



Richard Cobden 1804-1865

# Newsletter

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

January 2026

**WELCOME  
2026  
WISHING EVERYONE  
A HAPPY AND  
PEACEFUL  
YEAR**

## Heyshott Bonfire & Fireworks - Update

The display was cancelled last year due to unexpected events, however we were able to minimise financial losses, whilst ensuring public safety and maintaining the goodwill of our suppliers for next year, and we thank you for your understanding.

Having built the bonfire, we notified the villagers via the Heyshott Unicorns WhatsApp Group/word of mouth of the Bonfire Lighting on November 5th and approx 50 villagers turned out and enjoyed a mini torch procession, a very warm Bonfire and a drink from the Unicorn 🦄 on a balmy, but windy evening!

To ensure resilience for future events, a review of the tasks, responsibilities, and committee structure is underway. We will also be seeking additional volunteers to help with delivering this well known 'heritage' Heyshott event going forward.

**IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES...**

Heyshott Bonfire & Fireworks Satur-

day 14th November 2026!  
Clare Whately

confirmed with the CD Council.

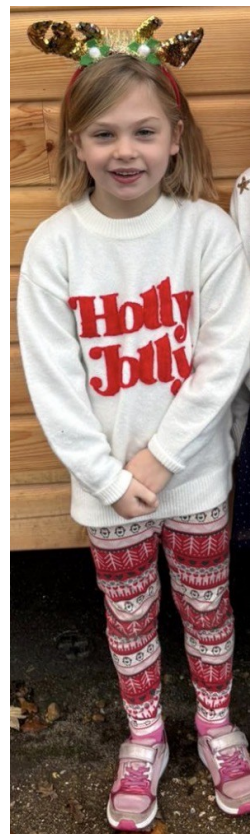
## The Unicorn Inn Poppy Appeal.

In 2025 the Unicorn took £113.21 in sales of poppies *which was the highest amount raised by any pub in the Midhurst district.* Now that door to door fund raising unfortunately no longer takes place (since Covid etc.) it's so important to buy your poppies in the pub - and at the same time stop for a drink and chat. Tom Eden

## Playground News

**Birthday's - Happy Birthday to Holly Hill** from Old Hoyle House, who turns 7 this month and is celebrating with a fun Bowling party!

**Playground news** - Work continues for the committee who are selecting the fruit species for a proposed new community orchard area, and the replacement trees for the felled Ash. A community planting ceremony is planned to take place late January, finer details to be circulated once



## COBDEN CINEMA: WINTER 2026

January and February  
EVENING SCREENINGS  
ON THURSDAYS  
Bar opens at 6.00 p.m. Films  
start at 6.30 p.m.



Thursday 8 January at 6.30  
p.m.  
Black Bag with Cate  
Blanchett and Michael Fass-  
bender 1 hr 33 mins.

Thursday 5 February at 6.30  
p.m.  
Jerry and Marge GO  
LARGE with Bryan  
Cranston and Annette  
Bening 1 hr 36 mins

## HEYSHOTT PARISH COUNCIL DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 13 JANUARY  
2026 AT 7pm IN THE COB-  
DEN HALL

Our Budget for 2026 to 2027  
will be discussed at this  
meeting and the precept set.  
The precept is the tax that  
HPC charges local electors  
to meet its budget require-  
ments.

All parishioners are most  
welcome to attend our meet-

ings and raise matters that  
concern them.

## Big Feat: South Downs and Arundel Marathon and 15 Mile Winter Trail Run

Heyshott -SDW-Arundel  
The now traditional Trail  
Run, organised by Big Feat,  
from Heyshott via SDW to  
Arundel  
([www.bigfeatevents.com](http://www.bigfeatevents.com))  
will take place on Sunday 18  
January 2026.

The runners are dropped off  
by coaches near the Cricket  
Pavilion and then make their  
way to the start at the Cob-  
den Hall.

The runners set off in four  
waves: 8.30 a.m., 9 a.m.,  
9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m.  
Check out their website for  
more information. Do come  
and cheer them on their  
way.



On Christmas morning it was  
heartening to see the food-  
bank collection box at the  
back of the church overflow-  
ing. Thank you to everyone  
who donated — your gener-  
osity truly makes a differ-  
ence.

If you are able, please con-  
sider adding one or two  
items to your shopping this  
month. The foodbank **ur-  
gently needs:**

- Nappies (sizes 4, 5 and 6)
- Toilet & kitchen roll
- Deodorant
- Rice pudding or custard

- Tinned meat (stews, ham,  
hot dogs, etc.)
- Shaving gel & razors
- Tinned vegetables
- Laundry detergent

Cash donations are also al-  
ways welcome and can be  
made via **Donate money |  
Chichester District Food-  
bank.**

Thank you for your contin-  
ued support.

*Tanya Ward*  
07765 346455

## The Cobden Young Persons' Bursary

Launched in recognition of the  
Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The  
Cobden Young Persons' Bursary  
is open for applications from  
young people aged 16-25 who  
are resident within the Parish of  
Heyshott. We are looking for  
applications from young people  
who wish to develop their skills  
and progress their education.

This might include assisting with  
course funding or travel abroad  
for voluntary work or training.

This is an exciting new oppor-  
tunity for the young people of  
Heyshott and we, the Heyshott  
Cobden Hall Charity, look for-  
ward to your applications. If you  
are interested in applying or  
have any questions, please tele-  
phone James Simpson on:  
01730 815889 or email  
[jamessimpson@unicornewriter  
s.com](mailto:jamessimpson@unicornwriters.com)

## Heyshott Cook's Corner

Recipe of the month

Bacon and Pheasant Hotpot - serves 4 people.

Dice a large onion and sweat it off in a good sized pan with a little oil.

Add 125g of bacon bits and 2 pheasant breasts, seasoned and cut into cubes.

Brown the bacon and pheasant meat for a minute or 2, then add a slug or red wine and 400ml of chicken stock (or made up gravy granules).

Cut up some carrots, mushrooms and any other vegetables you might have left over in the fridge and add them to the meat and stock. Add some frozen peas and a spoonful of cream.

Add a sprinkling of general spice and the secret ingredient - some chilli flakes (go easy on them though). Simmer gently for 15-20 mins.

Serve with roast or boiled potatoes and Yorkshire puddings to mop up the gravy. Enjoy!

**Chris Weeks**

## “useful phone numbers

Riverbank Medical Centre -  
01730 812121

Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit -  
01483 782334

Police - 999; non emergency 101

Burst water mains, Southern Water -  
0800 820 999

Power cuts, Scottish & Southern -  
0800 0727282

Bee swarms - 01798 343470

Chichester District Council - 01243  
534734

Citizens Advice - 03448 487969

The Unicorn Inn - 01730 813486

West Sussex County Council - 01243  
777100

County Councillor, Tom Richardson -  
07463 785039

## Heyshott Nature Notes



A Hybrid Elm

A member of the Murray Downland Trust made a gift to the Trust at its annual talk in November in the Cobden Hall. The gift was of 6 Elm saplings, for planting on the MDT's reserves. The donor, Dr Richard Smith, is a retired arboriculturalist and an expert in the provenance of surviving Elms in the United Kingdom.

It is of course well known that virtually all mature Elms in the UK died in or after the 1970s following their infestation with a disease that became known as Dutch Elm disease. The disease is a fungus spread by a bark beetle. Smaller Elms survive within hedgerows - indeed, there are many in Heyshott - but these would fall victim to the disease if allowed to grow to their full height.

There are two species of Elm which are generally considered native to the UK, the English Elm and the Wych Elm. Both are susceptible to Dutch Elm disease, which was named after the country in which it was originated rather than a particular species which it might attack. The English Elm bears little if no resistance, and this is now thought to be because of its lack of genetic diversity - all specimens are now thought to descend from one individual introduced to the UK in Ro-

man times (making the term English Elm a probable misnomer and casting doubt on the designation as 'native'), with reproduction being by suckering rather than seed production. Wych Elm does produce seed which has led to a degree of genetic diversity enabling some mature specimens to survive attack. But mature English Elms can only survive by avoiding attack in the first place; pockets of individuals still hang on in Kent and East Sussex where the spread of disease is

limited by the treeless features of the eastern end of our South Downs.

The taxonomy of Elms is however by no means straightforward. There are up to 30 species of Elm north of the Equator, half a dozen of which are European. Eighteenth century gardeners revelled in hybridisation; one well known hybrid is the Chichester Elm, named after Chichester Hall in Essex but with a legitimate West Sussex connection as Chichester Hall was at one point owned by the then Bishop of Chichester. The Elms donated to the MDT are hybrids, deriving from a mature specimen which appears to be thriving in Cocking.

This complexity creates a challenge for the MDT. The clay soils within the Heyshott reserves would potentially provide a suitable home for hybrid Elms, but it would be a curious choice for a grassland conservation charity to seek to plant hybrid specimens within an SSSI even if Natural England were to permit this. So it is likely that the saplings will leave Heyshott, and will probably find a home in the Trust's newest reserve at Hurston Warren where there is a mosaic of habitat to manage outside the heathland SSSI.

Nick Sherwin.

## Editor

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**Material for the  
February 2026  
Edition to reach  
Chris Boxley by 20th  
January please**

## The Unicorn Inn 01730 813486



## Heyshott Church Notices

Christmas Day has passed but the Christmas season continues at St James, with our Sunday morning service for the arrival of the Kings at Epiphany at 11.15 am on Sunday January 4.



Sunday services for the rest of January follow the usual pattern, viz:

- services of Holy Communion at 11.15 am on Sunday 11 and Sunday 18 January
- service of Matins at 9.30 am on Sunday 25 January

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

Many thanks from your PCC for the welcome given and generosity shown to the village carol singers prior to Christmas. They covered about 80% of the village in 3 evenings of singing, followed by the usual rousing finale in the Unicorn on Christmas Eve, raising over £800 for the Children's Society for which the PCC is most grateful. The PCC hopes to be able to top this amount up to at least £1000 at its meeting in February

**Nick Sherwin.**