



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

November 2020

Issue No. 438



Netball & Basketball Court

I am saddened to report yet more tyre mark damage to our lovely netball and basketball court. Please remind family members that the court is not to be used for cycling stunts and skateboarding. There is a big sign CLEARLY stating this at the court. Also if your kids are coming down on their bikes whilst football games etc are on please can they not go on the court whilst you are playing your game. Thank you.

from the Nether Heyford Netball Club

Cover Photo: taken by Tony Boutle

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

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.



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

And so the Covid/Coronavirus emergency continues on, impinging on all of our lives. Things that we would not have imagined before have become normality after 8 months, and will continue to be for many more months. Due to continuing government regulations prohibiting public meetings; the October 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 at least 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 and an unknown member of the public.

The Chair had the sad duty of reporting the passing of Sue Corner, one of the Council's most enthusiastic and capable members. He commented as follows:

Sue Corner joined Nether Heyford Parish Council in October 2015. On becoming a Councillor, she listened, appraised, and learned.

Her first responsibility was allotments, joining Cllr Lynda Eales in redesigning, reforming, and modernising a slightly moribund village asset. Between them they have created allotments to be proud of.

Sue's next task was the Planning responsibility. This task can be complicated, but Sue took it in her stride, sharing issues, and dealing with all applications fairly, and responsibly.

With the Parish Council's dream of creating a Neighbourhood Plan, Sue took the idea, created an amazing team, and knocked our collective socks off with her drive, and intelligence. Her team came up with ideas and strategies that were advanced, and revolutionary. Who'd have thought of filming Nether Heyford from the air by drone? This created the most fascinating picture of our village I have ever seen, and never tire of watching.

Sue's intelligence, and drive have been a really great asset to the PC, she will be so very much missed on our team, and by Nether Heyford itself.

C. Kiloh

Mike Brassett has stood down due to pressure of work. This leaves Council 3 members short of its full quota of 11. 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 Bignell reported that a number of SNC officers had been appointed to roles in the West Northants authority, but that SNC were continuing to operate, and had actually improved the rate at which Planning Applications were dealt with. Cllr Harries reported that a Rights of Way consultant had found that a number of footpaths had been changed in 2016 without any consultation. This applied to KS 1 Parson's Close, KS7 Wakefield Way and KS 17. This meant that part of them may now be considered Highways. It was felt that this was not an issue for the first two, but enquiries would be made about KS 17.

Public Participation: None.

Reports

PCSO – a brief report had been sent, very few problems or crimes at present.

Lights Progress reports. NCALC had formed a partnership with Clear Utility Solutions to try and lower Parish Council lighting bills. CUS were able to act on Council's behalf and could secure a 2 year contract with YU Energy, at rate of about 25% less than the 22p per unit Eon were currently charging. This should give a saving of c£2000 p/a now, with further savings when the LED lights were installed.

Roads and pavements Large pothole outside the White House in Weedon Rd. To be reported. Parking in Middle St had been exacerbated by the school staggering collection times and it was felt that Highways should be approached with a view to extending the yellow lines around the school house.

The Green /Play Area The Green was felt to be in good condition, but there was concern that repairs to Play Area equipment had been delayed. These should shortly be carried out.

Playing Fields LE reported that the fields were being well used, especially the netball court. Comments had been made about the gate between the allotments and the Playing Field being locked. The situation would be monitored, as the gate was not supposed to be locked.

Trees There has been further storm damage to trees around the cemetery. STS have been given a list of trees to work on.

Allotments There are efforts to form an allotment committee.

Footpaths Some felt that the Church Lane to the river was overgrown, and the Watery Lane to Middle St jitty.

Churchyard The trimmed hedge and grass were felt to be looking good.

Canal Damage to Bridge 32 should be reported to Canal and River Trust.

Defibrillators In good order. CK to look into replacing the batteries.

Planning. S/2020/0428/FUL Land behind Denbrook. Having received a report from Hedley/Wellers it was felt that the next step would be to consult the NCC Village Greens and Common Land registers. Concern was expressed at reports of building work possibly having been initiated.

Parish Council meetings in 2020 will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30. The next ones are on Nov 2nd and Dec 7th.

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.

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



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for November 2020

Sunday 1 st	09:30 am	Lay Led Service at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	United Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	06:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 8 th **	10:00 am	Service for Remembrance Sunday on the Facebook Page
	10:45 am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Heyford
	10:55 am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Church Stowe
	02:15 pm	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Flore
Sunday 15 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service on the Facebook Page
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore URC
	11:00 am	Holy Communion & Gift Service at Heyford
	04:00 pm	Youth Church at Flore Church
	06:00 pm	Evening Service at Upper Stowe
Sunday 22 nd	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Holy Communion & Gift Service at Flore
	06:00pm	Evening Service at Heyford
Sunday 29 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Holy Communion & Gift Service at Upper Stowe
	06:00 PM	Evening Service at Flore

**** Please note that there will be no services in the church buildings on Remembrance Sunday as current restrictions have severely reduced our capacities.**

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 November we shall be praying for people living in Church Street and Manor Walk in Heyford, Kings Lane and The Orchard in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Apartments in Brockhall Hall.

Dear Friends,

The Church is coming into a busy time of year. Our harvest celebrations are behind us, and we look forward to All Souls, then Remembrance Sunday, and shortly after that we begin Advent, and the preparations for Christmas. Obviously, things will be very different this year; social distancing, the rule of six, hygiene regulations, facemask's and guidelines as to who we can meet and where will inevitably shape the way we mark these days and seasons.

As we enter November and the season of remembrance, we remember loved ones we have lost, and we remember Jesus, the resurrection and the life, our hope and future. With that hope in our hearts, we come to Remembrance Sunday. Our commemorations this year will be affected by the pandemic. We will not be able to meet in our church buildings, due to greatly reduced capacities. Instead, we hope to have a short, simple service, with people gathering at the war memorial for 10:45am. Government guidance states that numbers must be kept to a minimum at the event; veterans and members of the armed forces, local councillors and faith leaders, plus those representing organisations and laying wreaths. If you are in that group, please gather on the grass around the war memorial, maintaining a social distance of two metres apart. If you are coming to spectate, please gather across the road on the green, in groups of no more than six by household or social bubble, keep a distance of two metres between groups and be prepared to give your contact details for government test and trace requirements. Alternatively, you might prefer to visit the war memorial a little later in the day, and pay your respects, lay wreaths and remember the fallen. If you decide to do this, please observe social distancing rules so we can keep everyone safe. (Please watch the village websites / Facebook Pages for any changes to these plans). At the war memorial, we recall Jesus' words from the beatitudes; "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God". Peacemakers, people who put themselves at the heart of the issue, striving for a just solution, yearning for peace, for wholeness and wellbeing for all.

As we begin to look forward to Advent, we will have a series of gift services in aid of **eve**, a Northampton based charity working with the survivors of domestic violence and abuse. (**eve** is the working name of the *Nene Valley Christian Family Refuge*.) At this time of year, the charity gratefully accepts new books and toys for children, ladies' toiletry sets and/or cosmetics, small personal gifts, or chocolate selection boxes and Christmas food items that can be passed on to the families in the refuge. Gifts should be unwrapped. If you would like to donate a small gift, please drop it in to the Rectory prior to 29th November or bring it along to one of the three parish gift services on the November service rota.

One certainty in these uncertain times is that Christmas will be here on 25th December. You won't be surprised to know that the church is looking at ways to do Christmas a little differently this year. Building on the many community successes in Heyford since March (food boxes; teddies; Holiday at Home; Facebook services, scrubs etc) one suggestion is to light up our windows over Advent and turn our village into a giant Advent calendar. How would it work? At least 24 families, shops, pubs, school, village hall etc volunteer to put up a picture/display in their window and light it every evening from dusk. A picture will be posted on a specific Facebook site and children and adults can go around the village and spot the displays. There will be more details in the next Prattler but to get started we need 24 volunteers. If you are interested, e-mail or text Pamela Hutchison, so we can see if it's a runner. (Pamela Hutchison; pahut@me.com / 07803 125005). If you want to see some examples of how it might work and the wide range of possible displays have a look at stoweninechurches.org.uk/AdventWindows or Helmdonhistory.com advent.

I believe one more certainty in these ever-changing times is God's presence with us, through all that's going on. One of my favourite contemporary Christian writers, John Ortberg, reminds us "The most frequent promise in the Bible is 'I will be with you'." Please be assured of my prayers during these unprecedented times, and if there is anything the Church or I can do for you, please give me a ring.

With every blessing,

Stephen (tel 344436)

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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 November:

November 1 st	10.30am	Morning worship led by Clive Leahey
November 8 th	10.30am	Remembrance service led by Les Britten
November 15 th	10.30am	Morning worship led by Wendy Manley
November 22 nd	10.30am	Morning worship led by Les Britten
November 29 th	10.30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

All welcome

Thanks to all who contributed to our Harvest service last month – the cash collection raised £88 and this together with the collection meant we were able to send £230 to Operation Agri for Malawi. Gifts to the Hope Centre were also much appreciated.

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

It was only earlier this month that I realised the significance and the reoccurrence of the “number three” in my life:-

I had 3 siblings, I was born on the 3rd of the month, my earliest memory is of when I was 3, I was married on the 3rd of the month, I have 3 grandsons and two of these boys were born on the 3rd of the month.

The number 3 is a significance to me from the scriptures

- The trinity being 3
- Perhaps the best known verse in The Bible is from chapter 3 of John’s gospel
- There were 3 crosses – we are told in The Bible that “there were others crucified with him – one to the left and one on his right” – so Jesus was in the middle
- And a verse in Revelation chapter 3 remains significantly special to me as I will detail later

It started to make me think of some of the most special and significant people in my life and of course there are many more than 3 – but if I was asked to name 3 the following would be high in priority

1 My pap

My upbringing was difficult, damaging and dysfunctional – but my pap was a rock on which I stood and found comfort during the times of uncertainty and chaos. At the age of 15 and having returned to attending chapel in Duston my pap, many years after he had stopped going to church began attending with me. I remember so well, us walking to chapel when he stopped, and getting his breath, said to me, Martin, and quoted a well known hymn, Martin,

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the ***solid rock*** I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

I believe that he acknowledged his need for faith, accepted the promise given and confirmed where his hope rested.

2 Ward Sister at St Crispin Hospital

I was first introduced to St Crispin Hospital when during my final year at school and not “in an academic stream preparing for exams” I was given the opportunity to start volunteering at St Crispin Hospital – I was 15 years old. I loved it and after leaving school and working for Civil’s supermarket in Kettering Road I continued my voluntary role at weekends. This ward sister, with whom I kept in touch with until her passing last year was a most significant influence in my life – she taught me so much, encouraged me so much, corrected me so much – but her greatest influence was her example which remains her legacy on my life. I often say, we all have the opportunity in life to leave a legacy for good and those who follow the path of faith, also a legacy for God.

3 A Christian

After returning to chapel I remember attending a Christian Rally at Duke Street Gospel Hall – it was the 2nd October 1971 and the man who led the service, an evangelist, spoke from Revelation chapter 3 verse 20, ***Behold, I stand at the door and knock***. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me.

We quoted this well known poem which I have often recalled:

It was Christmas 1939 that King George VI echoed words of Minnie Louise Haskins, “I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.’ And he replied, ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!’ So I went forth and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.” It was a call to trust God. The way ahead was incredibly dark. No one knew where it would lead. But those words speak of one who walks with us, of one who leads us through the night.

We can still rest in that light, love and trust today as we experience the journey through life.

So it was on the 3rd October this year on which I began my 50th year as a Christian. What has that journey been like? Tough and challenging at times? – yes, wonderfully good? – definitely, known of failure? oh yes, but God is gracious in his forgiveness and restoration. I have realised again and again that until we expose ourselves to faith we will never experience the importance, impact and influence of faith in and on our lives.

Thank you.

Martin

(on behalf of the fellowship at The Chapel on the Green)

Christmas Card Collection

Heyford Scout Group are still planning to offer a Christmas Card delivery service this year, but organised a little differently due to current restrictions. There will be no door to door collections but we hope to have some post boxes in key village locations, with extra hygiene precautions for handling and posting out the cards.

Further details will be in the December Prattler.

Village Hall News

With the redecoration of the main hall completed, the next project is to improve the rear wall of the stage. We have planned the work for minimal impact on users, but for a short while there may be rather more dirt and dust around the stage area than is usual. However, when this is finished, we shall once again have a village hall to be proud of – such a pity that so few people can enjoy it at present.

However, the re-opening of the hall as Covid-19 Secure in September has allowed Pilates, Yoga, Cha Cha Chimps, Martial Arts and craft groups to return to their regular meetings. We are grateful to them all for following the Covid-19 Secure procedures.

Our website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org has been in use for several months now. Website traffic has increased again and several new enquiries for hire of the hall are in discussion – potentially, good news for the future.

Light at the end of the tunnel – although the tunnel keeps getting longer – for us all.

Just keep smiling...

Alwyne Wilson
01327 340803

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On Saturday 26 September 2020, my mother, Janet Haynes, my daughter, Emily Stroman and I took part in the Virtual Walk of Hope raising valuable funds for Brain Tumour Research.

I was inspired to take part after my Mum and her two sisters were all diagnosed with brain tumours and tragically in May this year my Auntie Lesley (Bushell) passed away.

At the time of writing, we have raised £1,270 surpassing our target. We would like to thank everyone who kindly donated to this very worthwhile cause and if you would like to make a donation please go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sally-stroman>

Thank you.

Sally Stroman, 11 Winston Close, Nether Heyford



Dear Diary,

November 1958

It's another lovely morning. Not much left in dad's veggie patch now summer's over, just boring green vegetables like cabbage and brussels. It all has to be picked at the right time, vegetables to store in the pantry, fruit to bottle and onions to hang in the barn. We can see his Army influence in the garden, all the vegetables and the flowers in straight lines, like they are on parade, but he's got so much to look after and he's very proud of it. Mum's preparing dinner. I love the first course of Yorkshire pudding with gravy but have to show willing with the main course of meat and vegetables after she's gone to the trouble of preparing them. Could be rice pudding for afters if we have plenty of milk.

On November 5th some of us made a Guy Fawkes, dressed it in old clothes, put it in an old pram and pushed it round the village with a sign saying "penny for the guy". Some people were kind enough to give us 1d for some sparklers but it was fun anyway.

We didn't get a family summer holiday this year, which I wasn't surprised at, not many families go away. I did get a treat though when I went on a day trip by train to London with my friend Jane. We visited Trafalgar Square, the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben and Buckingham Palace. We didn't see the queen though. We forgot to let her know we were coming.

We've got a telly now and I like to watch Crackerjack. The TV came from Radio Rentals and we pay for it weekly but it's great fun for us all and it's on until about 10 o'clock. They then play The National Anthem, a bit like they do at the cinema, except nobody stands up at home. I still like listening to the wireless on a Saturday morning though, with Children's Choice and Uncle Mac, who always says "Hello Children everywhere". They have some smashing songs on and I know them all. There's Tubby The Tuba, A Four-Legged Friend and The Ugly Duckling.

The old Bricklayers Arms on the canal bridge has been sold to a coal merchant. That's another pub that bites the dust. The Wharf opposite was also a pub at one time called The Boat but that was before the First World War. They say we used to have several pubs in Heyford, now we only have 2. None of them could have done much trade in such a small village though. I think The Old Sun and The Foresters Arms are here to stay. Sometimes my family catch the bus to Daventry, have a drink in the pub near the bus terminus, then come back on the same one. It's good because it goes through all the little villages. The Railway at Daventry which runs to Leamington Spa is closing to passengers. I've never been on it myself. I think it will still be open for freight for a while.

I've joined the choir. There are quite a lot of us, maybe 6 girls, 6 boys, 6 warbling women and 6 growling men. We walk to the choir stalls by the altar from the vestry at the back, like in Noah's Ark, 2 x 2. I enjoy the services and the singing except

when we have to learn a special anthem. They are hard to learn, pretty tuneless and the congregation look bored because they can't join in. Still, it's not every week. The church looked beautiful in October for Harvest Festival with flowers everywhere and children brought along fruit and vegetables grown in their garden or allotment. On Remembrance Sunday, the nearest one to 11th, the choir will walk to the War Memorial after the service to remember those who died in the two World Wars, and we have 2 minutes silence. Rehearsals will then start for the Carol concert at Christmas. Roll on.

Polly



Nether Heyford Tennis Club

Nether Heyford Tennis Club – 2020 Tournament results

Mixed Doubles – Frances Dickson and Andy Lawrence

Men's Doubles – Gavin Wright and Ian Brodie

Ladies Doubles – Jo Ellison and Lynne Adams

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

Please get in touch if you would like to come along and play.

Coaching – Adults – Saturday mornings

Beginners 9.00am

Improvers 10.00am

Free Friday Tennis - half term - 10.00 – 3.00pm

For further information- please find us on facebook or contact

Jo 349094, jodickson@btinternet.com

Website - clubspark.lta.org.uk/NetherHeyfordTennisClub

Heyford Amblers

On Sunday 11th October Heyford Amblers walked to Flore and back in aid of Children In Need. It was glorious weather and we spoke to fishermen, boaters, dog walkers, football supporters and horse riders along the way, also enjoying the morning sun. There were 15 of us socially distancing along the canal towpath and back through Heyford Mill. We all contributed a fiver, as did some who couldn't join us, and we have sent off our donation of £100.

We look forward to meeting up again but can't be sure when that will be.

Mick & Shirley Collins





In Nether Heyford

One thing that this enforced break has done for many of us is to bring us more up to date with technology! Earlier in October the Nether Heyford branch of the WI, alongside other branches in the country, had to hold their A.G.M. and, after consulting our members about meeting face to face, it was decided that we would hold a Zoom meeting. Sometimes we complain that technology is taking over our lives but this was a lovely way to see people again with the business part of the evening ending with the usual laughter!

A few days before the meeting each member was sent a card from Pat Essery, our President, and a bag of yellow narcissus bulbs. These are for us to plant, take a photo and to bring to a meeting in the spring (we hope!) We will endeavour to bring our Spring Garden into the Village Hall.

We are hoping to use Zoom again before Christmas; so, Ladies, watch this space, and also that we may be able to have just a small 'distanced' gathering to mark our 90th Birthday. We have decided to delay our main celebration until next year. I know I speak for all the Committee when I say that we miss our evening meetings and that we hope we will all be able to meet up soon.

Mary Rice
Heyford Lodge, Church Lane
01327 340101



New services launched by Age UK Northamptonshire

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Allotment News

Still much to do

There is a feeling at this time of the year that everything is finished on the allotment. The last tomatoes have been picked and any green ones are now ripening on a windowsill. The bean frames are leaning over at an alarming angle and any pods that have clung on are turning brown. The flowers that once grew amongst our veg have either faded or are, like the condemned man, awaiting the first frost. It can seem like gloom and doom arrives with the month of November. The poet Thomas Hood had this feeling when he wrote:

*No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, -
November!*

But I'm having none of that. If we look around us there is still so much to be done and, more importantly, so much that the allotment can give us in return.

We are currently using the empty beds to store winter hardy plants for next spring's bedding – Wallflowers, Sweet Williams, Foxgloves and Marigolds. The green manure that we sowed as we lifted our potatoes and onions has grown vigorously and now gives our soil a warm blanket of green that will be dug in as the winter progresses. The compost we have nurtured all summer will be spread over the soil that is bare and any crops we still have in the ground like leeks and parsnips will be harvested with extra relish in the dark months ahead.

Alan Jenkins in his wonderful book *Plot 29* says that he visits his allotment as to an elderly relative and is dutiful, loyal.
I think of it as a friend who still needs me when the winter sun is low. The truth, of course, is that it is me who has the need – to nurture, to walk through memories. To grow.

Maintenance

As you will be aware if you have visited the allotments over the past year, the plots are in a good state of repair. They have been well tended, pathways have been mown and lots of produce has been grown. And how lovely to see so many flowers being cultivated amongst all that fruit and veg. However, there will be some basic maintenance tasks to carry out over the winter, including covering plots for new owners to take on in the new year. We are also keen to tidy up the area by the Watery Lane entrance so that it does not become a dumping ground but a space where manure or compost could be delivered. We are also keen to carry out some work on the large shed by the orchard, improving storage and strengthening the structure. If you are able to assist in any of these tasks we would love to hear from you and will be publishing details of when we will be starting work in the coming months.

Our thanks goes to all those people who have helped with the upkeep of the allotments over the past year, whether that be giving of time and labour so generously or donating equipment for general use. Your support is appreciated.

The Orchard

Our fruit trees have grown really well this year and the area we planted up just two years ago is beginning to look like a real orchard. I would like to think that this time next year we will be picking fruit and asking you to share in our bounty. Basic tree maintenance will continue in the winter and early spring.

Wildlife

Dave Musson has been keeping readers of the Prattler fully informed of developments in the wildlife area with his monthly articles, so suffice to say that the bio diversity that he and Mark and Mary Newstead have helped create in that area has enhanced what we on the allotments do, day in, day out. That is something we all benefit from.


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. We have a few vacant plots but at least five local residents who are keen to begin allotmenting. Rent night will be held in January – more details in the next edition of the Prattler. It is hoped that by then we can reallocate vacant plots so that everyone is able to benefit from this wonderful village resource.

Mike Langrish



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Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

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

One of the perils of being a disorganised gardener is the tendency to buy plants on impulse without little or no consideration of what to do with them. The aftermath of a visit to a nursery usually results in wandering round the garden with a plant and trowel in hand wondering where to plant this new acquisition. Having crammed it into a tiny space in the border that is often the last that is seen of the poor thing until the next year when the label is found in among the foliage.

Sometimes though a plant manages to survive this treatment; during the early summer last year some shoots were spotted in the border. Since it looked suspiciously like willow herb it was about to be removed, when something about it stayed my hand. The shoot grew and eventually produced a spire of purple flowers. What we had was a variety of *Lythrum* (purple loosestrife) and an excellent elegant, long flowering plant it has turned out to be. But where and when did we buy it, and which variety is it?

Sometimes disregarding the normal advice can produce unexpected benefits. We were given some seeds of Morning Glory and Black Eyed Susan long after the conventional time for sowing, but I sowed them anyway, and the result has been a fantastic late show of flower. A lesson for the future perhaps, nothing ventured nothing gained?

Autumn is the time when toadstools and mushrooms sprout in dark corners of the garden. This year a group of small fungi of a striking shade of lilac mauve have popped up under one of our shrubs. Apparently these are an edible variety, but they don't really look like something one should eat, so I shall leave them to the slugs and snails.

As I write, outside the window there is a plant of white flowered honesty which is still blooming six months after it started in the spring; I have never seen anything like that before. It will be interesting to see when it does eventually stop.

Things to do in November

1. Plant tulip bulbs
2. Put grease bands round fruit trees against winter moth
3. Plant bare root trees shrubs and roses
4. Lift and store dahlia and other tender tuberous perennials.

Mark Newstead

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*Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens
Bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens
Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of my favourite things*

From **My Favourite Things**,
Sound of Music by Rogers and Hammerstein

A tribute to Joan Hanley

Nearly forty years ago on a preparatory visit to Nether Heyford before our move here (Bliss Charity School for one son, playgroup for another, and the all-important allotment) we wandered into Manor Park to have yet another look at our soon-to-be home, when we met Joan Hanley. She chatted to us, extolling the praises of this village, its friendly community and its facilities, undoubtedly a lovely place to work and bring up a young family. It was the beginning of a long friendship with this very special lady. But there is much history to Joan, and it begins many years before our first meeting ...

Joan was born in December 1925 in the small Yorkshire village of Bubwith, where she later attended the local primary school, before moving onto a girls' grammar school in Selby. Although Joan's father and brother both enjoyed singing, the "cronky" piano with its untuned sound was the only instrument in the house. However Joan showed an early interest in learning to play the piano, received lessons from the village church organist and achieved Grade 8 before going off to train as a teacher in Ripon, studying music and history. It was here that Joan's organ playing moved to a higher level, taught as she was by Dr Moody, organist of Ripon Cathedral. For two years she was the resident college organist, and on one occasion was invited to play the Cathedral organ for a special event! Her teaching career began in 1945 at a primary school in Fulford, York where she taught for seven years, now also taking on the permanent post of church organist in her home village. In 1954 Joan applied for her "third teaching post," a first assistant (female)" at Willow Park Junior in Pontefract, which had 500 pupils and was the largest primary school in the West Riding. She got the job and worked alongside Arthur, who also taught at the same school. They married on 27th December 1954. The ensuing years saw Joan taking on more responsibility for music in school, playing the organ and accompanying choirs. She and Arthur joined Pontefract Choral Society, soprano and tenor respectively, and it was here that they developed their love, and experience, for great choral works as well as attending numerous music concerts.

When their daughters, Judith and Pamela arrived, Joan gave up teaching to be a stay at home mum. But as ever music teachers were much revered and Joan was frequently invited back into the classroom, to take music lessons, begin recorder groups, form school choirs and play for assemblies! Joan's dedication to music in children's lives was strong and varied! On one interesting occasion there was an evening's entertainment of Sooty and Sweep with the ever-popular Harry Corbett;

when the accompanist failed to turn up for the show Joan stood in at a moment's notice – another musical accolade!

In 1974 Arthur took up a job with the Northamptonshire Inspectorate and the family relocated to this county, moving into the newly created Manor Park in February 1975 where extensive floods greeted them on their first day! It was to be a very long, settled and happy time for Joan and her family. She taught at Grange Junior School for ten years, and also at the Saturday morning Music School in Daventry. I am sure that there are many people reading this who will fondly remember their Saturday morning music classes with Joan, recorder playing, singing, etc. As a family we were always so grateful for Joan accompanying our son Jeremy on the piano and practising with him for his violin exams, his success in part attributable to her encouragement... and patience!

During my years of teaching at Bliss School I hold lovely memories of Joan playing the church organ for numerous carol concerts, leavers' services and Harvest Festivals, as well as the occasions when I took my class of little people down to the church and she would let them press the organ keys or pedals! Her passion for music, and her love of children was very evident in her kindness, her delightful sense of humour and the ever-present twinkle in her eye. There are families who have christened their young children, walked down the aisle to be married, or bade farewell to those who have died – all to the musical accompaniment of Joan playing the organ in our local village church.

In 2003, shortly after Heyford Singers was formed, Joan joined the choir as an alto, where she remained a loyal and valued member until age and mobility applied their inevitable restraints. Her legacy with the Singers will live on in every new member who joins “ for the love of music and singing”.

Joan's last few years were spent in a local care home, until she died in August at the grand age of 94! Her funeral, which was a beautiful and very personal occasion, taken by Reverend Stephen Burrow and Sue Morris, reflected all the aspects of music which Joan so loved – **Jesu, Joy of man's desiring** (played on the organ), **If with all your hearts** (from Mendelssohn's choral work, **Elijah**) and **My Favourite Things** (from **The Sound of Music**). We will miss Joan, her smile and sense of humour, her love of children, and the *musical accompaniment* that she gave to so many of our lives. We are all the richer for having known this lovely lady.

I would also like to dedicate this article, and indeed this issue of the Prattler, to all those friends and family members, within our village community, who have died in recent months. Sadly the restrictions of Covid 19 have prevented us sharing the grief, the tears and the hugs that we would normally give so freely. But they all live on in our hearts and leave us, each and every one, with such precious memories. Take care as we enjoy the beauty of these late autumn days and we look towards the hopes of a new year. Stay healthy and content, take care of one another, and may music feature somewhere in your life every day.

Jill Langrish

View from the Wildlife Patch

As the Year moves further into Autumn much of our wildlife moves to winter mode. Most insects hibernate at this time either as adult, larvae, pupae or egg form depending on species whilst other groups of “Mini Beasts” remain active throughout the year. I like to look for easily observed species that remain active throughout the year.

Woodlice fall into that category and are a favourite group of mine. Last week I decided to hunt a few out on “the Patch. I was disappointed to find far fewer both individual woodlice and species than I would normally expect when grubbing about in a similar situation. Has anyone else noticed a decline in Woodlice?

Woodlice must be one of our most familiar “Mini Beasts”. They are not insects but Crustaceans (Crabs and Lobster family). Being one of only two Crustacean orders that spend their whole lives out of water. Science calls the Woodlouse order “Isopoda”. “Isopod” means “even footed”. This being because all species have similar feet.

Most people are surprised to find that we have over 40 Woodlouse species in The UK However only about 37 species can breed outdoors. Woodlice have featured prominently throughout history in recipes including one for Woodlouse Sauce, (it's just a White Sauce with woodlice in) and in the past Woodlice were often carried in a leather pouch round the neck to be taken as cure for stomach aches and minor ailments.

All UK Woodlouse species are vegetarian. Despite their reputation as pests they rarely eat living plant matter or healthy wood. Preferring to eat vegetation which has already begun to decay. Woodlice play a very important part in the recycling of dead and dying plant matter into nutrients for reuse by other plants.

One tiny white species of woodlouse lives exclusively in Ants Nests. With the unsurprising name of “Ant Woodlouse” it is common in this area and lives on our Wildlife patch.

The outer shell of a woodlouse comprises a series of segments. The lower part of this shell is described as the Skirt. In one of my older woodlouse books “The Painted Woodlouse” is described as having Black eyes, two lemon coloured lines down its back and a pink skirt. Disappointingly it does not look very different from our most numerous woodlouse species.

There is one pink Woodlouse not surprisingly called the “Rosy Woodlouse” that lives in dark moist places and is present in this area.

Woodlice live 2 to 4 years and are predated by Centipedes and one species of spider that specialises in hunting Woodlice exclusively.

All woodlice lay eggs which are retained in a pouch under their shell. The young hatch inside this pouch and stay there until they are big enough to care for

themselves. When these young are ready to leave the shell the female contorts itself in a move which has been described as turning itself inside out. I have never observed this so can't comment. A female may breed up to 4 times in it's lifetime depending on species and living conditions

Woodlice can be encouraged into a garden by leaving bits of old wood, roof tiles and slates etc. lying around in areas not too wet and not too dry.

Dave Musson

The Story of Heyford: Inquest, Heyford Wharf V3C13

The following extract is taken from the Northampton Herald, dated 26th November 1864. It refers to the inquest into the death of William Gibson. The cutting was supplied to us by Mrs Maggie Ingram, great grand-daughter of William Gibson.

“On Monday last an inquest was held at Heyford Wharf before W Terry Esq., county coroner, on the body of William Gibson, who was found drowned in the Grand Junction Canal at Heyford Wharf on the previous day. It appeared that deceased, a labourer, 53 years of age, went on Friday afternoon to the Boot at Heyford Wharf. He did not have a great deal to drink, but when he left between half past six and seven, was not quite sober. It was supposed by the landlord of the Boot that deceased was going straight home to Pattishall. He had left a can, however, at the side of the canal, where he had been working, breaking slag, and it would seem that he went to fetch it, and by some means fell into the water.

When found, deceased's clothes were much torn; his head was badly wounded, as was also his left shoulder, and both his arms were broken. On Saturday, a steamer which passes up and down was stopped at the place where deceased was found by something catching in the screw. Mr Walker, surgeon of Bugbrooke, stated in his evidence that the above mentioned injuries, it was his opinion, had been caused by machinery of some kind after death. The cause of death he attributed to drowning. At the conclusion of the evidence the jury returned a verdict of found drowned.”

The reference to ‘the Boot’ must surely be a misspelling, as the pub at Heyford Wharf was called ‘the Boat’. It was the white building now known as Wharf Farm.

Extract from “The Story of Heyford” – Local book series published in the late 1990's

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Lifeboat Fund

Mrs Sandra Davis would like to express her heartfelt thanks to all the people who donated towards supporting the RNLI. This is a very worthy cause and was always supported by her late husband Norman.

Sandy has always tried to raise funds for the lifeboats, to keep up the good work Norman started. Incidentally the main source of the RNLI's income is from donations given by the generosity of the general public. Therefore it is easy to see what a worthy undertaking raising funds for them is.

Sandy has worked very hard promoting this cause and the funds raised were taken down to the Yarmouth and Gorleston Lifeboat Station. Sandy has just received a letter of appreciation from the Lifeboat Association thanking her for all her hard work and support. She was also informed of the amount of money she recently raised. It came to the magnificent total of £615.94. Once again thank you for all your donations, help and generosity.

Flood Watch

Post Autumn Equinox saw major changes in the weather with the final days of September seeing temperatures falling well below a normal monthly average and an increase in rainfall. Overall September had a two week period with no rain but with the above changes resulted in a final monthly rainfall of 35% of normal. However October brought major changes with storm Alex (European name) and heavy rainfall on the 3rd, the wettest October daily level since 1891, well over 30mm. As a result, when combined with additional rainfall on the following days the River rose by 1.6m and areas of the floodplain were submerged on the 5th. Within 24 hours all flood water had receded. Overall October has been a very wet month and with further rain forecast for the remaining days the monthly total is expected to end up about 150% of average.

The month has been full of planetary and lunar activity with Mars appearing at its largest on 6th when the planet was closest to the Earth and later on the 13th when the planet was at its brightest, an event repeated every 15 years. Unfortunately on both occasions overcast skies at sunset blocked any visible sightings. Fortunately the night's sky between the hours of 2 am and 5 am cleared and Mars was clearly visible as it traversed from the SE to SW. October also had two full moons, a Harvest Moon on 1st and a Hunter blue Moon on 31st, Halloween.

An E-Mail was received from the E/A in which it was clear that little progress had been made over the last year. However, following my comments regarding the criteria for Grant-Aid funding to protect properties, currently based on properties actually being flooded and their role to prevent flooding, a revised set of criteria has been defined by Defra in February 2020. This will now be taken into account during the economical assessment and relates to the impact of flooding on the individual's well-being. In particular the areas of concern are namely:-

- lack of warning
- whether flooding events were in day time or night time
- duration of flooding
- extent of flooding
- speed and depth of flood water
- repeat of flood events
- potential cost impacts
- what the impact of climate change will be on future flooding

Although research on the impact on the individual or household is limited it is now at least recognised that these have a profound impact on PTSD symptoms and that a high score rating should be applied. Throughout the document comments were made relating to the serious limitations of flood risk maps and their use in predicting the extent of such events. At least these criteria can now be applied to any revised assessments for village flood defences.

J. Arnold.



Nether Heyford Tennis Club

NEW to the tennis club in November – WALKING TENNIS

This is a slowed down version of the traditional game. Who is it for - anyone! No membership or tennis skills required.

Benefits –

Playing walking tennis can bring real benefits, aside from the physical health gains, players benefit from the boost of being outdoors with the mental health benefits of exercise, interaction with others, and a sense of achievement of developing new skills.

Starting Monday 16th November – 10.30 -11.30 am and then the three following Mondays at Nether Heyford Tennis Courts. Sessions will continue after this if there is demand.

Equipment will be provided and there will be no charge for these 4 sessions.

For further information and to book a space please contact
Jo - 349094, 07749 822016 or jodickson@btinternet.com
Or find us on Facebook

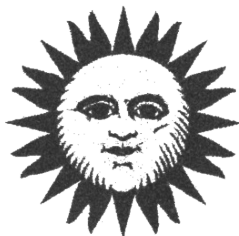
Many years ago (approx 1951) a lady arrived in the village with a horse drawn gypsy caravan which she parked in John Smiths field between the river and Crow Lane. She stayed there for many months during which time her horse died and she was enquiring about a replacement.

My grandfather had a very large shire horse for sale and i suggested to the lady that we should bike over to Caldecote near Towcester for her to inspect the horse. A price was agreed and I offered to ride the horse bareback via Tiffield, Dalscote, Birds Hill and Bugbrooke to Heyford, a very painful journey.

Next day I helped to harness the horse to the caravan which had sunk into the wet ground, the horse heaved and broke all the chains attaching it to the caravan, John Smiths tractor was required to move it.

After some further months the lady, horse and caravan left Heyford and never returned. She was writing a book about her journey but I do not know whether it was ever published. Have any of your older readers any knowledge as to who the lady was and whether a book was ever published?

W John Butcher



The Olde Sun

Food Served:	Thursday	12.00 – 2.00	5.00 – 8.00
	Friday	12.00 – 3.00	5.00 – 8.00
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Pate	£6.00	Classic Prawn Cocktail	£7.00
Crispy Garlic Mushrooms	£6.00	Baked Camembert Sharer	£12.00

Mains

Beer Battered Haddock & Chips	£13.00	Thai-Style Mussels & Fritters	£12.50
Grilled Sirloin Steak & Chips	£13.00	Hand Carved Ham, Egg & Chips	£11.00
Braised Beef Bourguignon	£11.50	Crispy Beef	£11.00
Vegan Baked Bean Pot	£9.50	Pan Roasted Salmon	£12.00
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Baked Venison Bangers & Mash	£11.50	Vegetarian Mezza (V)	£11.50

Desserts – all home made by the chef

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Rich Sticky Toffee Pudding	£6.00	Chocolate Fudge Brownie	£6.00
Cheese Board	£8.50	Ice Cream Scoop	£1.50

Hot Drinks

Espresso	£1.20	Cappuccino	£2.95	Mocha	£2.95	Latte	£2.95
Americano	£1.60	Yorkshire Tea	£1.60	Herbal Tea	£1.60	Hot Chocolate	£2.95

Thursday Night Steak Night £25 (2 Steaks & Bottle of House Wine - No Substitutions)

Friday Night Fish & Chip Night £20 (2 Fish & Chips + 2 pints – Draft & Cask Ale)

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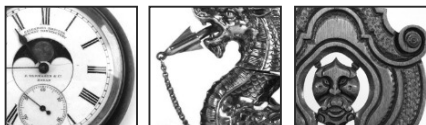
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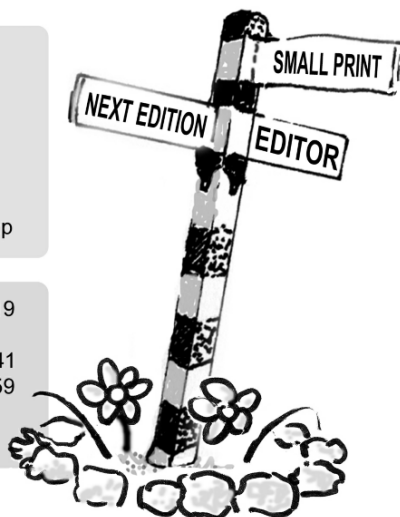
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THE PRATTLER

NEXT EDITION

Submission date: 15th Nov.2020 for written items
20th Nov. 2020 for email items
Publication date: 1st December 2020
e-mail: heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk
Or drop off at Heyford Meats or the One Stop Shop

Editorial: Sue Boutle 01327 342519
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We welcome Prattler contributions, please send these to the Editor. Please include your name and full contact details. We prefer items by e-mail & all images should be JPEG files.

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Design to Print Limited
46 Daventry Road
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