



THE PRATTler

The Heyford Village Newspaper

May 2020

Issue No. 433



Left to Right: Lieut.-Colonel C C S Genese, Miss L N D La Touche, Viscount Althorp, Major W Blaney, Viscountess Althorp, Mr R H Adams, Mrs M M Bartlett and Mr C E North.

Nether Heyford Village Hall

60th Anniversary

7th May 1960

Their children and grandchildren will owe them gratitude – an article in the Mercury & Herald Friday 13th May 1960

‘A memorial to industry and good sense’. That is how Viscount Althorp described Lower Heyford’s new village hall when he declared it open on Saturday Afternoon. Not one penny, he said had been spent on labour costs since the first soil was turned by the villagers in 1958, apart from the short period when the roof was being erected by contractors. He mentioned the generous help from the Rural Community Council and the grant from the Ministry of Education. Village organisations he mentioned with gratitude were the Parish Council, Parochial Council, Methodist and Baptist Churches, British Legion, W.I., Darby & Joan, School managers and the local Athletic Club.

Viscount Althorp said he was sure the Hall would not become a passive venture - this was most likely to happen when there was a lack of youth among the committee members. The children and grandchildren of those concerned in the building would owe them a great debt of gratitude. Viscount Althorp, accompanied by the Viscountess was introduced by Major W Blaney (president of the building committee) who said the opening was an outstanding day in the life and history of the village. The committee had been exceptionally good, and he mentioned especially Mr George Masters and Mr H Thorneycroft.

Mr Hugh Adams (committee member) gave a history of the building from the first decision (by the W.I. in 1933) to form a special building fund and praised the determination and loyalty of those who gave up their spare time to work on the hall. He also paid tribute to Major Blaney as chairman of the committee. The hall must now be utilized to the fullest extent he said. The building committee would hand over to a management committee.

Mrs M Bartlett, chairman of the executive committee of the Northamptonshire Rural Community Council, said the hall should be used for everybody in the village and supply the social needs of both the old and the young. She mentioned a conference to be held in the County Hall, Northampton next October at which representatives of all village halls in the county would meet. She paid tribute to the help given by Lt-Col Charles Genese (secretary of Northants Rural Community Council and Miss L N la Touche (HM Inspector, Ministry of education). Mr C North voiced thanks to the speakers and Major Blaney a comprehensive vote of thanks. Two visitors from London who attended the ceremony were Miss M Hann (Architect from the National Council of Social Services and Miss O Emerson-Price from the Ministry of Education.

An opening dance was held at the hall in the evening.



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Due to government regulations prohibiting public meetings the April 6th, 2020 Parish Council meeting was held online, using the Zoom platform. This is in line with national advice and is the first interruption in public meetings in the history of this parish. At this time there is no indication of how long these conditions will persist, but it is certain that the next meeting, The Annual Meeting, will also take place online on May 4th. Parishioners wanting to participate in the Public Session should contact the Clerk for details.

At this time there is no guidance on the status of the Annual Parish meeting, which would normally be held before the April ordinary meeting, so it has been decided not to go ahead with it until such time as clarity has been achieved. If this meeting does not take place it may well be the first time in 150 plus years, as it predates the inception of Parish Councils in 1895.

Due to difficulties experienced by Councillors unused to using the internet, a reduced number of Councillors attended the online meeting, but a quorum was achieved and was supplemented by the District and County Councillors.

The Play Area It was decided prior to the meeting, and with great sadness, that the Council would have to accept advice to close the Play Area, due to the potential danger of the virus being able to remain viable on metal and plastic surfaces for considerable lengths of time.

Litter Bins Dave, the Linkman, will do his best with the litter bins and we are very grateful to him for doing this thankless task, which I am sure is not one that many of us would relish at a time like this. We can help him by taking our rubbish home and putting it into our own bins. It is particularly deplorable that some people continue to put quantities of domestic waste into these bins.

Dog Waste Bins The contractors will continue to work as normal, but have asked for understanding – as they fear that there may be more usage than normal with so many people being at home.

Lights Our lighting maintenance contractors have shut down for the duration, so I am afraid that any lights that go out will remain out for the time being. There is little we can do about this.

Reports from the District and County Councillors

Cllr Bignell reported that all SNC officers were now working at home, that all planning site visits had been deferred until the emergency subsidies, and that a Covid 19 death had occurred in Bugbrooke.

Cllr Brown reported that there would be no Local Government Reform this year, but that the Shadow Councils would still be formed. NCC as the health Authority had been very busy, and was seeking to help all volunteer groups. He had been updating voluntary groups as information became available. A Hotline has been established as a result of which a number of people in distress have been helped. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) supplies have been secured. Some services have been reduced or stopped.

Reports on effect of Covid 19 emergency. Voluntary groups in the village had rapidly formed and supported the elderly and vulnerable. TADD (Towcester Area Door to Door) drivers had been delivering medication from Bugbrooke surgery, which is looking at video link consultations.

Banking – electronic banking. Clerk to try and expedite as quickly as possible. Cheque book and flash drive to be left with the chair, to enable Council to continue should the clerk become ill. Chair and LD to be given details of G-mail account.

Play Area - to consider replacement/additional equipment. Deferred due to current situation. The Play area has been closed in line with current advice.

To consider a further donation to the Church roof fund. - A further grant towards the church roof repairs had been mooted. Clerk pointed out that the grants policy only allowed for grants of £250 unless there had been a request made prior to the Precept Meeting. Councillors felt that figures needed to be provided before any further grant could be considered. The District Councillors cautioned against donating money to religious institutions: this had been assumed to be allowable under section 137 as a benefit to the whole community that the historic fabric of the church be maintained. Clerk to check legality of such donations with the internal auditor.

Vote of thanks to all those involved in the Community Involvement.

Resolved. To thank all residents involved in the support of elderly and vulnerable, and the distribution of food parcels.

This is a very hard and anxious time for those in self isolation, especially those who are alone in their houses. To have this support at hand is a great morale lifter.

Jez Wilson, Faye Brasset, Sue Boutle, the Rev Stephen, TADD drivers including Tony Paice had all done a great deal. Thanks too to all the staff at the One Stop Shop who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in keeping a vital supply line open, as have Glenn and Helen and all the staff at Heyford Meats. Having their shops open helps reduce unnecessary journeys.

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 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.

Parish Council meetings in 2020 will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and start at 19.30. The next one is on May 4th.

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
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.

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



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

Services for May 2020

Following advice from our Archbishops and bishops, all public worship in churches has been suspended, and our church buildings are locked for the foreseeable future, to facilitate social distancing.

Whilst we cannot meet at present, the Church is still alive and at work, doing all we can to pray for, care for and support our communities.

If you need prayer, if you need spiritual support, if you just want someone different to talk to,
please give me a ring on

01327 344436

There is now a Benefice Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HS9FB.

If you are able, please visit that page for reflections, prayers and encouragement.

Whilst we hold all our villages in prayer, the streets we shall be praying for during May are Watery Lane and Brookside Place in Heyford, Bricketts Lane and Springfield in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Brockhall Hall apartments.

Revd Stephen Burrow, tel 344436



Dear Friends

We received a couple of interesting cards last Christmas. One, from my training incumbent and his family, included a seed from one of the Christmas trees in their garden, with the invitation to plant it in the spring. The other card, from our daughter, Sarah, included a little sheet of paper, full of wildflower seeds, with similar instructions regarding planting. A few weeks ago, we planted both in little plastic plant pots, and placed them on the kitchen windowsill, where they would catch the morning sunshine, and we would be reminded to water them. We did this, and we checked for shoots every day, having faith that in the darkness, under the soil, the miracle of growth was taking place.

After Christmas, the next big Christian festival is Easter, and we have just had the most unusual and unexpected of Easter weekends. Our church buildings are closed, and we are unable to gather physically, but the Church remains alive and well. In our isolation, we are finding new ways to worship together on-line, new ways to pray for and care for our communities. With time to reflect, I frequently find myself wondering what new things might grow and emerge from the darkness of these days of crisis, not just for the Church, but for our society as a whole. We are already seeing a strengthening of community spirit. We are finding new ways to keep in touch with family, friends and neighbours. There is greater appreciation for workers in the NHS and other public services. We are seeing nature recover, with cleaner air one of the benefits of the greatly reduced levels of air and road travel. What can we do to keep these good things alive and growing as we come out of these difficult times?

At Easter, we celebrate Jesus rising from death to new life. The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to his disciples and filled them with his peace. But this is not the peace of the 'old normal', this is a new and different and exciting peace, because Jesus is risen from the dead. This is a peace full of the promise of life transformed. In the days after Easter, back on our kitchen windowsill, shoots appeared in the plant pot containing the wildflower seeds. Underground, in the darkness, the miracle of growth occurs, and new life bursts forth. At Easter we celebrate, and we remember that Jesus defeated death, that he came through suffering and darkness to bring new life, joy, peace and hope.

This present darkness will pass. New life hope and joy will emerge. Hold on!

With every prayer and blessing in these uncertain times,

*Stephen (tel. 344436 / mob. 07511 544375)
(e-mail s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk)*



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

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

Hello

It is the 16th April 2020 and Easter has passed and what a different Easter it was – so different to what is normal and to what was expected. But needless to say we are living in different, difficult and distressing times and I don't need to add anything else to reiterate just how awful the experience is for so many. But I will add, along with many others, the appreciation to all key and front line workers who are doing so much for so many.

Daily routine has changed – our garden is more neatly cared for, fences have been painted, cars cleaned to a higher standard, garage tidy and daily walks in the nice weather have added to this very unusual time as we have greeted people, often strangers, at the required distance.

At a distance – so necessary and for those of us who have grandchildren, being separated from them has caused additional challenges although the advantages of modern communications such as "WhatsApp" and "face-time" has been wonderful. I decided to write to my grandsons, two live in Yorkshire and one locally and whilst searching through the card drawer I found rather humorous cards which read "grandparents are crucial because parents don't have a clue" and the picture was of a beach scene in the early 1900's with the grandparents so inappropriately dressed in their Sunday best making less than enthusiastic attempts to entertain the grandchildren with making sandcastles. Well it made me smile and so I sent them to my grandsons with a letter.

They are young so my words were carefully selected as I shared with them the significance of today's events and that they may well talk about this year, 2020, with great significance to their children and their grandchildren. The impact of course to them will be different to the impact it now has on us because we are "in it here and now, experiencing it now, living with it now" – however it will be told the emphasis must be on its truth and its impact.

One of my favourite Bible accounts, pivotal to the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus following his crucifixion and death. Good Friday, his death, has no place, no power and purpose without the resurrection. But it is Thomas, doubting Thomas who I love to focus on and in particular these words, from John 20.

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus one of the Twelve), was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The horror of this pandemic must be told, must be reflected on, the truth of its impact must be remembered as the event which changed the world in 2020. It is real and it is relevant. Will my grandsons children and grandchildren believe in the significance of 2020? - I hope so.

The account of Thomas's discovery in seeing Jesus – changed his life because he believed after he saw. But Jesus gave that wonderful and life changing reminder to Thomas, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

Thank you.

*Martin Buckley
On behalf of the chapel fellowship*

Betsy May's (age 5) contribution:

God our Father, we've come to say,
Thank you for your love today,
Thank you for my family and all the friends you give to me,
Guard me in the dark of night and in the morning send your light,
Amen

Cryptic Underground Stations

Thanks to Geri Anderson. All the following are clues for London Underground stations. Answers on page 30

1	Bad news for Napoleon		
2	Bigger than big		
3	Alpine Dwelling		
4	It's falling down		
5	Weapon store		
6	Trumpeting New York thoroughfare		
7	Stop here for the Men's singles and Doubles		
8	Nobleman Captured		
9	Limit of 1760 Yards		
10	The Longest Reign		
11	A Bear		
12	Patella's Lair		
13	Red Rose Entrance		
14	In the Hop County		
15	Ballet and Vegetables Here		
16	Heavenly Messenger		
17	Irate Monarch		
18	Where the Money is		
19	Where Blackboard Materials are Grown		
20	There's One on Merseyside		
21	Royal Route		
22	Oriental Pigmeat		
23	Elementary My Dear Watson		
24	A Television School		
25	You won't Find Acrobats at This University		
26	Sounds Like the Bard was Born Here		
27	Do Rabbits live in This Thoroughfare		
28	Half a Crown from Golders Green		

Dear Diary,

May 1953

What an exciting year this promises to be. Two weddings and a Coronation and they will all be different.

The first wedding is to be this month when Keith Clarke marries Brenda at the Methodist Chapel in Church Street. They are to have a reception at the Foresters Arms, and a neighbour is making them a wedding cake. I expect they will live in Hillside Road when Brenda's parents move out.

The second wedding is my auntie Beryl who is to marry Jack Gibbins in Heyford church in June. This is special to me because I am to be a bridesmaid. Three of us are having long dresses in lemon with purple bows around the bottom and bonnets to match. Mum is putting ringlets in my hair which probably means sleeping with rags in. They are to live with Jack's mother in Furnace Lane until a Council house becomes available for them.

We have posies to carry and I am to hold my auntie's bouquet while she says "I do". This means I can't hold the hymn book, so we are all gathered around Nan's piano while mum plays and we learn the hymns by heart. All her family play an instrument. She wanted me to have piano lessons but I refused to practice so she said she wouldn't be wasting money on me learning and dad said I was to stop being an awkward young lady. "What else will you do on a Saturday evening when you're older?" Maybe I'll regret not learning, who knows.

Last but not least, our lovely Queen Elizabeth is to be crowned in June in London and it is to be shown on the television. We don't have one so I have been asked to go to a neighbour's house to watch it. The Queen's mother will be there but her grandmother died in March so she'll miss it and I bet she would have loved to see another Coronation. The school children from Bliss school are to plant Acacia and May trees along what is now to be called Coronation Row, the little road opposite the school which splits up the village green. Dad got us some flags to pin up above our front door, and everybody seems to have something to hang up on the big day.

More good news. At last they have taken the railings down from around the war memorial on the little green and it is to be the end of sweet rationing. Bring on the lolly pops.

Until all this happens I think I'll get my head in a book and read another Famous Five story. Shall I chose "Go Off in a Caravan", "Go To Kirren Island" or, as normal, "Get Into Trouble", all exciting stories with my favourite characters. I might look at my School Friend comic as well. Mum says I should keep my comics "in case we run out of toilet paper", I mean, can you imagine?

Polly



Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

Please note that Garden Club activities have had to be suspended until further Notice.

Spring

This has been a strange spring as normally we would be busy going to garden centres and nurseries for plants and materials, and visiting various gardens for ideas or just pleasure, but this year, like everybody else we have been confined to our own patch. Some compensation has been derived from the fact that the display of flowers this spring has been particularly good and with little rough weather it has lasted for weeks. Our garden is also tidier than it has been for many years as we've had few other diversions.

Unsprouting broccoli

In the past I sometimes had a broccoli plant that failed to produce sprouts in the spring but went on to grow for a further year before performing as it should. This year however the whole row are looking stubbornly unproductive. I wonder if this is due to the mild winter not giving the clue to start bud formation?

A rose by many other names

After nearly sixty years of gardening I am still amazed at how much I still have to learn. A couple of years ago we visited the Chelsea Physic Garden, and saw a magnificent red flowered rose growing up one of the walls. We took note of the name which was Bengal Crimson. On return home I searched catalogues and reference books but could find no trace of this plant.

Last year during a visit to the nursery at Coton Manor we noticed some plants for sale with the name Bengal Beauty. These had the same large red flowers but the description on the label said it grew to three feet (one metre) whereas the specimen at Chelsea was at least five metres high. Was it the same variety? When we walked a little further we found the same rose growing against a wall where it was considerably taller than me.

Further research has revealed that this rose can be found labelled as *Rosa sanguinea*, Bengal Rose, and *Rosa odorata* as well as the names noted above. In each case the description is of a small bush. It is a china rose and these by nature can produce flowers in almost any month, our plant even though small had produced flowers right until November, and then started again in March. The flowers are possibly not to everyone's taste though, as they are single and rather floppy looking

The moral of this story is that you can't always rely on the descriptions of plants in books or catalogues, a lot depends on where and how they are grown.

Honey Fungus

A part of our garden is infested with honey fungus, and from time to time another plant succumbs to the infection. Recently we noticed that a climbing rose has begun to look rather peaky and we are afraid we may lose it. All will not be lost however as this plant is one of those that roots when the tips of the shoots touch the ground and so we have some new plants in parts of the garden unaffected by the fungus. Some plants do seem to be immune to infection, hazels, damsons, holly and an osmanthus shrub all still appear quite healthy as are all the herbaceous plants and bulbs.

The advice for dealing with honey fungus is to remove all plants and soil from the affected area and bring in new topsoil. As this would be impractical we shall have to learn to live with the problem. Obviously it would not be a good area to plant anything expensive or precious.

Lemon verbena

We have a venerable plant of lemon verbena grown in a tub. This as well as looking good supplies us with lemon flavoured leaves for use in drinks and salads etc. These plants are not totally winter hardy but just need shelter from the worst of the weather. It is easy to take cuttings but I discovered that these would be killed by cold in the winter even though the main plant was unaffected. So if you buy a small plant of lemon verbena from a nursery in would be wise to keep it in a frost free place during the first winter.

Things to do in May

1. Divide clumps of spring bulbs
2. Check for bird's nests before cutting hedges
3. take softwood cuttings of shrubs and herbaceous plants.

Mark Newstead



Revitalising the allotments

I promised, in my last article that this would be a Covid 19 free area and I intend to stick to that, although I suspect that increased activity on the allotments may have just a little something to do with “that which will not be named”.

Bloomin' Lovely

The allotments have never looked better. If you have had a chance to wander past the site on Watery Lane as part of your daily walk/exercise you can't have avoided seeing so many well tended plots. If you have not ventured that way, then do so, it looks a treat and is testament to all those people who have worked so hard to make it happen.

The fact that so many people have more time on their hands is I suppose a factor, but I'll skip over that. I would like to think that this has more to do with the good people of Heyford and nearby locations realising that growing your own fruit and veg is good for you and the planet.

Trees are in bloom, the ground has been tilled and sown with seed, the grass has been mown and things are starting to grow. Even more sheds are springing up from the earth!

And bird song, particularly on the calm sunlit evenings with which we have been blessed, has never sounded so loud and life affirming. It is a tonic and puts a spring in your step.

The Community Orchard

All the trees we planted just eighteen months ago have survived the winter and are flourishing. If the blossom on the trees and the number of foraging insects that we have seen is anything to go by, then the chances of trees producing some good fruit this year are high.

A big thank you must go to the volunteers who not only keep the grass in the orchard under control, but those who water and weed around the trees.

The pruning of the cherries and plums will take place in May - a little later than the apples and pears, so as to avoid a fungal disease called Silver Leaf.

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/01327 342124), Lynda Eales (01327 341707) or Mike Langrish (langrish_heyford@hotmail.com/01327341390). We can ensure that you get the equipment you require at a mutually convenient time.

Allotment Holders

We are now in the unusual position of having almost no vacant plots available. A group of us joked a year or so ago that one of our targets should be to arrive at point where we had to create a waiting list for an allotment. Fanciful we thought, impossible, some cautioned. Well, we are almost there. As I write this article (16th April) we have just half a plot available for rent. The waiting list could become a reality. If you are considering growing your own fruit and veg, act quickly by contacting Sue Corner on 01327 342124 or Lynda Eales on 01327 341707.

Mike Langrish

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.”

— Margaret Atwood

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A Fruit and Veg Story (with the odd nut thrown in) - Use your knowledge of fruit and vegetables (and the odd nut) to fill in the blanks.

_____ (7) begin by telling you a story about Darren and Angela, greengrocers of Heyford, the day they decided to go on a boating trip with Angela's mum Melanie and her new man Arty. Angela's friend Anna was going to come. Anna was a _____ (5), she was born in Malmo. She then decided to not _____ (6) as she had a blind _____ (4) and she felt like a _____ (10) going out with two couples. They thought that this was for the best, as they didn't want to _____ (6) from coming but the car only had four seats, and two _____ (5) would fit better.

Darren had just got a _____ (4) job in Belgium that paid lots of money but this meant he had to visit _____ (8) a lot, but the increase in _____ (6) meant that at least they could _____ (7). But as she reversed out of their drive, Angela scratched the car door on the garden wall.

When they arrived at Angela's mums' house, Arty noticed the damage to their car. "Do you know the car's scratched" said Arty.

"Yeah" said Darren "_____ (6) did it". "I'll take it around to my mate's Mike, he's a mechanic" said Darren.

"By the way, how's the _____ (6,4) Darren?" said Arty, as Darren had been learning the language to help him in his new job.

They all drove to the river and got into a rowing boat, the boat was very small Darren said "We're in a bit of a _____ (6) here." as there is not _____ (8) it will be bit of a _____ (6). Arty sat at the front, Darren at the back, with the two women in the middle holding the oars, Angela on one side and _____ (5) the other. "I feel like a right _____ (5) sat at the back" said Darren.

They set off against a strong _____ (7) behind them. Arty saw a friend on the riverbank and Darren blew a loud _____ (9) towards him.

"Your behaviour _____ (6) me Darren" said Angela's mother. "_____ (7) may," said Darren. "That Darren is incorrigible" said Arty to Angela's mother. "_____ (5) a little mother" said Angela in defence of her husband.

Angela lovingly stroked Darren's leg as they floated slowly down the river, "_____ (5,5) you have my dear" whispered Darren gently. "I've got a shiver from my head _____ (8). You have a _____ (7) touch".

They finally reached their destination in the village centre, and went to a shop to buy some snacks. Darren bought a big bag of nuts and some amber _____ (9) a bottle, he just loved Fosters Lager.

Darren had no money with him so the shopkeeper said I'll _____(6) a cheque”.

“Where have you _____(4)”, said Angela to Darren. Darren handed the beer and nuts around, but the nuts made _____(9) as he ate them too quickly. After Arty had recovered, they all decided that the whole day had been a disaster, so they all agreed to go home.

And that' _____(7) folks.

Shirley and Mick Collins

Answers on page 26

Village Hall News

While the village hall is not presently being used by its usual groups and individuals (all much missed) it is nevertheless being put to an amazing use.

Every Wednesday a group of village volunteers are working together to receive large deliveries of food, sort, make up food parcels, then deliver them to local vulnerable people.

As a recipient of these regular food parcels I know how much this must mean to all of us who are in isolation, many lonely and no doubt anxious about this dreadful time we are all going through. On behalf of us all I want to say a huge THANK-YOU to all our 'angels' by helping to make a bad time feel better. It is greatly appreciated.

Alwyne Wilson
Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee
01327 340 803

PS: Sorry about all the weeds around the hall – hopefully when this is over we'll be able to gather a great team of volunteers to help us clear them (fingers crossed).



In Nether Heyford

The WI President, Pat Essery, and I were talking several days ago and likening the present 'Lock Down' to the war years. Although then, as now, several items of grocery etc. that we use regularly were almost unobtainable, she pointed out that what kept us going as a Nation was the one thing that is so difficult to have now – the physical company of friends and neighbours. In the busy lives we all lead it is easy to underestimate how important that can be.

This set me thinking about Nether Heyford WI who will be celebrating their 90th Birthday in October. Although I have lived in the village for 50 years I only joined the WI about 17 years ago. However, when I was researching the history for the 85th Birthday I came across a lot of names that I already knew and by the end I felt I had got to know a lot more. What the ladies of the WI did for the village was incredible and I thought you might like to hear about just one of the war years in particular.

1942, and it must have seemed that the war would never end. Money and food must have been short, although food was possibly a little better in the country than the towns. During the year the ladies had allowed themselves a little frivolity and gone on a June picnic. It doesn't say in the Minutes just where they went but it conjures up a lovely picture of a line of ladies with picnic baskets heading off along the path to The Mill or sitting on our beautiful green. A moment out of time in the horrors of war. In October they spent some time discussing if they should carry on over the next few months. The decision was made to miss November and then try to carry on as usual. This they did by holding a Jumble Sale and Gift Stall in December at which they raised £15 for two charities. As £1 from 1942 has the buying power of £47.43 today (according to the internet!) that was some achievement!!

At their Annual Meeting they had a Balance of £3.

During the year: £4 was sent to the National Institute for the Blind
The knitting class organised by the WI knitted 303 articles for the Merchant Navy

The War Savings Group (part of the National Savings Group to raise funds to support the war effort) reported savings of £540 for the year.

They also sent eleven and a quarter hundredweights of potatoes to Northampton General Hospital. This was the result of the generosity of Mr Adams (Husband of the President and father of Hugh, who, as I'm sure you know, still lives in the village). Every year he would give seed potatoes to be shared between the members to be grown in their gardens.

This is just one year of Nether Heyford WI's war efforts and when I finished going through the minutes at the Records Office I felt proud of all those ladies who gave so much of their time. Although I was born in Towcester and, as such, am a 'newcomer' I feel very proud to live in this beautiful part of Northamptonshire and to be part of this community. It has changed very little and those friendships will surely be making a real difference to these difficult weeks.

Mary Rice
Heyford Lodge 01327 340101

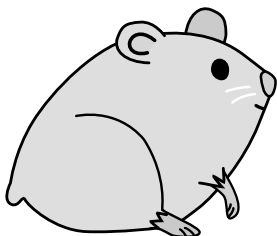
My Guinea Pigs

by Jemima Thompson (age 7 & in Year 3 at Bliss)

My guinea pigs are cute & fluffy,
I like to see them when I wake,
One is brown & one is white,
We call them Nutmeg & Milkshake

My guinea pigs make lots of poo poo
We have to clean it out,
My guinea pigs love fruit &
vegetables,
When they see dinner they squeak &
shout

My guinea pigs are cute & fluffy,
And very cuddly too,
One is brown & one is white,
Nutmeg & Milkshake we love you.



Do you remember that Spring?

By Becki Johnson
























Do you remember that Spring, mum?
The one where we learned to dance?
We had loads of time together, mum,
I learned lots about flowers and plants!

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
The one when daddy was always home?
We ate all our meals together, mum,
And spoke to nana lots on the phone!

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
Where we did loads of Arts and Crafts?
We had whole days in our pyjamas, mum,
And had loads and loads of tickle fights!

Do you remember that Spring, mum?
When you put the tent up in the front room?
We had so many cuddles and snuggles,
I hope we have a spring like that soon!



And people stayed home  and read books and listened
 and rested and exercised  and made art and
played  and learned new ways of being  and
stopped  and listened deeper  someone meditated
 someone prayed  someone danced  someone
met their shadow  and people began to think differently
 and people healed  and in the absence of people
who lived in ignorant ways,  dangerous, meaningless
and heartless.  even the earth began to heal 
and when the danger ended  and people found each other
 grieved for the dead people  and they
made new choices  and dreamed of new visions
 and created new ways of life 
and healed the earth completely 
just as they were healed themselves.

Grace Ramsey
1839-1888

A bit of background to the poem and author.

The author, Grace Ramsay, was the pen-name of Kathleen O'Meara (1839-1888). She was an Irish-French Catholic writer and biographer, responsible for 11 novels and three works of non-fiction during the Victorian period. Her fiction covered a variety of topics from women's rights to Eastern European revolutions, all dealing with social reform.

This poem appeared in her second novel, *Iza's Story*, which dealt with the struggle of Polish patriots against the Russian, Austrian and German occupation. She was well-known during her lifetime, never married and travelled widely throughout Europe and the United States.

Crafty Club

As these are unprecedented times I thought I would reminisce about the Crafty Club.

In 2001 I had to retire from my full-time job due to a family crisis. Then in around 2005 due to a chance meeting in the village, the Crafty Club was “born”. I met two ladies (Tracey & Jude) in the village who were, at the time, attending a sewing class that was not all they expected. From this simple conversation came the idea of opening our own craft club – but where? Tracey, who worked in the local hairdressers, suggested asking her boss if we could use the premises on a Monday afternoon for this club, and so we had a venue. At the time, (somehow) we managed to find six other ladies who were interested in joining our newly formed club. Tracey, Jude and myself decided we would start at the beginning of 2006. Then again, fate seemed to intervene as I was diagnosed with breast cancer at the beginning of 2006 so I missed the first few meetings.

Following on from my surgery, and feeling 100% better I joined the ladies on a Monday in the local Hairdressers. Thinking back and remembering the nine of us sitting in a circle with each person bringing our “crafts”, brings a smile to my face. Sometime later other crafters were asking about our club, and it soon became obvious we would need larger premises. That said, the group was too big for the hairdressers, but not big enough to fund bigger premises at a large cost.

One member of the group suggested approaching the Baptist Chapel with a view to using their “meeting” room and so enquiries were made to see (1) if it was available on a Monday between 12.30 and 14.30 and (2) how much it would cost. Both questions were answered favourably, and so the Crafty Club was officially opened to anyone and everyone.

The two photos are of some of the original members busy in the Baptist Rooms. Unfortunately one or two of them are sadly no longer with us – maybe you remember them (but just in case – Photo one includes Mrs Wright (and her daughter) Mrs Mattacola and also Sue Madeley (who is still a member) {Mrs Wright & Mrs Mattacola have since died}. Photo two includes Joan Eales, Olive Peck (have since passed away) Pam Green (who is still a member) and Elaine Oldroyd.

From the start of the club having nine members, we have grown over the years and now have between 25 – 30 people on the list with an average of 20 attending on a regular basis. Over the years we have unfortunately lost quite a few of our members as well as several moving away from the area.

The first Christmas the club arranged a Christmas meal at the Narrow Boat, which seemed to be well liked. Following on from this the small “committee” decided that we could just as easily cook a Christmas dinner, with portions to suit all and so between 2011 and 2013 this was arranged in the Village Hall. The party involved

singing including carols, plus various poems/antidotes, with a “Secret Santa” present. Between 2014 – 2016 we returned to the Baptist Rooms for our Christmas meal, as it was felt to be much more “cosy”.

From 2017 the club moved to the Village Hall, as the Baptist Rooms were proving too small with the ever-increasing membership. Christmas 2017 it was decided to have a Buffet which was pre-ordered from M&S, and this proved very popular especially as there were little or no plates etc to wash! During the last two years we have added some really “challenging” – although amusing games to the party which appears to have been a big hit with all the ladies.

Christmas 2016 the club decided to hold a Christmas Fayre in the Baptist rooms, with the ladies showing and selling some of their fine handicrafts. With this success in mind it was decided from 2017 to date to hold an annual Christmas Fayre in conjunction with the W.I. who provided the refreshments and helped with a cake stall etc.

At the Christmas 2019 Christmas Fayre it was with trepidation that the Tree Festival was “resurrected” in the Baptist Rooms along with the Fayre in the Village Hall. There seemed to be a steady stream of people coming to “inspect” the trees (which were all artificial and therefore identical) with the aim of voting for the best decorated tree.

Since 2017 there are now “Workshops” organised throughout the year which have proved very popular, as it gives the ladies a chance to try new skills without too much outlay. 2020 is the start of the 14th year the club has been running and until this present pandemic the club is still thriving.

So to all you crafters and future crafters – take care and stay safe – see you all when this current crisis is over.

Chris Phillipps



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When your birthday brings the world under your window
And the song-thrush sings wet-throated in the dew
And aconite and primrose are unsticking the wrappers
Of the package that has come for you today

from April Birthday by Ted Hughes

A very Happy Birthday to all who celebrated birthdays during April (or since this current lock-down began). It was probably very different from how you'd expected or planned, without gatherings of friends or family to celebrate your day. Mine began with a 7.00 am telephone chorus of "Happy Birthday" from all my grandchildren, which fortunately I have kept it as an answerphone message for when I want to hear their joyful voices again.

We honoured Isabel Billingham, a very special lady in our community and In Manor Park, for her 90th birthday, with neighbours and friends gathering in the road to sing "Happy Birthday", accompanied by Keith Rands-Allen on his saxophone. It was a really lovely occasion.

As this most beautiful of springtime unwinds, we are being treated to a daily symphony of birdsong, from early morning until dusk. We now have the time to stop, to listen and to marvel at the different melodies being performed around us. The silence is also very obvious. Was the world so noisy and full of busy sounds that we have bypassed the magic of silent moments in our lives?

The quieter but distant hum from the motorway, or the less frequent trains hurtling north or south, are a reminder of those who have to travel to work, to keep us safe, healthy, fed and our utilities maintained.

When the telephone rings now it invariably means that a family member or friend wants to have a chat, no need now for quick texts of emails, but to share and talk about ourselves and our days at home. Similarly I love to hear the 2 metre social distance "Hellos" or conversations as we pass other folk out on their daily exercise routes pass - suffice it to say that we have all made many, many more friends during this period than we would have done driving along in our cars.

I leave the most moving sound of all to last... that of the weekly Thursday night applause for all those who are supporting us through these strange times, everyone in the hospitals, care homes, shops, schools, all those who deliver and collect for us. That simple act of clapping together, everywhere and by everyone, is truly amazing and heartfelt.

Keep safe, keep well and keep smiling.

Jill Langrish

Desert Island Discs - your choices

In response to my request to readers last month I have had a few replies. I am going to begin with the one from Keith Rands-Allen, and for this reason... as many of you may know Keith experienced a horrific road accident two summers ago. It has been a long and, at times difficult journey, back to full health and mobility. But his determination and resilience to "return to normal", together with the support of Julie, his friends and family, is surely something that we all aspire to in these difficult times.

Keith Rands-Allen's Desert Island Discs - 29th March 2020

I've always been a great lover of Jazz music since my early teens. When my friends were listening to Buddy Holly and Elvis Presley I was listening to Acker Bilk and Chris Barber, and the love of Jazz has stayed with me to this day. If you come to our house you will invariably find Alexa playing the American radio station Jazz24.

So these are the musicians and their recordings that have accompanied my life:

Singin' the Blues by Frankie Trumbauer and his Orchestra with Bix Beiderbecke on cornet. (1927): Bix was one of the finest and most influential trumpet players of his age and a great influence on many Jazz trumpeters who followed him. Like many Jazz musicians he died tragically early in 1931 aged 28. His playing in *Singin' the Blues* stands head and shoulders above the other musicians and his tone ("like shooting silver bullets at a bell") melodic phrasing and rhythmic invention are exquisite.

Tiger Rag by Chris Barber (1953): This was the record that turned me on to Jazz. It was in a record collection in a house that I holidayed in around 1956 and I couldn't stop playing it. The banjo player is Lonnie Donegan who later became very popular in the Skiffle craze.

Two Sleepy People by Fats Waller: Fats was a great favourite of my Dad. Fats was a fine pianist, composer (*Honeysuckle Rose*) and singer with a wicked sense of humour.

What a Wonderful World by Louis Armstrong: Louis possessed two amazing instruments – his trumpet and his voice, and this is a wonderful recording of his voice in later life after he'd been forced to give up blowing. His timing and phrasing are perfect. It's also a favourite of Julie's.

Jungle Town by Ken Colyer: Ken was an irascible British trumpet player and band leader who insisted on sticking to the original purity of New Orleans Jazz. Having been partly responsible for the Trad Jazz boom of the sixties he came to despise its commercial excesses and went his own sweet way playing to small audiences in small Jazz Clubs. This recording has Ken playing (in a school hall in Edmonton) a fine trumpet line, but I think is notable for the last few choruses which demonstrate ensemble Jazz playing at its glorious raggy best!

Fine and Mellow by Billie Holiday: This was recorded for television and is available as a video on YouTube. It's notable not only for Billie in relaxed voice but also for the galaxy of Jazz stars that accompany her including (In order of solos) Ben Webster (tenor sax), Lester Young (tenor sax), Vic Dickinson (trombone), Gerry Mulligan (baritone sax), Coleman Hawkins (tenor sax), and Roy Eldridge (trumpet). Billie and Lester hadn't worked together for some time and the expression on Billie's face when Lester plays his wonderfully cool solo speaks volumes.

Bill by Cleo Laine: This comes from the musical Showboat which Julie and I saw (to mixed reviews!) in the West End. I can't listen to this with a dry eye. It's a sloppy sentimental tune but Cleo's interpretation is wonderful. The lyrics were originally written by P G Wodehouse.

Concerto for 2 Violins by Bach: This is just liquid beauty. They say that if Bach had been alive today he'd have been a Jazzer, which is why I think he is probably my favourite classical composer.

Then there's all the stuff that I'd try to grab as the ship was sinking and smuggle ashore: Vissi D'arte by Maria Callas, Potato Head Blues by Louis Armstrong, how could I leave out Barbra Streisand, or something by Duke Ellington or Count Basie? And then there's Art Tatum and Miles Davis, and I can't leave out something by that fine guitar player Gary Potter. It's so cruel having to choose! Oh God, I've just played Nimrod again – how can I leave that out?

Well, there we have it. I've put a date on it because if I had to choose again tomorrow I would no doubt change something.

The book I would take? I'm not a great reader, but The Complete Works of Shakespeare would be useful – I would keep the sonnets and the rest would come in handy for lighting fires.

And my luxury? Probably a saxophone (alto or tenor) with a supply of reeds. I could then learn to play the thing properly and play along with my Jazz heroes. Or better still – a fully loaded I-pod complete with a solar battery charger and earphones!

Enough of this torture! It's time to send the list to Jill.

In the unlikely event that anybody would like some or all of these tracks on a CD I'd be happy to oblige.

Quiz Answers

A Fruit and Veg Story

LETTUCE, SWEDE, TURNIP, DATE, BAN ANA, PEARS, PLUM, BRUSSELS, CELERY, AVOCADO, OR ANGE, FRENCH BEAN, PICKLE, MUSHROOM, SQUASH, MEL ON, LEMON, CURRANT, APPLES, KUM QUAT, "O LIVE, WATER CRESS, PEARFECT, NECTAR INE, CASH EW, BEAN, ARTI CHOKE, SHALLOT

View from the Wildlife Patch

2020 is proving to be a strange year in the Musson Household. We are all “locked down” and somehow, time seems to standing still whilst we wait for life to return to “normal”. Regardless of personal feelings the year is moving on quite rapidly. On “The Wildlife Patch” grass is growing slowly. The Seed mixtures that were chosen with care and sown in anticipation are looking a bit sparse and patchy. Maybe now that we have had a ½ day of rain, a bit of warm sun will bring them on a bit.

With early butterflies in evidence I realised that I did not have decent photo of a Male Brimstone Butterfly. -The common name comes from the old name for Sulphur, alluding to the yellow colour of the male. These large, leaf winged, pale yellow/green butterflies can be seen visiting flowers from early April till middle or late May. Females are white with similar, leaf shaped wings. They emerge later in the season than males and can still be on the wing in early June. These Females can be mistaken for Large White (Cabbage) Butterfly to which they are not related. To my mind Brimstones are one of our most beautiful butterflies. There is something very special about the delicate leaf shape and colour, especially the underwing which even has an imperfection by way of a small spot on this “leaf”. Really, this is winter camouflage which enables them to hibernate whilst clinging to the underside of Ivy leaf clusters unseen. If you want to find one hibernating, you will need to take a torch to Ivy plants on a winter night. If you shine your torch on the underside of the Ivy leaves, the butterfly’s wings will reflect the torchlight whilst Ivy leaves stay dull.

Eggs are laid on Buckthorn (which we have in the Watery Lane Hedge). The Caterpillars grow quite large and lie along the centre of the food plant leaf. They are almost impossible to see as the colouration gives the effect that the larva is no more than a bit of extra shadow along the leaf midrib. We have both Buckthorn and Ivy on the wildlife patch so as long as early spring flowers persist we should have Brimstones for a long time. To go back to my photo, I found a really large Brimstone male, lined my shot up and pressed the shutter button. That is when the camera auto focus failed so I still need decent picture of my favourite butterfly.

Elsewhere, the Wildlife Pond is looking good; plants are being added as they turn up on walks or from donations from garden ponds. (no visiting aqua culture centres this year). We have bought some oxygenators and one Lily online which should arrive in May and some money was donated which was used to buy two marsh marigold plants. There are Tadpoles of Common Frog in the pond. These are preyed on by water Boatmen. There is also large round version of Water boatman. This is a species that usually lives in white water rapids (must have got lost). This one swims manically around and also catches tadpoles. We also have a few Pond skaters and some Whirligig Beetles that have flown in. If you have never seen this latter just go to the pond where it will swiftly become evident where they get their common name.

Dave Musson

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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.

one|stop



Heyford Cricket Club

In the absence of any cricket until further notice, the club have been taking a trip down memory lane during April, sharing scorecard and match details of games of the last 25 or so years. The earliest scorebook we have is from the 1993 season, which would have been one of the first seasons hosting cricket at the Playing Fields. A local derby attracted our attention. Heyford CC hosted Weedon CC, who folded many years ago. Bowling first, Weedon were bowled out for 134, with Chris Peck leading the way with the ball with an excellent 4-14 and club President Alex Kirkbride taking 2-27. It's great that Chris is still turning out regularly for Heyford on a Saturday afternoon. In response, Jeremy Rice (41) and Pete Rice (28) set the chase up, and Dave Payne's (29*) useful contribution ensured that Heyford ran out victors by 4 wickets.

A number of the players in this game are still involved with the club, some playing occasionally and others supporting in the club's activities. I'm sure if you'd have told this lot that in 2020 Heyford CC would have 3 senior teams, a thriving junior section, award-winning grounds and a not-to-be-missed end of season tour, they would be pleasantly surprised.

Like and follow us on Facebook to see more Heyford memories and the scorecards.

Coronavirus Cricket

The junior cricketers at Heyford CC were busy completing a Coronavirus Cricket challenge over Easter! We've created a fun video of 20 children and coaches playing cricket with a difference during the lock-down. With a little bit of trickery on the computer we've made it look like the children are bowling a ball to themselves, hitting it up into the air, and then catching themselves out! Check out the News page on our website for the full video.

Bonus Ball

A full list of Bonus Ball winners can be found on the 'News' pages of our website. The March 2020 winners were as follows:

7-3-20	42	Chris Andrews	14-3-20	14	Ben Taylor
21-3-20	41	No winner	28-3-20	11	Chris Peck

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 or via social media where we can be found on Facebook @HeyfordCC.



Heyford Bowls Club

www.heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk

We've all heard the expression "no news is good news" but I'm not sure in this context that it is necessarily true. I understand – good old internet- that the phrase originated in the reign of King James I when he said, "no news is better than evil news", but he had not experienced Covid 19.

I believe in a pandemic you can get too much news. If you watch the television news too much it can have a deteriorating effect on your mental health. A case of too much news is not good news, because all the news is gloomy. And I'm still waiting for David Shulman, a journalist in the BBC, to produce a positive report that is not full of gloomy predictions.

Meanwhile in the world gone mad category: -

Wednesday: the UK is heading for the biggest depression in living memory; two to three million people unemployed. Thursday: farmers charter an aeroplane to fly in crop pickers from Romania.

In any case, won't every economy in the world suffer some degree of depression?

One final thought. Have you noticed the unprecedented use of the word unprecedented?

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones. Keep safe.

Geoff Allen
349909

Quiz Answers

Cryptic Underground Stations

1. WATERLOO 2. WAPPING 3. SWISS COTTAGE 4. LONDON BRIDGE
5. ARSENAL 6. TOOTING BROADWAY 7. WIMBLEDON 8. EARLS COURT
9. MILE END 10. VICTORIA 11. PADDINGTON 12. NEASDEN (Knees Den)
13. LANCASTER GATE 14. KENTISH TOWN 15. COVENT GARDEN
16. ANGEL 17. KINGS CROSS 18. BANK 19. CHALK FARM
20. LIVERPOOL STREET 21. QUEENSWAY 22. EAST HAM 23. BAKER STREET
24. GRANGE HILL 25. OXFORD CIRCUS 26. STRATFORD
27. WARREN STREET 28. FINCHLEY CENTRAL

Growing up in Heyford - John Butcher

I was born on Nov 18th 1937 at 15 Furnace Lane, or as my mother always called it Stowe Lane. Our house was built in 1934 by Denny and Sons and for whom my father worked as a carpenter.

I remember little of my early years other than playing with my friend, Norman Denny who lived next door. Apparently my mother used to allow a young girl from the village to walk me out in my pram, she had special needs and it seems a man attempted to rape her. She was sent to Berry Wood (St Crispins) where she remained for the rest of her life, about sixty years. I don't think anyone from the village ever visited her!

Another of my very early memories was of my father holding me up at the bedroom window to show me Coventry burning and of hearing German planes flying overhead. In June 1942 my brother David was born and because of medical problems he had to have an operation. He remained in hospital for many weeks and my mother had to visit the hospital every day to feed him, so I was sent to live with my grandparents at Caldecote near Towcester. Since I was the only child in the household I was thoroughly spoilt and given the sweet rations of all the adults in the family. It is no wonder then that when I eventually returned to Heyford to start school I was not very happy about it and of course was no longer an only child. On my first day at school I was taken by Daf Thompson (Holtham) because my mother was still pre-occupied with my brother.

At this time my father was working in London and Coventry repairing war damage. He was unable to do military service because of deafness. At the end of the war he was eligible for a large bonus, but he refused it saying it was his contribution to the war in which many of his friends had suffered.

I attended Sunday school as did most of us in the village at that time and each Sunday was given a penny for the collection. However, most of us put a half penny in the collection and used the other halfpenny for an ice cream on the way home. Sunday morning was the time for slaughtering pigs in the village and there was always competition for the pig's bladders which the butcher threw over the wall, and if you should wonder why, a pig's bladder makes a great football.

They were happy days which consisted of going to school, playing sports on the green, playing in the brook that ran at the bottom of the field behind my house and cycling around the local villages. Sometimes I would cycle to Banbury with my other good friend, Robin Ellis, we always bought Banbury cakes home to prove that we had actually been there.

I remember V J day September 1945 very clearly. My father was playing in a celebration football match on the village green. In those days, chickens roamed freely on the green and making themselves dust baths. During the match the ball

landed in one of the dust baths and unbeknown to my father when he went to kick the ball he hit the side of the dust bath instead, resulting in the bone in his leg snapping, the sound of which was heard all over the green.

When I was 10 we had a new headmaster at Heyford school, Mr Woods, he made drastic changes to the school and the village. He introduced a school uniform and changed the attitude of the village. We were to become the best village school in the county winning most competitions from sport to gardening as well as in the field of education. Two of our pupils, Norman Freeman and Eileen Garrett were selected to represent England in the junior Olympics. Mr Woods together with Mr Wilkinson started the Heyford Boy Scouts and later I became the leader of Peewit Patrol. We often camped at the stone quarry in Stowe and at Brockhall travelling on foot and carrying our tent etc on Denny's 2 wheel builders cart, quite a journey uphill to Stowe.

We once camped at Compton Verney but that time we travelled by bus. Also camping there was a troop of Girl Guides who Mr Woods warned us not to get involved with. However, he did agree that we should dig their latrines about which we were not very happy. We did as instructed, well not quite, instead of 18" wide, we dug them at 30", quite a stretch for the girls, that was our protest. The estate was overrun with rabbits so on the first night I decided to set some snares and actually caught 3 rabbit's, but Mr Woods was not happy, accused me of poaching and told me to bury them.

I remember well the winter of 1947 when the whole village was snowed in and the Grand Union canal was frozen. Coal was normally delivered to Mr West by barge so there was an acute shortage. We were rationed to one sack of coal and I remember going up Weedon Road with y parents to collect it by sledge.

At the age of 11 we all took the exam to get into Daventry Grammar School, I failed. However, some time later we were given a second chance which involved an interview with some of the teachers, this I failed too. Some weeks later I was on a train to Peterborough to run in the 440 yards representing South Northants at the East Midlands School competition. One of the teachers who had interviewed me was on the train, he asked "haven't I met you recently?" I said yes you interviewed me for a place at Daventry School, but I failed. He said then why didn't you tell me that you could run? My education could have been completely different.

It was around this time that I had three narrow escapes from death. The first was when I sledged down Furnace Lane and went underneath a lorry which was travelling from Weedon to Bugbrooke. I went under behind the front wheels and came out the other side just before the rear wheels. Next was when my friend Robin Ellis and I exploded a mortar bomb which we had found in Stowe wood (details of this are in an old copy of The Prattler). The next lucky escape took place at Heyford mill which was no longer in use. One day, together with a group of other village boys we started to hoist ourselves up the mill floors on the chain which had previously been used to lift the corn sacks to the top floor. I had my feet in the chain and pulled

on a rope that operated the lift, however, as my head went through a trapdoor in the floor, I lost my grip on the rope and was left hanging by my neck in the trapdoor. Fortunately, after a few seconds I managed to find the rope and am still here to tell the tale.

Another tale involving the mill started at a jumble sale at the school. I was sitting in a large armchair and when the time came for it to be sold I bid one shilling expecting others to bid higher. It was knocked down to me and thus I became the owner of a chair that I didn't want. After the sale, a lady who had just moved into the mill asked if she could buy it from me. I was relieved and gave it to her for nothing and offered to carry it down to the mill for her. My offer might have been influenced by the fact that she had two pretty daughters about my age.

Guy Fawkes night was always celebrated with a large bonfire on the green. We boys would collect the wood from Crow Lane and drag it down to the village. If we were lucky sometimes we would stop a passing truck and ask them to tow it to the green for us. We saved our money to buy fireworks and had great fun throwing Jumping Jacks at the girls.

Another event that remains fixed in my mind occurred in Stowe. In those days children were allowed time off from school to help in the potato fields. We boys together with many ladies of the village were collected in an old army lorry with a tailboard held up by hooks and chains. I think it was Mrs Sargent who jumped from the lorry and landed just in front of me, minus her ring finger which had been ripped from her hand and remained on the hook of the tailboard together with her wedding ring. I swore on that day I would never ever wear a ring.

At the age of 15 I started on a two year O level course at Northampton Tech and along with two other boys we decided during our Easter holiday we would cycle to Scotland. I started out from Heyford and met them in Northampton. After 2 days we arrived in Redcar where we stayed overnight with an aunt of one of the boys. Next morning, they told me that they had decided not to continue but if I wanted they would wait for me for 2 days in Redcar. It was agreed and I continued to the Scottish border and back. Of course, they were fresh as daisies having had two days of rest but for me it was another two days of cycling to return home. I said goodbye to the boys in Northampton and travelled home only to find that my house was locked and empty.

I walked back out into the road to be met by Mrs Eales who told me how sorry she was to hear about my dad. Of course, I knew nothing about what had happened. She told me that he had had a very serious motorbike accident and was in Northampton general hospital and my mother had gone to stay with her parents at Caldecote. I got back on my bike and cycled the longest six miles of all. My father remained in hospital for many weeks and never did recover completely.

When I was 17, I decided I would like to become a Fleet Air Arm pilot, I had big ambitions and went for a medical only to be told that although I was tall enough, my

legs were too short. It was after that I decided that I would like to join the Merchant Navy as a marine engineer, even though I had never even seen a big merchant ship. I gained an interview with Shell Tankers and was offered a four and a half year apprenticeship. This was to be 2 years at college in London, 18 months at sea as a cadet and then 1 year working in the shipyards. All was signed up and I left Heyford for the first time returning once a month since my father had agreed to pay my rail fare. I lived in London on a wage of £2.12 shillings a week out of which I had to pay for my food and accommodation etc.

I returned to live in Heyford after 7 years, but that story is for another day.

John Butcher Dec 2019

Flood Watch

With the Country's lock-down due to Coronavirus/Covid-19, the only bright spot has been the improvement in the weather towards the end of March into April which has at least provided the opportunity to catch up with the gardening and take exercise, albeit with spatial restrictions. The increase in footfall on the Nene Way footpath has been noticeable not only with the regular dog walkers but with families enjoying walking or the occasional jogger.

After the excessively wet February March saw a significant reduction in rainfall ending up at 80% of average and the start of a rise in daily temperatures. This continued into April when temperatures rose to 24 degrees with negligible rainfall until overnight rain on 17th April. With the Met Office forecast for the remainder of April when temperatures in the 20's are anticipated together with low probability of rain it looks as though April will end up with rainfall around 50% of average. River levels have remained exceptionally low with any rainfall being absorbed in drying ground.

The flooding events in the North and West as a result of storms Ciara and Dennis have long disappeared from the news headlines. However a recent article highlighted the plight of those effected as Covid -19 impacts were felt. Families have been forced to return home to live in squalid conditions having to self isolate in the only habitable parts of the house, namely upstairs with limited access to facilities that we all take for granted. In the midst of our current problems let's hope the Local Authorities /Government/Insurance Companies have not forgotten their promises of help.

In the current situation that the Country is facing the word "RESILIENCE" springs to mind. Like many words they can have multiple meanings and in the case of flooding it means accessing your own risk and providing protection measures appropriate to your property.

" REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES AND KEEP SAFE"

J.Arnold.

Flore Arts Events

We have now come to the inevitable conclusion that we will be unable to run any events before the autumn. This means that both Jazz in the Garden (June) and Illyria (July) are cancelled. As it stands we are still hoping that the visit of the Budapest Café Orchestra on November 14th can go ahead but of course this can't yet be confirmed.

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

2020 Village Awards Scheme

(organised by NACRE – Northamptonshire Action for Communities in Rural England)

In this edition I had been hoping to announce the date when the NACRE judges would be visiting Nether Heyford to see our community in action. They were due to come in April or May. Sadly – for obvious reasons that will not now happen. At best, this year's competition will be postponed until later in the year or, at worst, it will be cancelled. However, I would like to thank the many organisations who responded to my request for detailed information by sending in their completed questionnaires. Together they have helped to compile a vivid picture of our village community life in the early months of 2020.

If the judges eventually decide to cancel this year's competition, I will ask the Prattler to publish our 500-word submission in a later edition so that you can see how fortunate we are to live in Nether Heyford.

Alwyne Wilson 01327 340 803

Helplines

Whether you're concerned about yourself or a loved one, these helplines and support groups can offer expert advice.

Anxiety UK

Phone: 03444 775 774 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 10pm; Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 8pm) Website: www.anxietyuk.org.uk

Bipolar UK

Website: www.bipolaruk.org.uk

Men's Health Forum

24/7 stress support for men by text, chat and email.

Website: www.menshealthforum.org.uk

Mental Health Foundation

Website: www.mentalhealth.org.uk

Mind

Phone: 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6pm) Website: www.mind.org.uk

OCD UK

Phone: 0333 212 7890 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) Website: www.ocduk.org

PAPYRUS

Young suicide prevention society.

Phone: HOPELINEUK 0800 068 4141 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 10pm, and 2pm to 10pm on weekends and bank holidays) Website: www.papyrus-uk.org

Samaritans

Confidential support for people experiencing feelings of distress or despair.

Phone: 116 123 (free 24-hour helpline) Website: www.samaritans.org.uk

YoungMinds

Information on child and adolescent mental health. Services for parents and professionals.

Phone: Parents' helpline 0808 802 5544 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4pm)

Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

NSPCC

Phone: 0800 1111 for Childline for children (24-hour helpline)

0808 800 5000 for adults concerned about a child (24-hour helpline)

Website: www.nspcc.org.uk

Refuge

Advice on dealing with domestic violence.

Phone: 0808 2000 247 (24-hour helpline) Website: www.refuge.org.uk

Alcoholics Anonymous

Phone: 0800 917 7650 (24-hour helpline)

Website: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

National Gambling Helpline

Phone: 0808 8020 133 (daily, 8am to midnight) Website: www.begambleaware.org

Alzheimer's Society

Phone: 0333 150 3456 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and 10am to 4pm on weekends) Website: www.alzheimers.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care

Phone: 0808 808 1677 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) Website: www.cruse.org.uk

Rape Crisis

To find your local services phone: 0808 802 9999 (daily, 12pm to 2.30pm and 7pm to 9.30pm) Website: www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Victim Support

Phone: 0808 168 9111 (24-hour helpline) Website: www.victimsupport.org

Eating disorders - Beat

Phone: 0808 801 0677 (adults) or 0808 801 0711 (for under-18s)

Website: www.b-eat.co.uk

Mencap

Phone: 0808 808 1111 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Website: www.mencap.org.uk

Family Lives

Advice on all aspects of parenting, including dealing with bullying.

Phone: 0808 800 2222 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm and Saturday to Sunday, 10am to 3pm) Website: www.familylives.org.uk

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The UK's largest provider of relationship support. Website: www.relate.org.uk

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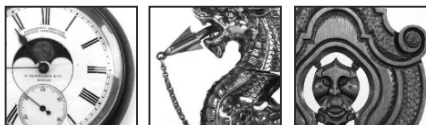
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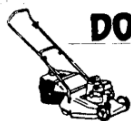
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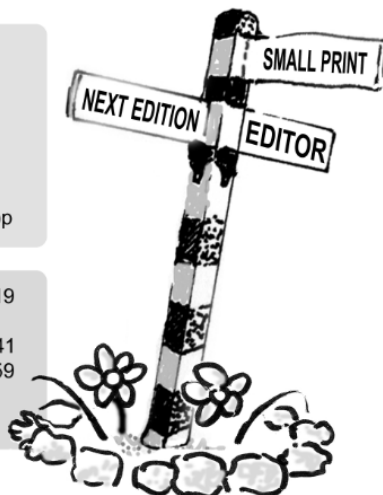
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