

The Gill

Welcome to the January 2014 Edition of the
Newsletter brought to you by Hethersgill Parish Council.

BROADBAND PUBLIC MEETING

In 2015 the Connecting Cumbria project will be upgrading the phone systems in this area to facilitate the delivery of Superfast Broadband. Due to the distributed nature of the Hethersgill Parish not all households will get Superfast Broadband (speeds of 24MB or greater). However all households in Hethersgill Parish will get at least broadband speeds of at least 2MB by the end of 2015.

If you have 2MB you can stream programmes, for example, watch programmes on BBC iPlayer. However if you have Superfast Broadband the level of service you receive will not degrade if several users in your household are using the Internet at the same time and you will have access to new services, for example, tele-care. Anecdotal evidence suggests that buyers will opt for a house with Superfast Broadband rather than be left digitally isolated with poor broadband service.

As a parish we can help increase the number of households that will receive Superfast Broadband:

- ♦ if we can identify businesses within the parish there are special grants available to supply these businesses with Superfast Broadband. And your neighbours (within 1km) will benefit too.

- ♦ if clusters of households all want Superfast Broadband then the faster service could be made available to these clusters
- ♦ if landowners in the parish let cables be put across their land without the need for way leave payments.

Come to a meeting on the 21st January 2014 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall

- ♦ to find out the speed of broadband that you can expect in 2015.
- ♦ to tell us about your business
- ♦ to express your interest in getting Superfast Broadband
- ♦ to tell us if you own land across which cables could be laid.

PRECEPT

At the November Parish Council meeting, it was agreed to increase the precept by just over 7.5 percent. This is equivalent to £500 over the whole parish for the year. Costs as ever continue to increase and the Council has recently lost thirty percent of one stream of its funding and the recycling payments we used to receive have also now been abolished. This small increase will help us continue to balance our finances whilst support our community groups and facilities and meeting our many necessary costs.



SNOW CHAMPIONS AND WINTER GRITTING

You will all have received in the post a very useful leaflet from Cumbria County Council detailing their winter driving advice. The leaflet included lots of useful information about the routes that will be gritted as a priority this winter— you can keep up to date with the roads that are gritted at Cumbria.gov.uk/winter or follow them on [twitter](#) at @CumbriaCC. The leaflet also detailed the work of Snow Champions. These are volunteers who help clear snow and ice from footways and pavements near their homes. Volunteers

are given equipment such as high visibility vests, gloves, a shovel and a supply of salt to allow them to treat agreed lengths of footways. If you would like to volunteer to be a **Snow Champion** to help keep local footways safe for others then please contact Cumbria County Council on 0845 6096609 or visit Cumbria.gov.uk/winter.

COUNTING THE BIRDS THAT ARE COUNTING ON YOU

It will be all eyes to the skies on Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th January 2014, as the nation takes part in the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch. The activity is the biggest garden wildlife survey in the world and last year almost 600,000 people counted the birds in their garden.

Big Garden Birdwatch, which has been running for 35 years, provides the RSPB with masses of information about changes in numbers of garden birds in winter, and helps to alert conservationists to significant declines in UK garden species such as house sparrows and starlings. And this year, for the first time, we need you to log some of the other wildlife you see in your garden too.

We want to know whether you ever see deer, squirrels, badgers, hedgehogs, frogs and toads in your gardens, to help build an overall picture of how important our gardens are for giving all types of wildlife a home.

Doing the Big Garden Birdwatch is fun and easy, and you don't even need to leave the comfort of your own home. To take part, spend just one hour at any time over the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend noting the highest number of each species seen in your garden or local outside space at any one time. You then simply submit your results to the RSPB, either online at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch or in the post.

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION

Time is still available to have your say on the County Council's budget proposals for 2014/15. Go to www.cumbria.gov.uk/ourfuture before 20th January to submit your views.

PARISH HALL CAR PARK

At the time of writing we are still waiting for the tarmac to be laid on the Parish Hall car park. This will hopefully be done imminently.

RECYCLING CARDBOARD

Please do remember when recycling your cardboard boxes to squash them first. Many people are simply putting their boxes in whole which is filling the bin very quickly—by simply squashing them down we can fit much more waste in. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter. The telephone number for the recycling department is listed on the back page in case you do arrive to find full bins. In early 2014 we expect that we will be getting a bigger tin can bin and a bigger green glass bin too.

SAND HOLE COMMON LAND

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the nature project at the Sand Hole Common Land—please contact us if you are interested in lending a hand.

Judy Prest represents our Parish at Carlisle City Council. If you have a City Council related issue which you wish to raise she can be contacted at: **016977 41319** or **JudyP@carlisle.gov.uk**

John Mallinson is your local County Councillor. If you have a County Council related issue which you wish to raise he can be contacted at:

01228 533746 or **john.mallinson@cumbria.gov.uk**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The dates for our Parish Council meetings in 2014 are set to take place as follows:

Tuesday 14 January 2014

Tuesday 11 March 2014

**Tuesday 6 May 2014 (preceded by Annual Parish Meeting for
all electors at 7pm)**

Tuesday 8 July 2014

Tuesday 9 September 2014

Tuesday 11 November 2014

We sometimes need to change the date due to unforeseen circumstances but we always post the official notice of the meeting date on the noticeboard three clear working days in advance. Additional meetings are also called when necessary for urgent business, such as planning applications.



YOUR ADVERT COULD APPEAR HERE!

If you would like to advertise in the Gill please contact Sarah on 016977 2769 for further information. We post directly to every household in the parish of Hethersgill so could make the perfect advertising medium to promote your business or event.

PLEASE HELP YOUR NATIVE REDS AND SAVE THEM FROM EXTINCTION

The Red Squirrel is the UK's only native squirrel and needs your help now to prevent them from becoming locally extinct. They are under constant threat from the grey squirrel, an introduction from North America that out-compete them for food and carry the awful Squirrel Pox Virus Disease (SQPVD) that they are immune to, but when passed on to a red squirrel causes their very sad painful death, usually within 15 days from onset. At the moment the only way to save your reds is to control the increasing numbers of grey squirrels in your area.

Brampton & District Red Squirrel Group is a non-funded group of volunteers working within your area to promote the preservation of the red squirrel population for the public benefit and protect these wonderful creatures from extinction but, **We need donations to help us;**

- Buy feeders & feed for monitoring reds
- Fund blood sampling for research into SQPVD
- Fund educational & promotional material
- Fund on-going awareness campaigns
- Buy traps & feed for grey squirrel control



If you would like to support the group, cheques should be made payable to Brampton & District Red Squirrel Group and sent to Julie Bailey, B&DRSG Volunteer Secretary at Woodside, Armathwaite, Cumbria, CA4 9SX. We also urgently need more volunteers, especially at ground level, to undertake trap control. If you are interested please contact us on **07968 576455** or by e-mail to j.bailey203@btinternet.com. *You can also help by reporting all sightings of squirrels (grey or red) to the above contacts.*

COUNCILLOR VACANCY/NEW COUNCILLOR

We were delighted to welcome Anthony Gash as a new Councillor at our November meeting. His contact details are on the back page along with all of our other councillors in case you need to get in touch.


HETHERSGILL SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The committee have been very busy. 83 children in fancy dress attended the Halloween party in the village hall which had been transformed into a themed party room. There were competitions for best fancy dress, best pumpkin & best Halloween picture as well as lots of other competitions & games followed by party food. The children loved wrapping an adult in toilet paper to make a "mummy"!!



74 people attended the Over 60's Supper & Social. They enjoyed a 3 course meal and were then entertained by Steven Stockell & Gordon who played various music hall numbers and told stories along the way.

Parish Councillors, your Clerk & Useful Contacts

Chair	Cllr H Kay	675910
Vice Chair	Cllr A Sisson	675378
	Cllr J Eaton	675136
	Cllr N Elliott	675336
	Cllr F Heaton	675516
	Cllr G Houston	675212
	Cllr M Kay	675910
	Cllr A Gash	675562
	Cllr A Oswin	675684
Clerk	Sarah Kyle Hill House, Walton, Brampton, CA8 2DY	016977 2769

REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION

Mobile Post Office

The van visits Hethersgill every Wednesday morning between 10.45am and 11.00 am.

Highways hotline

Report holes in the road, floods, fallen trees, broken signs, faulty street lights etc. to the hotline **0845 6096 609**



Recycling

If the bins are full ring **01228 817200**.

Comments about the Gill

We welcome comments about the newsletter or any topic - please contact:- Sarah at clerk@hethersgill-pc.org.uk