. This bat is half as large again as a Common Pipistrelle and perhaps 5 times its weight. It is an early riser, and so the size differential between the two species can be noted on the wing before dark closes in, at which point one might perhaps put away the bat detector for the evening and admire the speed and dexterity of these remarkable mammals.

Nick Sherwin.

Editor

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**Material for the
October 2025
Edition to reach
Chris Boxley by 20th
September please**

The Unicorn Inn

01730 813486

Heyshott Lunch Club

The next Lunch Club Date is Wednesday 17th September

We will be serving Scillian Chicken followed by Crumble.

If you are planning to attend, please let us know by Monday 15th September



**Quiz Night -
Friday 19th
September**

at 8pm

Teams of 6

Serving food throughout.

Quiz Master's Decision is final.



Friday 26th September 10am - 12pm

Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Unicorn

Donations of Cake or Raffle Prizes will be greatly appreciated.

Brain Tumour Charity Evening with Willie Austin

4th October from 6pm Tickets available from Unicorn - £10



Heyshott Church Notices



September brings some routine to St James, with Sunday morning services following the usual pattern, viz:

- services of Holy Communion at 11.15 am on Sunday 7, Sunday 14 and Sunday 21 September

- service of Matins at 9.30 am on Sunday 28 September.

Evensong or compline will be said in church at 6 pm every Sunday in September as usual.

The morning service on 7 October will incorporate the baptism of Frankie Clack - our best wishes to Frankie and his family and friends on his special day.

Jonathan will also be leading a short Holy Communion service in St James at 9.30 am on Wednesday 24 September, and afterwards he will hold a Death Cafe in church at 10 am. All are welcome to this cafe which offers an opportunity for reflection on our mortality. The Wednesday morning service and occasional Death Cafes are usually held in Cocking and have proved popular.

Nick Sherwin.