



# **THE PRATTLER**

**The Heyford Village Newspaper**

**April 2020**

**Issue No. 432**



**HELLO!** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is .....

I live locally at .....

My phone number is .....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

☐ Picking up shopping

☐ Posting mail

☐ A friendly phone call

☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

#ViralKindness

## **Buddies / Vulnerable Residents**

We are compiling a Village register of "Volunteer Buddies" who are willing to assist helping the vulnerable village residents (picking up shopping, posting mail, friendly phone call, urgent supplies, arranging prescription medicine delivery).

Sign up: [heyfordprattler.org/register](https://heyfordprattler.org/register)

The Foresters Arms Pub have started a supplies distribution centre where donations of relevant essential items are accepted and shall be sorted, packaged and delivered to those village residents on the vulnerable register

## **Supplies for the Elderly**

With all the crazy panic buying going on it is worrying that our elderly friends, families and neighbours won't be able to get basic supplies. So to support the local buddy system being set up in the village, I will be starting to collect essential supplies to package up for any emergency situations for elderly villagers. I would therefore like to request donations of tinned and long-life foods etc and dare i say toilet rolls also maybe puzzle books, magazines etc.

Please drop any donations into the Foresters Arms pub during opening hours.

Lets look after them, we have a lot to thank them for"

## **Coronavirus – COVID-19 – Village Response**

### **Nether Heyford & Upper Heyford – COVID-19 Action**

Online register now available – Sign up as a volunteer buddy or register a vulnerable resident.

We continue to receive more buddy volunteers who are registering the fact that they can help if they can – thank you for continuing to register.

Our focus is providing the vulnerable village residents aged over 80 years old with contact details of at least 2 village volunteers who can help them in the first 14 days of a potential 3 months isolation period.

We believe this to be about 30 village residents who we are aiming to offer help to.

Sign up Online:

Vulnerable Residents & Volunteer Buddy's

**[heyfordprattler.org/register](https://heyfordprattler.org/register)**

Alternatively, please fill out the postcard and pop it through your neighbour's door to offer individual help.

### **Latest news**

If one member of your family household has a new continuous cough or high temperature, however mild, all members should stay at home for at least 14 days.

The Government is advising those who are at increased risk of severe illness from the coronavirus to be "particularly stringent" in following social distancing measures.

This group includes those who are:

aged 70 or older (regardless of medical conditions)

under 70 with an underlying health condition listed below (i.e. anyone instructed to get a flu jab as an adult each year on medical grounds)

chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases (which includes asthma)

those who are pregnant

(The full list is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancingand-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-andvulnerable-adults>)

16/03/2020 – Every Briton over the age of 70 have been told to stay at home for 12 weeks starting Monday 23rd March to protect themselves from Coronavirus.



# PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The report from the last Parish Council rather pales into insignificance against the current Coronavirus – Covid 19 crisis, which is likely to have far reaching repercussions. The Parish Council would like to thank those involved in the moves to help the elderly and vulnerable within the village, and fully supports their efforts. The Parish Council hopes to continue as normal, but events may overtake that aspiration.

The March 2nd, 2020 meeting was held as normal in the Baptist Church Rooms.

Like all Council meetings it was open to the public.

**Reports from the District and County Councillors:** Cllr Harries reported that SNC has passed its final budget, with an approximately 2% increase which will equate to around £5 p/a per band D house. The grants process is being changed, and information will be coming through shortly.

Cllr Brown reported that NCC had also passed its final budget with an increase of 1.9%. The structural Changes allowing the formation of the Unitaries have now been passed by parliament and progress towards the Unitaries is now ongoing, with the new system to be in place for April 2021. A reform of children's services is taking place, and some other services will be split into two. The final make up is not yet clear as the shadow authority that will run up until the inception of the unitaries may choose to make changes.

**PCSO:** The PCSO had sent in his regular report, which shows that he is active and working with young people. Councillors felt that some comments made on social media were unfair and had little relevance, and that they were happy with the situation.

**Lights:** There was some concern that those lights deemed irreparable would be off for some time while the situation regarding the installation of new LEDs was clarified.

**Roads and pavements** were felt to be deteriorating again, and that repairs in Furnace Lane and Hillside Road were poor.

**The Green and Play Area:** Resolved. Fete to take place on the green on June 20th.

**Playing Fields:** A hedge intended to screen the container had been planted. There had been many positive comments about the new basketball/Netball court.

**Footpaths:** Very wet and muddy. The path from Church lane to the river is collapsing and is felt to be dangerous. To be reported.

**Churchyard:** Repairs on church roof are taking place.

**Canal:** The tow paths are so wet as to be barely passable. Clerk to ask that they be upgraded.

**Joint Burial Board:** Tree damage has occurred during recent storms and one tree has split. STS have been asked to assess the situation.

**Youth Club:** It was reported that all was well, but concern that the trees between the back fence and the Luddle were in need of assessment.

**Defibrillators:** reported to be in working order and ready for use.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** SC reported that the consultant had been visited, and final work to pull the plan together was progressing. The Neighbourhood Plan group were looking to apply for Lottery and other grant funding.

**Election:** The elections have been postponed until next year, which means that Parish and District Councillors will serve for another year.

**Grants Policy:** A Grants policy was adopted, stipulating that grants of £250 could be given during the year – but that anything beyond that figure would have to be considered when the annual precept was being prepared.

**Play Area:** to consider replacement/additional equipment. A further presentation would take place on March 6th after which the various quotes would be compared and brought to Council.

**Reporting Highway and Footpath Issues:** The Clerk will report issues that the 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 on: <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.

Parish Council meetings in 2020 will continue to be at the same venue, on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30. The next one is on April 6th and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

*Tel: 07935 931787. E-mail: [netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)*

<b>Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.</b>	
C. Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford. Tel 07779 900860	Chairman, Planning, Finance.
M Brasset, The Foresters Arms, The Green mikethepub@hotmail.co.uk	Canal Matters, Planning.
L. Dilkes, 17 Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3JS thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967 753216	Village Hall Rep, Youth Club, Vice Chair, Finance
L. Eales, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 01327 341707 lyndaeales@aol.com	Allotments, Playing Field.
P. Green, 8, South View, Nether Heyford Tel 01327 349072 Mobile. 07763 244065	Joint Burial Board
N. Haynes, 30 Weedon Rd, Nether Heyford Tel 01327 340167	Tree Warden, Planning, Joint Burial Board
S. Corner 7 Close Road, Nether Heyford NN7 3LW sue.corner@sky.com	Allotments, Planning
D. Musson davemusson073@gmail.com	Finance
A.Williams 26 Church St, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LH anthony.k.williams@talk21.com	Planning and Finance.

## 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.

We have also recently received a grant from the One Stop Shop to help with printing costs over the next few months.

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



## **The Church of St Peter & St Paul, Nether Heyford.**



### **Are you having to self-isolate?**

If you would like to hear a friendly voice,  
or need some help

with collecting medication or groceries,

please ring

Rev Stephen on 01327 344436

or Jane on 01327 340678

and they will arrange for someone to keep in regular,  
and confidential contact with you.

**Isolation may be necessary, but loneliness isn't!**

*Church services will continue as advertised until  
otherwise directed.*

*We are following advice not to shake hands or share  
the Communion cup.*



**Our Churches**  
**Parish Church of**  
**St. Peter and St. Paul**

**Services for April 2020**

**Following instructions from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, all public worship in this church – on Sunday and in mid week - has been suspended for the foreseeable future, to facilitate social distancing.**

**Whilst we cannot meet at present, the Church is still here to offer our prayer and care.**

**If we can help you in any way, please contact us on:**

**01327 344436**

**The Streets** we shall be praying for during April are: Bugbrooke Rd and Wakefield Way in Heyford, Bliss Lane and the Nursery, Meadow Farm Close and Brington Rd in Flore, Main St in Church Stowe and Manor Farm, The Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall.

Revd Stephen Burrow, tel 344436





Dear Friends

We are living in unprecedented and unpredictable times. Following the spread of the coronavirus, the Archbishops of the Church of England have suspended all public worship in our churches. We are not permitted to gather to worship either on a Sunday or during the week, and our bells will not ring, in order that we safeguard the wellbeing of our communities. We will endeavour to open some of our churches in order to provide space for peace and quiet, for private prayer and reflection, or to leave things for the local food banks. St James' Church in Upper Stowe is always open. Once the roof repairs are completed at Heyford Church, it will be open during daylight hours. Flore Church will open for an hour at 10:00AM on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. If you choose to visit, please remember the need for social distancing at all times.

Our church buildings have stood for many years, through plague and pestilence, famine and war. Their walls are soaked in the prayers of countless generations. They are a reminder that God is always with us, through all the storms and uncertainties of life. But they are not the Church. The Church, its people, the Christian community is still 'open for business' and ready to help and support our villages in whatever way we can. Our bishops have encouraged us to seek new ways to pray, and to find ways to offer practical care and support for people. If we have to isolate or shield ourselves, we will pray for you, fervently and frequently. We will pray for our villages, our nation and our world. We will pray for the leaders of our community, at institutional, local, regional and national levels.

If we are able to get out and about, we are ready to help and support you in whatever way we can and many of our church members have already signed up to help their communities support the isolated and the vulnerable. If you need prayer, if you need spiritual support, if you just want someone different to talk to, please give me a ring on one of the numbers below. We have set up a Benefice Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HS9FB](https://www.facebook.com/HS9FB). If you are able, please visit that page for information, prayers and encouragement. We are also developing ways we can reach those who don't use social media and will let you know how that is going as the days and weeks progress.

I'd like to leave you with some words from St Paul's Letter to the Church in Philippi, *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* (Phil 4:6-7, NLT)

With every prayer and blessing in these uncertain times,  
Stephen (tel. 344436 / mob. 07511 544375)



## Nether Heyford Baptist Church

It is with regret that all services and events  
have been cancelled until further notice.

### Village Hall Events

#### Village Hall Fete

It is with great regret, due to uncertain times, the events committee has had to postpone the Fete this summer and has provisionally set a new date  
**5<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.(provisional)

#### Garage Sale

The garage Sale has been postponed until later in the year and a provisional date of  
**September 20<sup>th</sup> 2020** has been proposed. Those who have paid will get a full refund. The current list of applicants will be kept on file.

We will keep you up to date with dates and events in the Prattler.

Keep safe

*Pat Paterson*  
*nhvhevents@gmail.com*

### Heyford Spring Clean

Because of the Coronavirus, the Great British Spring Clean has been postponed until September therefore the village clean-up has been cancelled. In the meantime, could we pick up as much litter as possible to try and keep the village looking at its best.

*Sue*

## Village Hall News

### Coronavirus

It has been decided to keep the village hall open until further Government information and direction are available.

However, regular groups and individuals will need to make their own decisions as to whether or not to continue meeting in the hall.

If they decide to cancel their bookings, could they please inform the booking secretary on nhvhbookings@gmail.com or 07849 356 618.

Thank you.

*Alwyne Wilson*  
01327 340803

## CAFÉ ON THE GREEN

*Sadly, in view of the latest coronavirus advice, the cafe will be closed until further notice*

Thank you to all our loyal supporters and we'll see you when things settle down

## Rising Stars Sports

"My name is Theo and I'm 8 years old. I have been going to Rising Stars Sports club for 3 years during the holidays. I like all the sports especially ball games because it involves moving around lots and throwing balls."

"I enjoy going to Rising Stars Sports because I can keep active and make friends while having fun." Alfie-Jack

I am so pleased to see how Rising Stars Sports has developed over the years since the business started. Each school holiday we're able to run multiple camps with participant numbers reaching between 15-20! I am very lucky to have full support from the Bliss Charity School. We are able to use their sports equipment, the school hall and the playground. It is also handy having the village green to use as this allows us to run a greater variety of sports.

Our numbers are increasing with children not only from the Bliss Charity school, but also other schools in the local area. I am really pleased with this as it allows the children to meet new friends and keeps more local children active, having fun and learning new skills during the holidays.

For details on our next camps please visit our website [www.risingstarssports.co.uk](http://www.risingstarssports.co.uk) or contact us via email - [risingstarssports@hotmail.com](mailto:risingstarssports@hotmail.com)

*Jodie Caller*





## Heyford Garden Club

[www.heyfordgardenclub.com](http://www.heyfordgardenclub.com)

Our March meeting featured a talk by Andrew and Anita Thorp who have a nursery specialising in snowdrops. They have a thousand varieties of this popular bulb, some varieties of which command eye watering prices! Andrew gave us an explanation of the "chipping" method of propagating snowdrops and narcissi. Anita also showed us some of the plants that flower at the same time as snowdrops and can complement them. We also held our annual daffodil and narcissus show which this year attracted a good display of blossoms.

The large flowered section was won by Pauline Litchfield, Anne Haynes came second and Pauline Guglielmi third.

Chris West won the small flowered section, John Dunkley and Val Jackson tied for joint second place, but there was no award for third place.

The bi colour section was won by Pauline Guglielmi, John Tapsell came second , and Rosemary Dunkley and Chris West tied for third place.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak we are suspending meetings for the time being. Hopefully we shall be able to resume our programme before too long.

At the present moment we have a lovely display of bulbs and other spring flowering plants in flower in pots about the garden. It is often a temptation to try and continue this display through the summer, but the memory of last year when I seemed to spend most mornings heaving watering cans around has put me off. I shall try to stick to the minimum number of potted items this year; some succulent plants that don't mind drought, a few lilies that I find are amazingly tolerant and don't do well in the garden due to the lily beetle (growing in pots and repotting each spring gets rid of any over wintering pupae). Pelargoniums are also less demanding of water so I may keep a few of those. Last year I bought a blue convolvulus from Coton Manor which produced a wonderful show without much attention, and that has made it through this last mild winter so I shall keep that going as long as possible. If I can resist temptation, I may save myself a great deal of work this summer, but then I say that every year.

### Things to do in April

1. Sow hardy flowers, vegetables and herbs
2. Feed roses and shrubs
3. Keep an eye out for late frosts

*Mark Newstead*

# Revitalising the allotments

## Pests and Diseases

I promise you this will not be another opportunity to go on about Coronavirus. We've had too much of that recently. This is a Covid 19 free area!

Pests and diseases trouble plants just as they trouble us humans. How we tackle them is a moot point and one that has divided gardeners for many years.

Since before Roman times gardeners have used all manner of concoctions to wage war against pests and diseases in plants. We have become increasingly inventive and clever devising what appears to be foolproof remedies. However, our cleverness does not necessarily mean we've been equally wise; for these efficacious products can have the most devastating effect on not just the baddies that ravage our crops, but also the many beneficial insects and animals that inhabit our countryside (and more specifically our allotments and gardens).

DDT was once hailed as the wonder chemical that would solve all our horticultural and agricultural problems until it was discovered to be slowly accumulating in the stomachs of a host of creatures, including humans, and doing untold damage. That was almost fifty years ago and yet even now big agro-chemical companies (and a host of retail outlets) develop and promote a range of pesticides and herbicides that have the potential of cause untold damage to the environment. Since the millennium, there has been a massive decline in the butterfly, beetle and bee population in Europe and the UK leading to the extinction of some species. Much of that can be laid at the door of these products. Sadly, the story is replicated across the whole world. The disappearance of these vital links in the chain of life means that pollination is threatened. No pollination, no food!

There is however some good to emerge from this. We are seeing herbicides and pesticides being used by fewer gardeners and allotmenters as they discover more environmentally sustainable ways of controlling pests and diseases. Consumer pressure has led to this year seeing a ban on all slug pellets containing the highly toxic chemical metaldehyde. Fear not gardeners, an equally effective organic pellet using ferric phosphate will be available as a replacement.

Many alternative remedies are cheaper and have the added benefit of enhancing what and how we grow. Stop the pests from getting to your crops in the first place by using a barrier and growing sturdier plants. You might ask how that is done and of course you'll probably guess, from previous articles, that the answer lies in homemade compost. This will develop good, fertile soil. Look after your soil and it will look after your plant

## Getting Ready to Grow

The recent advice to avoid social gatherings does not mean you can't go to the allotment and begin sowing and planting. What better way to take exercise and yet

still maintain social distancing. A friendly wave from a neighbouring plot is breaking no rule.

It has been so heartening to see so many villagers at work.

### **The Community Orchard, Jam Patch and Cut Flower Beds**

Work continues in these areas and we've had some tremendous help from villagers on our volunteer days held on Saturdays in March. The information signs we reported on in our last two articles are now in place and look very impressive. Hopefully they'll also be of use for people finding their way around the allotments. A big thank you goes to Tom Dodd for his design work, to the volunteers who erected them and to Ed Smith from the Telegraph Hill Shoot in Daventry who provided the posts.

We would be very grateful if any gardeners who still have spare perennials or shrubs could donate those for our cutting garden. This will ultimately become a free resource for the village. How much nicer to be able to pick locally grown flowers than buy them at extortionate prices from the filling station forecourt.

Our first crop of rhubarb is coming to fruition and visitors to the jam patch are welcome to pick some for themselves.

### **Equipment**

A range of equipment is available for allotment holders to borrow when working on the allotment site; this includes mowers, rotavators, wheelbarrows, brooms and watering cans. Many people will own some or all of the above, but for those who wish to get access to such equipment, please contact Bill Corner ([sue.corner@sky.com](mailto:sue.corner@sky.com) /01327 342124), Lynda Eales (01327 341707) or Mike Langrish ([langrish\\_heyford@hotmail.com](mailto:langrish_heyford@hotmail.com) /01327341390). We can ensure that you get the equipment you require at a mutually convenient time.

### **Allotment Holders**

As always, if you are considering growing your own fruit and veg and you want to try a small tester plot, or something larger, here are the usual telephone contacts: Sue Corner on 01327 342124 or Lynda Eales on 01327 341707.

*Mike Langrish*

*For England is not flag or Empire, it is not money and it is not blood.  
It's limestone gorge and granite fell, it's Wealden clay and Severn mud,  
It's blackbird singing from the May tree, lark ascending through the scales,  
Robin watching from your spade and English earth beneath your nails.*

Dear Diary

April 1952

There's still a lot of talk in the village about the train crash last September. The Liverpool Express to London came off the rails just out of the Weedon tunnel. We've been learning about it in school. The train, engine 46207 Princess Arthur of Connaught, was travelling at over 60 miles an hour when it left the rails and tipped over the embankment into a field just off Furnace Lane. Several people were injured and some killed. Four carriages were damaged but the last two were full of boys returning to boarding school and their carriages stayed on the rails.

The farmer living opposite, Reg Collins, filled his milk churns with water for the injured and Mrs. Collins cycled down to the Post Office to send telegrams to relatives as there is only one public phone in the village. The Army from Weedon Depot were called in to help and ambulances arrived. The Salvation Army and WVS supplied constant tea and ripped up sheets from local families to make bandages. Most of the villagers helped in some way.

Sad news for the Royal family. The King died in February and Big Ben rang once for each of his 56 years. His daughter, Princess Elizabeth was on holiday in Kenya when she was told that she would become our new Queen. I bet the journey home was long.

A Scout group is to be formed by Mr. Woods the headmaster and Mr. Wilkinson. There are about 20 boys, they are to have pack names like Peewit & Kingfisher and will meet every week in the school hall.

If the weather's fine, we're going on the bus on Saturday to Everdon Stubbs to see the bluebells. I hope the 'townies' haven't been on their bicycles and, as usual, gone home with basketfuls of the flowers. They'll be dead before they get home and we shan't see them again until next year.

Builders are still very busy putting up new Council houses along Hillside Road and Hillside Crescent. People are putting their names down hoping for one, especially those who are over-crowded at home. I have family who would love to get out of their little cottage at the bottom of Furnace Lane and some who are planning to get married next year, so I hope they are fair in choosing.

I've been in trouble this week, that's why I'm spending more time in my room. On our way home from play the other night my friend suggested we go cherry-knocking. "I'll hold the gate open, you go and knock the door" she said, so muggings here did just that, and guess what, the minute I knocked the door she was off down the street, letting the gate close behind her leaving me stranded on the path in front of the house. I might have been able to talk my way out of it if I hadn't been wearing my bright red duffle coat. "You should choose your friends more carefully" said mum. Grown-ups are no fun.

*Polly*





## In Nether Heyford

The March Meeting was an interesting and eye-opening evening for some of the WI members who thought they couldn't paint! Michael Peachey, an artist for nearly sixty years, coaxed several members to contribute to a 'sea-scape' painting, provided amusing stories in between and showed several examples of his work.

Sadly, along with the rest of the country, we are having to cancel our meetings until further notice. As a nationwide organisation we do not do this lightly and, along with the other groups in the village, we know how much these meetings contribute to the community feeling for which Nether Heyford is known and loved. We wish all the Prattler readers good health in the next few months and hope to see Nether Heyford WI Ladies looking hale, hearty and ready to organise our 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations later in the year.

Until then, take care.

*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

# Flood Watch

The government eventually succumbed to pressure from communities effected by January and February storms and in the recent Budget increased the flood defence funding from £4Bn to £5.2Bn over the period 2021 to 2026.

The Met Office declared February 2020 as the wettest since records began in 1862 with the UK average rainfall exceeding 200mm or 237% of average for February. In areas such as the north and west of the UK with the most severe flooding problems this percentage rose to 350-400% !

Locally February closed with storm Jorge on 28/29th. Why storm Jorge, as storm Ellen was the next in the Met Office named storms after Dennis? As the storm approached the UK from southern Europe the Spanish Met Office designated name was adopted.

Our local rainfall for the month reached 230% of a February average and although the river flooded on 16.02.20 and peaked again on 28/29th it has subsequently remained low. This has been helped by less rainfall to date in March and a welcome rise in temperature allowing the ground to become less saturated-all good news for gardeners. Generally the River Nene has coped well largely due to the work undertaken by the E/A in 2017/2018.

Disappointingly the E/A has failed to meet the target date of August 2019 to resubmit costed plans for further funding for additional flood defence work in the Village. Let's hope the distraction of staff to support seriously flooded areas does not reduce Nether Heyford's priority status.

Whilst our local flooding risk is comparatively low we must remain vigilant. Besides local and National weather news forecasts a reminder of the on-line access to real time data for rainfall and river levels is listed below:-

- (A) Shoothill gauge map at [www.gauging.co.uk](http://www.gauging.co.uk)
- (B) River and sea levels in [England.gov.uk](http://England.gov.uk)
- (C) [www.floodtoolkit.com](http://www.floodtoolkit.com)

Finally don't forget to register with the E/A flood warning service on Floodline 03459881188 to receive telephone and e-mail advanced flood warnings for the area.

The overriding message is "BE PREPARED".

*J Arnold*



## Heyford Picturedrome

Please note that the Picturedrome is closed until further notice because of Coronavirus.

## Holiday at Home 2020

We have had enquiries about Holiday at Home. We are planning to hold this event again but, under the current circumstances, it looks unlikely that it will be possible to have it at the end of June as planned.

Once life gets back to something like normal we will sort out new dates.

Best wishes, The Holiday at Home Team

## Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Like so many groups we have had to cancel our meetings for the time being.

We look forward to meeting both members and visitors in the not too distant future.

For more information please follow us on Facebook.

## Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Watch

The 2020 revival is a fresh start for the village "Neighbourhood Watch Scheme" and expands the area to include the complete parish area and Upper Heyford. Also linking together with the Facebook group, Northants Neighbourhood Watch, The Parish Council, The PCSO and The Prattler.

The scheme is open to village residents only and all applications should be made online: [www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/25380/nether-heyford-and-upper-heyford](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/25380/nether-heyford-and-upper-heyford)

For more information, please visit our website [www.heyfordprattler.org](http://www.heyfordprattler.org)

## Flore Arts

### BEN HOLDER JAZZ TRIO - CANCELLED

Most of you will know already that we have inevitably had to cancel this one. We are of course in the process of refunding all tickets in full. Please bear with us as we work our way through the list.

### FUTURE EVENTS

For obvious reasons we are now unable to commit to the programme for the rest of the year. The Illyria performance scheduled for July is definitely cancelled; we will update you here, on our website and on our Facebook page as and when we are able to confirm any further events later in the year.

We hope that everyone can keep safe and healthy at this difficult time.

# 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**

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*Take care of this house  
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For this house is the hope of us all  
Care for this house  
Shine it by hand  
And keep it so clean  
The glow can be seen all over the land*

**From “1600 Pennsylvania Avenue”  
words and music by Leonard Bernstein and Alan Jay Lerner**

r

A few weeks ago we went to see a wonderful production of “**The King and I**” at the Milton Keynes theatre. The story and its history, the songs and music are familiar to us, but we were intrigued by the scenes that focused on Anna demanding her own house! For those new to the story, it is about an English governess, Anna who is contracted to teach the numerous children of the King of Siam. The promise of having her own house doesn’t happen, so during those long months Anna focuses on teaching only songs, rhymes, stories, historical and geographical information all about houses, and homes, until the king finally relents!

Fast forward a month and it seems uncanny that we are all now looking towards spending considerably more time in our own houses, our own homes, away from other people. A house is bricks and mortar, but a home is what we fill it with, it is what makes it unique, our personal choices, our comforts, our memories, our family links, etc. And in the days ahead we have the opportunity, and time, to perhaps selfishly indulge in all these personal attributes. Radio, television, the phone and the computer connect us with the outside world, and that is very important. But so is giving ourselves time for other things, and I don’t necessarily mean clearing out the loft or a massive spring clean! There are books to be read, hobbies ‘laid aside’ when too busy with other tasks, promised letters to distant friends or family, collections of photographs to be organised, and so on.

But let’s consider the music, the songs, even dancing that could entertain us in the weeks ahead. Here are a few idle thoughts, even a few challenges, to keep those little black notes dancing in our heads and in our lives ...

By all means keep up to date with radio and television news, but it can become all embracing and somewhat depressing, so why not change channel and listen to music for a while. It is medically accepted that listening to music has a very calming effect and can make you feel more relaxed.

Step out of your comfort zone for a short while and listen to a different form of music to your usual preference. Folk, jazz, pop, classical, country and western, light opera – give it a try!

Sort out those CDs that are acquiring dust on the shelves, play them, turn up the volume, and sing along! It is wonderful how the words of Beatles songs come roaring back, a real feel good factor.

Or if you secretly regret never having been given apart in the film of **"Mamma Mia"** (or another musical) now is the opportunity to play the DVD or the CD, and sing, sing ... and dance along.

Is there an instrument lying forlornly unplayed in the house, bypassed for busier pursuits? Get it out, play the ivories or the strings, and make music!

If you want something more quiet and contemplative think of that desert island. What eight special pieces of music would you choose to take, and why? I'm sure that most of us, at one time or another, have compiled our own list of favourite music. You could even send them to me – what a lovely idea for the May Prattler!

We've all probably seen the delightful video of Italians standing on their individual balconies and singing. Then there have been the various, and some quite imaginative ways to sing or dance through the 20 second hand washing time. And no doubt other inventive musical activities will come about in the days ahead. So keep playing, listening, singing, dancing and enjoying music – it is a rich world and it is so good for the soul!

Heyford Singers has understandably postponed all its rehearsals and spring concert in May. The title for the concert was **"Let Us Entertain You"** and we will again..... soon!

Take care, look after yourselves and each other.

*Jill Langrish*

If you would like to find out more about Heyford Singers please look at our website  
[www.heyfordsingers.org](http://www.heyfordsingers.org)

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## View from the Wildlife Patch

I was looking round the patch today. It is wet, cold and at first sight inhospitable. Yet there is lots going on really.

We have 4 Blue Tit boxes on the patch and at least one is occupied. The prospective occupants were twittering angrily at me as I took a close look at the box. This indicates they have decided to take up residence there again. These Birds almost entirely depend on the larvae of the Winter Moth (*Operophtera brumata*).

This moth is an interesting species in itself. The sexes differ in that only males have wings, the females being entirely flightless. As the name would suggest adults are only active in winter having developed means of generating heat from inside their bodies. The female hatches from the pupae in Late Autumn/Early Winter. She emits a Pheromone (aerial hormone) which wafts through the cool air to attract an eager male. After mating she lays eggs at the base of the buds of many species of deciduous trees. The Larvae hatch in early spring. They feed first in the expanding buds, then on the leaves of the same plant. They pupate in Late May to hatch in Late Autumn. These are the Small Green Caterpillars that are often seen hanging from mature trees and shrubs in Late Spring.

Being unable to fly could mean that these would struggle to distribute their species to new locations and areas. These caterpillars overcome this by a means of Aerial distribution. They let out a silk thread from their tail end. When this becomes long enough to be caught by a breeze, the caterpillar lets go of earth to fly as if on a parachute. Of course they have no means of steering or governing height but it works for them.

Many species of invertebrates use this form of Aerial distribution. Spiders, mites as well as Lepidoptera all “fly” in this manner. So many in fact that different species accumulate in the air to form a sort of “Ariel Plankton”. A reduction in the volume of this Plankton Layer must surely be a factor in the shortage of Swallows, Swifts etc. we are experiencing today.

Now back to Blue Tits. In Late Winter/ Early spring these birds can be seen in parties of 6 or more pecking at the Buds of deciduous trees. When they do this they are thought to be searching for Winter Moth Eggs. It is believed that the amount of eggs consumed by the birds has an effect on the amount of eggs the Tits lay in that the more moth eggs the birds eat, the more eggs the birds lay. Moreover, it is thought that Blue Tits are so closely tied in with Winter Moths that they react to a substance in the developing Moth egg that stimulates the birds breeding behaviour. This enables the birds to have an abundant source of food timed to feed the hatchlings at the right time.

One more thing. If anyone fancies making a couple of Hedgehog Hotels (plans on the internet) we can find good home for them on The Patch.

*Dave Musson*

*Davemusson073@gmail.com 07942674867*

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---



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

We regret to say meetings are suspended until further notice.

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## Heyford Cricket Club

At the time of writing this update, the 2020 cricket season is facing as much uncertainty as the rest of the community. The Northamptonshire Cricket League are expecting to receive 'a binding unilateral decision on all recreational cricket' from the ECB at any time. As soon as we know more, we will post updates on our website and Facebook. There is a possibility that adult and junior fixtures could be cancelled until midway through the season, or the entire season cancelled. At the moment all of our fundraising events are on hold, but we are hoping to reschedule the Fun Day, Golf Day etc. for later in the year.

### **Bowling Machine:**

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mick George Ltd for their generous donation of £1000 towards our new BOLA bowling machine. Unfortunately, we only managed to use it at one of our indoor net sessions before the sports hall at Quinton School was closed to all external groups, but it is a fantastic bit of kit and will certainly improve practice for junior and adult players when we are finally able to resume!

### **Bonus Ball:**

A full list of Bonus Ball winners can be found on the 'News' pages of our website. The January and February 2020 winners were as follows. If you would like to support the Club during what is sure to be a challenging season financially then please get in touch, there are still several balls available. It costs just £1 per week to play and you have a chance to win £25 if your ball is drawn as the bonus ball in the Saturday lottery draw.

04/01/2020	11	Chris Peck	11/01/2020	14	Ben Taylor
18/01/2020	11	Chris Peck	25/01/2020	21	Geoff Allen
01/02/2020	52	No Winner	08/02.2020	21	Geoff Allen
15/02/2020	18	Ollie Inwood	22/02/2020	17	Simon Legge
29/02/2020	9	Colin Gillespie			

We hope to see you soon, but in the meantime all the very best to our loyal supporters, volunteers and everyone in the village.

More details about Heyford Cricket Club can be found on our website [www.heyfordcricket.co.uk](http://www.heyfordcricket.co.uk) or via social media where we can be found on Facebook @HeyfordCC.

If you would like to get in touch you can also email us at [heyfordcricket@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heyfordcricket@hotmail.co.uk)



## Heyford Bowls Club

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

### Indoor

Our last three matches in the 'WARDINGTON LEAGUE' have been very successful. A hard match at Moreton Pinkney saw us win on one mat and lose on the other. Unfortunately we lost on the final aggregate score. However a really good win at home to Middleton Cheney on both mats. This led to the final aggregate score in our favour by the magnificent score of 74-8.

The 'LADIES PAIRS' was played on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The knock-out matches produced some really good bowling. An excellent and close final saw Liz Davison and Pauline Thackray beat Eileen Everard and Jean Cullin by the score of 5-4.

We have a few matches coming up now in quick succession. A very popular fixture the INDOOR v OUTDOOR will be played on the 26<sup>th</sup> March. The Mixed Singles will be played on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. Both matches will start at 1.30 pm.

Good support has once again been maintained on our Wednesday bowling sessions.

*Den Taylor*

### Outdoor

I always knew that nuclear bunker I built in the 1960s would come in handy one day. I've promised my wife that this crisis will all be over by the time of our wedding anniversary on 18<sup>th</sup> June, but when I hear of national organisations suspending all meetings for four months, I fear that my deadline may be a trifle optimistic.

This is my first missive for The Prattler this calendar year, and it should have been telling you of the dates for the enrolment night, the fish and chip supper, the spring quiz, the working party on the green, and fixtures. Instead all I can report is they are all cancelled. This leaves the residents of Heyford free to spring clean their houses and make their gardens immaculate. At the end of the pandemic I will be round to check.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

PS Don't go to the shops specially to buy us an anniversary card. Use one of the ones you panic bought at the start of the pandemic. They're up in the loft. On top of the toilet rolls.

*Geoff Allen*  
349909

# **Olde Heyford - Items from the Past**

## **Gentleman's Smoking Club**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 1987

A highly entertaining evening was enjoyed by a predominantly male audience. The noise level reached 7.3 on the RICHTER scale on occasions due to some of the younger members getting overexcited, too much beer probably.

A good appetite was worked up by the time the food was served which consisted of pork pie, cheese, roll & pickle. Some people were lucky enough to have marshmallow for dessert. Over £300 was raised.

*(Reprinted from the May 1987 Prattler)*

## **Happiness is ... A can of hot tea**

It was a Sunday afternoon some 35 years ago and I was coming home from Church along the Green (in those days the Baptists had afternoon services) battling with the wind and trying to keep my umbrella up against a nasty thin rain. It was cold and wet and thoroughly miserable and as I passed the embryonic Village Hall, my heart went out to the volunteers slogging away inside without any home comforts.

Full of Christian charity I thought, 'Poor Souls! They must be fed up to the teeth. I'll pop in and cheer them up. I wonder if they'd like a flask of hot tea?'

I needn't have worried. Work was progressing steadily, with paintbrush and hammer, drill and screwdriver; someone was singing "Granada", someone was whistling, "Roll out the barrel". Jokes and chaff flew back and forth. Cold, wet and miserable, it may have been outdoors, indoors they were warm, dry and happy. And to put the final touch to their contentment, as I stood there, Freddy Partridge arrived with a large steaming tea-can. I slunk away feeling decidedly de trop, and reflecting that, for keeping the chaps entertained, and out of mischief and the wife's way, Heyford Village Hall project was the best thing since the Home Guard.

*Sheila Masters.*

*(Reprinted from the April 1995 Prattler)*

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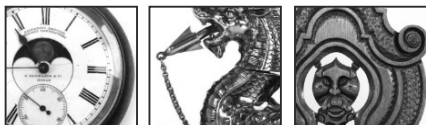
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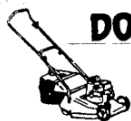
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## NEXT EDITION

**Submission date:** 15th April 2020 for written items  
20th April 2020 for email items  
**Publication date:** 1st May 2020  
**e-mail:** heyford\_prattler@yahoo.co.uk  
Or drop off at Heyford Meats or the One Stop Shop

**Editorial:** Sue Boutle 01327 342519  
**Proofreading:** Tony Boutle  
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*The Prattler* is printed by



Design to Print Limited  
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