



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

June 2020

Issue No. 434



Adam Gilkes paying his respects before the start of the
VE Day 75 Celebrations

Do you know Northampton?

The answers to these questions are place names in Northamptonshire. Answers on Page 27

1	Not a new place	
2	Not under 14 lbs	
3	Is Topsy upside down?	
4	A naughty insect	
5	Did royalty lose its head here?	
6	A street	
7	A small professor	
8	An electric gadget used at breakfast time	
9	Place of the firs	
10	Isn't there a milk container here?	
11	Keep losing your hair	
12	Sounds as if its manufactured to a high standard	
13	A happy weight	
14	One of two – not Chapel, the other	
15	Is it a fault?	
16	Not a soft part of a candle	
17	The site of a battle in 1645	
18	A farmyard and watery resting place	
19	A lettuce and small wood	
20	Badgers manor	
21	This is a sad and serious place for animals	
22	Sounds as if it's some value to a builder	
23	Add a point to this fresh meat	
24	A golfer's weight	
25	Flower ending has changed	
26	Does a singer tunnel here	
27	A young animal with a drink	
28	Visit this place for old records	
29	Continue with the housework	
30	Do you get burnt at this waterhole?	



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

Due to government regulations prohibiting public meetings the May 4th, 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 almost certain that the next meeting, will also take place online on June 1st. Parishioners wanting to participate in the Public Session should check the Agenda on the Public notice boards or the Website for the meeting ID on Zoom.

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 and one Member of the Public.

The May meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council at which the Chair is elected, and councillors' responsibilities apportioned.

Election of Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Charles Kiloh elected as chair.

Election of Vice Chairman and Acceptance of office Lesley Dilkes elected as vice – chair.

Appointments of committees

Councillor	Finance	Allotments	Planning	JBB
M Brasset				C Kiloh
S. Corner		✓	✓	P Green
L Dilkes	✓			N Haynes
L. Eales		✓		
P. Green				D. Banner for Upper Heyford
N. Haynes				J Spokes – former Councillor.
C. Kiloh	✓		✓	
D. Musson				
A. Williams	✓		✓ (Chair)	

Appointments to outside bodies

Playing Field Representative	L Eales	Arnold Charity. C. Kiloh
Youth Club Representatives.	L. Eales, L Dilkes	Bliss Charity School Trustees C Kiloh
Village Hall Representatives.	L Dilkes	Tree warden N Haynes
"Accounts monitors"	C Kiloh. A Williams. L. Dilkes.	Neighbourhood Plan Group – S Corner, C Kiloh,
Flood Warden.	C Kiloh	Footpaths. D Musson

Public Question Time Jez Wilson reported on volunteer activities during the emergency, and wondered whether councillors were happy with the website. Councillors thanked him for his efforts with food parcels etc during the last months.

Cllr Adam Brown reported that NCC were looking to re-open tips. He reported a tremendous response to the coronavirus all round, but 200 plus deaths. There had been a severe impact on NCC Finances that they would look to central government for help. On Local Government Reorganisation the first meetings of the Shadow authorities were due to take place. Highway repairs were still being carried out.

Cllr Dave Harries reported that SNC finances had been in good order; but that the Emergency had severely affected all Council incomes and felt central government would have to plug these revenue holes. He expressed concern for Councils who were less well placed.

Cllr Phil Bignell reported that the first virtual Planning meetings had taken place, and re-iterated that no site visits could take place. He encouraged applicants to send photographs with applications.

Annual Parish Meeting. There had been no Annual Parish Meeting due to the Covid 19 Emergency and the meeting was postponed until the situation improved.

Reports. Lights AW reported that it was hoped that quotes from Aylesbury Mains and Balfour Beatty would be forthcoming. AW had consulted the latter regarding "Smart Management" but it was not felt that this would be cost effective in such a small lighting system. NHB scheme had been reopened. DH cautioned that the wording on an application would need to be carefully considered.

Roads and pavements. It was noted that repairs were still being carried out, but that some areas such as Hillside Road were in very poor condition and were not being attended to.

The Green and Play Area Inspection due. The Play Area was still locked up, but it was felt that the inspection should go ahead. CK continued to do weekly inspections.

Allotments Allotments were felt to be in the best condition for years. There were no empty plots now. LE commended DM for work on the wildlife area.

Footpaths Felt to be in reasonable condition; apart from the section between Church lane and the river footbridge which had subsided and was felt to be dangerous.

Churchyard Tree work has had to be paused.

Joint Burial Board There had been complaints about the grass and foliage in the cemetery. CK would check this.

Covid 19 Emergency reports Leaflets had been delivered. It was reported that food parcel distribution was proceeding well and now included Upper Heyford. Medications from Bugbrooke surgery were now routinely delivered. It was felt that village volunteers were on top of the situation. Councillors thanked Jez Wilson and Faye Brasset for their efforts.

Internal and External Audit Clerk reported that the AGAR forms had been received from the External Auditor PKF late because of the Emergency, and that the Internal Audit would take place remotely. It was hoped to keep within the standard timeframe, although deadlines had been relaxed.

Further Grant Funding for Church Roof In light of NCALC advice, the Chair felt that further contributions should not be made; as Council had been advised that it was unclear whether such donations could, or should, be made to a religious organisation. Council were, however, obliged to take responsibility for the Churchyard, and there was a power enabling them to pay for the upkeep of the church Clock.

Parish Council meetings in 2020 will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30. The next one is on June 1st.

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

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

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

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

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
D. Musson davemusson073@gmail.com	Footpaths
A.Williams 26 Church St, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LH anthony.k.williams@talk21.com	Chair of Planning and Finance.



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

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

Sheila Beharrell

Church members and friends were sorry to hear of the death of Sheila Beharrell on May 14th. Sheila had been an active member of the church for 78 years and although she has been in Bethany Homestead recently will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for June 2020

Following advice from our Archbishops and bishops, and in line with government guidance, 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, as well as a live-streamed service at 10:00AM every Sunday morning.

We hope to be able to begin the gradual process of unwinding the lock-down in our churches in July, but it will be some time before we can get back to anything like 'normal'. The 'next normal' will involve small-scale services, social distancing, restricted numbers, possibly mask-wearing in church buildings, possibly bread but no wine at communion, no congregational singing, no handshakes, no coffee, no books or service sheets – and all this might persist into next year! We will keep you informed as things become clearer.

Whilst we hold all our villages in prayer, the streets we shall be praying for during June are Middle Street, Manor Park and Parsons Close in Heyford, Brockhall Road and The Crescent in Flore, The Green in Church Stowe and in Brockhall, The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage, Western Cottage.

Revd Stephen Burrow, tel 344436

Dear Friends

The recent celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day sparked much reminiscing about the generation that saw the country through the challenges of global war, and its 'wartime spirit'. Several programmes and news articles focused on members of that generation, reflecting on their stories of life during the war. Inevitably, the experiences of that generation were compared to our current experiences of life in lock-down as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. On its news website, the BBC asked what we might learn from the wartime generation, in which one elderly contributor advised, 'don't panic, smile and pray'. Elsewhere, people have suggested that robbed of the ability to gather physically with friends and family, denied human contact outside our immediate household, our present circumstances are worse than wartime. Still, we are seeing a real 'lock-down spirit' as we all play our part in combatting the coronavirus and hope that the outbreak and its effects will come to an end soon. That 'lockdown spirit' is demonstrated in an increased neighbourliness, in care for the vulnerable, in support for those who are self-isolating and shielding themselves, and in increased communication, as we strive to keep in touch with family, friends and neighbours by telephone and social media.

The Gospel reading set for last Sunday speaks of a different Spirit. Jesus promises his followers, "I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you" (John 14:16 CEV). In the original Greek, the word for 'help' can also mean comfort, encourage and defend. What a wonderful thing to say! God's Spirit will be with us always, creating a spirit, a resolve within us that will help, comfort, encourage and defend us, whatever trials and challenges life might throw our way. This Spirit that Jesus promises - which will be in us and alongside us always – is the Spirit of this and every age.

In these exceptional times, if you need spiritual support, prayer or someone to talk to, please give me a ring - my telephone number is below. You can also visit the Benefice Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/HS9FB for reflections and prayers, for words of encouragement and reassurance, as well as a live-streamed service at 10:00AM every Sunday morning.

I leave you this month with these words from the English spiritual writer, Julian of Norwich, which have helped and encouraged me in recent weeks, "Christ did not say, 'You shall not be perturbed, you shall not be troubled, you shall not be distressed,' but he said, 'You shall not be overcome.'"

With every prayer and blessing in these uncertain times.

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

Dear Diary,

June 1954

There are lots of new homes going up in Hillside Road and Hillside Crescent and new families moving in, including my friend Jane who used to live at Novelty Farm on the A5. It'll be great having her so near, although we'll miss our games in the hay bales and with the animals. Apparently her new next door neighbour is to be presented with the "key of the door" to mark the 100th Council house to be completed and the newspaper reporters will be there to take photographs, how exciting is that?

The old cottages nearest the green in Close Road have been pulled down. At the other end of the road there is a five-barred gate close to a little stream that comes down from the hills. The water then goes under the road and comes up again to flow along in front of The Peak, along Hillside Road, down the side of the green and again underground as far as Watery Lane, which is how it got its name. It then finds its way to the river. We have so much water around the village with the river and the canal and all these little streams in between. Let's hope it all stays on course.

The old Jubilee Hall is to be pulled down because it's no longer safe. They are only leaving the little wall at the front. Where will everyone meet now? Maybe in The Foresters Arms, I'm sure Mr. Rolfe would be pleased to have them. I don't think the couple at The Old Sun would have them. I sit in their kitchen sometimes while mum and dad go into the pub and they bring me a bottle of pop, Dandelion and Burdock is my favourite.

Our new Headmaster, Mr. Warr, and his wife have settled in nicely, Mrs. Hazel has left and Mrs. Whatton or Madam as we are to call her, has started, so some changes have been made. This afternoon we are getting ready for Sports Day on the village green. I'm not very good at sports so I shall try for the Sack Race or The Egg & Spoon Race. I know I won't win either but I better show willing. At last the school has toilets inside the building so no traipsing up the yard next winter.

I'm going to dress as Maureen 'Little Mo' Connolly at the church fete Fancy Dress competition next weekend. At 16 she was the youngest tennis player to win at the US Open tournament. I love the church fete with stalls, games and tea on the lawn. Most of the villagers turn out for it.

Because it was warm yesterday me and my cousin played a game in the chicken house. We got covered in fleas so mum got the tin bath out of the barn, put it on the back lawn, filled it with warm water and made us have a strip wash to get rid of them before we went indoors. We did giggle. So much for our chicken army. We'll pester the pigs next time, they're cleaner.

Polly



Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

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

Spring (continued)

The weather has gone from unusual to downright weird; April has been the driest for decades, and one week after the hottest April day on record we had sharp frosts killing off all the tender vegetables that unwary gardeners had planted out having been misled by the warm sunshine. Northamptonshire has a particularly difficult climate for gardening, being so far from the sea it heats up and cools down very quickly producing frequent late spring frosts which can be quite severe, even in the beginning of June. I had to cover my strawberries with glass overnight as they were in full flower, but the glass had to be removed promptly the next morning or the bright sunshine would have boiled the plants alive.

Speaking of weather, I have got the impression that in recent years the amount of wind we get has increased considerably. Wind is (or was) something expected in the autumn winter and early spring, but otherwise only during storms. We now seem to have strong winds blowing frequently during warm weather making the soil even drier. It makes sense therefore for gardens to have some sort of windbreak; hedges and shrubs being better than solid fences and walls because they slow the wind down where solid features cause turbulent air in their lee.

Rhubarb

The weather has had a peculiar effect on our rhubarb, normally the easiest of vegetables/fruit to grow. In February and March it was producing the best crop I can remember, but since the cold wind we had in early April the pickings have been meagre to say the least. I have only managed enough for two jars of jam and a few desserts.

Don't do this at home...

I recently read about the benefits of biochar, which is finely divided charcoal, as a soil conditioner. Apparently this can provide a source of fertility particularly for light soils. Not wanting to pay out large sums of money for the commercial product I decided to make my own from lumpwood barbecue charcoal. This turned out to be a bad idea; charcoal lumps are surprisingly difficult to break down and produce large quantities of fine dust which gets everywhere so a dust mask is essential. After a couple of hours of hard labour I looked like a coal miner after a shift down the pit. After all that I hope that this stuff lives up to its billing!

Runner beans

Whilst preparing an area on the allotment for planting recently I came across a large fleshy root which was producing some healthy green shoots. This wasn't

immediately familiar until I recalled that this was last year's bean row. Obviously I had left a root in the ground and it had survived the winter. Runner beans are in fact perennial plants and it would be possible to treat them like dahlias and keep the roots over winter to plant out in the spring. But since they are so easy to grow from seed it's hardly worth the effort.

Things to do in June

1. Prune early flowering shrubs
2. Plant out tender bedding plants and vegetables
3. Stake tall plants against wind.

Mark Newstead

Lets Hope

When this crisis is ended,
and the lockdown suspended
The crowds will all come out again.
There will be praises for the N.H.S,
Without them we would be in a mess
Praises for the shopworkers too,
For the help they give, to me and you.

Smiles will be seen, lots of catching up to do,
Getting to know each other again.
Lets hope the scientists and doctors too,
Give some comfort, for me and you
We will stand together and weather the storm,
Think of families that have been torn.

All we can say without a doubt
We've never seen anything like this about.

R. G. Smith

The Story of Heyford: Mammoth Draw in aid of a Heyford Widow

In the days before the existence of the welfare state the village was a caring community in which neighbours took care of the needs of each other. An example of this is illustrated in the photograph below which was taken in 1911.

On the left of the picture is Bob Browning who was born in Heyford in 1892 and died in 1997. He remembered the photograph being taken and it was he who gave us the information below.

A woman called Mrs Ephrain Collins became widowed with six or eight children. She lived in a stone cottage where the old folks bungalows now stand in 'the Pound'. A photograph of this cottage appears in volume 1 of 'The Story of Heyford'. The village held a raffle to raise money for her welfare. Raffle tickets were sold in the surrounding villages and stuck onto the circular board shown in the photograph. The winning ticket was established by firing a shotgun, owned by Mr Stanton Boyes of Upper Heyford, at the board.

The raffle raised around £2,000 which was invested on behalf of Mrs Collins to keep her in rent and coal for the rest of her life.



Back row: Bob Browning, Mr Sargent, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Violet Browning, Mrs Gwen George, Win Earl, Mrs Sargent, Mr Gibson, David Browning

Gentleman in chair: Mr William Browning

Front Row: Mr Nightingale, Mr Roberts, Ted Sargent, Ted Wright, Mr Hobbs

THE
Olde Sun

Available From
5PM-8PM



Take Away Menu Friday-Saturday

Bhaji Scotch Egg & Curried Mayo £5.00

Halloumi Fries £4.50

Haddock Fish & Chips £6.50

Whitby Scampi & Chips £6.50

Home Made Steak Pie & Chips £6.95

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How it works: Call us up and tell us your order, time slot will be given for collection, deliveries by arrangement if you cannot get out. Payments can be taken over the phone or upon collection. Orders will not be accepted after 8pm. *We still need to be absolutely following the government's requirements of social distancing and keeping ourselves and people around us safe, so please be mindful of this*



The Olde Sun Nether Heyford Tel: 01327 340164



Revitalising the allotments

Having spent over forty years teaching, I grew very accustomed to the sound of little people's voices and since retirement I have missed that more than I realised. The situation has been compounded by the fact that we can't even hear the cheerful sounds that emanated from village school at playtimes.

So, what has all that got to do with allotments you might be asking?

Well, I am pleased to say that another benefit of having virtually every plot on the allotments occupied is that we have many more young families joining us and they bring children with them. It is refreshing to hear and see them enjoying the outdoors, learning about growing things and appreciating and respecting the hard work of others. With a little guidance it is amazing how quickly children learn where not to tread! A particularly special thank you must go to the young people who have assisted on the community plot, whether that is simply deadheading bulbs that have "gone over" or more strenuous tasks such as digging, watering and moving soil and compost.

The current lockdown meant that a project about growing and sustainability, that we were setting up with the village school, had to be postponed. However, the allotments and the school are not going away and we are hopeful that when the climate is right, the project can recommence. If Coronavirus has taught us anything it is the importance of valuing the natural world and the provenance of food (and so much else we've taken for granted). There is so much to look forward to.

Where did that come from?

All that fine weather in April and early May really did convince a lot of people that it was safe to put out tender plants. What a mistake. Nature is nothing if not fickle and I am sure that by the middle of May a lot of allotmenters were suddenly donning warm coats and saying "Where did that come from?" Beans, potatoes and young sweet corn plants were scorched by late frost. Some plants will recover, but where they won't I suppose we always have the reopened garden centres. Gardeners learn from experience and dead plants teach us a valuable lesson.

The Community Orchard

Fortunately, the fruit on most of the trees in the orchard had set by the time the cold snap arrived so we are hopeful that this will not have been affected by our inclement weather. Cherry trees have been netted against marauding birds – although we'll perhaps remove the covers once most of the fruit has been picked, just to give them a little something to snack on.

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.

Sharing

We have a large table in the middle of the community area that has been used to display any plants that people have spare and are quite happy to share. A big thank you to the good souls who have recently left young lettuce, strawberry plants, assorted brassicas and seed potatoes. Where possible we will advertise what is on offer by posting a notice on the blackboard by the shed and on the notice boards at the allotment entrances. Do feel free to add more spare items as well as avail yourself of plants that others have left.

If our amazing growing experiences this season result in an excess of produce and you have nowhere or no one to give it to, do make use of the sharing table. It is good to share and allotmenters are generally a generous lot.

Pathways

A big thank you to all the allotment holders who are able to keep their pathways mown and tidy and special thank you to Bill Corner for the conscientious way that he strims all those other areas that need attention. It really has been a feature that has changed the allotments so dramatically. Some pathways have, over the years, become increasingly narrow, which means that getting a mower along them is impossible – hence the need for a strimmer. Plot holders can, in a small way assist Bill by trying to ensure that any row markers or cloches are not set right against the path edge, thereby making it easier to strim and avoiding accidental damage to their equipment. If paths could be reinstated to their original width that would be even better, but I think that is an issue for the future and we are not even going there yet!

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

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

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”

Audrey Hepburn



In Nether Heyford

Here we are - another month on and still waiting for life to go back to normal! What can you put in an article about a group which hasn't been able to meet since March? Well, one thing that came to mind was the news that, in December 2020, Nether Heyford WI will celebrate their 90th Anniversary! During a conversation with Mo Wright (a long time member) I discovered that she had a back copy of The Prattler with an article about the 50th Anniversary celebrations – memories galore with many good old Nether Heyford names that people will no doubt remember.

During 1930 three ladies, Mrs J. O. Adams, Mrs Punch and Mrs George were walking back to their homes in Nether Heyford. They had been attending the monthly meeting of the Womens Institute in Bugbrooke, where they had been members for three years. As they walked along the quiet lane, they discussed the formation of a branch of the W.I. in Nether Heyford and Mrs Adams volunteered to see the County Secretary at W.I. House in Northampton. When the required 10 ladies had been gathered together, the great day arrived and the foundation papers were duly signed in November 1930. In actual fact there were 48 members present, far more than the required 10! Mrs Adams was the first President, Mrs George the Secretary and their monthly meetings were held in the school where Mrs Carrington, the Headmaster's wife, supplied the hot water to make the tea. Cups and saucers were loaned by the Baptist Chapel, carried over in a clothes basket and then washed up at home before their return!! By the first Annual Report on December 3rd 1931 they had purchased '6 doz of crockery and spoons, an aluminium tea urn and a large tea pot'. Obviously the clothes basket was too heavy!

Their activities were varied, sometimes a speaker on a subject of interest to countrywomen, competitions of all kinds, an Old Tyme Dancing class and Keep Fit classes run by Mrs Blaney. Subscriptions were 2/6d. They corresponded for many years with a group in Queensland, Australia and forged another link, nearer to home, with the Delapre Townswomen's Guild. It was realised that the village needed a focal point for expanding activities. Fund raising of all kinds, including a Garden Party at Manor House, then occupied by The Vice President Mrs Shiel, raised a sum of £100. "An ankle competition had been suggested and the Secretary was asked to see Capt. Shiel, Mr Knight and Mr Whitton with regard to judging same". The minutes never revealed which gentleman was given the job!! As you know, the Village Hall was eventually built by volunteers in 1960 and is still the meeting place of Nether Heyford WI.

Our WI has taken part in raising funds for many charities, assisted at the Blood Donor Clinics, held Annual Produce Shows, have attended the Queen's Garden party at Buckingham Palace, won the shield for handicrafts at the County Show

and won the County General Knowledge Quiz in 1968. This was all in our first 50 years – what we do next is down to us!

So, we look backward to our Golden Jubilee Celebration and forward to our Ninetieth Birthday Celebration and see how life has changed in 40 years. There are many differences – those in travel, technology, communication and attitudes being just a few. Some of these have altered the way in which the Women's Institute functions and few letters change hands now with emails having taken over. But the pandemic has brought some of the WI's original baking skills back into fashion, with the entire nation rushing to buy flour and cake ingredients! However, the basic foundation of the WI hasn't changed. In Nether Heyford there is still as much friendship, good humour and interest in other people's life stories and crafts, as well as the love of our village life, that there ever was. If, when all this is over and you feel you would like to come to join us for an evening, please do. We would love to see you!

Mary Rice
Heyford Lodge 01327 340101

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Mike Read
mikessgas.mgr@googlemail.com
Gas Engineer
no: 506717

2020 Village Awards Scheme

We have just learnt that this year's competition has been cancelled. However, we have taken up ACRE's option to leave our submission with them for next year. Meanwhile, as mentioned in May, we have asked the Prattler to include in its June edition our 500-word statement in support of this year's application. Whilst, because of Covid-19, most of our activities are on hold for the time being, there are several positives.

Our village's voluntary support group is continuing to support vulnerable and isolated local people with weekly food boxes and also with prescription deliveries, both greatly appreciated.

The Foresters is running a food bank, and The Olde Sun Inn is now offering takeaway meals on Fridays and Saturdays as well as Sunday dinners.

Finally, the allotment revitalisation project in its several forms is continuing, and already showing beneficial results. I would strongly recommend that you use your exercise time to walk down and see for yourselves.

Therefore, despite these difficult times, we are indeed fortunate to live in Nether Heyford.

Alwyne Wilson
01327 340 803

NACRE Village Awards : Nether Heyford

Nether Heyford is a village of 1750 people with approximately 50 organisations and amenities benefiting its own folk and those of neighbouring villages. Activities take place around the village, many based in the village hall, school, churches, youth club, on the sports field and village green (see map). Volunteers of all ages are involved. Our village hall committee includes an active 92-year-old; and a 96-year-old gentleman, a founder member of our village choir, has just retired after 18 years.

For young people we have a primary school, pre-school, before-and-after-school clubs, cub and beaver scouts, and a youth club. Our village play area is about to expand for a wider age range. Young people can enjoy tennis, football and cricket on our village playing fields, along with adults. We have events in the village hall, including family martial arts and Cha Cha Chimps. Apart from the school and pre-school, the other groups are run by volunteers.

Older people enjoy social activities, including our weekly community café and an annual 'holiday at home' in the village hall. Many are actively involved in groups and

activities, including bowls clubs, film nights, choir, craft, gardening and flower arranging clubs, and helping to look after our village hall.

People needing transport to medical appointments or events are given lifts by neighbours and friends.

For safety, we have a Police Community Support Officer, a recently re-launched Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, dropped kerbs for wheelchair users and two defibrillators.

Our developing Neighbourhood Plan will identify additional housing needs – currently, demand exceeds supply.

Information technology and social media are widely used, for instance: village newspaper website (<https://heyfordprattler.org>), Parish Council, village hall, village, organisations – full list and details available.

In addition to two local charities, fundraising goes on for a variety of causes, including the village fete in aid of our village hall, built 60 years ago by volunteers, and maintained by volunteers ever since. In July, the hall's chairman will do a sponsored tandem parachute-jump, celebrating the village hall's 60th year and her 80th, with proceeds shared between the village hall and 'The Prattler' the village newspaper – two of our community mainstays.

There are several shops and businesses, providing local employment, plus two public houses. Most of them support local fundraising efforts, especially our village fete, with financial donations and gifts in kind.

Alongside their allotment revitalisation, villagers have created small flower plots and planted trees at village entrances, as well as flower boxes near the village shops. Our Tidy-Villagers group organises litter-picks, and school children litter-picked the village green ready for our last fete.

Near our village hall are recycling, garden waste and general rubbish bins: plus an Air Ambulance textile collection point.

We have two keen gardeners, qualified as 'Compost Masters', helping to train their fellow villagers.

There is a Welcome Pack to help newcomers settle in quickly.

To conclude, Nether Heyford is a community of volunteers and friends – of all ages, abilities and backgrounds - a great place to live.



Many thanks to Liam Reeve, Heidi Hartgrove, Claire Corcoran, Jeff Buck, Geri Anderson, and Jill Garratt for providing these photos



Village Hall News

Little to report, other than the village support group's continuing work on Wednesdays to prepare and deliver food boxes to vulnerable and isolated local people - the first time the village hall has been used in this way in its 60-year history. That's the good news.

The bad news is that, because of the enforced isolation of many of the village hall's management committee and friends, we have been unable to clear the weeds around the area. Apologies for this – although I reckon the insect population will be enjoying the benefits.

Alwyne Wilson
01327 340 803

Police warn of rogue traders operating in the county

Northamptonshire Police is urging the public to beware of rogue traders, following recent incidents involving bogus offers of driveway and gutter cleaning services. In each of the incidents, elderly people were targeted by men who were out door knocking and forcefully trying to persuade the residents to have the work done. The men were believed to have Irish accents and were driving vans with Irish number plates. So far, incidents have been reported in Daventry and the Kingsthorpe and Duston areas of Northampton.

Chief Inspector Pete Basham said: "I'd like to send out a strong message to Northamptonshire's residents to be on guard for this sort of activity. It is often the elderly and vulnerable that are targeted by these fraudsters, who will frequently try to take the victim to a bank or cash machine while they are completely unaware that they are falling victim to a scam. "If you or someone you know finds themselves in such a situation and have any doubts, call police to attend.

"Please be vigilant in your neighbourhood for potential rogue traders operating, and encourage elderly or vulnerable relatives to call you should any tradesman insist work needs to be carried out, or are demanding money."

Cllr Jason Smithers, Northamptonshire County Council cabinet member for Highways and Place, said: "Our advice is never to agree to work on the doorstep even if the trader says that it is urgent, but if you do need work done to your property, get quotes from two or three reputable traders and compare them.

"Homeowners can find a Trading Standards approved trader through the national 'Buy With Confidence' scheme <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk>.

"And always remember that 'If you're not sure, don't open the door'."



Sheila Maud (Humphrey) Beharrell

Regretfully we are announcing the passing of Sheila on May 13th, just short of her 95th birthday in June. She was the last of her generation of Humphrey who moved to Labrams Yard on Church Street. Previous residents/tenants of the property included her brother Ron and family, May, and Arthur. Dunkley, Connelly, Buck, Collins, Barnes, and Gilkes also resided on the property at one time or another. Probably there are others. Her niece, Jean now resides in one of the Humphrey cottages on the property.

Some villagers may also recall the family business of E.W.Humphrey Ladder Manufacturers. This has been documented in the Prattler and the Heyford History.

Obscurities

Sheila worked at The Beauty Counter of Adnits Department store (now Debenhams) Northampton. She then progressed to being an accounts clerk at the hospital guild.

Sheila, from time to time recalled her childhood. The Humphrey family kept dairy cows, Sheila and her niece Jean were often tasked with distributing milk to Heyford villagers. She had a pet lamb, 'Betty' who was missing one day upon returning from her day at Bliss School, evidently in latter years realising the pet was part of the family larder. She recalled as a teenager the drone of the aeroplanes on their way to bomb Coventry in the Second World War.

The Humphrey family were very involved with the Baptist Chapel in the village, Sheila along with sister May enjoyed being a Deacon and part of the weekly flower rota at the Chapel. Both Sheila and her step daughter Trudi were married in the Chapel. Besides flower arranging, Sheila embraced singing with the Heyford Singers.

In her latter years Sheila endured Cancer, and after the death of her husband Albert found it increasingly difficult at home at Ladder Cottage. After a nasty fall in her home in 2015 – at her request – she moved to Bethany Homestead in Northampton where mother Alice spent some convalescing time.

In these challenging times, Sheila has sadly become another statistic of our current pandemic. We will hold a memorial to commemorate Sheila's life when time allows.

Solemnly,
Jean, Trudi, Glenn, and Family

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www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk



*Swallow, swallow I wish I could follow you,
over the deserts, the mountains, the seas.
South to the colours and sunshine of Africa.
Flying high, flying free.*

*So when winter departs with his mantle of snow
and the plum tree's in blossom and the days start to grow.
When the summer sun rises and the sky is on fire.
I will see you again on that telegraph wire.*

From "**Flying High, Flying Free**" by Leon Rosselson

Quiz question (for we are all into quizzes now)

Where and when was the song above played, sung along to, and greatly enjoyed?

It has been a truly beautiful spring and early summer. And despite other restrictions we may have, there is no doubt that nature in her true glory, has softened the anxieties of the past few weeks. Sitting watching the sun set in the early evening, we are often serenaded by a blackbird who routinely perches on a tree in our garden. How privileged to have this free daily concert!

If the flowers and trees have provided the rich tapestry of spring and early summer, it is the birds that provide the musical accompaniment. From very early in the morning these feathered choristers can be heard, outside our bedroom windows, cajoling us into action. Like eternal optimists their songs have the ability to brighten each day. The robin's song is beautiful and joyful, as if sung with all his heart and soul, and unlike other birds can be heard all year round. The full-throated melody of the blackbird is one of our best-loved songs; as soon as green shoots appear he bursts into song from dawn until dusk. A tribute to the fact that size is not everything, the tiny wren has a lively and full-throated warbling song, whilst that of the great tit resembles a squeaky wheel! The much loved visitor to our gardens, the blue tit, has a loud and high pitched song which ends with a long rapid trill. Were you fortunate to hear a cuckoo this year? For me the best of all is the rich, high pitched song of the skylark as he soars upwards in a blue summer sky before plunging downwards and the melody stops, as if on cue! I have yet to hear a skylark this year, but as the lockdown eases and we venture further, both in distance and into longer summer days, I hope to enjoy what the poet George Meredith described as "a silver chain of sound".

If I have to wait a little longer for that real skylark song then there will always be the beautiful "**The Lark Ascending**" by Vaughan Williams, to listen to again ... and again, and now rightfully acknowledged as one of the nation's favourite pieces of music.

If I want another music genre to celebrate the joy of our feathered friends, there is the wonderful compilation between Yehudi Menuhin (violin) and Stephan Grappelli (violin and piano) entitled "**Strictly for the Birds**" – "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", "Lullaby of Birdland" and "Bye, Bye Blackbird" amongst the many great tracks.

So back to the song quoted at the top of this article and the quiz question.

Answer During the 1980s and 90s at Bliss School a little teddy bear, called William Bliss, travelled the world in the company of a pilot friend of headteacher Alan Watson. Every time William arrived in a new destination he sent the school a postcard to be read and shared by everyone, and this was heralded by playing and singing the song above. Happy memories, but also happy thoughts that soon we may all enjoy places and people who are further afield. Until then keep safe, keep well and keep smiling.

Jill Langrish

Desert Island Discs - your choices

Below is another selection of favourite music chosen by one of our readers. We thoroughly enjoyed reading and listening to this choice, so thank you Mick.

Mick Watts' Desert Island Discs - May 2020

I never realised quite how difficult it would be to choose just 8 pieces of music – almost every piece brings back memories of certain times and places. I have chosen 8 classical pieces and 8 more popular compositions and as the choices are so tenuous have placed them in alphabetical order. If pushed for just eight I would choose those with the *.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| *Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3 in C Minor | Abba – I have a Dream |
| *Carly Simon – No Secrets | Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major |
| *Dire Straits - So Far Away | Dire Straits - Brothers in Arms |
| *Joaquin Rodrigo – Concierto de Aranjuez | Dire Straits - Money for Nothing |
| *Ludovico Einaudi - Divenire | Dire Straits - Sultans of Swing |
| *Steeleye Span – Thomas the Rhymer | Fairport Convention – Sir Patrick Spens |
| *The Who – Won't Get Fooled Again | Ludovico Einaudi - Andare |
| *Wagner – Overture to Tannhäuser | Ludovico Einaudi – Oltremare |

Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3 in C Minor is arguably the best piano composition of all time. Such virtuosity required to play. First heard it live at the Birmingham Symphony Hall, conducted and played by Vladimir Ashkenazy. A bit disappointing really as he was seemingly not able to give his full attention to either the orchestra or the piano and his antics rather distracted from the overall performance. But then, quite recently, I heard both piano concertos 3 and 4 played by Krystian Zimerman with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Leonard Bernstein, which were absolutely sublime and would be an extremely hard act to follow. Those are the recordings I have chosen.

On the other page so to speak is the contemporary concert pianist and composer **Ludovico Einaudi**. I have several of his CD's and had tried, with limited success, to replicate some of his compositions on our piano. My excuse is that he must have a very large finger span. Anyway, I went to the Birmingham Town Hall to see his concert with my elder daughter and having fought our way through a jam packed Christmas market only just made it in time. It was as expected a brilliant performance and it was just as if his hands were hovering over the keyboard yet this magnificent sound was produced. I would need to play 8 hours a day for 10 years of lockdown to come close.

What can I say? Virtuoso guitar performances by **Mark Knopler**. Just magical. We used to put the **Brothers in Arms** audio cassette on when we travelled down to Devon when the girls were quite young. They always said "can we have the **Whoo Hoo song**" (**The Walk of Life**) and they laughed and giggled for ages. It certainly delayed the cries of "are we nearly there yet". With so many people in enforced isolation the song I have chosen could be rather apt but the Brothers in Arms track would be just great as a finale.

The sheer volume generated by **The Who** is almost enough to blow your brains out. A classic.

And the **Overture to Tannhäuser** by **Wagner** always makes my neck hairs stand up.

Last year we went to The Stables at Wavendon near Milton Keynes to see the 50th Anniversary tour of the reformed **Steeleye Span**, wondering if they may have lost a bit of magic. We need not have worried as they were great. Jessie May Smart, the classically trained violinist in their latest line up brought a new dimension to the band and harmonised well with Maddy Prior. Again a difficult choice of their repertoire - The Wife of Ushers Well and 700 Elves just losing out.

Carly Simon is in another class act - she had such a vocal range. A recent TV programme entitled 'No Secrets' was indeed apt and showed that she certainly led a full, uninhibited life as many of her songs portray. Her voice is still fantastic.

Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez is for me one of the most relaxing guitar pieces ever. You can close your eyes and be transported.

Quiz Answers - Do you know Northampton?

1. Old 2. Overstone 3. Turvey 4. Badby 5. Fotheringhay 6. Roade 7. Weedon 8. Towcester 9. Harlestone 10. Nobottle 11. Moulton 12. Maidwell 13. Gayton 14. Church Brampton 15. Flore 16. Hardwick 17. Naseby 18. Barton Seagrave 19. Cosgrove 20. Brockhall 21. Grimscote 22. Brixworth 23. Newnham 24. Teeton 25. Lavendon, 26. Desborough, 27. Lamport, 28. Wootton, 29. Duston, 30. Scaldwell

View from the Wildlife Patch

It's hard to believe that the year is nearly halfway over. I am still waiting for the spring rains to bring the Patch into life. Of the wild plant mixtures sown, some seeds have germinated but many are still awaiting the right conditions before raising their little green heads. This is a bit disappointing but not a disaster by any means. These are wild plant seeds and adapted to survival in adverse conditions. They will come up sooner or later, sometimes after laying dormant for years.

The pond now has its full compliment of plants and is looking good. Tadpoles are growing and the Smooth Newts are eating tadpoles and laying eggs which will duly develop into "Newtpoles" which are like frog tadpoles but a bit slimmer with external gills. My Wife Pauline, and I were there today removing blanket weed which is a type of algae. It is surprising how many invertebrates are in the pond already. Many like the Great pond snails and Water hog lice – a close relative of Woodlice - and others will have been introduced with the plants. Some insects including several Water Beetle species, Pond Skaters and Water Boatmen have flown in attracted by the sight and smell of the pond.

Whilst we were there, Dragonflies and Damselflies were landing on the water plants. These lovely insects must surely be familiar to everyone. Dragonflies are the large, often huge and colourful four winged insects that sometimes visit gardens, especially if there is garden pond around. Damselflies include the smaller, often brilliant coloured insects that look a bit like bits of blue or green straw floating on air around water margins. There are also larger, often blue bodied damselflies that often have a black band on their wings. These latter are often in abundance on the River Nene in the height of summer. It's safe to say that Damselflies rest with their wings along the back in parallel with the body, whereas Dragonflies rest with their wings sticking out, often at a right angle to the body also Dragonflies are usually larger.

Both groups are carnivorous in all active stages of development. Dragonflies patrol a "beat" catching insects on the wing whilst damselflies mostly catch smaller prey by sitting on a fixed object and rising to catch small flies etc. All lay eggs in water or on plants above water. I remember watching one of the banded Damselfly species at an old stone quarry in South Warwickshire. They flew joined in pairs. Both would land on a rush sticking out of maybe 4 feet of water. We could watch the female in the crystal water, as she descended the rush stem to it's base, then deposit an egg there whilst the male waited, sometimes flying a short distance before returning to collect the female as she reached the surface to repeat the process on another stem. Maybe we will eventually see this in our pond. All have highly predatory larvae that develop underwater often taking years according to the species. Some Damselflies were seen last year laying on plants in the area where the pool now sits. Maybe they had a premonition.

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.

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



Heyford Bowls Club

www.heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk

Good news is in short supply at the moment, but Heyford Bowls Club has some. The Club has been successful in obtaining £3,700 from the Sport England Community Emergency Fund to help with ongoing running costs, incurred while there is no income from members because of the Covid19 pandemic.

This takes financial pressure off for a few weeks while we decide how and when we are going to re-open the club. We are moving cautiously as many of our members are in the vulnerable category. At the time of writing these notes, Bowls England have just released some guidelines which include: -

Playing on rinks 1/3/5 or 2/4/6 only, to allow for social distancing.

Singles or Pairs matches only, but only from the same family.

Booking system for games.

Clubhouse and changing rooms to remain closed.

No spectators.

One person to handle jack and mat, with sanitisation of this equipment after play.

Copious supply of hand gel.

No use of bowls pushers, scoreboards, and other communal equipment.

No handshakes, high fives, and definitely no hugging!!!!

The list goes on.

We intend to have a remote committee meeting in early June to consider our position. Until then, no bowls at Heyford I'm afraid.

It is galling to report that the green is in immaculate condition. The best it has ever looked.

Geoff Allen
349909

Hair problems when self isolating by Sue Townsend

I know there are many ladies out there
Who are currently bemoaning the state of their hair
I was due a cut over 4 weeks ago
But obviously cancelled for reasons we know
So now my short and funky style
Has bitten the dust for quite a while
Whilst my hair may be thin, thanks to Gran's genes
It grows at full gallop, just like Jack's beans
So now it looks like a low flying cow, darn it
Has done what comes naturally on top of my Barnet
It's now curling over my collar and ears
And I know it won't take that long til it reaches my rear
Himself has offered to give me a Grade 3
But to be quite honest, do I trust him? not me
The thought of what could happen, I just couldn't bear
If he ended up giving me a full Lionel Blair
But on the positive side, I'm so pleased to say
That I gave up on colouring, resigned to the grey
It now must be hard for those who kept fighting
To continue with colour and even highlighting
For now they must worry and constantly fret
About having to join "The Badger Babe" set
With an increasing white line on top of their Napper
Where once they were well groomed, and glossy, and dapper
So maybe my friends, use this enforced quarantine
To give up the fight, you know what I mean
Just think of time saved, extra dosh in your purse
By accepting your grey, things could be much worse
By the time all us oldies are allowed to run (well shuffle) free
Your hair could quite easily have grown down to your knee
So a quick salon cut could solve all your care
As you then revert to your natural hair
When all this is over, the busiest folk
Will be the hairdresser girl and the cute barber bloke
The only consolation is that, and this I would share,
Even the best hairdresser can't cut their own hair.
So maybe before our isolation comes to an end
Take a selfie of your hair to send to your friends
Then have a competition to see who looks the worst
I'm sure the pics will make us laugh fit to burst.

Rose Hip Picking in Bugbrooke

During the Second World War when at school, and into the early 1950's, we were encouraged to go out into the fields in the autumn to pick as many rose hips as possible, from the hedge rows and such like. For every pound of Hips in weight we were paid thruppence (3d). We were also given badges to the ones that had collected the most.

One very tall Home Boy, named Richard Macconachie who lived with Mrs Polly Wooding on the Gayton Road up Camp Hill used to always be able to pick the most nearly every time, when he took his collection to school. I suppose it was due to his height and reach that had something to do with it, as he did not have the problems that us smaller built people had. We would hand them over every morning at the start of class and they would be weighed and tipped into large sacks ready to be taken away. We would get some money for collecting them, I used to put my money into buying saving stamps for my savings Book, that also took place in morning assembly.

The favourite places for us lads to go collecting these rose hips, was the side of the tow path along the canal and the railway banks. There were so many of them to pick and at times we had quite a job carrying them back home, due to the weight of them. Every spare minute we would be out and about picking them, the hedges on the banks between Bugbrooke Wharf and Jimmy Rainbows level crossing were absolutely full of them and also on the bushes and hedges up on Bugbrooke Downs. Us smaller boys found it quicker and better to help one another and to share the money from what we had picked. We found that we could pick as many as our elders and at times even more, especially when one held the briers down while someone else picked them. By doing it this way we were to be rewarded by earning more money for our savings.

We would use all sorts of tins with handles on them along with Wicker Baskets all shapes and sizes, the best for collecting them in, and anything to make it easier to carry them home. We found that old army Haversacks, or even empty sand bags as they were small and comfortable to carry them in were good. We took old walking sticks with us to pull the highest briers down so that we could pick them. One lad always took a very short ladder with him and his partner and they carried them back home using this small ladder like a stretcher. Some people took small hand carts for it could be quite a burden to get them back home or to school.

It was not only Rose Hips that we were paid for collecting, but Black berries as well. The rose hips were the most popular one to be picked though, as you could earn more money by doing so.

A little of what life was like when a small boy and what we got up to.

S. J. Clark

Flood Watch

The 7th of May witnessed the third super moon of the year known as the full flower moon. Such super moons occur when the earth and moon's elliptical orbit brings the earth and moon to their closest proximity or perigee and the moon appears approximately 15% larger in diameter. The event on the 7th of May was accentuated by clear night sky and resulted in an extremely bright yellow/golden glow on the moon's surface.

The month of May continued with extremely low rainfall with only 12% of the average monthly rainfall recorded up to 20th. Day time temperatures have fluctuated from 8 to 24 degrees centigrade with a record of 27 degrees forecast for the 20th. This will be followed by some thundery weather with possible light rain with the end of the month returning to a more settled warmer spell.

In the May issue of the Prattler I mentioned assessing your own risk from flooding. Within the Village there are two possible causes, by river or brook or by flash flooding resulting from heavy rainfall. Flash flooding and local drainage is the responsibility of the LLFA whilst the E/A are responsible for the river and brook.

The following web sites provide a useful starting point:-

- (a) Long term flood risk for your area in England-Gov.UK
- (b) Flood map for Planning

In (a) three categories are identified by zone 1, 2 or 3, zone 1 being lowest risk of 1 in 1000 years(0.1%) and zone 3 being 1 in 100 years(1%) or less. Zone 3 can be subdivided into 3a or 3b the latter being the natural floodplain of the river. In (b) the risks are categorised into low, medium and high. The NPPF rules require climate change to be taken into account especially when making planning applications. This requires an increase in river flow rates of up to 65% when predicting the increased impact of buildings estimated over 100 years.

None of the published risk maps include the impact of climate change.

As with any predictions of flood risk from modelling the results are subject to the accuracy of input data especially rainfall in catchment area and ground terrain profile accuracy. Even the choice of elements within the model and the selected grid size can radically change the output. The best cross check is to correlate to actual recorded events.

The most reliable sources of information lies within the local community especially with those that reside close to the potential sources of risk and who have first hand experience over several decades. So in assessing your risk familiarise yourself with the maps and then ask questions of local residents.

J.Arnold.

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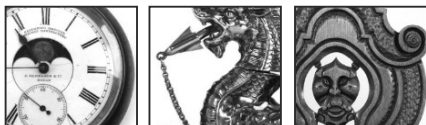
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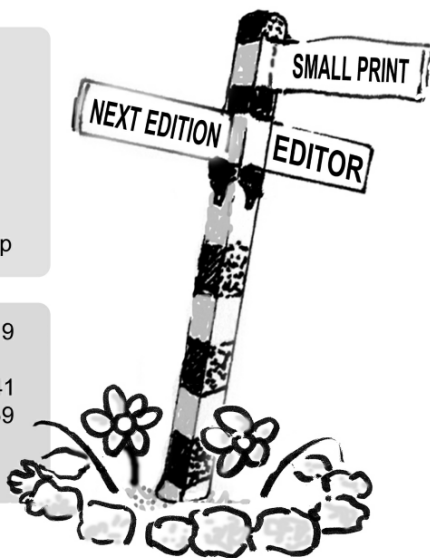
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e-mail: heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk
Or drop off at Heyford Meats or the One Stop Shop

Editorial: Sue Boutle 01327 342519
Proofreading: Tony Boutle
Typing & Distribution: Christine Watts 01327 340041
Adverts & Payments: Vicki Hamblin 01327 341059
Design: Nick Essex
Website: Jez Wilson



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