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THARSTON AND HAPTON PARISH COUNCIL

WELCOME TO
THE PARISH
NEWSLETTER



Christmas 2021



PARISH NEWS

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Welcome to the Tharston and Hapton Newsletter

Welcome to the Christmas edition of your newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to wish all Parishioners an incredibly happy Christmas and a Prosperous new year and we all hope it will be without the fear of another lockdown hanging over us.

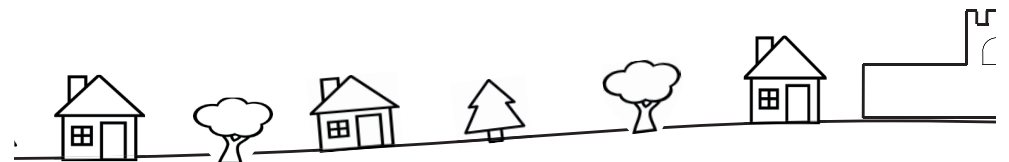
It is also my immense pleasure to announce the Hapton Community Play Area has been completed and is now ready for everyone to use and enjoy. The Parish council would like to thank our contractors Vale Sports and Leisure for completing the play area in a safe and economical way even ensuring any soil they took away was replaced into the area at the back of the play area and as you can see, they have made the area very safe for all to enjoy. We cannot wait to see children enjoying the new play area as well as the bigger children too. The new benches have arrived and it is hoped that these will be made up soon to allow people to sit on the area also. The next stage will see the pad go down for the community building, toilets and even a ready-made BBQ area for all to use and enjoy.

As Parish Clerk it is now great to get around the Parish as I used to and please say hi if you see me and bring me up to speed on any issues you may have. If you do have any issues and do not see me, I would prefer you use the parish email address rather than the website contact form as I see these quicker than the website forms. The email address is tharstonandhapton@gmail.com

The Parish Council has now installed a new Defibrillator at Victory House with the help of a grant from Saffron who we are really pleased to be working with and we will be providing free defib training to all. Should any parishioners wish to attend please let me know so I can add you to list once dates are fixed with the training team at London Hearts.

Finally, in this newsletter you will see details of any Tharston St Marys and Hapton St Margaret's Christmas church events including the wonderful carols service both of our churches hold.

The Parish Council



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We look forward to welcoming you back!

We've made some changes to keep you safe, so

- there will only be 1 person or household (of up to 3 people) aboard at a time
- please bring your library card with you or join in the library or online
- we may ask for details from you to help with Test and Trace
- you will need to wear a face covering in the library
- hand sanitiser is available for use on the way in and out of the library
- surfaces and computers will be regularly wiped down
- returned books will be quarantined for 72 hour
- The locations and times are detailed below

**Hapton
Hillside farm
Dunthornes Corner**

13.00-13.15pm

8/12/21
5/1/22
2/2/22
2/3/22

**Tharston
Willow Farm Lodge**

10.45-11.00am

Highfields Council Houses
11.05-11.15am
22/12/21
19/1/22
16/2/22

Would you be interested in forming a Tharston and Hapton Climate Action Group?

Climate Action Groups have the potential to be a local solution to a global climate crisis. They are made up of everyday people, from all walks of life, who would like to bring together the power of their community to make our villages more climate friendly, greener, and safer for everyone.

Here are just a few ideas about what we could do;

Promote local food producers

Hold repair, re-use and repurpose workshops

Coordinating tool sharing

Coordinate bulk purchase of energy saving measures

Coordinating lift sharing

Monitoring biodiversity

Looking after the wildlife we have

Planting wildflowers

At the moment this is just an idea. If you would be interested in joining me to do something positive for the climate in our communities, please email me at clairesparkes@hotmail.co.uk



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Hapton School Safety Lights

Those of you living in Hapton would have noticed the new School Safety signs as you approach Hapton School from both directions. These were purchased using the Parish Partnership grant system and installed quite brilliantly by Westcotec. The Parish Council were fully aware of the issues and dangers that occur around Hapton school and the speeding issue so collaborated closely with the School to get this valuable resource installed via the Parish Partnership Scheme and we all think they look great and really aid the children to be kept safe by warning the drivers of the school ahead. The lights only work for a brief time when the school opens and closes and are solar powered.



To decorate

- 200g/7oz marzipan
- 1-2 tbsp apricot jam, warmed

For the royal icing

- 3 free-range egg whites
- 600g/1lb 5oz icing sugar, sieved
- 1½ tsp liquid glycerine - optional
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

Method

1. Heat the oven to 150C/130C Fan/Gas2. Grease a 20cm/8inch round or an 18cm/7inch square cake tin and line the bottom and sides with baking parchment.
2. Sieve the flour, salt, mixed spice and cinnamon into a bowl.
3. Cream the butter and the sugar in a large mixing bowl and then mix in the sugar, treacle, marmalade and vanilla essence until light and fluffy.
4. Mix the eggs a little at a time into the mixture adding a tablespoon of flour mixture with the last amount.
5. Fold in the remaining flour mixture until well mixed and then mix in the dried fruit, mixed peel, glace cherries and the almonds.
6. Turn the mixture into the prepared tin and make a slight hollow in the centre.
7. Bake in the oven for 3 hours and then test with a skewer. If not ready bake for up to another hour testing every 20 minutes until the skewer comes out clean. You may need to cover the top with a piece of foil if it begins to look too dark.
8. Remove from the oven and leave to cool in the tin for 15 minutes. Turn out on to a wire rack and leave to cool.
9. Once cool, make a few holes in the cake with a skewer and pour over 3-4 tbsp of brandy. Let the brandy soak into the cake. Store the cake wrapped in foil and in an airtight tin or plastic container, holes side up. For a rich and moist cake, spoon over a few tablespoons of brandy every week until you are ready to ice and decorate your cake.
10. To decorate the cake, place the cake on a foil board or cake plate. Dust your hands and the work surface with a little icing sugar and knead the marzipan until soft. Roll out half the marzipan to fit the top of the cake and roll out the rest in strips to fit around the sides of the cake.
11. Brush the cake all over with the warmed apricot jam and then place the marzipan on top and around the cake. Cover the cake with a clean tea towel and then leave in a cool place to dry for at least one day.
12. To make the icing, lightly whisk the egg whites adding the sugar at intervals. Beat well until the icing reaches soft peaks. Add the glycerine if using and the lemon juice. Spread icing all over cake either flat iced using a clean ruler or by forming soft peaks. Decorate with Christmas ornaments.

MY NANS CHRISTMAS CAKE RECIPE



Ingredients

- 225g/8oz plain flour
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ tsp mixed spice
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 200g/7oz butter
- 200g/7oz dark brown sugar
- 2 tbsp black treacle
- 1 tbsp marmalade
- ¼ tsp vanilla essence
- 4 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
- 800g/1¾lb mixed dried fruits
- 100g/3½oz mixed candied peel
- 150g/5oz glacé cherries, halved
- 100g/3½oz blanched almonds, chopped
- brandy



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Everyone at Borderhoppa would like to wish all of our passengers and supporters a very merry Christmas.

We have lots of great outings booked for 2022, pub lunches, trips to garden centres, the seaside and much more. Our 2022 outings leaflet will be available from early December.

If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01379 854800 or email admin@borderhoppa@btconnect.com.

We look forward to seeing you in 2022!



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CHURCH NEWS

Tharston St Marys Church Services

Tharston St Marys Carols by Candlelight also with refreshments at 7.00 on December 17th. We welcome everyone to this annual event and hope that its as joyful as it should be and that you sing and enjoy a wonderful evening

The Parish Council are also pleased to say we are still wanting to support the church with providing compostable toilets on the old Village Hall land and are still awaiting a reply from the Diocese and the residents that live close and it is hoped this will happen to allow us to do this in the early Part of 2022. If there is any other ideas that Tharston residents have for the land please contact The Clerk via email on tharstonandhapton@gmail.com All ideas will be considered.

Hapton St Margaret Church News

The Christmas Carol service Hapton St Margaret Church will take place on the 18th of December at 3pm, all welcome.

Refreshments to be served afterwards.

Please check www.achurchnearyou.com website nearer the time for any changes due to new covid regulations.

Please note current advice is that masks should be worn at church, especially when singing

Hapton Meadow Play Area Pictures

As you will have noticed our new play area is in place and ready for all the children to enjoy. This was brilliantly installed by Vale Sport and leisure and we thank them for such an amazing job. The next couple of pages we are showing you the photos of the equipment provided and we urge everyone to pop over and see the play area and enjoy it.

