



June 2020

# Hex-press *Lite*

A NEWSLETTER FOR HEXHAM



**Hexham Community Together**

As you can see this is not our usual edition of Hex-press, but strange times call for strange measures!

Despite lockdown, both Hexham Community Partnership and Hexham Town Council have been hard at work behind the scenes. Working with other local organisations including Adapt, Northumberland County Council and Hexham Youth Initiative, we formed Hexham Community Together (HCT). This collaboration brings together local organisations to coordinate assistance for vulnerable and shielded residents in Hexham during this difficult time. Hexham Community Together has responded to requests for help with shopping, prescriptions and a myriad of other needs and could not have done so without the assistance of the many brilliant volunteers who gave up their time to help us, thank you.

Cllr Cath Homer, cabinet member for Community and Voluntary Sector support at Northumberland County Council, said: "One of the many reasons why Hexham is a great place to live, is the fantastic community spirit. Thank you to all our volunteers for making that positive difference."

[www.hexhamtogether.co.uk](http://www.hexhamtogether.co.uk)

## Hexham Events

Sadly, all events in Hexham have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Our Spring Festival, Tynedale Film Festival, Hexham Book Festival, Hexham Regatta, VE Day celebrations, Armed Forces Day, Hexham Community Showcase, Hexham Carnival, the Abbey Festival and many more events had to be cancelled or postponed.

However, the good news is that some of Hexham's events have moved online. Hexham Hidden Gardens will take place online in July, as will Heritage Open Days in September. Keep an eye on [www.visithexham.net](http://www.visithexham.net) and the Visit Hexham Facebook page for further information.

[www.facebook.com/visithexham](https://www.facebook.com/visithexham)



Photo: Keith Donaghey

If you are a Hexham resident needing assistance and you CANNOT obtain this from, for example, family, friends, or neighbours, please contact 01434 600599 (select option 1) or email: [lizp@adapt-tyndale.org.uk](mailto:lizp@adapt-tyndale.org.uk)

## Community Partnership Staff

To comply with government advice on reducing the risk of spreading Covid-19, services at No 28 Community Project have temporarily ceased. We aim to re-open as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Partnership office is also closed. Three members of staff are currently furloughed and one member is working three days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from home. We look forward to working together and to seeing you all again very soon.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the new Rector of Hexham, David Glover who was instituted by videoconferencing on 14th May 2020. It's safe to say that was Hexham Abbey's first Zoom institution in its 1,346-year history!



Photo: Lowri Potts

## Hexham Space for Nature

One positive to come out of lockdown is the re-emergence of the wild things. From badgers to buttercups, nature is gently making a comeback in our urban spaces. Hexham is no exception with a burst of beautiful buttercups and speedwell in the Sele.

This is due in no small part to the work of Hexham Space for Nature (HS4N) whose work with Northumberland County Council and Hexham Town Council has meant that parts of the Sele are no longer mown, allowing a wildflower meadow to flourish. Volunteers of HS4N have also been planting and there are plans to do more.

Their work can be seen opposite the cemetery too with a newly seeded meadow with yellow rattle seedlings now poking their heads up throughout the area.

The Council will now leave the grass and wildflowers to grow until at least mid-July, and HS4N will start the annual cycle of cutting and removing hay. The hay removal is an important part of the process, reducing the nutrients going back to the soil and, just like the yellow rattle, reducing the growth of the existing grasses.

Look out for a call for volunteers in July to pull the ragwort from the meadow in advance of the hay cut.

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## News from the Town Council

Hexham Town Council is meeting by videoconference on a regular basis with residents able to join its meetings and pose questions. The office is closed with staff working from home and providing a level of service as close as possible to normal. The Council's Planning and Infrastructure Committee meets regularly online to consider new planning applications made to the county council. The cemetery is open as are allotments but play areas are closed in line with government guidance. Our website [www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk) contains the latest news and information which is also communicated on the council's Facebook page. Planned events have had to be cancelled or postponed. The town-wide referendum on the Hexham Neighbourhood Plan due to have taken place on 23 April has had to be postponed until 2021 in line with government guidance on elections and referendums.

At the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on 11 May Cllr Robert Hull was elected as Chair of the Council and Mayor for 2020-2021 with Cllr Stephen Ball as his Deputy. At the meeting Cllr Hull presented his annual Town Report which is available on the Council's website. He stressed the important achievements of the last 12 months but noted that Hexham now faced an uncertain future until the consequences of the pandemic become clearer. The Town Council will be working closely with the County Council to develop a recovery plan to ensure Hexham remains a safe, adaptable and vibrant town with strong expectations for the future.

The Town Council is interested to hear residents' views on what the town's response post-Covid-19 should be. Comments should be forwarded to [clerk@hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hexhamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

HexPress is published by Hexham Community Partnership and Hexham Town Council.

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