



THE PRATTLER

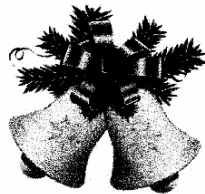
The Heyford Village Newspaper

December 2019 / January 2020

Issue No. 429

THE Heyford SINGERS

Come and join us for



Carols on the Green

*Sing In Christmas!
Friday December 20th*

At 6.30pm

*Nether Heyford Village Green
in front of the Village Hall
Or inside if wet*



All profits from a Bucket Collection will go to
Nether Heyford Church Roof Fund

The Prattler

The Prattler is run by an active voluntary committee comprising of Sue Boutle, Christine Watts, Vicki Hamblin, Jez Wilson, Nick Essex, Richard Musson and Mary Rice. If you would like to submit articles or have any suggestions for future issues, please get in touch.

The Newspaper is supported by donations from the Parish Council, the Parish Church, the Baptist Church, Heyford W.I., Heyford Garden Club, Heyford Singers, the Bowls Club, the Village Hall and Heyford Picturedrome as well as the advertisers.

Thanks are also due to the volunteers who distribute it every month.

Please note that this issue covers December and January. The next issue will be available on 1 February 2020.

In the meantime, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Regular Events

Monday: Crafty Club 12:30 - 2:30 (VH), Men's Tennis 7pm (TC), Youth Club 5:30-7pm (YC), Scouts 7:30-9:15 (CR)

Tuesday: Beavers 6:15-7:15 (CR), Cubs 7:30-8:45 (CR), Amblers 10:30 (Green), Patchwork Club 10-12:45, 1:15-4pm (VH)

Wednesday: Indoor Bowls 1:50 & 7pm (VH), Viv's Yoga 9:30-10:45am (VH), Tennis Club 7pm (TC), HFC Training 6:30 (PF)

Thursday: Mario's Pizza 5:30pm (Foresters) Heyford Singers 7:15 (VH) or Fridays

Friday: Ladies Tennis 10am (TC), Café on the Green 1-5pm (BSR), Mario's Pizza 5:30 (Foresters)

Saturday: Chip Van 12:30-1:30pm (Close Road)



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The November 4th meeting was held as normal in the Baptist Church Rooms.

Like all Council meetings it was open to the public.

Flooding: We have been subject to heavy rain again, and the village has largely escaped the problems it has caused elsewhere in the County, and other parts of the Country. The lane between the Heyfords had to be closed for a time, and while that is inconvenient it is better to have the water there than elsewhere in the village.

Public Participation: Jo Dixon informed Council that the Tennis Club was fundraising towards a target, and had been applying to Sport England for funding, but that they wanted to deal with the owners of the land, so she asked Council whether they would accept contact from Sport England.

Mrs Reeves felt that Council should thank Mr Arnold for all his efforts on behalf of the village in regard to flood alleviation. The Chair thanked Mr Arnold on behalf of the Parish Council. Mr Arnold said that a great deal of work had been done, and that it had helped improve the situation regarding flooding.

Reports: Roads and pavements. The sign on Hillside road by the Green had been knocked over. Clerk to follow up regarding the signs that need painting.

The Green and Play Area: It was felt that the hedge on the Memorial Green should either be replanted or removed as it was in poor condition. Decision deferred to the next meeting.

It was resolved to allow the Heyford Singers to hold "Carols on the Green" on the Green in December, and resolved to give a grant towards expenses to the Heyford singers.

The Fair was supposed to be coming in September but had not done because of poor weather.

Playing Fields: It was resolved that Council to approach Sport England on behalf of the Tennis Club, and to accept funding.

Trees: The hedge in the jitty between the Memorial Green and Church Street was in need of attention. It would be checked to see who owns it.

Allotments: A report on expenditure was given and additional funding requested in next years precept. Mr Thorneycroft had asked for assurances that schoolchildren would be allowed to enter the new playing field through the allotments and was

concerned that a gate had been chained and padlocked. It was not clear who had done this. The hedge between the water pumping station and the allotments was in need of attention.

Canal: It was reported that volunteers were doing many minor jobs.

Youth Club: to seek Quotes for external lighting so children could stay outside longer.

Defibrillators: In good order.

Neighbourhood Plan: A report on expenditure was given and a request for additional funding made to cover work on site assessment. Any money left over would be returned.

The Housing Needs survey would be distributed shortly, with a return date of 29th November. Part 1 would be filled in by all, Part 2 would be for those who intended to move or downsize in the next 5 years.

Precept Meeting: will take place on November 28th and set the budget for the next financial year. Village organisations wishing to apply for funding must apply by November 25th at the latest.

Reporting Highway and Footpath Issues: The Clerk will report issues that Council is made aware of, but the Council would encourage residents to use the Fixmystreet service to report issues themselves as there will then be no time lag and first-hand reports are almost always better than 2nd or 3rd hand reports. The service can be found here

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

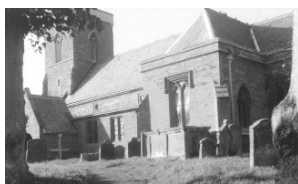
It is easy to use; you can have your own account and can check up on any issues you have reported.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Guy Ravine, c/o Old Dairy Farm, Upper Stowe, Weedon. Northampton. NN7 4SF.

Tel: 07935 931787. E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
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Our Churches

Parish Church of

St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for December 2019

Sunday 1 st	08:00 am	Prayer Book Holy Communion at Flore
	09:30 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United All Age Service at Flore Church
	06:00 pm	Holy Communion at Heyford
Sunday 8 th	10:00 am	Benefice/Partnership Holy Communion and Gift Service at Flore Church
	04:00 pm	4@Flore at the Millennium Hall in Flore
Sunday 15 th	09:30 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	02:30 pm	Christingle Service at Upper Stowe
	04:00 pm	Youth Church at Flore Church
	07:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight at Flore Chapel
Monday 16 th	10:30 am	Benefice Prayer Meeting at Heyford Church
Saturday 21 st	02:30 PM	Messy Church at Flore Church
Sunday 22 nd	09:30 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	03:00 pm	Nine Lessons and Carols at Upper Stowe
	06:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight at Heyford Church
Tuesday 24 th	06:00 pm	Village Carol Service at Flore
Christmas Eve	08:30 pm	"Midnight" Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:30 pm	Midnight Holy Communion at Heyford
Wednesday 25 th	09:30 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Flore Church
Christmas Day	10:00 am	Family Service at Heyford
	11:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	11:00 am	United Service at Flore URC
	11:15 am	Holy Communion at Brockhall
Sunday 30 th	11:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Heyford Church

Midweek Communions are held weekly on Wednesdays, 9.30am at Heyford and Thursdays, 10am at Flore, all welcome. (Not Wednesday 25th or Thursday 26th December)

Prayer During December we shall be praying for people living in Winston Close, Roberts Field and Ridgeway Furlong in Heyford, Nether Lane and Thornton Close in Flore, The Green in Church Stowe and The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage in Brockhall.

Services for January 2020

Sunday 5 th	08:00 am	Said BCP Holy Communion at Flore Church
	09:30 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday All Age Service at Flore Church
	06:00 pm	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Sunday 12 th	10:00 am	Benefice/Partnership Covenant Service with short Holy Communion at Flore Church
	04:00 pm	4@Flore at the Millennium Hall in Flore
Saturday 18 th	02:30 pm	Messy Church at Flore Church
Sunday 19 th	09:30 am	Holy Communion at Heyford
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	11:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	04:00 pm	Youth Church at Flore Church
Monday 20 th	10:30 am	Benefice Prayer Meeting at Flore Church
Sunday 26 th	09:30 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	11:00 am	Informal Worship at Heyford
	06:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe

Midweek Communions are held weekly on Wednesdays, 9.30am at Heyford and Thursdays, 10am at Flore, – all are welcome (Not Wednesday 1st January)

Prayer During January we shall be praying for people living in Church Lane and Weedon Rd in Heyford, Spring Lane and Russell Rise in Flore, Francis Row in Upper Stowe and the Stables and Coach House in Brockhall.

During November we shall be praying for people living in Church Street and Manor Walk in Heyford, Kings Lane and The Orchard in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Apartments in Brockhall Hall

Dear friends.

This year, Advent Sunday falls on December 1st, marking the beginning of a new Church Year. Unsurprisingly, Advent Sunday also marks the beginning of the season of Advent itself, a period of expectation and preparation as Christians everywhere prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and look forward to his future return. Advent is a period of watchful waiting for the joy of Christmas.

But these days, we're not very good at waiting. We live in an age of instant gratification and next-day delivery. Waiting is hard. So we fill Advent with activities to make the time go quicker, and anticipate the excitement to come; Christmas shopping, wrapping presents, decorating the Christmas Tree, writing Christmas cards, and so on. And we have special calendars to help us countdown the days and weeks to the big day. In church we light candles on the Advent wreath to mark the four Sundays before Christmas, to remind us that with the birth of Jesus, hope, peace, love and joy have come into the world.

And, of course, we have Advent Calendars to mark the days leading up to Christmas Day. As a child, I remember we had a glittery Advent Calendar, with a snowy stable scene on it. Behind each window there was a little picture of a character, animal or item associated with the nativity story, and on Christmas Eve, a large window depicting the full nativity scene; parents, shepherds and wise men gathered around the child in the manger. When Christmas was over, the windows were closed again, and the Advent Calendar put away for the following year. These days, there are a multitude of Advent Calendars, many of them filled with little chocolate treats, whilst more 'grown up' versions offer different teas, gins, cosmetics and so on, for each day of the season. However, visiting Flore Primary School recently, I glanced at the 'Families Northants Magazine', which suggested something radically different - an Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar, which invited children and their families to do a small act of kindness on each day of December, such as greeting everyone with a smile, helping to cook a meal, donating tins and packets to a food bank, and so on. Isn't that a wonderful, selfless idea! Perhaps we can all give it a try!

So as we watch and wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, I pray that we might all be inspired to know and share the hope, peace, love and joy of the season, during Advent, Christmas, and on into the year ahead.

With prayers and best wishes for Advent, Christmas and the New Year,

Stephen (Tel: 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Morning Services: 10:30 am

Afternoon Services: 4:00 pm

Sunday Services

December	10:30 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
1 st	Worship led by Trevor Boys	
8 th	Christmas gift service led by Martin Buckby	Carols by Candlelight led by Martin Buckby (including Tea & mince pies)
15 th	Lessons and Carols led by Les Britten followed by coffee.	
22 nd	Christmas Carol service led by Les Britten	
25 th	Christmas Day family service led by Les Britten	
29 th	Christmas communion service led by Clive Leakey	

Events

December 4th 2 pm Wednesday group Christmas meeting with readings, poems and carols. (Wrapped Christmas presents exchanged.)

December 9th 2-3pm Prayer and bible study meeting

December 19th 10am to 12md Community Coffee Morning – come for a free drink and chat. (Books and Sales table)

ALL WELCOME



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Morning Services: 10:30 am

Afternoon Services: 4:00 pm

January	10:30 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
5 th	Worship led by John Perkins	
12 th	Worship led by Eleanor McMahon	Songs of Praise led by Martin Buckby (including Tea and cakes)
19 th	Worship led by Rev'd Colin Pye, from the Central Baptist Association followed by coffee.	
26 th	9.30am Prayer meeting followed at 10.30am by our communion service led by Martin Buckby	

Events

January 1st No Wednesday group this month.

January 13th 2-3pm Prayer and bible study meeting

January 23rd 10am to 12md Community Coffee morning – come for a free drink and chat. (Books and Sales table)

ALL WELCOME

HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB CHRISTMAS QUIZ

SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER

HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

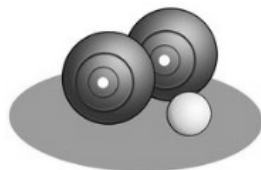
START 7:30pm

£5 PER PERSON (TEAMS OF 8 MAX)

**PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM
&
BEST DECORATED TABLE/HATS**

**BRING YOUR OWN TIPPLE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**Contact Shirley/Mick 01327 342287
Email: shirleybcollins@hotmail.co.uk**





Heyford Scout Group

Christmas Card

Postal Service

Door step collection and delivery service

Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th December

7pm to 9pm

Still only 20p per card

Scouts 





Collection Monday 9th December

Weedon Road
Bliss Close
Church Street
Church Lane
The Green
The Pound
Bugbrooke Road
Wakefield Way
Watery Lane
Brookside Place
Middle Street
Parsons Close
Manor Park
Manor Walk



Collection Wednesday 11th December

Winston Close
Furnace Lane
Roberts Field
Ridgeway Furlong
Hillside Road
Rolfe Crescent
Western Avenue
Close Road
South View
Hillside Crescent
The Peak

Village Hall News

Pantomime : Sunday 29th December at 2pm.

Our 'Dick Whittington' posters are now all distributed around the village (on a telegraph post near you) and our remaining tickets are going fast. They are £9 for adults and £3 for children under 11, and can be purchased from Richard on 01327 341044.

Christmas Decorations

By the time you read this, our village hall will be sporting its Christmas decorations, with thanks to our team of helpers.

Carols on the Green

This is a new venture by one of our regular user groups, the Heyford Singers, and will take place on the Village Green on Friday 20th December at 6.30pm. Full details are given elsewhere in this issue. However, knowing what the December weather might be like (remember the Fete in June?) we are on standby in case of: 'If wet, in village hall'.

Website

This time last year we appealed for someone to help us restore our village hall website after it had been hacked. Thanks to Jez Wilson who volunteered to do this, our new website has now been in use for several months, attracting around 20 new hits each week and helping to generate additional bookings. So thanks again, Jez.

Main Hall Flooring

For many years the wooden flooring has been cared for with regular cleaning and polishing. Unfortunately, in recent years the floor has suffered some water damage, so it now needs a complete restoration. A specialist company will undertake the work, hopefully immediately before Christmas, during which time access to the main hall will be restricted until the new coating has dried out completely. Please check the website for the dates (www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org).

Heating

Recently the radiators along the back wall of the hall have not been working adequately (or at all, at times), caused by some problems with the boiler in the storeroom. The cause has been identified but will require a lot of work to fix. Meanwhile, there is now a notice next to the boiler telling hirers how to deal with the problems.

Additional Storage

We have been awarded a grant from the Northants Community Foundation to fund a new external storage facility, which will release more internal storage space for our many regular user groups. This will probably be a self-build steel building which will be delivered as a 'flat pack'. So many hours of Ikea-type fun lie ahead for our volunteers.

Alwyne Wilson

Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings,
Parties, Weddings, Business
Meetings etc. Modern facilities.
Disabled access friendly

Bookings: nhvhbookings@gmail.com
Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org
Phone: 07849 356 618

NETHER HEYFORD

OFSTED No. EY450747

CHARITY No. 1029571

Pre-School

Ages 2-5 years

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

Highly qualified and experienced staff

Excellent links with Bliss School

Fantastic village location

Use of numerous outdoor facilities
including:

- Bliss Schools' Outdoor Classroom
- Forest School activities
- 'Rising 5' sessions for those starting school in September
- Childcare vouchers accepted



Before & After School Club

Wrap around are available for
children aged up to 11 years old

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

'Walking Bus' to and from Bliss School
provided if required

Transition sessions available for Bliss
School reception class.

**Drop in and see us at
The Church Rooms, Church Lane,
Nether Heyford or call on
07984 055 828**

**info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk
www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk**

View from the Wildlife Patch

Right now much of the ground on the patch is cold and very wet. The difference between the ground that has been cleared, sown or made ready to sow and that still covered in old standing grass is very clear. The latter is still relatively sheltered with a few dry places even after all of the rain we have had. There is evidence of runs made by mice and voles in this whilst the bare earth is cold, wet and exposed to all elements. It is very clear that untouched grassland is much more conducive to the bio diversity that we desire than that managed by other means.

One of the things that I noticed, at ground level in the long grass was the presence of small pieces of “bitten off” green leaf seemingly placed around the aforementioned runs. This is often evidence of Wood mouse activity. Previously named “Field mice”, these are large (for mice), brown, with whitish tummies and bulging, black eyes that look about to fall out. If you grab one by the tail it will shed the skin of the tail to get away and you will be left with just a mouse tail skin in your hand. They are relatively numerous, you will almost certainly have come across a Wood mouse at sometime.

As far as is known they are the only British mammals that place “markers” to help to find their way round. The pieces of leaf are some of these “markers”. They do use other material but green leaves are the most noticeable. In autumn a family of two parents with 4 or 5 young will live in a nest which is usually a burrow but may be anywhere warm and dry. They line the nest with dry grass etc and build up a store of grain, nuts, berries etc to keep them through the winter. My Wife has a family in her greenhouse right now that has stored an incredible amount of chestnuts. Unlike House Mice they never breed in the winter but all snuggle up as a family throughout the cold weather whilst using up their store. In Springtime parents stay together whilst the young find mates of their own. They then feed on young buds and invertebrates such as Caterpillars, Worms, Beetles etc. and start to breed again. In Spring and Summer months the broods are larger with 7 young not unusual. Populations are kept down due to a high level of predation.

As a young man I spent many winter months ploughing with tractors much smaller and slower than today's tractors. There was usually a Kestrel or two watching the plough from a comfortable perch. There were also Carrion Crows doing the same. I often ploughed up Wood mouse families that were over wintering as described. Often alive but exposed they would run like mad to find shelter. The Kestrel would come down to pick one up, then take it to its perch to consume at leisure. A Crow would fly down. Then hop from one mouse to another, despatching each mouse with its huge bill. It would then pick them all up in one “beakfull” and fly off to eat them on the edge of the field. There must be lesson there somewhere.

Merry Christmas

Dave Musson



Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

At our November meeting we had the pleasure of a return visit from Caroline Tait formerly of Coton Manor, who has spent a year in Philadelphia in some magnificent gardens on a Horticultural Fellowship. Caroline's account was fascinating despite the technological gremlins that tried to sabotage her pictures.

Our December meeting will be on the 14th and will feature a talk on snowdrops, to anticipate the spring, and there will be a competition for a Christmas display. The meeting will start at 8:00 pm as usual.

Disasters and triumphs

This year my leek plants grew particularly well, and knowing that they can be attacked by leek miner (which is a species of fly) I kept them covered with fine mesh netting all summer. I took this off in September, but when I pulled the first leek a few weeks later I found it full of little maggots. At this point I did what I should have done much earlier and checked the RHS website where I discovered that the fly is active in October and November. The net went back on. So far it seems the damage has been limited. Moral: know your enemy!

On a more encouraging note I had several areas where I had spread compost over vegetable beds without digging it in, mainly due to lack of energy. These areas turned out to be particularly productive despite the hot dry summer. This is a system I shall continue in future.

We tend to think of trees as being long lived organisms, but this year a white-berried rowan that I had grown from seed suddenly died after twenty years. This had happened to another rowan that we had some years before. Is this due to the rich living in Heyford? They seem to live much longer in the hills of the north and west where the soil is poor and conditions more exacting. I have noticed that the same seems to have happened to the hawthorns outside our house on the Green, which were healthy bushy trees when we arrived forty years ago, but which have dwindled sadly since.

Some Things to do in December and January

- 1 Keep ponds clear of ice.
- 2 Put out food for the wild birds
- 3 Buy and plant bare root trees and shrubs (if weather permits)
- 4 Sit indoors and decide what seeds to buy for the spring

Mark Newstead

Revitalising the allotments

Weather

As a nation we love to talk about the weather. It's too hot, too cold, too wet. And gardeners are even worse. However, for once it would seem as though something very odd really is going on with our weather and more particularly, our climate.

As I write this, the river is again overflowing its banks, the playing field resembles a lake and the allotments are getting soggy by the hour. The poor folk of Fishlake are trying to salvage possessions from their flooded homes and it is snowing in Gloucestershire. Just two months ago I dug down two spade depths and the ground was as dry as a bone. For two years now we have had a bumper crop of grapes, the fig tree is flourishing and we've just picked the last of our beefsteak tomatoes from the allotment. In the near future we are likely to reap both the benefits of a Mediterranean climate and its drawbacks (including a whole host of little beasties that do nasty things to our flora and fauna).

I guess if there is any lesson to be learnt from all this it is be ready for 'change' ... and plant more grapes!

Trees

The community orchard goes from strength to strength and the trees we planted just a year ago are looking in good health. Several of the orchard volunteers are about to embark on pruning workshops and they will then be wielding the saw and secateurs on the trees, creating an even better, well shaped orchard for the coming Spring.

I was fascinated to read an article in the Prattler some months ago about a local resident who had successfully grown trees from fruit stones and pips. It is a fascinating thing to do but does not necessarily result in producing good 'true' fruit.

All named fruit trees come about as result of something called 'grafting'. This is a process whereby a young branch from a good, productive tree is fixed onto a vigorous rootstock from the same genus i.e. apple branch to apple rootstock (you can't mix apple and pear or plum and cherry). The two cut pieces are spliced into each other and sealed with tape during February/March. Providing the two cut surfaces meet smoothly a 'graft' is achieved and the result is a tree with all the fruiting characteristics of the good, productive tree and all the vigour of the rootstock. Next time you see a fruit tree, particularly a youngish one, take a look at the trunk near the ground. You'll see a knobbly knuckle. That is the graft union. Earliest records suggest this practice has been going on for thousands of years, although it is likely that it first occurred by accident when two different trees simply rubbed against each other, wore down the bark and fused together.

Grafting isn't really complicated and if you have the right growing material, a sharp knife and little patience you can do it yourself. Whilst the bulk of the wonderful trees in our community orchard came from specialist grower Andy Howard, several have

been grafted by us. It is as cheap as chips to do ... £3 to £4 for a vigorous dwarfing rootstock and the rest is free or easily available in your shed or garage. Within a year you'll have a tree that is a metre tall!

Community Cut Flower Patch

Following on from the creation of the community orchard and jam patch, work has now started on the community flower patch. Digging was hard when it was dry and it is harder still now the ground is wet (I told you that gardeners obsess about the weather). However, the beds are starting to take shape. With the kind donation of paving slabs from our local Bowls Club we will be able to divide the beds so that flowers are easily accessible. The flowers we have on offer will be a mixture of annuals from seeds collected or donated, some perennials and both spring and summer bulbs. If you can help in any way by letting us have unwanted seed or plants you have lifted/divided, do let us know. We are keen to cover the soil; that is good for the environment and stops the weeds from having a nice bare patch to colonise.

Allotment Holders

It is so good to see that more plots on the allotments are being cultivated and that many of the new allotment holders represent the younger generation. Growing your own fruit and veg is for old and young alike and all are welcome. If you want to join us here are the usual telephone contacts: Sue Corner on 01327 342124 or Lynda Eales on 01327 341707. They'd love to hear from you.

Wildlife

Dave, Pauline, Mark and Mary, our wildlife enthusiasts, have written quite extensively in the past about the wildlife area they have created on the allotment and I have no doubt they will be keeping you all briefed about future developments. However, I must just mention the wonderful pond they are in the process of creating within this area. It is going to be a huge asset to the allotments as a whole, as good ponds encourage a host of beneficial wildlife. We look forward to our first batch of frogs, newts and toads.

Mike Langrish

"When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree"

Vietnamese Proverb

Dear Diary,

December 1949

I'm so excited. Christmas is nearly here. The chimney sweep's been so that Santa won't get his suit dirty. Mr. West, the coalman has delivered a sack of coal ready for a fire in the front room on Christmas Day, and I've asked mum if she can send Father Christmas a letter saying I would love a doll. I'll do it myself next year when I can write better. I'll hang my stocking in the fireplace though. I may get an orange, some nuts or coloured pencils.

I live in a Council house in Furnace Lane, on the left, with my mum and dad. My bedroom is at the back of the house and I can see right across the fields. I can see our long back garden with a little lawn for me and our dog, Sally, to play on and dad's vegetable patch at the bottom, and all the way down one side is a line for mum's washing on Mondays. I like Mondays because the copper in the kitchen where mum boils the washing, smells lovely and steams up all the windows.

After Christmas it'll be 1950 and I shall be starting school because I'm four now. I want to go to be with other children, because there's only me, but I don't want to leave mum on her own all day. Still, she has my grandparents, a sister and brother and lots of good neighbours in the village so she can always visit one of them. School starts when the bell rings at 9 o'clock. I shall walk down Furnace Lane, with mum of course, and cross the village green on the footpath that runs from the corner by the chapel straight across to the school. There's another one that goes opposite to the shops. If we took that one I might be tempted to jump the stream that runs along the side of Hillside Road. Still, I just remembered, the cows are on the green some days, chomping away at the grass so we might have to walk along The Tops. She said she'll fetch me home for dinner at 12 o'clock but I have to go again at 2 o'clock. I'll probably fall asleep in that time; it's so quiet while dad's at work. He'll be home when it gets dark for his dinner, then perhaps he'll have a game of snakes and ladders with me before I go to bed at 6 o'clock.

I've started Sunday school and we have been learning all about the baby Jesus and singing hymns. When dad fetches me home we go up Church Lane to see Mr. Potter's horse. It's a big horse and it pulls the milk cart round the village so that we all have fresh milk delivered to our door. The lady who delivers it doesn't need to tell the horse when to stop, it knows.

Well, I'm about to have one of my Nan's boiled eggs with soldiers for my tea. She has lots of hens in her orchard and I help her collect the eggs sometimes. It's about this time of year that they seem to die, maybe they get too cold.

Polly

FESTIVE MENU (TRUNCATED VERSION)		CHRISTMAS DAY MENU	
STARTERS (FULL DETAILS ON WEBSITE) Soup of the day Duck orange pate Baked filled mushroom Prawn cocktail Cured meats		STARTERS (FULL DETAILS ON WEBSITE) Seasonal vegetable soup Chicken liver pate Prawn cocktail Cheddar topped Mushrooms	
MAINS Treacle roasted beef meal Roast turkey breast meal Nut roast meal (v) Lobster thermidor & mussels Pan fried duck		MAINS Breast of turkey Christmas meal Treacle roasted beef meal Roast butternut squash (v) Herb crusted fillet of salmon	
DESSERTS Classic Christmas pudding Chocolate extraordinaire Cheese selection Caramel crème brulee		DESSERTS Christmas pudding parfait Classic Christmas pudding Chocolate dessert Cheese selection AFTERS coffees, mince pies, truffles	
<u>Pre-bookings only</u> During December 1st to 24th (Except Sundays)			<u>Pre-bookings only</u> 25th December 1pm to 3 pm
<u>Options</u> 2 courses £20.00 per head 3 courses £23.50 per head	<u>Options</u> 4 courses at £55.00 per head		
THE FESTIVE SEASON AT THE OLDE SUN			

Website: www.theoldesunpub.co.uk



In Nether Heyford

At November's meeting, using a power-point and screen, Helen Frost gave the WI members a huge insight into the workings of the Women's Land Army during the First World War. She explained that, because of the poverty, conditions of housing and welfare, it was mainly the middle and upper class women that had the opportunity to enrol. It was certainly the start of a completely different life for the women of Britain.

In December WI members are off to the Old Dairy Farm at Upper Stowe for our Christmas meal at The Barn Restaurant. We have had many happy Christmases there over the years and I am sure we are all looking forward to it!

In the Village Hall on Thursday January 2nd at 7.30 we are pleased to welcome Geoff Allen whose talk is entitled "My Sporting Life", and I am assured by him that it bears no resemblance to the book of the 1960s which features a roguish Rugby League player. Knowing Geoff as we do I am sure we are in for an enjoyable and amusing evening. Any Gentlemen who would like to come along to join us will be more than welcome. What a great way to start the New Year!

The Ladies of Nether Heyford WI wish all the Prattler readers a Very Happy Christmas and Healthy and Prosperous 2020. Ladies, why not join us at WI as your New Year's resolution – we would love to see you and I can assure you that you don't have to make jam OR sing Jerusalem (well, very rarely) and that great fun is had by us all!!

Mary Rice
Heyford Lodge 01327 340101

Welcome Packs

Welcome packs are available for newcomers to our Village. The information in them helps people feel at home quickly.

If you notice that someone has moved in recently, get a pack for them by calling:

Sue Morris
21 The Green
Nether Heyford
01327 349387

THE Heyford SINGERS

Christmas Is...

*A Celebration of Music
for the Christmas Season*

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

Friday December 13th

Saturday December 14th

At 7.30pm

Tickets from Mike Andrew

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Adults £7.50 Children (under 13) £4.50

www.heyfordsingers.org

Tickets on sale now - book early to avoid disappointment!!



Winter Wonderland Disco Fundraiser

Saturday 8th February 2020

Nether Heyford Village Hall

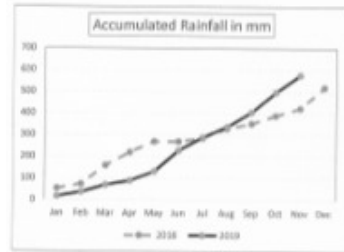
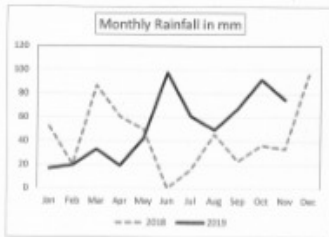
Tickets £10 from Jinny or ring Helen or Gina on 01327 340494
Bring your own drinks and glasses, nibbles provided. Adults only. Save the date and bring your friends – if you missed out on our super Summer Disco, this is your chance!



Community
Landscape
Archaeology
Survey
Project

Rainfall

What a difference a year makes is clearly shown in local plots of monthly rainfall and accumulated rainfall. A single flood in March/April 2018 has been superseded by four in 2019, all occurring within one month period, namely 15.10.19, 27.10.19, 10.11.19 and 14/15.11.19. The latter saw extensive coverage of the floodplain and recorded the highest gauge reading of 71.9m.



Prolonged and heavy rainfall has seen extensive flooding across the UK with Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and the East Midlands witnessing flooding of 100's of homes. Comments from communities effected again highlighted serious problems with the management of flooding in general, namely

- (a) E/A warnings too late, clearly a failure of AVM.
- (b) delays in activating emergency services.
- (c) new flood defences in upstream areas enhancing downstream flooding, creating sacrificial communities.
- (d) E/A misleading residents with claims of "it won't happen again in your lifetime".
- (e) residents unable to insure properties even though Flood-Re promised affordable cover by adding a levy to everybody's insurance policies.

In this era of high technology it remains incomprehensible why advanced warnings cannot be given well in advance as there is an extensive network of real time rainfall and river level gauges. In addition satellite and ground radar provide forecasters with the ability to make 10 day forecasts and provide updates every 5 minutes.

All of this reminds me of the Bye investigations following the Northampton flooding of 1998 :-

- (1) improvements in forecasting and warning systems with the use of local media and sirens to alert communities. Flood wardens with their local knowledge must form a vital link.
- (2) improved communication between E/A and emergency services.
- (3) in the light of the ever present risk of flooding the E/A recognised the imprudence of inappropriate development in flood risk areas and agreed to defend rigorously their advice to LPA's to prevent such developments adding to the

problems of flooding. It was agreed that the impact of climate change should be factored into any flood defences.

Currently it is forecast that over 10,000 new homes are to be built on the flood plains largely with E/A approval, contrary to their own principles in "Living on Edge".

Building bigger flood defences is not the answer and more cost effective upstream storage and bypass divers should be used to ensure the rivers natural capacity is never exceeded.

Clearly lessons have not been learnt, not helped by reductions in staffing levels within the E/A and emergency services.

J. Arnold



Nether Heyford Tennis Club

Christmas offer: £50 for single membership -includes play until end of March 2020 – can be offered as a "Voucher Present"

We have a number of social tennis sessions including -

Monday evenings: 7.00 – 9.00pm Men's night

Wednesday evenings: 7.00 – 9.00pm Social club night (all ages/abilities)

Fridays: 10–12noon Ladies tennis morning

Sundays: 10-12noon Open "club level" tennis session

For further information- please find us on facebook or contact

Jo 349094, jodickson@btinternet.com

Website - clubspark.lta.org.uk/NetherHeyfordTennisClub

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Growing up in Nether Heyford

I was born at No 3 Furnace Lane in 1946 and lived there with my parents until 1969 when I got married. My father was the eldest of 7 children in the Collins family, living at 'Wharf Farm', Furnace Lane where my aunty still lives. Lower Heyford, as it was known then, changes its name in later years because the village was often mistaken for Lower and Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, where the air force is based.

My mother originated from Harpole, and she met my father at the 'Heyford Feast' and got married, living in Heyford for the rest of their lives. Heyford Feast was a long standing event. It always fell on the 11th October each year and consisted of a large fair on the village green with Swing Boats, Carousels and Dodgem cars, not to mention Roll the Ball, Shooting and many other amusements. Also, lots of stalls selling candy floss, hot dogs mint humbugs etc. The fair was run by the Abbott and Billing families and over the years we got to know them well and while in the village, their children attended our local school. I went to Heyford School when I was five years old and was educated by Mr & Mrs Woods, then by Mr & Mrs Warr. The school bell was rung twice a day at 9.00am and 1.00pm just as it is today. Although other nearby villages had their own feast dates, Heyford was the largest because of our fabulous village green. People used to come from miles around and Tom Rolfe, who ran the Foresters Arms, opened up the club room for dancing which went on late into the night.

We also had a very good Youth Club which was held in the village hall. I was club secretary and my friend Lynn was treasurer. The fee was 2 old pennies per evening and we often had an awful job getting the money in. We had regular dances, often on a Friday night with live groups. People came from all the nearby villages and Northampton and they proved to be very popular. As club secretary, I had a hand in arranging these events.

I have many things I remember about life in the village. A lot of my leisure time was spent with my cousins on my grandmothers farm, especially in the school holidays. My dad's youngest brother, Reg and his wife Joan, helped my Grandmother on the farm and lived there with their four children. In the school holidays, my two eldest cousins and I would help out and played for hours in the hay barns and fished in the nearby canal. The railway line ran next to the farm and we would go into the signal box with the signaller and watch the trains going by. If we were lucky, he would let us pull the levers to change the signal.

Haymaking was always good fun too. My uncle would put the bales on his trailer which was then hitched up to the tractor and us children would stack them in neat rows, getting higher and higher as we went. Then we would sit on the top with my uncles towing the load back to the farm. (This would not be allowed nowadays).

My father, Arthur worked at the Northampton Power station as a fitter until he retired. He was one of the many volunteers who helped build the village hall, giving up their free time whenever they were able to.

Also, in the school holidays I would go with my mother fruit picking on Mr Beck's farm. He would come into the village with his tractor and trailer to pick up the many helpers (mostly women) to take back to pick the fruit off his many currant bushes and other fruits. At the end of the day he would transport everyone back into the village. He lived on the large estate when New Creation farm is today.

When my parents married, they lived in a small rented house with no amenities, no running water and an outside toilet. One of my lasting memories of this, is having local men come round on a regular basis with the 'Muck Cart' to empty the bucket. (No such luxury of a flush toilet). On one occasion I was sitting on the toilet as a young child and they arrived to perform this delightful deed. I shouted through the door, "I haven't finished yet". Back came a very calm reply from one of the men, "It's alright my duck, I can wait".

Mr Faulkner, the baker delivered the loaves of bread to various houses. It was always in the evening as he baked the bread first in Northampton. He would sometimes stop and chat and on many occasions my mother used to say, "When is he coming as I want to go to bed". Suddenly the kitchen door would open, and a hand and arm would appear clutching the bread, put it on a chair by the side of the door and say "Coo-Eee" and he was gone in a flash. Thus, he was known as Coo-Eee The Baker. At Christmas time, it was even later, as many customers gave him a drink or a mince pie, and he would be a little worse for wear when he arrived.

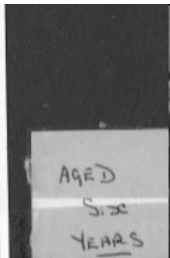
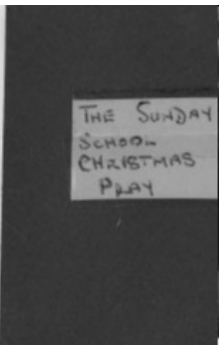
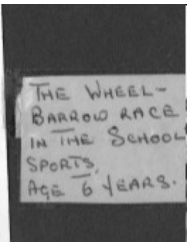
Eventually, my parents were able to buy the house we lived in together with the one next door, after John Earl (who owned the property) died. They had the two knocked into one and modernised, and it still stands today.

After I left school, I went to work at the Express Lift Co in the office. This is where I met my husband, Bob. We got married in 1969 in the Baptist Chapel and bought a new house in Rolfe Crescent, which is on the Wilson Estate where we had two children, Christopher and Anna. Twelve years later we moved to our present home in the centre of the village, where we live today. Both our children are now married, and we have four delightful grandchildren, two of which attend Heyford School. This makes them the fourth generation in my family to go there.

I have lots of fond memories of living in this wonderful village, which has grown tremendously over the years with the Village Green as its heart. School sports, football and cricket matches were played on the green before the arrival of the playing fields, which all the village folk would turn out to watch regularly. John Smith's cows would often escape and go charging over the green with John running frantically behind. Some people now refer to the green today as the park, but to us oldies, it will always remain our beloved village green.

I hope you've enjoyed my little visit down memory lane as much as I have.

Jenny Lewis





Heyford Picturedrome

The next film will be **Swimming with Men** as part of the Picturedrome **Christmas Supper Evening** which is **ALL TICKET** at a cost of £14 per person including drinks. There may be a few spare tickets available from the Box Office (tel 01327 342588). **Doors open at 6.30** for a start to the supper at **7.00pm** with a film start at **8.15pm**.

The January film, **Yesterday** is a story about Jack Malik who is a struggling singer-songwriter in an English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading, despite the fierce devotion and support of his childhood best friend, Ellie. After a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed. Performing songs by the greatest band in history to a world that has never heard them, Jack becomes an overnight sensation with a little help from his agent. directed by Danny Boyle and written by Richard Curtis, based on a story by Jack Barth and Curtis. The film is to be shown in the Village Hall on Thursday 16th January 2020. Usual arrangements: doors open at 7.00pm for free tea or coffee with a film start at 7.45pm. There will also be a bar for the purchase of wine and soft drinks.

Tony Clewett
(Phone no. 341533)

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

We do not have a meeting in December and our January meeting on the 27th will be our AGM.

You are warmly invited to join us on 25th February at 7.45 pm in Nether Heyford Village Hall when we look forward to starting another year of flower arranging. At our meetings we have a demonstration by a NAFAS trained Area or National demonstrator which is followed by refreshments and the opportunity to win one of the arrangements in our raffle.

We take this opportunity to wish our members and guests a healthy and peaceful festive season and New Year.

For more information please follow us on Facebook or contact Dianne on 01604 830063 or Simone on 01327 342167.



SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER 2019

10:AM TO 2:00PM

HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL



CRAFT STALLS – including Christmas Cards & decorations

TOMBOLA



Ticket ending 0 or 5
Wins a prize!

CAKE STALL



(Tombola & Cake Stall provided by Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul)

HANDMADE GIFTS – Jewellery, Bags,
Christmas Gifts & much more



And why not enjoy a delicious
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Provided by Heyford W.I.



There are a few stalls still available (first come first served) – please get in touch, details below.*

****CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – Crafty Club are re-introducing a Christmas Tree Festival in the Baptist Hall (next to Village Hall). The trees will be artificial NOT real – anyone interested in decorating a tree please get in touch. (Payment of £5 required – any decorations will need to be taken away after 2 o'clock). There will be a vote for the best decorated tree and a small prize for the winning tree.***



Come along a vote for the best decorated tree! Also there will be a
“Mystery Box” – Pick a number for £1 to match a prize – will your
number be the winner?



***To book a table or tree please e-mail:**

burrow.deborah@yahoo.co.uk or seeandem@aol.com

Alternatively telephone: Deborah on 01327 344436 or Chris on 01327 341796



*Snow from Siberia falling all around,
Making the ground look white, muffling the sound.
Temperatures are falling, water turns to ice
Everything is frozen. Doesn't it look nice?*

*Chorus from **Snow From Siberia**
Music and lyrics by Graham Kinnersly*

In recent days vast swathes of the country have been engulfed by incessant rain, followed by flooding, and creating eerie, watery landscapes. Venice likewise has experienced unprecedented rain and high tides, a sad and beautiful, submerged city resembling a scene from a disaster movie. Across the world, to the east and west, firefighters are battling with bush fires that move and burn with an intensity that is almost too hard to comprehend. Global warming is evident in so many guises! Record high temperatures this past summer and record low temperatures during the winter of 2018.

It was the later that inspired Graham Kinnersly (Heyford singers' resident pianist and composer) to write the song quoted above, and which will premiere at the forthcoming Christmas concert, '**Christmas Is.....**'. Marooned at home for a few days as the "Beast from the East" struck, Graham's creative talents took over, melody, words, humour, even a dash of politics, all centered around the notion of global warming. The choir loves this song, the Russian tune, the wintry feel and the sense of menace!

The first half of our concert is devoted to **Night of Wonder, Night of Joy**, a set of beautiful songs and readings that relate the story of the first Christmas. The nativity continues into the second half of the concert with the choir singing **One Small Lamb, O Holy Night** and then **Pacem**, which will be accompanied by a young solo violinist (a family member). This is always a very moving piece to sing and listen to, made even more so by the haunting tune played out on the violin.

Then the mood changes and we celebrate Christmas in words and music with songs of sheer joy and exuberance**Sleigh Bells** (with the ladies "jing-a-ling-a-linging!), **White Christmas**, Graham's **Snow From Siberia** and **Christmas Is**, from which we take our concert title.

Christmas Iswhat to you?

One of the most moving features of our Christmas concert is that of choir and audience, joining together to sing Christmas carols. That is always very special to us, and we hope to you too.

I do hope that you are able to get a ticket and share what promises to be a wonderful evening with us. Details are on the poster included in this issue.

Carols on the Green

On Friday 20th December at 6.30pm, as the working week and school term ends, as families and friends begin to celebrate the Christmas holidays, we have a new initiative in Nether Heyford, an idea originally muted by Mary Rice. It is to come together on our unique village green, to sing some lovely Christmas carols, to celebrate our close community, and to enjoy all this with friends, families and neighbours. We do hope that you can join us, and that the weather is not too cold, too wet or too windy, and if it is then we shall just adjourn and raise the roof of the village hall with our singing!

**Everyone in Heyford Singers wishes you, your families and your friends,
a very Happy Christmas and a happy, healthy 2020.**

Jill Langrish



Meetings are in Bugbrooke Community Centre at 2.00 pm
(except where noted otherwise).

Monday 9th December

‘YULE BE SURPRISED! - WHY CHRISTMAS IS CHRISTMAS’ by Steve Dimmer

A sideways look at the traditions of Christmas which we take for granted. A fascinating and light hearted journey through the festive season guaranteed to inform and delight.

Monday 20th JANUARY 2020

‘SIXTEEN WARNINGS FROM THE TITANIC 1912’ by John Perkins.

Where people went wrong and how the sinking was caused by their fatal (and sometimes admirable) decisions.

The special interest groups which meet separately include:

Book exchange	Classics for Pleasure	Genealogy
German (intermediate)	Jigsaw Exchange	Literature
Luncheon Club	My Kind of Music	Photography
Play Reading	Scrabble (2)	

Guests welcome at the monthly meetings and to ‘try’ the groups.

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Café on the Green



*Merry Christmas to all our customers
and volunteers*



The café will be closed for the Christmas holidays on
Friday 27th December and Friday 3rd January



Heyford Bowls Club

www.heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk

Indoor

The indoor bowls section has been involved in a number of competitions during November. It was the start of the Waddington League winter games. Our first game was at home against the present champions Moreton Pinkney. Unfortunately we lost on both mats, though on one it went to the very last end. Our second match was away at Boddington. This proved to be a very good side and we were beaten on both mats. Never the less both games were enjoyed by all and it is very nice to play people we would not normally play against.

The ladies versus the men proved a great laugh and played in a wonderful atmosphere. All games were played with a great spirit and of course both sides wanted to win. However after a fantastic afternoon of bowling and fun, the men were the eventual winners. We can once more look forward to the game next year. This year our annual Xmas fun night will be held on Wednesday evening 18th December.

After a very hard fought game the 'BENCO SHIELD' was won by Graham Drake and Jean Cullin. This was our last indoor club competition of the season, but there will be lots of 'WARDINGTON LEAGUE' games to look forward to during the winter months.

Den Taylor

Thank you once again for your support

Mrs Davis has posted a £10 cheque that was given to her to the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston branch of the RNLI based in Yarmouth. They have once again written a thank you letter to her for her kind thoughts in supporting their lifeboats.

As we all know most of their support is raised by public donations. Therefore it is easy to see why they appreciate so much the support and money raised by so many dedicated and hard working people.

Further donations have already been given to Sandy and she would very much like to thank them for their generosity and kindness. All money raised will be donated to the Great Yarmouth Lifeboats who have done so much in saving lives over many years. Sandy is a dedicated collector for the RNLI and anyone who would like to donate, please contact Sandy on 07759 007279.

Sandy Davis

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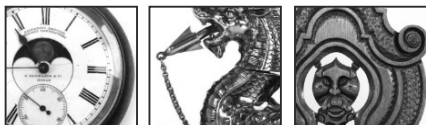
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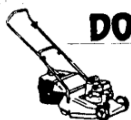
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THE PRATTLER

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