

## New stone wall marks the Station Road entrance to Helmdon

The end of January saw the unveiling of a stone wall at the top of Station Road. The structure consists of a pillar on one side of the road and a pillar and small wall on the other and was designed by Clare Nash, an architect who lives in the village, and who gave her time voluntarily. The majority of the stone used is Helmdon stone, kindly donated by Mike and Julia O'Brien. Patrick Gartside, a local builder with family connections in Helmdon, constructed the wall which commemorates the Queen's Jubilee of 2012.



*Patrick Gartside and Clare Nash*

It was funded both from reserves held by Helmdon Parish Council and from a grant from South Northants Council under the New Homes Bonus Scheme. HYHO has also pledged £200. The aim of the project is to enhance the environment at the village entrance and hopefully to deter drivers from dropping litter.

## SNC consults on the Local Plan

South Northamptonshire Council (SNC) has commenced the preparation of a Local Plan which will be the main land-use planning document for the district. It will guide the decision-making process for future planning applications across South Northamptonshire, including those in Helmdon. SNC consulted Helmdon Parish Council about the plan and the parish council responded using information and evidence gathered by the Helmdon Parish Plan Group (HPPG). The HPPG met twice before Christmas and once afterwards to review data gathered for the original Helmdon Parish Plan (2003/4) and for the Parish Plan Refresh (2011) as well as looking at feedback from residents submitted over Christmas (thanks to those people that responded!).

The parish council's response re-iterates Helmdon's reluctance to see any large-scale housing development in the village preferring instead steady growth through infill or small scale developments (e.g. up to 4 houses). A larger development which would support improved facilities in the village has not been completely ruled out at this stage but no suitable site seems to be available. For more information about the SNC Local Plan please see [www.southnorthants.gov.uk/1128.htm](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/1128.htm). Further consultation with the village during the summer of 2014 is likely and details will be published on the village web site at [www.helmdon.com/parishplan](http://www.helmdon.com/parishplan). If you would like to make any comments about the future growth of Helmdon, please contact the HPPG via [parishplan@helmdon.com](mailto:parishplan@helmdon.com).

## 2014 Women's Institute Programme

*All welcome to any meeting!*

February	Games and Hot Chocolate
March	Talk on Stowe Gardens
April	To be arranged
May	Voluntary County Organiser Anne Seckington
22nd May	Visit to Farthinghoe Nature Reserve
June	Balfour Ensemble
July	Garden Party @ Louise Stothard's
September	Craft evening with members' exhibition
October	AGM and Harvest Supper
November	Women of the Wild West
December	Christmas Party



4th Sunday of every month  
from 3:30pm at St Mary  
Magdalene Church, Helmdon

An afternoon of fun for the whole family: kids of all ages, Mums, Dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles and friends. A selection of fun craft activities for all ages. We will also be hearing a story, singing songs and sharing a buffet tea. Contact Reverend Carole on 01327 860798 or rectorastwellbenefice@aol.com

## Helmdon Bridge Players

Calling all thespians!

Auditions for the summer play will take place on March 4th (see village diary for venue). We warmly welcome new faces - come and join us!



## CKERS – Youth Club

CKERS is a youth club organised jointly with St Mary Magdalene Church and it continues to be very popular. We meet on a Sunday evening once a month, usually from 6:30pm. We cater for youngsters from school year 5 onwards and offer a wide variety of activities:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> March: Pizza making (in Reading Room)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March: Games at the Church
- 27<sup>th</sup> April: Climbing (venue TBA)
- 18<sup>th</sup> May: Games on the School Field
- 22<sup>nd</sup> June: Lazer Tag (venue TBA)
- 13<sup>th</sup> July: Games on the Sports Field

Most are still in the process of being booked so details will follow for each. Most sessions are £2, and thanks to HYHO we will be able subsidise the 'bigger' activities. If you'd like any more information about CKERS, please contact [andrew.hart@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.hart@btinternet.com)

## Church News from Rev. Carole Peters

Firstly I must thank you for helping to make my first Christmas with you so special. It was lovely to meet so many of you at one or more Christmas Service – and for those of you who were wondering – I did make it to all six churches on Christmas Day, but I managed to avoid the Vicar of Dibley Christmas lunches! Although the whole Christmas celebration with you was exceptional, top of my favourite memories has to be our Nativity in the Barn with those lovely donkeys and our llama “camels”. Thank you to everyone who came along and helped to make it such a wonderful occasion. It will be back next year with a sound system!

I am now looking forward to another first in the parishes – Easter. Spring is on its way – honest! - for our churches this marks the beginning of our journey towards Easter Sunday when we celebrate with great joy the Resurrection of our Lord (and hunt for Easter eggs in the churchyard!). Our next Church Newsletter (popping through your door this month) will have details of our Lent courses, special services and children's workshops and feel free to come along to any or all. Lent for the church has always been a time for reflection and, in times gone by, fasting. To give people a break from the 40 day fast, one Sunday was set aside when servants were allowed to go home to visit family, especially their Mothers. Mothering Sunday is still a chance to celebrate and to remember and give thanks for our Mums. So do come along and join in with us on Mothering Sunday.

Finally my prayers and blessing are sent out to everyone, do get in touch if there is anything I, or the church can do for you. If you would like me to pop in and see you or bring you Communion at home, do let me know and keep waving when you see the Beetle – it makes my day!

God Bless, Carole xx

## Helmdon Presents...

We are very lucky to have secured a performance of "Him With His Foot In His Mouth" at the Reading Room on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7:30pm. The excellent New Perspectives theatre company will be delighting us with this play by Saul Bellow and directed by Jack McNamara. <http://www.newperspectives.co.uk/?idno=1168&s=16> has more information. This heart-warming new production marks the first ever UK stage adaptation of a work by the great American writer Saul Bellow. Three times winner of the National Book Award and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Bellow is one of the forefathers of modern Jewish humour. Lasting 80 minutes, the play contains some strong language and is suitable for adults and children aged 14+. Tickets available from Viv on 760530 or Morag on 768922.

Our next film is showing on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February. "Paul" starring Simon Pegg and Nick Frost who play two sci-fi geeks on a pilgrimage to America's UFO heartland. Come along and check it out – 7:45pm in the Reading Room.

## Report from the Blackpits Monitoring and Liaison Group

Occasionally Helmdon residents may have noticed an unpleasant smell appearing to come from the Blackpits Recycling Centre. This tends to linger at the Helmdon crossroads but can spread down into the village and beyond. In 2007 "The Blackpits Liaison & Monitoring Group" was formed. The group last met on 16th January 2014 when David Powell was re-appointed as its chairman. Peter Burns and John Coatsworth attend as representatives of the Parish Council. The Group continues to work closely with the Parish Council, reporting back to it as necessary. The Monitoring Group will shortly visit the Blackpits site to meet representatives of Material Change Ltd, Dial-a-Bin and the Silage storage operation, the three separate businesses which occupy the site. The purpose of the visit is to obtain an update on the processes carried out on the site, and on any future plans after which the Monitoring Group will produce a further update for residents.

In the event of residents being affected by an unpleasant smell from the site they should contact in the first instance David Powell on davidrpowell1@yahoo.co.uk and copy in Liz Hart, Parish Clerk, at parishcouncil@helmdon.com . Ed Bastow ,Manager of Material Change Ltd may also be contacted on 07825 382638 or at ed@material-change.com. Ed has been quick to respond to complaints in the past, and has been able to stop operations when they are causing a problem. It should be stressed, however, that Material Change Ltd is not in charge of the whole site. Indeed it appears that there is no one manager with sole responsibility for the site, an issue that the Liaison Group will be raising with South Northants Council.

It is hoped that village residents will once again be able to collect free compost from the site later this spring; watch out for details on [www.helmdon.com](http://www.helmdon.com) nearer the time.

**HYHO Summer Ball  
– Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July**



*A night to  
remember:  
Helmdon  
Summer  
Ball 2012*

HYHO are pleased to announce that this year's summer ball will be held on Saturday 12th July. More details will follow, but save the date in your diary so you don't miss this ever-popular event.

## Parish Council Contacts

Peter Burns – Chairman	Tel: 768271
Sarah Adhemar	Tel: 760853
Mike Barnes	Tel: 760444
John Coatsworth	Tel: 760675
Paul Duncombe	Tel: 768231
Bill England*	Tel: 760744
Danny Moody	Tel: 768150
Gemma Simpson	Tel: 01327 860708
Eddie Garner	Tel: 768986
Parish Clerk - Liz Hart	Tel: 760130

[parishcouncil@helmdon.com](mailto:parishcouncil@helmdon.com)

*\* Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, ACRE Bulk Oil Buying Scheme Co-ordinator and Village Correspondent for local media.*

### Diary Dates:

Wed. 26<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm: Council Meeting  
Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> April 7:30pm: Parish Meeting

## Helmdon Acorns Pre-School

Helmdon Acorns Pre-School has secured a grant to allow its supervisor Anne Somerton to complete a Level 3 qualification as a Forest School Leader; this means that the children will be able to enjoy a wider range of outdoor activities in the wildlife area at the rear of the Pre-School. Examples might include shelter building, fire pits, foraging, and tree rubbing.



## Helmdon School Field Project



Helmdon Primary School was delighted to learn recently that its school field project has been awarded a grant from the London Marathon Charitable Trust of £61,800. The first step is to properly drain the field this spring to allow it to be used much more frequently than presently when it often becomes waterlogged (see photo!). This will be followed by creating an extension to the main tarmac play area enabling the provision of a tennis court. Applications will be submitted shortly for the remainder of the funding required.

## Parish Council News

The Parish Council set its precept for 2014-15 at £14,660 to be levied on the parish, an increase of £997 on 2013 to allow some replenishment of reserves used previously (£3,800 was donated to HSGWAG towards costs of the planning expert at the Planning Inquiry). £1,250 has been put aside for grants to village organisations as in previous years. The Parish Council will repair the village benches and fund the purchase of a new tree and fence surround to replace the horse chestnut tree on Station Road once the soil is free from disease. The Parish Council continues to put pressure on Anglian Water to carry out works to reduce flooding risks and urges landowners to ensure that ditches are cleared.

**Snow  
Clearers  
Wanted!**

Forming organised snow clearance teams to clear paths and roads in the village would enable a speedy return to normality after heavy snowfall. Contrary to popular myth, there is no law stopping you from taking action to clear your local pavements and pathways, providing that you take a careful, common sense approach. If you would like to help, contact Liz Hart, Parish Clerk.