



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

October 2020

Issue No. 437



Heyford Calendar 2021

Coming Soon

Neighbourhood Plan

Many of you will have read the Neighbourhood Plan article in the September issue of the Prattler.

I would like to point out that after reading it I could not believe that there was a glaring gap in the content.

Sue Corner, who happens to be my wife, and who is seriously ill with a brain tumour, has, until this March, worked many hundreds of hours, attending dozens of meetings, both in the village and outside, sometimes as far away as Evesham.

She has meticulously kept all records covering all aspects of this Plan. Not one word of her tireless input to this plan was included in this article.

I am deeply angered and saddened that the “leading lights” have not recognised in print the massive contribution Sue has made to this plan.

Sue died on Saturday 19th September.

Bill Corner

Cover Photo - 2021 Calendar

The Heyford Calendar is being printed and will shortly be on sale for £5. You will be able to pick up a copy at Heyford Meats or The Foresters or by e-mailing heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk

Image by M Parker.

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.



Due to government regulations prohibiting public meetings the Sept 2020 Parish Council meeting was held online, using the Zoom platform. This is in line with national advice. There is still no indication of how long these conditions will persist, but it is likely that meetings will take place online for the rest of this year. 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 augmented by the District and County Councillors.

Illness and unfamiliarity with IT have meant that the number of Councillors at meetings has fallen, and the anticipated election in May was postponed until next year, and this may well have bought an influx of new Councillors. We are able to co-opt new members, subject to them being eligible. The Parish Council does need some active new members, preferably familiar with IT – so if you feel that is you – please contact me or the Chair (details overleaf).

Reports from the District and County Councillors Cllr Adam Brown reported that NCC will give a financial report tomorrow that will show a small underspend on the previous year. Northampton had been downgraded from being an area of intervention as regards Covid19. The Greencore situation had improved. As regards LGR (Local Government Re-organisation) – all is progressing, and the schedule is being met. Most Statutory officers have now been appointed.

Cllr Phil Bignell confirmed downgrading of Covid19 situation, and reported that most new cases were in the younger age groups, and that there was some way to go.

Cllr David Harries confirmed Cllr AB's analysis of the LGR situation. He referred to the failure of Council's bid for NHB money for lighting. The panel had taken the decision to not support schemes for which Councils were in any case responsible; preferring to support larger schemes. He felt that schemes which helped with climate change should be supported. AW felt that the rules had been changed, and DH agreed that this had not been made clear enough.

Public Participation Tony Clewett reported that the NP (Neighbourhood Plan) had sustained body blows - participant illness and Covid19, which meant no meetings could be held. Strategic Environment Assessments (SEA) was the next task. SNC have said that the NP group have to screen this themselves, whereas most think that the District Council should be doing this. It was recommended that Kislingbury

was approached for advice on this and other NP issues. Tom Dodd felt the need for an SEA was low, but that the NP would not be passed unless there is evidence of a strong scoping plan. Whilst the delays were a cause for concern, the whole process has been delayed in that there would be no referendum before May 6th 2021, and funding had been increased as a result. With the Parish Council's allocation of £3000 for 20/21 and £500 already held, it was hoped that this would suffice. He had distributed a document on costings. The NP group would continue with the screening and to keep in line with SNC's local plan. It was hoped to submit to the PC in Jan 2021, followed by statutory consultation. It would then go on to a referendum.

Roads and pavements Felt to be in generally poor condition, although it was acknowledged that there had been extensive re-surfacing work on the lane between the Heyfords.

The Green and Play Area The Green was felt to be in good condition, although there had been some storm damage to trees. The Council thanked Dominic Cawley for removing one substantial Robinia limb from the Green. The Tree surgeon had checked and adjusted a number of trees.

Damaged units in the Play Area had been taped off and would be repaired by Wickstead shortly.

CK felt that funding for a new Play Area was now problematic although it was still possible to go for NHB money, if this was the case the last opportunity would be Nov 20th.

It was resolved to insert an additional litter bin next to the bench at the bus stop. This would be to help deal with the worsening litter situation, which is felt to have been caused by the removal of the bin outside the One Stop Shop. The re-opening of takeaways was fairly obvious as detritus from the various outlets started to appear at the roadside almost immediately. This is particularly noticeable between the Heyfords; however most of the lane is in Upper Heyford, rather than Nether Heyford Parish. There has also been an issue with cars parking around the entrance to the Playing Fields. Police are aware.

Playing Fields LE reported that the Netball Court had proved very popular and was much used. She felt that the use of the fields had increased generally and that there were now more opportunities for women.

Trees Storm Francis had caused a good deal of damage.

Allotments LE reported that there had been an appeal for members to form an Allotments Association committee. There was now a waiting list of 5.

Footpaths LD commented that dog mess was an increasing issue on footpaths.

Churchyard Tree work would be recommenced in Autumn.

Joint Burial Board CK reported that there was a programme for tidying up the cemetery, and that the existing mapping was to be upgraded. There had been damage to some trees during Storm Francis, which was being dealt with.

Youth Club LD reported that she felt it was unlikely that the club could re-open in the near future. Those activities that were recommended by the County Association were not felt to be attractive to the club members and would be stressful and awkward for helpers to implement, nor were outdoor activities practical going into Autumn. The building has been deep cleaned. SNC had sent a tree inspector to look at the issue with the garden in Ridgeway Furlong.

Canal The Furnace Lane bridge had been damaged. Clerk had reported to Highways and an inspection had taken place. No report as yet.

Defibrillators The defibrillators were in working order, but would need new batteries shortly as they had been in place since 2017.

Planning S2020/0428/FUL Land behind Denbrook SNC were unhappy with this application but have not heard back from the agent: so there is no current application. There is an issue regarding the crossing of part of the village green for access for any residence built on this site, as to whether an easement is required. AW had contacted Danny Moody at NCALC who had recommended contacting NCALC's solicitors Weller/Hedley. County Council to be contacted to consult Register of Village Greens to try and clarify exact boundaries of village green. Cllr PB would check with SNC to clarify ownership.

Consideration of how Council would respond to a 2nd wave of Covid 19. It was felt that, should there be a 2nd Wave of Covid19, it would be straightforward to reintroduce the procedures for distributing food parcels and assisting shielding residents. The "mechanisms" and volunteers were still in place.

Lighting A working party would be formed to discuss lighting issues generally, and a possible application to the Salix agency for funding.

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: **www.fixmystreet.com**

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

Parish Council meetings in 2020 will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and start at 19.30. The next ones are on Oct 5th (online) and Nov 2nd.

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
C. Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford. Tel 07779 900860	Chairman, Planning, Finance.
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
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.

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

Apologies

In the last issue we ran an article wishing Joe and Joan Garrett a happy 74th Wedding Anniversary. This should have read 84th Wedding Anniversary. Sorry for any confusion caused.

Autumn Clean Up

Thanks to everyone that took part in the village clean up in September. Over 9.5 dustbin bags of litter was collected which was an improvement over previous years. The village is slowly getting cleaner.

Sue



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for October 2020

Sunday 4 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service via the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Harvest Service at Flore Church
	06:00 pm	Harvest Service at Upper Stowe
Sunday 11 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service via the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
	06:00 pm	Holy Communion at Heyford
Sunday 18 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service via the Facebook Page
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore (venue TBC)
	11:15 am	Harvest Service at Brockhall
	06:00 pm	Evening Service at Heyford
Sunday 25 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service via the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford
	06:00pm	Evening Service at Flore

Midweek Service: Morning Prayer at 9:00AM every Friday via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for an invitation – all welcome.

As we re-open our church buildings for public worship, we follow all Church and Government Guidelines regarding social distancing, face coverings, no singing, the administration of Holy Communion etc. to ensure we keep people as safe as possible.

The Benefice Facebook Page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/HS9FB>

During October we shall be praying for people living in The Green in Nether Heyford, for the Bliss Charity Primary School, for the shops, and for all the activities in the Village Hall and the Baptist Church Rooms. In Flore, we pray for people living on Hillside Road and Flore Hill. We pray for the Main Street and School Rooms in Church Stowe, and for Manor Farm, the Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

I am fairly confident that 2020 has not turned out the way any of us planned! In recent months, our lives have been shaped by the coronavirus outbreak and its effects on us, our communities, our nation and the world. Plans have been changed, weddings and family get-togethers postponed, sports events have been cancelled, or played in empty stadia. We've been locked down, we've emerged from lockdown, we've eaten out to help out. And now we face a tightening of the rules as fears of a second peak in the outbreak rise. In England, we all have to stick to the 'rule of six' yet some areas face even tougher restrictions. In the Church, we've managed to reopen some of our buildings for public worship and private prayer. It's great to see people again, but things are still a long way from 'normal'; no singing, masks worn, socially distanced and so on. We've also begun to think about Remembrance Sunday and Christmas, for with no relaxation of the rules in sight, those events and celebrations are likely to look very different this year! Wherever we look, the landscape has changed, yet all around us are the familiar signs of how things were just a few months ago, of how we'd like them to be again. As this crisis continues into the Autumn and Winter, with shorter, darker days and colder weather to come, perhaps it's easy to feel despondent.

In the seventh century before Christ, God sent the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel. He was sent to speak to those who were in exile in Babylon – away from all that they loved and cherished. He was speaking to those who were longing for familiarity and normality.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

That is a wonderful promise, one I have reflected on many times in recent years. One I've taken joy in, as I've looked back at how God has been at work in my life, and in the life of the communities we've lived in. Maybe we are frustrated with the way things are, maybe we are looking back to the way things were, but whatever is going on in the present, whatever has gone on in the past, God plans to give us hope and a future.

As these challenging times continue, please be assured of my prayers. If there is anything the Church or I can do to help, support and encourage you, please give me a call.

May God bless you as we look forward with hope and expectation.

Stephen (tel. 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Morning services have now re-started and comply with the current government and Baptist guidelines.

We are meeting in the Baptist rooms, holding shorter services and would be pleased to welcome you. (with some restriction on numbers)

Services for October:

October 4th 10.30am Harvest service Led by Les Britten

We will celebrate the harvest by gathering groceries and produce for the Hope Centre and by having the usual coin collection for Operation Agri.

October 11th 10.30am Morning worship Led by Clive Leahey

October 18th 10.30am Morning worship Led by Wendy Manley

October 25th 10.30am Communion service Led by Martin Buckby

All welcome

Advertising in The Prattler

Advertising costs per month

£5 for a small business card advert

£10 for a quarter page

£15 for half a page

£30 for a full page

Village Hall News

More great news – the Management Committee has a new Vice-Chairman: Joan Kirkbride.

Joan has lived in the village since 1965 and has enjoyed playing a part in village life in various capacities. She has spent many years in public service, having served on the Parish Council, District Council and County Council. She has also been a trustee of the Bliss Charity School. Although presently engaged in other Community Trusts, she has missed being part of the village organisations. She feels she will be honoured to serve on the Village Hall Committee as Vice-Chairman, and is happy to serve in any capacity needed. We are delighted to welcome Joan to our team and are looking forward to working with her.

Re-opening of the Hall

The hall was re-opened on 1st September as a “Covid-19 Secure” venue but, after just a few days, the Government announced drastic changes to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Regulations which would limit gatherings to 6 people. Or did they?

At the outset it appeared that the hall would again be closed to users, but behind the sound-bites and headlines in the guidance documents on the gov.uk website, was detail that has allowed us to continue to make the hall available to users. The pages of “Covid-19: Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities, issued by the government, includes a section on permitted activities including leisure and social gatherings.

“We recognise the importance of social clubs for some individuals and recommend that these can proceed with caution in venues that have been made Covid-19 Secure.

Clubs or groups that use community facilities can begin to meet again and facility managers should follow these Covid-19 Secure guidelines to facilities that.

Premises or locations following Covid-19 Secure guidelines will be able to hold more than 30 people, subject to their own capacity limits. It is important for people to maintain social distancing and good hand hygiene when visiting these spaces. People using community facilities should continue to limit their interactions with those they do not live with outside of any formal activities they are participating in to help control the virus.

People meeting in a club or group context at a community centre should be encouraged to socially distance from anyone they do not live with or who is not in their support bubble.”

The hall therefore remains open for those who wish to use it, albeit with obligations on everyone to participate in maintaining the Covid-19 Secure condition. Please remember, however, that entrance to the hall remains unchanged, there is a one-

way system to access the washrooms, and to avoid people passing each other in the front lobby, exit will be via the front fire escape door. The Management Committee is committed to doing everything necessary to keep the hall as safe and Covid-19 Secure as possible, but if you see something that needs to be added, or could be done better, please let Peter Squire (01327 342167) know about it.

Alwyne Wilson
01327 340803



Nether Heyford Youth Club

Nether Heyford Youth Club unfortunately still remains closed as a youth club and for private bookings.

We recently had further guidance from the Northamptonshire Youth Club Association, which is the body to which we are affiliated. At the moment Youth Clubs across the county are still at "Amber", this means that very little can take place, with only small numbers being allowed in, and bubbles would need to be established and maintained.

We as a Youth Club do not feel it is right to open with numerous restrictions around the children. When children attend the youth club it is an opportunity for them to "let their hair down", run around freely (albeit safely) and mix with a range of children from both inside the village and the surrounding villages.

Until the Youth Club is able to open "as normal" or as near to normal as possible we will remain closed.

We will as always keep you up-to-date and as soon as we feel the restrictions are lifted enough will welcome the children back to the Youth Club.

Kindest Regards

Nether Heyford Youth Club

Dear Diary,

October 1957

I've lost both my grandparents now so we've moved into New School House so that my uncle has a home and we haven't got a spare bedroom for him in Furnace Lane. I love this house but Mum says it's draughty and cold. We have a huge garden so loads of room to play. My bedroom is at the side of the house near the jitty. In the evenings I hear the twins, Joe & Len, who live in Church Lane (Back Lane as it's known), going home from the pub. They walk well apart and talk like it's the middle of the day. The Headmaster collects our rent once a month because the house is owned by the School.

I miss my pap, he made me laugh. When I asked him one day why he had so many relatives in the village he simply said "our cat went up their alley" whatever that means. I miss helping my nan shell peas, popping down Mag Courts for some groceries 'on tic' and going over to The Foresters Arms to collect her nightly bottle of stout.

I had another nan, dad's Foster Mother, but we didn't see so much of her because she lived in Bugbrooke and we had to go by bus. The good thing about visiting her was that she bred Pekinese dogs, kept turkeys to fatten up for Christmas and had a parrot in a cage on her kitchen table which used to swear. She's no longer with us either.

It's Heyford Feast weekend soon. Families get together, go to church on Sunday and to the fair which usually runs every evening until after the pubs shut. I hear that in the past, when one man came out of the pub at closing time, he forced the swing boat over the top, losing all the change from his pocket. They wouldn't allow them to go so high now I bet. Abbott's fair comes every autumn and parks its caravans and lorries on the green opposite the school. The children from the fair go to the village school and most of the families attend church on the weekend they are here. Two things we can all guarantee winning at the fair is a goldfish and a chalk ornament which is great for drawing on pavements. When the fair leaves, we scour the green for loose change hidden in the grass.

I was confirmed in Kislingbury church this year by the Bishop of Peterborough along with some others from Heyford and surrounding villages. Robert Hensher, the vicar, gave us lessons for 4 weeks beforehand. Now I can go to church regularly to take Holy Communion.

There are plans to build a Village Hall along the area by the top of the green and the first soil was turned recently. It will be built mainly by village volunteers so might take a long time, but how great that will be. Also planned is a motorway from London to Leeds which will run past Upper Heyford. Any soil from this is to be dumped in the old brickyard in Furnace Lane to fill in the pits where the motorcycles used to race.

I've done my first year at Duston School. Our school motto is "Have Faith". There are far more classrooms than the 3 we had in the village so it takes a bit of getting used to and we have a timetable to follow. I lost my sports shorts last term so mum is taking me to Brierley's for some new ones. "I'm only getting you cheap ones this time" she said. I had a rotten school report this year saying I did too much talking. I can't believe that.

Polly

Nether Heyford Tennis Club



Would you like to come and try out our new courts?

Throughout the last difficult months we have continued to offer as much tennis as we can legally and safely do.

Monday evenings – Men's night

Wednesday evenings – social tennis for all

Friday mornings – ladies morning

Please message if you would like to join any of these sessions or if you would like to come and visit the courts at another time.

If you have never tried tennis before – come and have a go
– we can lend you equipment!

For further information - please find us on Facebook or
contact

Jo 349094, jodickson@btinternet.com

Website - clubspark.lta.org.uk/NetherHeyfordTennisClub

The Edward Arnold Charity

DO YOU NEED HELP? GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Edmund Arnold's Charity is able to offer grants to residents of Nether Heyford and Upper Heyford who find themselves in need of help financially.

The grants which can be applied for are varied and include two categories.



**NEED
HELP?**

Social Grants: All ages

The social grants are available to help residents who may be struggling financially. This could be an unexpected expense i.e. new glasses, dental treatment, a larger than anticipated bill, the need to travel to hospital appointments, heating, clothing, medical costs etc.

Eligibility: Resident of Nether Heyford or Upper Heyford

Educational Grants: Persons under 18 & Persons 18-24

Cash grants for Apprenticing and Education are available to or on behalf of persons who have not attained the age of 25. This could be for learning purposes i.e. books, equipment, tools, etc.

*Eligibility: 1. Under 25 years old. 2. Lived in Nether Heyford or Upper Heyford for over one year **OR** have been educated in the parish for over one year. 3. In need of financial assistance for educational purposes, subject to the terms of the scheme and approval of the trustees*

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

Next deadline for application forms - end of October 2020

Application forms are available from:

Rev Stephen Burrow (Parish Church) -Trustee
s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk | 01327 344436 | 07511 544375

Jez Wilson (The Prattler)
heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk | 07761 672376

Nick Adams – Trustee
nick.adams@farmline.com 07812 032509

Marina Eaton (Clerk to the Trustees at Wilson Browne Solicitors)
meaton@wilsonbrowne.co.uk | 01604 876697

Alternatively download an application online: HeyfordPrattler.org

Charity History:

The Arnold Trust was founded by the will of Edmund Arnold, in or about 1689. The Charity was set up to help five Parishes in the County of Northamptonshire - Stony Stratford, Nether and Upper Heyford, the Ancient Parish of St. Giles -Northampton, Stowe-IX-Churches and Weedon Bec and also Merton College, Oxford.

Edmund Arnold:

Born: Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire

Baptised: Stowe-Nine-Churches, Northamptonshire, 1607

Graduated: Merton College Oxford, 10th October 1661

Career: Lawyer - Doctors' Commons, Knightrider Street, London
(Described in 'David Copperfield' and referred to by Sherlock Holmes)

Died: Kensington, London, 27th March 1676

Buried: Beneath the chancel in St Bartholomew's Church, Furtho, Northamptonshire

Edmund Arnold's Charity - Registered Charity number 260589

Allotment News

Continuing a legacy

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Sue Corner's untimely death at the end of September.

Allotmentees will recall that her illness was the reason we contacted them in the middle of last month to convene an emergency meeting to discuss the allotments. Sue and her husband Bill have, over the last few years, done so much to help regenerate the allotments and create our community orchard, jam patch, flower bed and wildlife area. We did not want that legacy to be jeopardised. The response from plot holders was most encouraging and offers of help, to particularly keep up the maintenance work carried out by Bill, were plentiful. Sadly Sue's illness progressed much faster than anticipated hence this sad news.

Sue wanted the allotments (and the village – through the development of the Neighbourhood Plan) to develop and grow sustainably. I'd like to think that we will continue that work. And what a fitting tribute for a very special lady.

Covid continued ...

I have been determined to avoid that subject in these articles but a piece I read in my morning newspaper has prompted me to sing again the virtues of growing your own fruit and veg and getting outside in the fresh air – whatever the weather. "Bundle up and embrace an alfresco winter" ran the headline. So I reckon that creating a safe space between people, coupled with all that fresh air and exercise is achieved pretty well on an allotment. Added to which you get exercise and grow stuff to eat. If you bring something warm to wrap up in, along with a hearty snack and warm drink, we even have a welcoming outdoor seating area – where you can of course socially distance. What is there not to like?

Autumn

As the growing season comes to an end next spring and summer seem to stretch far into the distance. There is however, still much to do. Preparation of ground and basic maintenance makes work in the new growing year so much easier. How about building a couple of compost bins and putting all that green waste we create to good use. It always strikes me that whilst it is good to see recycling of green waste in the council bins, how much more productive to use that to build up the fertility of our own soil. There is lots of guidance on how to successfully compost your waste. Readers of the Prattler may recall that several years ago we actually ran a series of articles on this very subject. They are all still available.

In addition there are crops that can be grown throughout the winter, often without too much protection. I'll go into more detail on that subject in next month's article.

Finally, and of particular importance to those who think that they couldn't/can't manage a whole allotment don't despair. A number of plot holders have rationalised their holding and covered some areas with plastic sheeting or a landscape fabric,

cultivating just what they can manage at the moment. When they are ready to extend their growing again they will have clean areas of soil to work. Alternatively, a number of plot holders have turned part of their plots over to flowers. Dahlias grow well on the allotments and have looked quite stunning this year. Other perennial plants like lavender, rosemary or sage don't mind a bit of neglect, come back every year and smother weed. We have even created a rhubarb hedge on the community jam patch. It just looks after itself and gives an abundant crop every year.


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 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 Lynda Eales on 01327 341707.

Mike Langrish



Percy's Plumbing & Heating

William Percy Plumber & Heating Engineer percysplumbing@gmail.com Mobile: 07526539176	LTD	5 Winston Close Nether Heyford Northampton NN7 3JX
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Call Today! **01327340654**

New services launched by Age UK Northamptonshire

Shopping Service



- Call us with your list
- Pay over the phone
- Shopping delivered to your door next day (call before 2pm)
- Delivery charge £5

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- Delivered the next day to your door
- Meal/delivery charge £6 per person
- Pay over the phone

The Venton Centre

York Road

Northampton, NN1 5QG

www.ageuk.org.uk/northamptonshire

Improving Later Life in Northamptonshire



01604 604500

Registered charity No. 1059995

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Mike Read
mikesgas.mgr@googlemail.com

MOB: 07960037067
Gas Engineer
no: 506717



Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

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

Growing Your Own

Saving seeds from the plants in your garden (or other peoples' gardens if you have permission) can be a good, and cheap, way to fill the garden with veg and flowers. This year as we couldn't get to garden centres to buy plants or seeds it became essential to use our own collected seed from last year which included cosmos, morning glories, evening primroses, violas, nicotiana and sweet williams. In the past I have saved seed from a particularly interesting tomato variety that we had from the greengrocer and for several years we had crops of deep purple small tomatoes from these, just keeping a few seeds from the crop each year, until eventually I forgot to do it.

The results can sometimes be surprising though; last year I saved seeds from our squashes, one of which was round and green, the other a red pointed variety. This year not only did I have some of each of those but also one which was grey skinned: where did that come from?

Saving the seed needs careful timing, often once it is ripe it is quickly shed. A good method is to gather the stems with ripening pods and put them in a paper bag and hang the bag up somewhere dry so the seed drops into the bag. Fleshy fruits like tomatoes can have the seed squeezed out, rinsed and dried on some paper towel. Once you have separated the seeds they can be put into carefully labelled paper envelopes and kept somewhere cool and dry until time for sowing.

A couple of notes of caution though; if you save the seed from varieties which are labelled as F1, the resulting plants may not resemble the parent generation, and supermarket produce is often from varieties that may not be ideally suited to outdoor cultivation in Britain (but may still be worth a try as long as you aren't too optimistic).

Things to do in October

1. Continue planting spring bulbs
2. Divide and replant overgrown hardy perennials
3. Collect fallen leaves to make leaf mould
4. Take hardwood cuttings of shrubs and fruit bushes

Mark Newstead

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"Whoever saves one life, saves the world entire"

*quoted by Thomas Keneally in **Schindler's List**,
taken from the Talmud for the Holocaust Memorial
Museum*

In the last Prattler I posed the question, "What do you think is likely to be the nation's favourite film theme?" The result was, by a huge margin, the theme to Steven Spielberg's **Schindler's List**. It is a hauntingly beautiful piece of music, composed and conducted by John Williams with Itzhak Perlman playing the violin.

The film is based on the Booker prize winning book published in 1982, written by Thomas Keneally and originally titled **Schindler's Ark**. It tells the story of Oskar Schindler, a member of the Nazi party who became an unlikely hero by saving the lives of more than a thousand Polish Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories. A non-fiction novel that is at times unbearingly moving as it describes actual people and places, with fictional events, dialogue and scenes added by the author.

Poldek Pfefferberger, a Holocaust survivor, initially inspired Thomas Keneally to write the book and then following its success, used his friendship with Steven Spielberg's mother, to eventually persuade the renowned film director to tell Schindler's story on screen, and portray the horrors of Hitler's attempts to make Europe *judenfrei*. The result was a film that almost "stunned" the cinema-going public. Its bleakness was emphasised by being shot primarily in black and white, with one particularly traumatic scene where a red coat is used to distinguish a little girl caught up in the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto.

John Williams composed the music for the film, and it is reported that he was so overwhelmed by the film that to write a suitable score would be too challenging for him. He said to Spielberg, "You need a better composer than I am for this film", to which the director responded, "I know. But they're all dead!" How fortunate the world of music is that John Williams took on the task of composing such a beautiful and haunting soundtrack.

Like many other people I clearly remember going to see the film when it was first released in 1993. When the credits rolled and the violin played its solo piece, we saw the faces of the *real people* who had featured in the events depicted in the film. The entire audience sat in silence for what seemed like an eternity, no one wanting or willing to break the spell of what we had watched and experienced together. It was, and still is, one of the most moving and collective responses that I have ever known.

A few years ago we went, during a cold bleak winter, to Krakow and amongst several other memorial sites, toured one of the factories owned by Oskar Schindler.

A visit to the sites of the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps was very emotional, an important pilgrimage towards a greater understanding of such dark days in our recent history.

Even today and many years later, I can never hear the music of **Schindler's List**, without it evoking all those memories and experiences, the places, the people, the book, the film.

Such is the power of music

Take care as we enjoy the beauty of these autumn days and we look towards a new year lives. Stay healthy and content, take care of one another, and may music feature somewhere in your life every day.

Jill Langrish

Heyford Bowls Club

In 1962 a new satirical television programme was aired in BBC TV called "That Was The Week That Was" or TWTWTW for short. Its signature tune sung by Millicent Martin went:

"That was the week that was, it's over let it go"

And that's just how everyone feels about the bowls season 2020. We have hardly had a season at all and the news that the green will close for the winter on Wednesday 7th October almost seems as if it has closed before it has really opened. We have also decided to delay our Annual General Meeting until such time as we can hold a safe gathering with more than six people present.

All of which makes pretty gloomy reading, but to end on a positive note, the extension to the clubhouse is complete structurally and will be in pristine condition for the 2021 bowls season which commences next April, covid free.

We hope.

Geoff Allen
349909

View from the Wildlife Patch

The late summer has become a quieter period on the wildlife patch with fewer butterflies about other than the ubiquitous small and large whites. The recent warm dry weather may bring a late emergence of several species, red admirals, tortoiseshells, and peacocks in particular, and also a few small coppers perhaps.

We have cut down the spent flowers and other vegetation on the meadow patches. The dead stems were left for a few days to release their seeds then raked off to avoid increasing the fertility of the area which would encourage coarse grasses and weeds. We shall plant a few native perennials in these areas to reinforce those in the seed mix we sowed in the autumn.

Dragonflies

I mentioned last month that dragonflies had been seen laying eggs in the pond. Since then we have spotted little groups of the dragonfly nymphs stalking about at the pond bottom. So far those seen were nymphs of the emperor which are identifiable by their large size and long narrow shape.

Ivy Bees

A recent surprise was the discovery of a large colony of ivy bees on a nearby allotment patch. These are a species of solitary bee which dig burrows in loose sandy soil, and apparently rather like allotments. They aren't disturbed by the allotment holders' cultivation and luckily they are stingless. Although classed as solitary bees they appear to like making their burrows in close proximity to each other producing large groups. They are notable for only being active in the autumn, unlike most other species of bee, as they prefer to stock their burrows with ivy pollen, which only flowers at this time of year. Ivy bees are a recent arrival in this country from the continent and are gradually moving across the country.

Mark Newstead

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The Nether Heyford British Legion are unable to order poppies this year from the British Legion (individual branches cannot order them). Poppies are normally sold door to door through the village and in the pubs and shops to raise funds for the Nether Heyford branch of The British Legion. A coffee morning is also usually held but is not possible this year either. The funds raised in the village pay for the wreaths that are laid on the war memorial on Remembrance Day in November. Once receiving this news in early September, a crowdfunding page was set up on the JustGiving website and quickly raised £230, combined with some cash and cheque donations a grand total of £345 was raised for the local village British Legion branch.



Many thanks to all those who donated:

Gary Richmond | Aly & Rich | Joan & Alex | Trev Clarkey | Marie Hanlon | Sarah Hawkins | Birkett family | Jadine | Simon & Debbie | Heyford Athletic FC | Brian and Maxine Edgington | Stu and Emma | Sue Boutle | Jez Wilson | Gary McMahon | Lesley Faulkner & many more anonymous donors

Flood Watch

August ended with very unsettled weather notably due to storms Ellen and Francis, the latter reaching 80 mph in coastal areas. Locally wind speeds of 45 mph were recorded with the accompanying rainfall raising August's total to 150% of average. These storms were the last of the 2019/2020 named storms with 1st September starting afresh with the next named storm to be Aiden. The 3rd of September was notable with a full moon called "the Corn Moon" being readily visible in the clear night sky. Throughout September the weather has been variable with periods of average temperature interspersed with near record temperatures approaching 30 degrees due to the jet stream drawing warm southerly weather from Europe. Notable was the lack of rainfall, well below average at about 25% of average. The forecast for the remainder of September will see a return to more reasonable weather with reducing temperatures but with a low risk of rain.

The 23rd of September will be marked equatorially with the Autumn Equinox with Northamptonshire achieving equal day/night hours of 12 hours on 25th. In the following days daylight hours will reduce by 4 minutes per day.

Contact has been made with the Environment Agency to question why no active plan for further flood defence/repair/maintenance has been prepared since the completion of the Horestone Brook conversion in late 2017. Since the merger of Lincolnshire with the Anglian Region it seems priority is being given to the more flood prone area over Northampton.

J. Arnold.

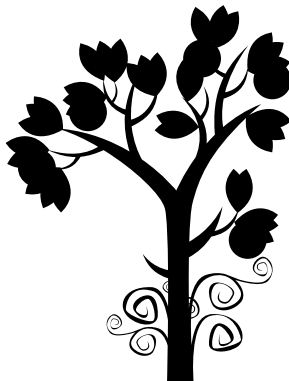


For Sue

It is with great sadness that we learned of the untimely death earlier today, Sunday 20th September, of our friend and colleague, Sue Corner. Sue was our Secretary and Treasurer but, more importantly, our driving force and inspiration. It was Sue, in her role as Chair of the Planning Committee on the Parish Council, that proposed that the village should prepare a Neighbourhood Plan during 2016 and in June of that year oversaw the first meeting of parishioners who had volunteered to join the group.

Sue has been instrumental in getting the Plan developed as far as it currently stands and notwithstanding her illness, still contributed to meetings earlier this year. Just recently, Sue met with us at the allotments, socially distanced as requested, and leaving nothing undone, she discussed next actions for the Group and who could help us to take her ideas forward. Her loss is a body blow to the Group - but be in no doubt, we will use our best endeavours to complete the Plan as she envisioned it. Thank you, Sue, a lovely friend and a great inspiration.

*Tony Clewett
Chair, on behalf of all of the Neighbourhood Planning Group.*



The Story of Heyford: Two hundred years of the Grand Union Canal V3C12

In 1791 a proposal was made to run a canal direct from Braunston (already served by the Oxford canal) to London. The bill received Royal assent on 30th April 1793 and construction on the Grand Junction Canal began the next day.

The Northamptonshire section had the greatest challenges because there were to be two tunnels, at Braunston and Blisworth; three flights of locks, at Braunston, Long Buckby and Stoke Bruerne; and four high embankments across river valleys, at Weedon, Heyford, Bugbrooke, and Cosgrove. It was the greatest civil undertaking ever planned in England. It was built wide to take 14 foot barges, but gradually the narrow boats were found to be more flexible because there was reduced queuing at the locks and tunnels, and they could also be used on the other, narrower waterways within the canal network.

Coal and lime

The canals brought coal to our local communities. There is still a coal yard operated by Fred Tarry on the canalside in Furnace Lane, although it no longer uses the canal for transport. The boat builders yard at High House Wharf in Weedon Road was also formerly a coal yard, as was the wharf at Flore Lane.

The coal and the canals encouraged the development of the lime kilns, of which there were several along this stretch of the canal. There was one beside Banbury Road in Bugbrooke where Pinnegar and Barnes now operate; one between bridges 33 and 32 near where the ironworks later developed; and one near the Narrow Boat and Stowe Hill Marina. The burning of lime created dressings for acid soils. The coal for burning could be brought by boat and the lime could be taken away by the same means.

Iron ore

Even more significantly for Nether Heyford was the development of the iron industry. There was a quarry just below Church Stowe from where the iron ore was brought down to the furnaces by a single track railway. The coal for the furnaces could be brought by canal from Coventry or Nuneaton. The lime was used in the smelting process. And the canal was used to take away the pig iron in the form of iron bars. There were two furnaces. The first, known as Heyford Ironworks, began in 1861 and was on the site of Furnace Wharf between the canal and the railway. The second, known as Stowe Ironworks began in 1866 and was on the other side of the railway near where Wickes now is. This second site later became a brickworks after the ironworks had closed.

Commercial wharves

These industries encouraged the development of local services. There was a boat building yard at High House Wharf, just beyond the bridge over the canal in Weedon Road. It was run before the war by Frank Jones. He employed two men from the

village, Mr Causebrook and Charlie Knowles. There was a carpenters shop, a saw pit, a paint shop, a blacksmiths shop, and a steam box (where the planks were steamed into shape). There was also on the same site a coal merchants operated by Mr Bazely. Although the boat building had ceased by the first world war, the coal yard continued to operate for another sixty or seventy years under the West Brothers.

Flore Lane Wharf was also a commercial wharf during the nineteenth century. In 1871 it was sold by auction and raised £450. According to the particulars of sale, 'the premises which are highly eligibly situated, were for several years in the occupation of Mrs Mary Tibbs who carried on an extensive trade in slate, tile, and bricks, coal and lime, in addition to that of a general wharfingers business, but are now in the occupation of Mr Meleycock, coal dealer'. In the 1960's, the property was used as a coffin makers workshop, run by a man named Jenks or Jelks.

The boat people

All this activity brought with it a lot of local boat traffic. Life for the boat people was hard. They often travelled 20 miles a day. Many of the boats carried coal and it had to be barrowed across a board from the boat to the bank. Shops were few and far between, so the boat people were largely self sufficient, making whatever they needed such as pegs and clothes. Some kept a dog which was used to catch rabbits. Some took ducks from the water, and sometimes potatoes and Swedes from the fields. They often got the blame for anything that went missing.

The women worked as hard as the men, helping to load the boats, as well as deal with all the domestic chores. Many children didn't learn to read or write because it was impossible to attend regular schooling. Instead they had to look after the horse. They used to swing the nose bag into the canal to dampen the oats and corn, and so prevent it from blowing away when the horse blew down its nose.

Sometimes they would need the services of the village such as the blacksmith or farrier. The house on the canal bridge in Furnace Lane, now known as 'Wharf House' was originally a barn where the boat horses were stabled at night. We also know that Mrs Anne Clarke, who was midwife in Nether Heyford in the late 1800's / early 1900's, was sometimes called upon to deliver babies on the boats.

Many of them drank quite a bit, particularly the men. The canal was well served for pubs. There was 'The Crown' beside bridge number 35 towards Bugbrooke; 'The Boat' (now Wharf Farm) by the bridge in Furnace Lane, 'The Bricklayers Arms' (now Bridge Cottage, opposite Wharf Farm) and 'The Narrowboat', formerly called 'The Globe', on the A5. The high house at Flore Lane Wharf, though never a pub, was like many houses on the canals a brewhouse, selling ale to passing boat traffic.

Changing times

It was during the busy industrial period of the 1860's and 1870's that the canal reached its heyday, bringing much activity to the village. However, the development of the railways, and cheaper imported iron ore around the turn of the century began the decline of these canalside industries. Although the first world war brought some

renewed activity, most of the industry had gone by the mid 1920's, and with it the local canal traffic.

However since the 1960's there has been a strong revival in the use of pleasure craft. The moorings on Furnace Wharf are full, and there are two boat yards. There is Stowe Hill Marina near the Narrowboat pub where a dry dock was installed in 1977. The boat yard at High House Wharf (formerly the site of West Brothers coal merchants) which had been a boatyard until the first world war, was re-opened in 1986 by Mr Gardner, and extensively rebuilt. During the rebuilding, they discovered the remains of an old brick tar pot. This would have been used by the original boat yard in the days when the hulls were made of wood and sealed with tar. Beside the boat yard a marina was recently opened with room for twenty-four private moorings. Also, the towpath is regularly used by both fishermen and walkers, so the canals are still very much alive around Nether Heyford, albeit with a rather different character from that of a hundred years ago.

The information for this article came from 'Waterways of Northamptonshire' by David Blagrove, from 'Like Dew Before the Sun' by Dorothy Grimes, and from the knowledge of local people.



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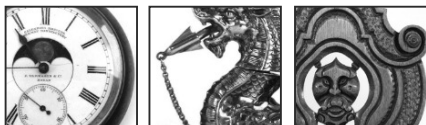
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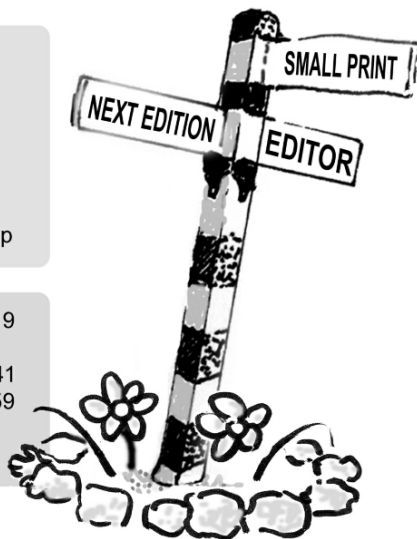
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