



Richard Cobden 1804-1865

Newsletter

[Heyshott Parish Council](https://heyshottparishcouncil.gov.uk) <https://heyshottparishcouncil.gov.uk>



We celebrated the life of Brian Lowe 5 April 1933 – 27 January 2026 on 27th February in Heyshott Church. Thank you Brian for your life of Service to us all.

HEYSHOTT PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

Members of the Council and their responsibilities are:

Christopher Weeks: Chairman. Highways, ditch maintenance and Bonfire representative

Fiona Mackay: Vice Chairman. Amenities and HPC representative on Cobden Hall Trust

Bridget Adler: Website and Communications

Jane Constanduros: Planning and Accounts payable

Rob Harris: Budget, Insurance and Playground representative

Simon Hook: Environment and Open Spaces

Anthea Philip (retiring): Public Rights of Way

Clerk: Jane Crawford

Change of email addresses: clerk@heyshottparishcouncil.gov.uk and website: <https://heyshottparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Easter Sunday is on 5 April and

the Easter morning service in St James will be at 11.15 am and will be followed by our traditional Easter Egg hunt in the churchyard for the young in heart. Prior to that, the morning service for Mothering Sunday will be at 11.15 am on Sunday 15 March and the Heyshott Palm Sunday procession will start from the bottom of the lane to Manor Farm at 9.45 am on Sunday 29 March.

Full details of Easter church activities in the benefice are set out in the church notes on the back page.

Parish Council Budget 2026-27.

The precept, which is the tax charged to fund Parish Council activities, is the same as last year at £10,500 (Band D Household = £59.66). Please see the budget on our website for full information on where the precept is spent.

Planning: To date 11 planning applications have been considered during the year which included 2 for the new owners of Dunford House and the Canine Partners site. Most of the applications have been successful except for Dunsford House (aka Long Lane) which is applying for change of use from wedding venue to members club and hotel.

South Downs Local Plan Review:

The Playground has passed 2 reviews and so far has been recommended as a Local Green Space.

Highways: The road from the A286 through Bex Mill to Graffham (Mill Lane) was resurfaced last year and the new, clear road markings are making it a lot safer for vehicles especially at Bex Mill bridge. Although the road has flooded at Foundry several times it has mostly been passable with care. During the polo season articulated horse transport lorries use this route to get to Ambersham which is not ideal but preferable to them using other routes through even narrower lanes.

Land clearance and ditching: Our local contractor has completed 5 days of ditch work which has improved the

drainage around the village and mitigated the risk of flooding. He was unable to clear the ditches to the south of the Foundry, but the flooding there seemed to be no better or worse than last year. WSCC Highways has been asked to clear the pipe under the road and to jet the pipes along Hoyle Lane but has yet to do either job.

Work parties: The Chairman organised four work parties on Wednesday mornings in April to tidy up some trees and clear some overgrown spaces. He intends to repeat the process again this April, so if you have any areas which annoy you and you think should be tidied up, please let him know. The small patch opposite Horton Meadow will be tackled this year as well as cutting down 2 small trees suffering from ash die-back.

Public Rights of Way: We acknowledge with thanks the work done by Cowdray clearing the gorse and bracken from the PRow's around the Common, and specifically on the bridleway from Polecats to the railway line. Generally they do us all a good service in keeping the paths clear which is certainly appreciated by HPC.

Rectory Common: Between Mike Hadley and The Chairman, we have managed to mow the Rectory Common twice this year which, with the ditching, has helped to keep the marsh reeds under control. It contin-

ues to look rather pleasant as one drives up to the village. Thanks to the owner for lending us his tractor and flail for this job.

The Annual Spring Clean / Litter Picking session was organised by Fiona Mackay and undertaken by councillors in March. Each councillor took on a stretch of road and collected a disconcerting amount of rubbish, mostly bottles, cans and fast food packaging.

Playground: We recently welcomed the incoming Chairman of the Playground Committee and thanked the outgoing Chairman for her work over the past few years, which included winning and spending Lottery funding for new equipment. Our thanks go to everyone on the committee for all they do to keep the site well maintained and attractive for our young residents and visitors. We congratulate them on the increase in numbers of children using the playground since the installation of the new equipment.

Bonfire: The much loved Heyshott Bonfire and firework night could not take place last year for various reasons. Fortunately the financial impact of cancelling the event at short notice was rather limited. However, many villagers had made plans for friends and family to visit over that weekend and the whole village (except horse owners maybe) was very disappointed that the traditional Saturday torches, bonfire and fireworks didn't happen. This year's event is scheduled for November 14th, and at the time of writing there are calls out for new committee members to help decide how the event runs in future. A parishioner is leading the process, and he will make a report at the APM.

I give my personal thanks to:

My fellow councillors for their time, good sense and support over the last year.

Our long suffering Clerk, Jane Crawford, who keeps us on the straight and narrow.

Our District Councillor, Francis Hobbs, whose advice is very much appreciated.

Everyone who volunteers to help in our work parties and at other events, such as the Quiz Nights, the Village Show, Party in the Park

and May Day. All of these (and other events) require time, effort and enthusiasm from volunteers to make sure the events run safely, efficiently and ultimately achieve their aim.

All those involved in running our village organisations and those who support them, some of whom will be reporting at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 15 April 2026, 7 pm at Cobden Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting per se but a meeting of parishioners to gather for a glass of wine and raise any relevant matters of concern or ideas for future actions. If you want an item on the Agenda please email the Clerk at clerk@heyshottparishcouncil.gov.uk by 8 April 2025 but also feel free to come on the night and raise your point.

Agenda items include:

Katherine Hood will be giving an update on opening her new veterinary practice on the old Canine Partners site and taking questions
Chairman's Report
The HPC Budget for 2026-2027
Reports from parish organisations including:

St James Church

Cobden Hall

Playground

May Day

Bonfire

Murray Downland Trust

District Councillor, Francis

Hobbs

We hope to see many parishioners at the meeting.

Finally, Anthea Philip is retiring from the Council after almost 26 years, including two stints as Chairman. I am sure the whole village will join me in thanking her for her diligent work in keeping our Rights of Way clear and accessible for everybody, her wider work on HPC over the years, and we will recognise her service to the Heyshott community at the APM. We are hoping to select a new councillor to replace her very shortly.

**Chris Weeks
Chairman**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:
TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2026 AT
7pm IN THE**

COBDEN HALL

All parishioners are most welcome to attend our meetings and raise matters that concern them.

**COBDEN CINEMA
Spring 2026:
EVENING SCREENINGS
ON THURSDAYS**

Bar opens at 6.00 p.m.

Films start at 6.30 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE
OF FILM**

Thursday 12 March: **JAWS** with Roy Schneider, Richard Dreyfus and Roberts Shaw, directed by Steven Spielberg. For the film's 50th anniversary last year, the dvd has been digitally remastered with all new 7.1 sound. (2 hours 5 mins)

What happened to The Naked Gun? Unfortunately the dvd of Jerry and Marge Go Large was designed for screening in Region 1 (we are in Region 2), so we were not able to screen it! So we showed The Naked Gun instead. Many apologies to anyone who was looking forward to see it on 12/3. Please let any member of the Cobden Hall Committee know if you would like to see it and we will arrange another screening or the loan of the dvd, depending on demand.

**COBDEN TALKS
SPRING 2026**

BAR OPENS AT 6.30 P.M.

AND TALKS START AT 7 P.M.

Thursday 2nd April at 7.30 p.m. Katherine and Carlos of the Heyshott Veterinary Practice will talk on 'Paws Through Time: Understanding Ageing in Cats and Dogs.'

Heyshott Cook's Corner

Artichoke Dip

Prep time app. 10mins
Cook time app. 20 mins

1 tin of artichoke hearts
1 cup of grated Parmesan
1 cup of mayonnaise
Optional (crushed garlic)

Blitz the mixture until smooth, pour into an ovenproof dish and bake until brown.

Serve with crudité's and or bread of your choice. Delicious 😊

Penny Slater
07766 106720



On Thursday

19th March, Sarah Adams, CEO of our foodbank, will be giving the Cobden talk. When I heard Sarah speak last year, I was inspired to help. She certainly busted some myths about foodbanks for me. I was fascinated by the wide range of people they support, and by how much more they do than simply provide food. I was also impressed by how quickly they can help turn situations around. Do come along to hear more.

If you are able, please consider adding one or two items to your shopping this month. The foodbank is currently in urgent need of:

- **Laundry detergent**
- **Instant coffee**
- **Shampoo**
- **Tomato ketchup**
- **Tinned or instant mash potatoes**
- **Tinned meat meals**
- **Sugar**
- **Tinned fruit**

Cash donations are also very welcome and can be made via the Chichester District Foodbank website. Thank you for your continued support.

Tanya Ward
07765 346455

Heyshott Nature Notes



Garden Warbler

The incessant rain which has dominated the year to date will it seems continue into March, further restricting the activities of work parties on Heyshott Scarp and dampening many of our New Year ambitions. But the rain indicates mildness and that mildness will have assisted many of our songbirds in surviving the winter. Dartford Warbler numbers on the heaths should show an increase this year, and the breeding success of our commonest songbirds is already being indicated by the volume of early February birdsong - particularly that of Robins, Wrens, Song Thrushes and Greenfinches - around the village.

Our January and February weather will be missed by our migrant birds but will still have an impact on them insofar as it will have affected the emergence of the invertebrates on which they need to feed both themselves and their young. The timing of the migrants' arrivals will depend upon the weather patterns in, and the wind direction from, countries to the south of us in the coming months. But what might we typically expect to see and hear in Heyshott in March?

The earliest of our warblers to arrive back to our village will usually be Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps, returning from their wintering grounds in West Africa. By the third week of March, there should be regular sightings of each in Heyshott (early Blackcaps favour our Mistletoe) and the song of each should be commonplace by the end of the month. But the migrating patterns of each of these species are changing - more of our Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps are remaining in the UK as mild winters become the norm,

and some Blackcaps are now migrating from mainland Europe to the UK for the winter and leaving the UK as our regular migrants return.

Our Garden Warblers and Grass-hopper Warblers typically overwinter further south in West Africa and arrive somewhat later than our Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps. They are shyer birds, rarely seen on their migration which in all likelihood will be shrouded by the night, but a Garden Warbler - distinguished rather by its plainness and the absence of distinguishing features - has been seen in Heyshott as early as the third week of March. Our hedge loving Whitethroats typically arrive in April but one or two may be scraping out their song in the hedgerows by the end of March. Our Tree Pipits winter further south in woodland in sub-Saharan West Africa and our Barn Swallows travel even further into South Africa. Our breeding pipits and swallows are unlikely to arrive as soon as March, but Heyshott is a stopping point for birds travelling further north and we should expect to see swallows in the village before the month is out. We will then feel with confidence that Spring has truly arrived even if the formal advice is 'ne'er to cast a clout' for another couple of months.

Nick Sherwin.

Editor

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**Material for the
March 2026 Edition
to reach Chris
Boxley by 20th April
please**

The Unicorn Inn

01730 813486



Heyshott Village Lunch Club

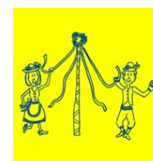
The next Lunch Club is Wednesday 18th March.

We will be serving Chicken Stroganoff followed by a Apple & Cherry Pie.

If you are planning to attend, it would be ever so helpful if you could contact us at the Unicorn so we are able to

Heyshott May Day 2026 – 4th May

We are taking nominations for our May Queen – aged over 10 years old, and her attendants – aged between 6-10 years old and have a connection with Heyshott. The deadline for nominations is Friday 10th April – you can email laura_parry1@hotmail.com,



All volunteers and helpers needed to stage the day itself, please contact Laura and let her know what you are available for and willing to do!

Heyshott Church Notices



Morning services at St James during the first 4 Sundays in March follow the usual pattern, viz:

- services of Holy Communion at 11.15 am on each of Sunday 1, Sunday 8 and Sunday 15 March; the service on 15 March is the traditional daffodil rich service for Mothering Sunday
- service of Matins at 9.30 am on Sunday 22 March.

Sunday 29 March is Palm Sunday. The now traditional Heyshott Palm Sunday procession will start at the bottom of the lane to Manor Farm at 9.45 am to arrive at St James for the start of the service at 10 am. Please bring branches to the procession if you are able; if you are not able to join the procession, do come straight to church for 10 am.

The Easter week services at St James are then:

- the Maundy Thursday evening service at 7 pm on Thursday 2 April, and
- the Easter Sunday service of Holy Communion at 11.15 am on 5 April.

The suite of Easter services in the benefice is completed with:

- the Good Friday service at Bepton church at 10 am on 3 April
- the Easter Vigil service at Cocking church at 9 pm on Saturday 4 April.

Jonathan's weekly Lent Group continues with further sessions in Cocking Rectory at 10 am each Wednesday in March. Each session will cover a different 'Hymn of Lent' and so each session is self standing - come when you can.'

Nick Sherwin.