



# **THE PRATTLER**

**The Heyford Village Newspaper**

**July/August 2020**

**Issue No. 435**



## **Furnace Lane Road Closure - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

The top end of Furnace Lane at the railway bridge will be closed for the day on Sunday 12th July.

“Centurion Site Services have requested a closure either side of the Network Rail structure on Furnace Lane in Nether Heyford. The closure is to allow the safe undertaking of a structural bridge inspection and it is expected to take place for one day on the 12th July 2020.” Northamptonshire Highways

Diversion is via Weedon Road & Heyford Lane up to the Narrow Boat pub on Stowe Hill.

The closure and diversion can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=117434461>

## **The Teddies of Watery Lane**

John and Rosemary would like to thank all who supported our teddies. After 64 days we felt it was time to put them away to stop them becoming boring.

We have had great feedback from everyone. We would like to thank those who dropped cards etc in, also the great ideas and props without which we would not have been able to carry on for so long.

Many thanks,

**Rosemary and John**

## **Editors Note**

This Prattler covers the months of July and August. The next one will be published on September 1<sup>st</sup> by which time hopefully we will be more or less back to normal with our clubs and activities.

Thanks are due to everyone that has helped and entertained the villages during the lockdown. The community spirit of the Heyfords is alive and well.

**Sue**



Due to government regulations prohibiting public meetings the June 1st, 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 July 6th. Realistically, it would seem unlikely that any public meetings will be held before September. The August Meeting is usually restricted to Planning and Finance. 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 Parish Council are very grateful for the work of all the volunteers during this emergency and are proud of the community spirit that it has engendered.

**Reports from the District and County Councillors.** Cllr Adam Brown reported that the first meeting of the West Northants Shadow Authority would shortly take place on Zoom, with potentially 130 Councillors. This will also be on Youtube. The first meeting of the Shadow cabinet would be on June 9th, as part of the process moving towards the full authority on April 1st, 2021. NCC are expressing concern about the unexpected additional costs of the Unitaries.

Country parks and waste centres are re-opening.

Cllr Phil Bignell reported that SNC were not looking to re-open the Forum for the time- being and could not see normality returning this year.

### **Reports.**

**PCSO** – reported concerns about groups of people of all ages not maintaining social distancing on the Green.

**Lights** Quotes had now been received from Sparkx and Balfour Beatty, and one was expected from Aylesbury Mains. The next stage would be to apply for funding.

**Roads and pavements** In poor condition, many repairs needed. Hedge near the canal bridge on Furnace Lane was overgrown. Resident to be contacted. Holes had appeared in the grass around the bungalows in Hillside Rd.

**The Green and Play Area** Grass in good condition. Play area not able to be re-opened as yet. Play Area had been inspected. There were no items in need of immediate attention, but a number to monitor.

**Playing Fields** In good order. Tennis courts being re-surfaced.

**Trees** Some wind damage in churchyard and cemetery.

**Allotments** Waiting list of 3, allotments felt to be in good order.

**Footpaths** Church Lane to river had been reported as in poor/dangerous condition, but Councillors had walked it and found it in reasonable and passable condition. A tree had been felled blocking the permissive footpath from the canal to Weedon Rd.

**Youth Club** will remain closed until at least September. Trees had been cut down adjacent to the Youth Club.

**Planning** An application for land behind Denbrook was proving controversial and a report had been put in to the Planning Dept at SNC.

**Reports on effect of Covid 19 emergency** No additional report, situation much the same as last month. Although restrictions starting to be lifted, but online meetings likely to be the norm for the time-being. Large table could be removed to Youth Club to discourage gatherings.

**Internal Auditor report and External Audit.** The internal Auditor's report was positive, and made some minor points that the clerk would endeavour to follow up. Council accepted the report, and agreed the annual general report for submission to the External Auditors.

**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.

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Parish Council meetings in 2020 will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and will start at 19.30. The next one is on July 6th.

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

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

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

## **Dinah Anstead -12<sup>th</sup> March 1922 to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### **Age 98**

A memorial to a wonderful neighbour and friend.

Dinah moved to Furnace Lane with her husband and son in 1965 next door to Joan and Alec Kirkbride. They were neighbours for over 55 years and no one could have had a better neighbour and friend than Dinah over those years.

Ann and Frank Smith also became close friends when they moved into Furnace Lane and indeed Dinah was well loved by all her neighbours.

On her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday Dinah very proudly thought she was the oldest resident in Nether Heyford. She loved living in the village and being part of village life. Her wish was that she would end her days here in the village and she peacefully passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> June in her own home.

A truly lovely lady, she will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

**Joan Kirkbride**



## Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

### Services for July and August 2020

We are planning to re-open some of our churches for private prayer at the beginning of July. At present, we are airing and cleaning our churches, putting up signage regarding social distancing and establishing hygiene and cleaning stations to make our buildings as safe as we can for any visitors. Please look out for details of which churches will be open when on the Benefice Facebook page and local notice boards

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](https://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 may be able to begin public worship services 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, for during **July** we shall be praying for people living in Upper Heyford; Capell Rise, Collins Hill, Sears Close, Muscott Close and John Campbell Close in Flore; Francis Row in Upper Stowe and the Stables and Coach House in Brockhall. And during **August**; Rolf Crescent, Western Avenue and South View in Heyford; Chapel Lane and The Green in Flore; The Manor in Church Stowe and The Gate House and The Old Dairy in Brockhall.

*Revd Stephen Burrow, tel 344436*

Dear Friends

In ancient Greek, the language of the New Testament, there are several words that we translate as 'time'. The most common one is *chronos*, the basis of English words like chronology and chronometer. This refers to sequential time, the seconds, minutes, and hours on our wristwatches. But there is also *kairos*. This refers to a particular event or opportunity, a moment in time when everything changes, because it is the right time. *Kairos* moments mark events that make us stop and pause and reconsider our lives. They are often moments when normal, sequential time – *chronos* – seems to stand still. They may herald an event that disturbs us, that shakes us up, that moves us out of our comfort zone, that takes the loose ends of our life and reconnects them in new and exciting ways. *Kairos* moments signal opportunities for change and for growth, at an individual level, and at a communal level. They can be prompted by changes in leadership, by a word or message, or by an event.

Perhaps the gradual emergence from lockdown is one of those *kairos* moments, for individuals, for the Church and for society as a whole. As we look to the next and the new normal, as we reflect on the way things were, we will need courage, resourcefulness and hope to re-imagine and create a new and better future. For the Church, the last few months have changed the way we do things, moving services, meetings, and Bible study groups online, 'visiting' via telephone and so on. As we gradually reopen our buildings, we will face many challenges. How do we combine an on-line presence with our traditional, physical presence? How do we face our financial worries, both individual and corporate? What does the aftermath of coronavirus mean for our giving, our serving and our church buildings?

But as a nation, as a wider society, we face similar challenging questions. In a recent bulletin to parish clergy, the Bishop of Peterborough contrasts the changing messages from the government, from a concern for peoples' health to a concern for the economic health of the nation. He suggests that we need to seek a middle ground between 'health and safety at all costs' and 'maximum productivity and wealth creation', that we seek 'the common good', the 'just and caring society'. "We could," he writes. "be using this horrid crisis to be dreaming and planning a better future, rather than either hiding in our caves and refusing to come out, or rushing headlong back to the madcap past from which we have come".

As we move towards a post-pandemic world, I pray that we might seize the opportunities offered by this *kairos* moment - as individuals, communities and churches - to seek that middle ground, to re-imagine and create a better, fairer, safer future where all can flourish. I wonder what that might look like for our homes, our workplaces, our villages, our nation and our world?

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.**

### Village Hall News

Saturday 20th June – should have been our Village Hall Fete – with the same strong winds and heavy rain as last year – seems to be becoming a tradition. However, thanks to C-you-know-what, it had to be cancelled.

That's not the only sad news for the Village Hall, as our Vice-Chair, Eve Matthews, has had to stand down. We want to record our thanks to Eve, not only for her enthusiastic and valuable contributions to our management committee meetings, but also for her willingness to help with our fundraising events. With our Events Secretary Pat Paterson, Eve worked hard at the beginning of the year, not only to help organise the village hall fete but the April garage sale too, also cancelled.

Throughout the village hall's 60-year history, volunteers have been joining and leaving the management committee – each member bringing in fresh ideas and energy – to help ensure the hall's continual maintenance and development into the splendid community facility that we still enjoy. As we are keen to continue this tradition by finding a successor for Eve, we have issued an invitation to Nether Heyford people to join us – please see our advertisement in this issue.

This should have been a special year for the village hall – with lots of planned events to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary – now on hold. However, next year we will celebrate '60+1' so come and join us and help us make 2021 special instead.

*Alwyne Wilson*  
01327 340 803





## **Nether Heyford Village Hall**

Registered Charity, No. 304256

[nhvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:nhvhbookings@gmail.com)

[www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org](http://www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org)

## **VICE-CHAIR**

### **Required for the Village Hall Management Committee**

We are looking for a volunteer to join our friendly and active team to help manage the hall.

The Management Committee meets 11 times a year - meetings rarely last more than 1 ½ hours.

This important and rewarding voluntary opportunity involves two main roles:

- a) Supporting the Chairman and being willing to take over when she eventually retires at the end of her term of office.
- b) Helping to organise fundraising events to help maintain the village hall – especially the annual fete.

If you think you may be interested and would like to know more, please contact Alwyne Wilson (Chairman) on:

**01327 340 803**

**[alwyne76@gmail.com](mailto:alwyne76@gmail.com)**

Dear Diary,

July 1955

It'll be the factory fortnight soon. Dad will spend his first week decorating as usual. The walls and ceilings are quite stained after a year, probably because my parents both smoke, as do most grown-ups. I dare say we'll have the chimney sweep come first or it would be a bit of a waste of time decorating. The second week we may go on one of Mrs. Hilliers' day trips to the seaside, although they are long days.

Last year we went to Blackpool in a boarding house for a week, but I know we can't afford to go again this year. If we ever do go again I'll be able to swim because the school are taking us for lessons at Midsummer Meadow outdoor pool. The water is heated by the cooling towers but the air can be really cold when you get out. The bottom is really rough to your feet and the water is murky sometimes.

I love our village green, especially in the summer because so much happens there. It's the largest village green in the county and it's great after it's been mown because we can build dens. The grass won't be there long though because they'll want to play cricket at the weekend, so somebody will clear the cut grass away.

Mrs. Blaney has taken over the running of the Post Office from her dad. She was a school teacher once so I bet she knows most of the people in the village.

I was nearly late for school this morning. Dad had borrowed my school pen to write to his brother in Northampton. He is thinking of emigrating to Australia on the £10 package being offered to British citizens and dad wants to talk to him about making this drastic decision. The letter was on the table with the 2 ½ d for a stamp but no pen so I'll have to go without it. He probably wrote out his bet with it. Does he know how hard it is to get a pen?

Mum was messing about taking the milk off the step before the birds pecked through the lid, then she stopped to talk to Mr. Wigley, the road sweeper, so the bell was ringing before we even reached the green. I ran the rest of the way. Blimey, I'm 10 now so I don't need her to come with me, but she's got a little cleaning job and she starts at 9 o'clock when I start school. It's not like she spent hours in the bathroom as she only has what she calls "a lick & a promise" when she's going to work.

I'm school monitor this week so I'm to give out the milk at break time and we are having a group photograph in front of the school, with all 70 of us in it, this afternoon. That should be a laugh, trying to get us all looking the same way and smiling. I think we might have country dancing with the boys this afternoon – they hate that. After the holidays I shall be on my last year at Bliss School because they are to build a new secondary school at Duston and those over 11 who don't pass the 11+, and no doubt that'll be me, will go by bus. Can't wait.

*Polly*



### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH DATED 1955

#### **LEFT TO RIGHT**

**Back Row:** Mrs. Nickolls (dinner lady), Mrs. Whatton (Teacher), Mrs. Browning (dinner lady), Mrs. Warr (Teacher)  
Greta Banner, Peggy Matthews, Sue Parrish, June Charvil, Jean Rideout, Doreen Freeman, Jeanette Watts, Janet Ward, Sylvia Townsend, Mr. Warr (Headmaster).

**Second from Back:** Neil Haynes, Brian Danby, Peter Powell, Bill Parrish, Gerald Watts, John Smith, Carol Taylor, Janet Highfield, Margaret Rideout, June Smith, Kathleen Blood, Ann Reeve, Susan Norrie, Rita Wilkinson, Arnold Harrison, Robert Stanford, Bob Huxtable, Roger Collins, David Banner, John Tayles.

**Third Row from Back:** Geoff Garrett, Roy Copson, Mick Clarke, Graham Cooper, Jennifer Mead, Sue Rideout, Shirley Davies, Jane Parrish, Valerie Tasker, Alan Kingstone, Geoff Thorneycroft, Mick Lilley, Richard Boyes, Robert Clarke, Paul Green, David Cook, Graham Freeman.

**Forth Row from Back:** Martin Hewitt, Robert Charville, Richard Taylor, Carol Denny, Linda Garrett, Carol Collins, Pauline Noon, Graham Pearson, Brian Noon, Tom Harrison, John Goodman, Ian Wilkinson, Alan Kingstone, Geoff Thorneycroft.

**Front Row:** Dawn Adams, Gwyneth Cooper, Robert Smith, Derek Lee, Peter Foster, Martin Carnegue, Roger Banner, Maureen Charville, Bridget Randall, Lyn Quartermain, Ann Kingston.

**Kneeling:** Sue Danby, Mary Green, Alan Kingston, Atherley, Ronnie Copson  
(Wendy Banner?, Delia Andrews?)

## Word Challenge

1 I Q FGH JKLMNOP RST	2 NOXQQIVIT	3 arrest you're	4 P <sub>e</sub> PP <sub>ermint</sub>
5 HAMLET WORDS	6 WEEKKKKKKKKK	7 HOLIDAY C C C C	8 VIT_MIN
9 head ache	10 HIJKLMNO	11 eyebrows	12 cirkeepcle
13 T RN	14 HICDL	15 Symphon	16 DDWESTDD

Answers on Page 14

## Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Watch

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

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

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



## Heyford Garden Club

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

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

### Weather

I may have mentioned the weather in previous articles, but it has been extreme this year. At time of writing after weeks with no rain we have had some heavy downpours, but the soil still looks parched. There is more rain in the forecast, so we hope this may help refresh our gardens as I for one am tired of lugging watering cans around and summer has hardly started.

The dry spring has had its benefits though, I have had very little damage from slugs this year, and might even see flowers on my one delphinium! The floral display seems to have been exceptional too, the spring flowers were excellent and long lasting and the summer flowers look to be as good, roses and clematis and various shrubs being laden with flowers. This might be a result of last years dry summer. If we get a bit of rain now we might even have a good crop of soft fruit.

### Fruity Disasters

A number of people have told me that they have had a disappointing crop of strawberries this year which is almost certainly due to the frosts which happened just as the plants were flowering. I managed to cover my small bed with some glass, a bit laborious but we have had some strawberries as a result.

We would have had more had we not decided to reorganise some of the strawberry beds in March. Because of the dry spring those plants have mostly shrivelled up now and will have to be discarded. I also planted some raspberries this spring and they too struggled manfully but have now succumbed to the drought. I shall always plant fruit in the autumn in future.

### Orange

Looking round our garden I noticed how many orange flowers we have. There are people who won't have orange in their gardens. Because it is the complementary of green, the colour of most foliage, orange flowers will always assert themselves, but I couldn't be without poppies and marigolds in our garden (but I do have reservations about orange roses; they don't look right to me).

This year has proved challenging in other ways too; it has proved difficult getting supplies as garden centres were closed for a while, and recently many have run out of compost. I had to curtail plans to plant up more pots containers, but in view of the watering burden that may have been a sensible move in the end.

## **Lilies**

I have discovered that lilies are one of the easiest plants to grow in pots; they seem able to put up with all sorts of weather, and if you can avoid the lily beetle, don't suffer from many other pests or diseases. I have 3 pots of regal lilies in the garden at the present time with nearly one hundred buds between them. All they require is regular watering and a fortnightly splash of seaweed fertiliser.

## **Things to do in July**

1. clear blanket weed from ponds and top up if necessary
2. Look out for clematis wilt
3. Deadhead bedding plants and perennials to keep the display going

*Mark Newstead*

## **Bugbrooke and District Flower Society**

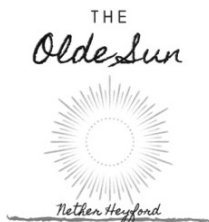
Due to the uncertainty of when social distancing will be eased, we have decided to cancel all meetings for the rest of the year.

We look forward to meeting up again with our members and visitors when circumstances permit. In the meantime keep well, keep smiling and enjoy the summer.

For more information please follow us on Facebook.

## **Answers to Quiz**

- |                      |                        |                         |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. High IQ           | 2. No excuse for it    | 3. You're under arrest  |
| 4. Three piece suite | 5. Play on words       | 6. Long weekend         |
| 7. Overseas holiday  | 8. Vitamin A deficient | 9. Splitting headache   |
| 10. H to O (H2O)     | 11. Raised eyebrows    | 12. Keep in shape       |
| 13. No U turn        | 14.. Mixed up child    | 15. Unfinished symphony |



## Take Away Menu Friday - Saturday

Please pre-order by phone - available 5 to 8 PM

Bahji Scotch Egg - Curry Mayo	£5.00
Halloumi Fries	£4.50
Haddock fish & Chips	£6.50
Whitby Scampi & Chips	£6.50
Home Made Steak Pie & Chips	£6.95
Lasagna al forno & Garlic bread	£6.50
Beef Brisket Burger & Chips	£6.50
Fried Chicken Strips Box Meal	£6.90

Sides £1 each Mushy peas, Curry sauce, Baked beans, Red coleslaw

Dips 50p each, Garlic mayo, Garlic butter, Sweet chilli, Smokey BBQ, Tartare

Various Pizzas choice of Tomato or BBQ base £5.50

## Sunday Take Away Menu

Pre orders only before 11am Sunday

### Roast

Beef £10  
Chicken £10  
Nut Roast £10

Served with a selection of vegetables, crispy roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding & red wine gravy

Small thank you present included

### The Olde Sun Dine At Home

All meals are freshly prepared & cooked but served cold – and will need warming up in your oven, Instruction sheet will be included in the takeaway bag from our head chef.



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 upon collection. Orders will not be accepted after 11am on Sunday. \*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  
Mobile: 07494180051



# Revitalising the allotments

## Sharing

I was pleased to report, in last month's edition of the Prattler, that allotment holders had been generously sharing their surplus plants with other allotment holders. That has continued throughout June with more and more excess being offered. What a generous group of people we have in our growing community. I am sure that when excess produce is forthcoming later in the season, there will be fruit and veg to hand out too. I won't even attempt to guess how many oversized courgette's are likely to appear! An old wheelbarrow now sits proudly in the picnic area and hopefully by the time this article goes to print, there will be a sign attached directing you to place all surplus items there.

It has been encouraging to see more and more villagers making use of the picnic area. It is a tranquil place to sit and while away some time.

We are also encouraging people to visit our community flower patch (clearly signposted) and, if they so wish, help themselves to some cut flowers. Cutting carefully should enable everyone to have a bunch – so bring a pair of scissors or secateurs. Sweet peas benefit especially from regular cutting and will continue to flower all season if that happens. Later in the year we are hopeful that we may have sufficient soft fruit to offer to you as well. Just keep an eye on the notice boards at the entrances to the allotments and on the large shed in the middle of the site.

A spare watering can be found by the sweet pea wigwam, so if you are cutting flowers you might also give the plants in that area a drink. Every little helps.

## Links to the past

We were very pleased to accept a donation of old tools from two allotment holders who found them at the back of their parents' garden shed. They'd once rented an allotment in the village and it was wonderful to think that the tools were "coming home" and again being put to use. If you are a new allotmentee or just want to make use of some unusual hoes and hand cultivators, let us know. They are stored in the community shed and available to borrow.

If you too have any unwanted garden tools let us know; someone can probably make good use of them.

## Wildlife

One of the joys of working on the allotments is the amount of wildlife you see. Even if we do seem to spend a lot of time and effort protecting crops from greedy pigeons and butterflies anxious to lay their eggs on our tasty greens, the benefits from creating a rich and diverse eco-system far outweigh any small loss of produce. It has been wonderful to see more and more people visiting the allotment wildlife area, created and curated by Dave and Pauline Musson and Mark and Mary Newstead.

An indication of the richness of our eco-system has been the presence of more frogs, toads and hedgehogs on the allotment. They are beneficial visitors to



allotments and gardens, Hoovering up large quantities of slugs and snails. A note of caution however: try to avoid using larger gauge netting to protect crops as it can snag and trap hedgehogs. One conscientious allotment holder recently spent an hour disentangling one of our prickly friends from a piece of netting before taking him off to the vet! I am pleased to report that the hedgehog made a full recovery and when set free, limped off across the allotment site to find more slimy treats for dinner.

## **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*

*I believe in the life enhancing virtues of  
pure earth, clean air and blue sky.*

*Octavia Hill – founder of the National Trust*

## **Welcome Packs**

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

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

Sue Morris  
21 The Green  
Nether Heyford  
01327 349387



## In Nether Heyford

As I was wondering what to put in yet another “Lockdown” edition of the Prattler I realised that it was almost time for our wonderful Village Fete. It was to be a special one this year, it being the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the building of the Village Hall, and I know it would have been a day to remember. However, thanks to the coronavirus it was not to be. Also, true to form, the rain was imminent after days of really hot sunshine.

During our WI Committee meetings at the beginning of the year we were busy planning for our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in December and remembering past events and achievements. Heyford Fete days were often mentioned. As always, events like these are hard work to organise and set up but they are remembered as events of great fun and laughter (in spite of the wind and rain on many occasions!). Earlier in the Fete’s history one of the main users of the Hall would make and sell the refreshments on the day instead of having a stall. There are always smiles when remembering the days beforehand spent making cakes and Fete mornings buttering bread for sandwiches which upheld the reputation of the WI as providers of wholesome, homemade fare!

Then there were the themes for the day. On the Village Hall’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the WI ladies went round the village on an “Alice in Wonderland” themed float. I am reliably informed that Alison Haynes was Alice, Maureen Wright the Mad Hatter, Pat Essery the Queen of Hearts and Mary Hyde the White Rabbit. I believe there are photo’s as proof!! One year they masqueraded as St. Trinian’s, another, they managed to acquire a milk float upon which was placed a bed containing Alison and Maureen and, on another occasion, featured the Land Army (where Alison and Maureen were the front and back of a cow, with Maureen spraying onlookers with a water pistol!) Does any of this sound like the staid picture people like to paint of the WI?

It is sad that we have had to miss this year’s fun but I am sure it will be even better next year when all is back to some kind of normal. I hope that when the September edition of the Prattler comes along our groups may be able to meet up again and there will be “live” events to write about but, until then, we wish you all a good and healthy summer.

*Mary Rice*  
*Heyford Lodge 01327 340101*

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## **Nether Heyford Playing Fields - 'A community asset to be proud of'**

There may not have been much organised sport at the Playing Fields since lockdown started, but that doesn't mean they've been abandoned – far from it! Club volunteers have been hard at work keeping the playing surfaces and facilities ready for when sport can resume. Indeed, it has been reported that many people (both new and longstanding friends) have been enjoying the good weather and open space the fields have to offer - and we welcome all to make use of what is a fantastic local asset. Some might find it surprising that the facilities have only been in existence for 34 years – which makes what has been achieved in that period a truly outstanding achievement. With that in mind, here is a brief history of the Playing Fields and our plans...

In the mid-1980s, the Parish Council realised that with the growing population, the village green which had always been suitable for community sporting activities, was sadly no longer fit for purpose. Consequently, the decision was made to purchase 14.47 acres of land to be used for sport from Mr Spokes at a cost of £39,500 which is now Nether Heyford Playing Fields. The acquisition was funded by the sale of allotments on Furnace Lane and the Purchase Agreement was signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Mrs Sally Foulkes and Mrs Joan Kirkbride on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1986. There were several conditions to the sale, the main ones being that no building could be constructed on the site without the written permission of the vendor, although this would not be refused if the request was in pursuance of sport. Also, if the land ceased to be used for sport and was to be disposed of, it must initially be offered for sale back to the vendor at the current agricultural price of land. Once purchased the Parish Council set up by a Declaration of Trust, the Nether Heyford Playing Fields Association Committee to administer, manage and financially indemnify the Parish Council from any costs and with the remit to support sport and leisure for the local and outlying community. The Parish Council remain the Trustees.

The formation of the Playing Fields in the early years required the movement of the old portacabin changing rooms from the Village Hall to the Playing Fields to form the existing pavilion. The following seasons saw the setting up of football and cricket teams at the new location, together with the construction of tennis courts, then later in 1996 a Bowls Club was formed with the grant of £72,000 from the Sports Lottery and South Northants Council.

Over the years the Playing Fields continued to develop with the increase of participation in the four main sports clubs. These four clubs form the Playing Fields Association. They are all independently run with their own committees and finances. The cost of running the Playing Fields – and excluding the running costs of individual clubs – is in excess of £10k per year (e.g. utilities, maintenance and insurance) and is met mainly from Member Club annual fees, a grant of £400 annually from the Parish Council (although the Parish Council has contributed to

specific projects), the 300 Club (currently paused until the end of lockdown), and percentage of the Bar profits.

The Football Club now has two Saturday senior teams and various age groups including U7, U9, U12, U15, and U18s teams and an enjoyable 'Thursday evening of walking football' was gathering momentum pre-lockdown. They also hire out their facilities to two Sunday teams. The Cricket Club hoped for the first time in their history to field three senior Saturday teams prior to lockdown. They also enthusiastically promote youth sport with competitive cricket for U11s and All-Star cricket for younger children and have recently completely renovated their nets. The Tennis and Bowls Clubs also have strong membership of about 60 members each. The Tennis Club are currently refurbishing their Tennis Courts with new surfaces and fencing. Also, in recent history (in 2017) an additional 2.35 acres of land was purchased from Northamptonshire County Council with a grant of £45,000 from South Northants District Council, and with further funding from SNC (£10,000) and the London Marathon Charitable Trust (£20,000), a brand-new Netball and Basketball court has been constructed. The planned introduction of a Ladies Netball team has been delayed due to lockdown, but hopefully only temporarily!

The Playing Fields have also established close ties with the village Scouts and Bliss Charity School – with the procurement of a storage container so that they can safely store their own equipment and make use of the facilities. Along with the Parish Council, the Playing Fields also supported the creation of the Community Orchard at the allotments by planting the hedge that includes several varieties of fruit trees.

The Nether Heyford Playing Fields Committee has been lucky in gratefully securing grants over the years which have been used to construct Bowls Club Changing Rooms, Basketball/Netball Court, Land purchase and other minor projects, and the committee are continuously working tirelessly to improve the facilities... we have plans for the construction of a new building with new changing rooms, storage facilities, kitchen and toilets. It has been designed by Ellis Architectural Design and Planning Permission has been approved (reference S/2019/1393/MAF for those interested). The provision of this building will be extremely challenging as the cost is estimated at approximately £450,000. It is hoped to raise the money by matched grants from South Northants District Council, Sport England and the Football Foundation.

Over the years the Playing Fields have been supported by the Parish, Local and District Councils, local farmers, grant bodies, professionals and numerous individuals all of whom are too many to mention. The Committee and Clubs are lucky to have so many enthusiastic individuals serve on their respective committees and give their time for coaching and ground maintenance. The 17 acres of Playing Fields are now a valuable and much prized community asset of which we should all be rightly proud. We encourage and welcome everyone to enjoy all it has to offer and thank you for your ongoing support.

**NHPFA Committee**

## **Nether Heyford Tennis Club**

Our **Court Refurbishment Project** is into its final stages and we will soon be offering tennis on three very smart and upgraded courts. We will be having a **Grand Opening / Open Day** – date tba when we are able to celebrate this huge achievement.

Although, during these difficult times, how we are able to play tennis is restricted we look forward to the return of all our “Social Sessions”

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## Heyford Residents in WW2

Many of Heyford residents served in the Second World War 1939-1945 in the various services. Many thanks to Hugh Adams for compiling this list.

**Hazel Adams** - Red Cross Nurse, Royal Navy, **Hugh Adams** - Royal Dragoons  
**Albert Beharrell** - Army, **Ken Boyes** - Army, **Helen Cadman** - WAAF (Women's Auxiliary Air Force), **Charles Copson** - Army, **Tom Davies** - Fleet Air Arm / RAF, **Ralph Faulkner** - Bevan boy / Army,

**Gordon Hayes** - RAF, **Marjorie Hamborg** - Red Cross, **Frank Higginbottom** - Army, **Frank Hyde** - RAF, **Donald Jafkins** - Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, **Ernest Jones** - Army, **Bill Kingston** - RAF, **Nan Kingston** - WAAF, **Jack Lee** - Royal Engineers,

**Charles Masters** - Army, **George Masters** - Royal Army Medical Corps, **Sheila Masters** - ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service), **Sid Masters** - Army,

**Ray Metcalfe** - Army, **Cyril Mitchell** - Royal Army Ordnance Corps, **John Moore** - Merchant Navy, **Rita Moore** - NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes),

**Alec Nial** - Royal Navy, **Bill Norrie** - Royal Navy, **Tom Oliver** - Royal Navy, **Joan Pearson** - Woman's Land Army, **Dorothy Reeve** - COD (Central Ordnance Depot),

**Margaret Reeve** - Woman's Land Army, **Derek Roberts** - Royal Marines, **Paul Rogers** - Royal Army Medical Corps, **William Rogers** - HAC (Honourable Artillery Company),

**Jack Rossiter** - Royal Army Ordnance Corps, **Dennis Searle** - Merchant Navy, **Frank Townsend** - Army, **Arthur Turland** - RAF, **Mabel Wallace** - WAAF, **William Wallace** - Highland Light Infantry, **Dennis Weaver** - Royal Army Intelligence Corps,

**Bert Wilkinson** - 13/18<sup>th</sup> Hussars, **Rev Wintersgill** - Queens Royal Regiment

And those sadly killed in action:

**Charles Leslie Foster** Flight Sergeant (Air Gunner) RAF Killed in Action 23-5-44 age 24

**Frederick Heeler** Lance Corporal Army killed in action 24-7-44 age 28

**Frederick Watson** Sapper Army killed in action 10-10-44 aged 22

**John Bennett Whiting** Lieutenant Army killed in action 1-9-42 age 25

## Heyford Home Guard



The Home Guards met twice a week in the yard of the Foresters Arms, where they had their stores. The Commanding Officer was Charlie Highfield, chosen because of his army career.

Back row (L>R):

Alf Adams, Stan Faulkner, Joe Matthews, Arthur (Batty?) Charvill, Jeff (Geoff?) George, Dick Fisher, Ron or Frank (?) Taylor, Fella Masters (the only name he was known by!)

Middle row (L>R):

Reg Collins, Tom Eales, Charlie Masters, Jack Butcher, Frank Reeve, Dave Ward, Herbert (Horace?) Blood, Amos Lee, Les (Bob?) Foster

Front row (L>R):

Bill Spokes, Anselm Banner, Sid Blencowe (Joe?), Harry Haynes, Charlie Highfield (Captain), Ted Wright, Joe Garrett, Joe (Joey?) Charvill, Arthur Mead



Heyford Amblers



## 'ALLO, 'ALLO - It's Heyford Amblers

You might wonder what a bar full of Yvettes & Renes has to do with a village walking group. Well, I'll tell you.

In 2002 we were both made redundant when Express Lifts & British Timken closed their doors and we were a year or three short of getting a State Pension so were keen to find hobbies that didn't cost anything. We put an advert in The Prattler to see if anyone would be interested in forming a walking group and the rest, as they say, is history.

The first few years we walked every Tuesday morning from the village and once a month from further afield. Our Autumn break took us to places like Yorkshire and Derbyshire and an 8 mile walk was the norm, with a pint or two half way. Move forward a few years and we came closer to home, to The Cotswolds and The Malverns, for a 6 mile daily walk. Further still brought us to Rutland Water and The Thames with 5 miles a day, leaving plenty of free time to explore at our own pace. Our Autumn breaks usually included a Theme Night, which is why we look so ridiculous in these photos.

Over the 18 years we have made some good friends, lost a few and gained a few. However, aches and pains, decline of hearing, memory and concentration are taking their toll. Our Tuesday walks no longer happen and we take it in turn to organise a 4 miler once a month with, the most important bit, a meal at the end of it, and we still have a Christmas lunch at The Olde Sun.

Our advice to anyone healthy enough would be to take up walking, maybe start a new village group. We highly recommend it for fitness, fun and friendship.

*Shirley & Mick Collins*

### **Advertising in The Prattler**

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*Don't want your love anymore  
Don't want your kisses, that's for sure  
I die each time I hear this sound  
Here he comes, that's Cathy's clown*

*I gotta stand tall  
You know a man can't crawl  
When he knows you're tellin' lies and he hears 'em passing by  
He's not a man at all*

**From 'Cathy's Clown' by the Everly Brothers**

### **Quiz question**

When did the song above hit the No 1 spot in the music charts?

I think most people reading this article would agree that if a lockdown had to be imposed, there is no better place to experience it than by living in Nether Heyford. The ready access to beautiful open countryside which surrounds the village, the large village green and open spaces within the area, have enabled folk to enjoy exercise and being outdoors whilst appreciating nature in all its glory as the seasons have changed. Praise too to the local shops which, in times of queues and shortages, have kept the local community continually supplied with food and other goods, whilst the take-aways and book swaps offered by the pubs have provided relief and pleasure.

As the lockdown measures gradually ease it has been a delight to see small groups of pre-school children walking around the village, and the quieter, but still noticeable sounds of children back at Bliss School. The Pizza Van is 'back in town', hungry customers patiently waiting for their orders whilst they sit and play on the green, and there is now a steady march of twos or fours towards the tennis courts and playing fields.

In the days and weeks to come we will hopefully see more signs of this cautious awakening, the church and chapel offering the opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer, if not yet large group gatherings or celebratory events, additional sporting activities at the playing fields, and maybe pints enjoyed in pub gardens!

Our little village hall, both a visual and metaphorical hub for the local community still remains closed... **except** for the wonderful work of volunteers who gather there weekly to sort and distribute food boxes to older and less mobile people in the village. They have, and still continue to do, a sterling job – thank you to each and every one!

I do miss the 'business' of the village hall, the full car park evidence that inside people were socialising, exercising, honing their skills and learning – W I meetings, bowling, yoga, Pilates, and taekwondo, gardening and flower arranging, sewing and patchwork, singing, films, quizzes and parties. Our local meeting place is very much the centre of village life and all that we enjoy. Sadly it has been unable to bask in

our appreciation of its value, now and in years past, as the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations also fell victim to the Covid 19 lockdown. But I have no doubt that Alwyne (Chairman) and all members of the village hall committee and friends are working hard to ensure that as soon as *it is safe and wise* to do so, we may again enjoy all the benefits the village hall offers.

**Quiz question answer.** This was the No 1 hit, and best-selling single, when the village hall was opened on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1960 by Lord Spencer, and maybe danced to at celebrations that evening or weekend. It remained at the No 1 spot for 7 weeks!

Appropriately now I give you our village hall Chairman's choice of music should she be cast far away on a desert island, where there is no village hall, no nasty virus, but also no community to be part of!

Thank you Alwyne

I wish everyone a safe and sunny summer, which I hope will slowly and carefully return us to our busy vibrant community!

*Jill Langrish*

## **Desert Island Discs - your choices - Alwyne Wilson**

I usually prefer classical music, especially baroque, but at the moment whilst I'm wading through an extremely tedious and time-consuming list of admin tasks for my family, I feel I need some diverting company - hence this list of vocalists:

**Mamma Mia!** Of course.

**Aled Jones** - I've been a fan since his choirboy days.

**Barbara Dickson** - always wished I could sing like her.

**Katherine Jenkins** - ditto -

**Hayley Westenra** - ditto - (In my dreams I can sing both soprano and alto)

**Alfie Boe** - some friends of mine met him many years ago and became friends. I feel therefore I have an affinity with him.

**Neil Diamond** - Fantastic! Makes an old lady very happy.

## View from the Wildlife Patch

*Dytiscus marginalis* (Great Diving Beetle) is a large and voracious predator of underwater life in both larval and adult stages.

Pauline and myself were watching life in the pond and spotted a Newt trying to shake off something that had a hold of its neck. When the newt eventually managed to shake it off, we could see it was a nearly full grown larvae of the above species. At around 50mm long it was maybe half the length of the newt. As we watched it became evident that there were a number of these larvae who were mostly attacking tadpoles but would try for anything that was moving underwater. Always grabbing from underneath with strong jaws around the neck area. I was watching the pond with Mark and watched one of these larva rise from the shallows to grab a good sized tadpole then swim across the surface to hide, with it's prey under a lilly leaf, no doubt to consume it's prey out of sight. That pond may look peaceful but underwater it's a "proper jungle".

My own first experience of this beetle was when at the age of about 7 years I caught a adult whilst collecting frog spawn. I put it on an old white enamel bowl along with the spawn. By the next morning the beetle had eaten around half of the centres from my Frog spawn. I remember it well as I told my parents that it was eating the yolks and leaving the whites of the eggs. Both adults and larva of *Dytiscus* are said to deliver a painful bite. Mine did not bite me despite much handling.

On the rest of the patch Mary found and photographed a lovely Scarlet Tiger Moth. This is another large, showy moth that is gradually moving its territory Northward. We found one there last year so could have a breeding population of these. We would love to find Garden Tiger Moths there. Their larvae are the once common Woolly Bears that people over a certain age remember from their youth. They have sadly declined drastically -possibly due our warmer winters. I have not found a Garden Tiger or a Woolly Bear since moving back to England in 2015.

Despite the drought we are seeing some fruits from earlier sowings. New species of Grass, Yellow Rattle (which could be important to our plans) and other plants are gradually showing their heads. Unexpectedly, a few specimens of Night Flowering Catchfly are growing on last years "Annuals Patch". This is member of the Campion family that was introduced to the UK sometime in the past. It looks quite insignificant in daytime but comes into it's own when the sun sets, showing intense, almost luminescent, white blooms that fade with the dawn. Undersides of leaves and stems are covered with sticky hairs, hence the name "Catchfly". We did not knowingly sow this plant and did not see it last year last year. It is an annual and very easily overlooked in daylight hours so it may well have been among the Wildflower Annuals planted last year.

*Dave Musson*



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### **Educational and Social: Persons under 18, Persons 18-24.**

The Trustees of the Charity can provide small cash grants in approved cases to or on behalf of persons who have not attained the age of 25.

Applicants must be resident in the Parishes of Nether and Upper Heyford or have been educated for over one year and in need of financial assistance for educational purposes, subject to the terms of the scheme.

### **Social Grants**

To help those who may be struggling. A grant can help with bills i.e. heating, clothing medical etc.

Small grants are awarded to organisations and clubs which help in the community for their parishioners.

The applications are considered by the Trustees at their meetings. The Trustees meet twice a year, April and November.

If you would like an application form please contact, Mrs M Eaton at Wilson Browne Solicitors, [meaton@wilsonbrowne.co.uk](mailto:meaton@wilsonbrowne.co.uk)

## Flood Watch

Chaos theory, a phenomenon well known to physicists and climatologists, coupled to climate change could be the reason for meteorologists being astounded by unprecedented changes to the UK weather pattern in 2020. Those of us that grew up in the 1960's and 70's experienced regular seasonal patterns, snow and ice in winter, wet springs and long hot summers. However since the late 70's global temperatures have been steadily rising with changes in the southern hemisphere triggering changes to the global weather patterns. Locally 2020 has seen new records set for the wettest February (over twice monthly average) following a mild winter, the warmest spring and the driest May (only 12% of monthly average). No rain was recorded from 3<sup>rd</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June. Since then June has continued with endless showers although only two days the 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> recorded over 10mm. The remainder of June is expected to see warmer weather returning with the years total rainfall so far expected to be below the usual average to the end of June.

Having recently been contacted by a potential house purchaser enquiring about flooding risks in Nether Heyford reminded me of the role of a flood warden, his deputy and any other wardens located within the Village, all of whom should be registered and insured by the Environment Agency. They are expected to raise awareness of flood risks, help pass on flood warnings and help prepare for flooding events throughout the Village. Acquired local knowledge will often identify potential events before the E/A flood warning service. During flooding events they would coordinate all emergency services, bearing in mind that all agencies will be attending higher priority events elsewhere. An important activity is regular inspection of ditches, culverts, brooks and river and recording the extent of all potential flooding events. A Community Flood Plan should be prepared identifying all areas at risk, each given a rating and action to be taken. A full listing of all contact numbers for wardens and emergency services should be included. It would be helpful to have such a document posted on the Village web site and a reference included in the Welcome pack.

*J. Arnold.*

## 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.



## Long Buckby Hockey Club

As a club we are very proud of our history. The club dates back about 100 year and we wanted to share with you one of the oldest photos that we have of our club from 1922.



Back row L to R: Ruth Underwood, M Tebbitt, Evelyn Underwood, Gwen Underwood, Emilie Mason

Front row L to R: Unknown, Unknown, Kathleen Underwood, Unknown, Margot Briggs, Nellie Bandy

If you can identify anyone in the photograph or have any stories about these ladies, please get in touch.

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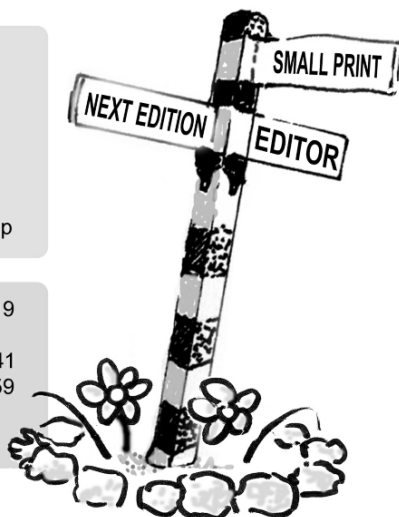
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# THE PRATTLER

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