



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

April / May 2021

Issue No. 441

THE Heyford
SINGERS

ADVANCE NOTICE

SUMMER CELEBRATION



**SUBJECT TO LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS BEING LIFTED
WE ARE PLANNING AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC AND SONG
AND A FAMILY PICNIC**

**ON NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE GREEN
AT 3.00PM**

ON SUNDAY JULY 18TH

KEEP THE DATE FREE IN YOUR DIARIES

MORE DETAILS IN THE NEXT PRATTLER AND OUR POSTERS AROUND THE VILLAGE

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.

Thank you for the donations made by individuals in recent months. Thanks are also due to the volunteers who distribute it every month. It is all very much appreciated.

The logo for HomeMove Estate Agents features the word 'HomeMove' in a large, serif font, with a stylized house roofline above the 'e' in 'Home'. Below this, the words 'ESTATE AGENTS' are written in a smaller, sans-serif font, flanked by two horizontal lines.

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Due to government regulations prohibiting public meetings the Feb 1st, 2021 Parish Council meeting was held online, using the Zoom platform. This is in line with national advice. There is no indication of how long these conditions will persist, but it is likely that meetings will take place online for the next 3 months at the very least. Legislation is in place until May 6th to allow for such virtual meetings to take place.

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.

Covid 19. With the lockdown continuing, many of us will know of people who have caught the virus and of those who have died of it. The Parish Council would like to reinforce the advice to those who have tested positive to self-isolate. This is vitally important to safeguard those who are vulnerable to this pernicious virus. This may seem to be stating the obvious, but there are numerous reports of COVID-19 positive persons not self-isolating on the grounds that they feel well, or need to work.

Having said that the news seems to be improving on the Covid front, with many residents having had their first vaccinations, and figures on both infections and deaths falling rapidly.

Crossings for the disabled. The Council has had a number of reports of people parking across the dropped kerbs that denote disabled crossings. For the unaware; these are mostly around the shops in the village centre are easily identifiable by the dropped kerbs (to allow wheelchair access), the “knobbly” surface (to enable blind people with sticks to identify them) and the white lines to show car drivers where NOT to park. Again, this may seem to be stating the obvious, but it is clearly not obvious to those drivers who park across these crossings and block them.

Election. The Parish Council is now 4 members short of its full quota of 11. There is an election due in May, which we hope will take place (it having already been postponed once). In the meantime, we are able to co-opt new members, subject to them being eligible. The Parish Council really does need active new members, preferably familiar with IT – so if you feel that is you – please contact me or the Chair (details below).

Reports from the District and County Councillors.

At the March Meeting on March 1st Cllr Bignell reported that this would be his last meeting representing SNC, and that work to hand over to the new Unitary was being

satisfactorily carried out. He would look into the situation regarding the felling of trees off Winston Close, but was unsure what could be achieved as this was on private property. AW would liaise with him. He confirmed that SNC enforcement was involved with encroachment onto SNC land in Ridgeway Furlong. Cllr Harries also regretted that this would be his last time representing SNC, but that he would be at the next meeting as a representative of the Shadow Council. The Chair said that it had been an honour and a pleasure to work with both of them.

Cllr Brown reported that NCC expects to hand over some £90M to the new Unitary, that the budget had been passed, and that work is progressing towards a smooth transition.

Public Participation. It was reported that ivy was obscuring the light in the jitty between Church St and the memorial Green. Lights are the responsibility of the Parish Council. AW would inform the clerk which lights were affected by ivy and a contractor would be sought to remove it.

Co-option of Councillors. Resolved to co-opt Andrew Wallace as a member. Cllr Wallace to take his place at the April meeting, and would then need to stand for election in the May election.

Reports.

PCSO. had apologised for sending in his report late. Chair reported that there had been some criticism of the PCSO recently, which he felt was unwarranted. During his recent holiday there had been a break in at the Playing Fields. The enquiry was ongoing.

Lights. There would be an article in the next Prattler asking for comments on the 3 new LED lights that had been installed around the village. STS would be asked to look at removing ivy.

Roads and pavements. It had been reported that a new resident at 1 Wakefield Way had planted a hedge next to the pavement and had applied to register land adjacent to the property. Clerk had been in touch with Highways and SNC, and it had been ascertained that there was no bar to the resident registering part of the land, and that it should probably have been registered to the property when it was built. It was felt that the Parish Council had no involvement as regards registration. The land immediately next to the footpath belongs to Highways and should not be planted. Highways Enforcement to be approached and asked to investigate the situation.

Hillside Rd Bus Shelter. had apparently been damaged, and the footings were slightly loosened Mr Wray to be asked to look at the shelter.

The Green /Play Area. Wickstead would repair the “Jeep” fixture on March 2nd. There had been complaints about the epicormic/side growth on Robinia trees; STS to be approached.

Report on Phone Box adoption. Clerk had sent in the relevant paperwork. It was felt that it might be an appropriate place for the Defibrillator, but opinions would be canvassed.

Allotments. All but 5 rents had been paid and 92% collected, and all plots were taken. A skip had been required for excess waste. Expenditure had been incurred to mark and number plots. A memory tree had been planted – a Flowering Cherry – for those who had passed recently, Cllr Sue Corner in particular.

Footpaths. Drying out gradually, no reports of blockages.

Churchyard. Work proceeding on pollarding the limes.

Joint Burial Board - There would be a meeting on March 29th. The volunteers were doing an excellent job regarding clearing up. It was planned to replace old and broken tools and buy a small mower.

Youth Club. It was hoped to reopen in September. An AGM had been held and officers re-elected.

Canal. No report. Brickwork not yet repaired on bridge. Clerk had reported it and it had been acknowledged.

Defibrillators. Both checked and in working order.

Election. 2 further candidates had come forward.

CLASP at an EGM on Feb 22nd concerning the rental of land at Youth Club to CLASP, it had been decided that the offer would have to be withdrawn due to the objections of a number of residents.

Traveller's site. Letters from Weedon and Flore Parish Councils had been received expressing great disquiet at the apparent flouting of planning conditions at the traveller's site on the A5. This is in the Parish of Stowe Nine Churches, which is the Daventry district, as are Weedon and Flore. The Clerk had written in support of the concerns, but had received no direct response from Daventry District Council.

Council Policies. Council re – adopted the following policies as distributed by the Clerk. Financial Regulations, All GDPR policies, Complaints Procedure, Dignity at Work policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Grants policy. Staff Grievance Policy.

One Stop Shop and Post Office. to discuss present situation. It was felt that the situation had resolved itself, with One Stop appointing a new manager and new staff members. Concerns were raised at the level of criticism aimed at the staff on social media, which were felt unfair to the staff who had been under great pressure during the lockdown. It was noted that a black box which had formerly stood against the side wall had been moved and may be blocking the footpath.

Subsequently the news has come out that the Post Office is to close. This will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Parish Council meetings in 2021 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 April 12th (the first Monday being Easter Monday) and then Monday May 17th – the first date we can hold a meeting after the May Election.

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.

Streetlights within the village can be reported to the Clerk, who will report them to the maintenance company.

Roadworks locally and nationally can be seen on this website: <http://streetworks.org.uk/live-traffic-works-map/>

Next Meeting Monday April 12th. Online at 19.30

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 3JF e-mail thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967753216	Village Hall Rep, Youth Club. Vice Chair. Finance.
L. Eales – 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 01327 341707 e-mail lyndaeales@aol.com	Allotments, Playing Field.
P. Green. - 8, South View, Nether Heyford Tel. 01327 349072 Mobile. 07763244065	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. Wallace. 5, Western Avenue, Nether Heyford. NN7 3NQ. Andrew.wallace4099@outlook.com	Councillor
A. Williams 26 Church St, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LH anthony.k.williams@talk21.com	Chair of Planning. Finance.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Guy Ravine

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



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for April & May 2021

Thursday 1 st April	7:00pm	Short reflective service on Zoom
Maundy Thursday		
Friday 2 nd April	2:30 pm	Time at the Cross on Zoom
Good Friday		
Sunday 4 th April	7:00 am	Short outdoor service at Upper Stowe
Easter Sunday	9:30 am	Short outdoor service at Heyford
	11:00 am	Short outdoor service at Flore
Sunday 11 th April	10:00 am	Morning Prayer on the Facebook Page
Sunday 18 th April	10:00 am	Holy Communion on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Short service of Holy Communion at Heyford
Sunday 25 th April	10:00 am	Holy Communion on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Short service of Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 2 nd May	10:00 am	Holy Communion on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Short service of Holy Communion at Flore
Sunday 9 th May	10:00 am	Holy Communion on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Short service of Holy Communion at Brockhall
Sunday 16 th May	10:00 am	Holy Communion on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Short service of Holy Communion at Heyford
Sunday 23 rd May	10:00 am	Holy Communion on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Benefice Pentecost Service, outdoors at Flore Church
Sunday 30 th May	10:00 am	Holy Communion on the Facebook Page
	11:00 am	Short service of Holy Communion at Upper Stowe

Midweek Services are held weekly. On Wednesday at 9:30am (not Wed 7th April) there is a service of Morning Prayer via the WHYPAY telephone conference system. Please contact the Rector or Churchwardens for the numbers to use. On Friday, there is a service of Morning Prayer at 9:00AM via Zoom. Please e-mail the Rector on s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk for an invitation.

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report that we are planning a gentle, phased reopening of our church buildings, providing the country continues to tread the government's road map successfully, and infection rates, deaths and hospital admissions continue to fall. Initially, there will be one church service per week once we have reached Step 2 in the government's plan. This service will move around the parishes in April and May, for people in those villages. The 10:00am service on the Facebook Page will continue during this time. Once we have passed Step 3 on the government plan, we will look to open for services in more than one church every Sunday from the beginning of June. However, services in church will still face restrictions in terms of social distancing, facemask's, the ban on singing and the administration of Holy Communion. These restrictions are likely to continue beyond the 21st June.

As we emerge from the lockdown, and from the many restrictions we've faced. I hope that the church will be able to provide the quiet space and the resources we might all need to process the events of the last year, helping us to remember, reflect and recuperate. Please watch this space, the Benefice Facebook Page and village websites for more details after Easter. In the meantime, the churches in the benefice have been making their way through the 'big picture' story of the Bible. Recently, in the story of the people of Israel, we looked at their exile in Babylon. Their return to Jerusalem after seventy years might offer some points for us to ponder as restrictions ease, and life moves into a 'new normal'.

In the Bible, the book of Nehemiah tells us of the exiles returning to their shattered homeland, finding their homes – and lives – no more than piles of rubble. Nehemiah refused to settle for this. He came up with a plan to rebuild the homes and walls of Jerusalem - and the lives of its inhabitants. Nehemiah encouraged each family to rebuild their section of the wall, dealing with the rubble in front of them, as the first steps in his plan to restore life to the city. One family found themselves with the unpleasant and smelly task of rebuilding the Dung Gate, a reminder that if we want to clear and transform our 'rubble', we must sometimes be prepared to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty. Finally, Nehemiah didn't give up, despite threats and opposition, he saw his plan through to completion.

Nehemiah's story reminds us that the overarching story of the Bible is one of hope and restoration. When our lives feel like chaos and rubble, God's Word offers hope to ease our despair, for the God who acted decisively to help the exiles can help us to rebuild and restore our lives. Take heart, Be encouraged. However messy and uncertain things feel right now, with God, there is always hope.

With prayers and blessings,

Rev Stephen (tel 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Reopening from Easter

Services will again be held in the Church room to comply with Covid guidelines and Baptist recommendations.

Services for April / May

April 2 nd	4:00 pm	Good Friday service led by Les Britten
April 4 th	10:30am	Easter day service led by Martin Buckby
April 11 th	10:30am	Worship led by Wendy Manley
April 18 th	10:30am	Worship led by Clive Leakey
April 25 th	10:30am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby
May 2 nd	10:30am	Worship led by Les Britten
May 9 th	10:30am	Worship led by Martin Buckby
May 16 th	10:30am	Worship led by Clive Leakey
May 23 rd	10:30am	Worship led by Les Britten
May 30 th	10:30am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

All welcome

Post Office Closure

Unfortunately the Post Office has decided to close the counter in the One-Stop shop on 28th August 2021. You will still be able to buy stamps in the shop and the post box will be retained.

Hello

Sensitivity is something that most of us would wish to express towards others and to experience from others. During the pandemic we have seen such lovely expressions and experiences of sensitivity which have been tender and touching. When I look back over my life I have known people who have been so insensitive in words and ways and conversely those who have so enriched my life by their attitude and acts of sensitive kindness. Also true to say that there has been in my life times of regretful insensitivity and I have tried to use these experiences to learn and to be different. So sensitivity is something valued and which we can all appreciate and apply to our own lives.

I guess like most of us who have grandchildren we can learn from them. For me just two examples are the use of computer based games and secondly knowledge of things to do with Formula One – my grandson in Scarborough is a fount of knowledge about F1 – past and present. My local grandson was 7 last October and for one of his birthday treats he and I went to the “drive through” of a well known burger chain. Due to lock down we ate in the car and he was clearly enjoying his nuggets and chips when suddenly, unexpectedly, surprisingly and so sensitively said these words, “Grandad, how much did the meal cost and how much do I owe you.” Now I know for certain that I had never mentioned the cost and he knew that I would never expect him to pay. But he was sensitively aware that the meal cost someone something and he was concerned about that. I hope to never forget that touching and tender exchange of words, I think of it often and have it on record for future reference. Our “F1 keen” grandson, almost 7, surprised us last week with his sensitive awareness of the gradual and consistent decline in the number of lives lost to the pandemic. His keenness to express the fact that the numbers day by day were reducing was so touching because his words and expression was one of thankfulness and hope.

As we approach Easter we have much to be thankful and hopeful for. I don't need to detail this here because we are all aware of the impact of the pandemic and the way out of it. Easter is such an important part in the Christian calendar – in fact pivotal to it, because along with Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are inextricably linked. I often remind myself and often say, “Easter Sunday has no point, no place, no purpose and no power (apart from chocolate which I also love) without Good Friday and without Christmas.” If Christ didn't come at Christmas as the promised Saviour to the world then he did not die as the Saviour of the world. And if he didn't die as Saviour for the world then Easter Sunday has no point, no purpose, no place and no power.

But belief in the Christ of Christmas and trust in the Christ of Good Friday introduces hope in the Christ who conquered the grave. That is why Christians can say and sing “alleluia what a Saviour”. How thankful we can be to unite them together as we celebrate Christ's coming to us, Christ's dying for us and Christ coming back to life bringing hope to us and for us. When I reflect on the many words of Good Friday and Easter Sunday I realise again that Jesus spoke and acted with such sensitivity.

He could at times be necessarily challenging, but also compassionate and so caring – and at times his sensitivity was so special and significant.

Just three examples

1 On the cross – “Father forgive them for they know what they are doing” is found in Luke 23 v 34. Jesus looked down from the cross upon a scene that must have been distressing to Him. The Roman soldiers were gambling for His clothing and the crowd was blaspheming Him. Surrounded by all that was going on around him and all that he was experiencing, Jesus prayed for them. “Father, forgive them”- a prayer of unmatched mercy, grace and love – sensitively expressed

2 In the garden - John 20 “thinking that he was the gardener she said, “if you have taken him away and he said “Mary” to which she replied “teacher” Please show me where the master is and I will go to him. He only had to say one word, she only had to hear one word and they were sensitively connected and reunited. Mary had gone looking for the dead Christ who she had seen crucified, removed from the cross and placed in the empty and guarded tomb. She went seeking after Jesus and after seeing the empty tomb, the proof of his resurrection, she met this chap walking in the garden and thinking he was the gardener said "sir if you have taken him and know where he is please tell me and I will go to him" and that lovely word came from the lips of Jesus – “Mary.” What a surprise, what an experience to discover the risen Saviour who had fulfilled his promise and he sensitively met her at her time of need

3 In the upper room – doubting Thomas in John 20 But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Jesus responded with a challenge but yet with sensitive assurance, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas I know that you only believe because you have seen me – blessed are those who have not seen but yet believe. Jesus was saying to him, “Thomas you can see me and you can believe me I hope to never forget those touching and tender exchange of words with those who watched and wondered. I think of them often and am so glad that we have it on record for our reference, our regard and our response today.

It does seem very likely that we will be able to restart Sunday morning services at the chapel for Easter and details are provided elsewhere in The Prattler

Thank you and best wishes

Yours

Martin Buckby - On behalf of the fellowship at The Chapel on the Green

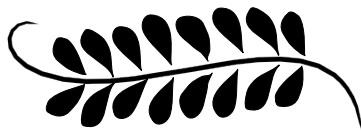
Food bank

Don't go hungry – if you are in need of help, please contact Towcester Food Bank 07724 832043 (24 hours). www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk

Leave a message and they will phone you back. They can issue vouchers for food as well as a delivery or collection service.

Alternatively if you wish to help, please leave donations for the food banks in the box outside the door of 15 Middle Street where they are delivered to the banks twice a week.

Thank you.



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Astronomy on the Green

At the end of my last article we considered time/distance in space. This time I will begin with speed, right here on our stable planet that to us moves slowly. Well now, does it? A day on our planet takes 23 hours, 56 minutes and four seconds, the circumference of the earth is 24,901 miles, so at the equator the earth spins at just over 1000 miles an hour. During that time we travel at a speed of 18.64 miles per second or 67,000 miles an hour in our circular orbit around the sun. Our solar system as a whole is also in motion, spinning in our Galaxy, the Milky Way at 136.7 miles per second or 220,000 miles an hour. Next time you think that things here move slowly, well it's not necessarily so...

April

So let's start with Easter. Now what has that to do with astronomy? Well, have you noticed it is a movable feast of chocolate, that is due to the moon! According to the bible Jesus was crucified on Passover, a date defined in the Jewish lunar calendar of the time, based on the phases of the moon. This year the full moon after the solstice fell on the 28th March, so Easter falls on the 4th April. A lunar month is traditionally 28 days, giving 48 weeks to a year; our modern calendar as we know is 52 weeks a year. The difference between the two calendars mean that Easter can fall between the 22nd of March and the 25th of April.

As we pass the vernal equinox, we move into spring skies and the dominant constellations now are Leo & Virgo. Virgo is a 'Y' shaped constellation which does not resemble the virgin holding a sheaf of corn (unlike winter's Orion resemblance to a hunter), it is however the second largest constellation in the sky. Spica is a bright blue white star, that is worth observation partly due to being a close binary star with the massive gravity of its close companion pulling Spica into an oval shape. It is also a very bright object, some 20,000 times brighter than the sun with a surface temperature of 25,000C (the sun in comparison is 6000C).

May

May brings us Draco as a constellation, its brightest star, Eltanin will become the brightest star in our skies in a mere 1.5 million years time, personally I can't wait to see that! May is the best month to observe the tiny planet Mercury (the closest to the Sun) in the evening sky, however due to its close solar orbit it never appears for long after sunset or before dawn, as either an evening or morning 'star'.

Other events

In both months the full moon will be a super moon, as the moon will be at its closest to Earth. April 22nd the peak of the Lyrids Meteor shower. May 6th the peak of the Aqarids Meteor shower.

Clear skies all!

Tony Boutle

Joe Garrett

The family of Joe Garrett would like to express their sincere thanks for all the cards and messages of support from family and friends at the passing of Joe. They were very much appreciated.

Thank you

I hope that the very kind person (you'll know who you are) who handed in my dropped purse at the One Stop today (28th January) is reading this so that I can pass on my heartfelt thanks to you. I am so very grateful.

Lyn Richardson

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Local Government Reorganisation. All Change for Councils in Northamptonshire.

Local government in Northamptonshire is changing. The existing system, which has been in place since the 1970's, is like a three-tier cake.



The bottom layer is parish and town councils which typically cover one village or town. The middle layer is borough and district councils, which are responsible for things like planning applications, collecting the bins, tourism, and dealing with benefits. The top layer is the county council, which is responsible for things like social services, education, and highways.

From 1 April 2021 the top two layers of the cake are being replaced with one layer, known as unitary councils. There will be two in Northamptonshire: North Northamptonshire Council, and West Northamptonshire Council. Parish and town councils remain as they are.



West Northamptonshire Council will cover the area currently covered by Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, and South Northamptonshire Council. The area contains the towns of Northampton, Daventry, Towcester and Brackley and nearly two hundred villages and hamlets. West Northamptonshire Council will be one of the larger unitary councils in England. It will be responsible for all the services currently being provided in the area by the district, borough, and county councils.

The main reason for replacing the district, borough and county councils with unitary councils is to save money. Northamptonshire County Council had well-publicised financial issues in 2017 and 2018, which led to a government inspection of the council. The inspector's report recommended that creating unitary councils was the best solution.

Most people will not notice any difference, certainly in the first few years of the unitary councils. In fact, great efforts are being made to ensure that is the case. For example, the lorry collecting the rubbish might have a different logo on it, but the bins will still be collected. Council services will continue as normal, and any changes will be gradual.

From 2021 you will see three lines on your council tax bill. You will pay an amount for the parish or town council that looks after your village or town, an amount for Northamptonshire Police, and an amount for West Northamptonshire Council for all the council services it provides. The amount you pay to each body is set by that body.

West Northamptonshire Council will have 93 councillors, who will be chosen at the local elections on 6 May 2021. Some will be people who have been district, borough, and county councillors before; others will be new. Anyone over 18 and living in West Northamptonshire can put themselves forward to be a councillor. The councillors elected in 2021 will serve a four-year term of office and may seek re-election in 2025.

Council meetings are held in public, and all the information, reports, and papers for the meetings are published on the council's web site. Councils are open and democratic bodies and are accountable to the people they serve.



Feeling low or isolated?

Struggling at the moment?

Looking to get fitter?

Come and try **“Walking tennis”**.

Starting on Mondays from 12th April

(if restrictions allow)

10.30 -11.30 am at Nether Heyford Tennis Courts.
All are welcome- no tennis skills required.
Equipment will be provided and there will be no charge.

For further details and to book a space please
contact

Jo -01327 349094, 07749 822016 or
jodickson@btinternet.com

Or find the tennis club on facebook

Quiz: Women's names

1	She goes with a dash in Morse	
2	She may be up the wall	
3	She is always present at a happy occasion	
4	Do April showers bring forth her flowers	
5	Use her to hold down the tent	
6	Would she make a good Queen	
7	She is always an early riser	
8	The flowers in everyone's eyes	
9	Not as plain as you think	
10	A partner to Punch	
11	She should not be gilded	
12	No flower can compare or smell so sweet	
13	Much warmer than diamonds	
14	She is usually a bit of a shower	
15	She is popular at Christmas	
16	She should be present before a meal	
17	Does she like a saucer of milk	
18	Is she often in the drink	
19	She often says she is pretty	
20	Always busy on your windowsill	
21	She is often found on Scottish moors	
22	This gardener grows silver bells	

Answers on page 36

Arnold's Charity Educational Grants

Cash grants for Apprenticing and Education are available for young people from 16 – 24 years. This could be for learning purposes i.e. books, equipment, tools, etc.

Not sure if you qualify – please contact a trustee for more information or help.

*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*

Applications for grants need to be submitted by Mid-April for a meeting of the trustees in May.

Application forms are available from:

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

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

Jo Dickson - Trustee jodickson@btinternet.com 07749 822016

Charles Kiloh -Trustee charles.kiloh@gmail.com 07779 900860

Mike Essery - Trustee mike.essery@btinternet.com 01327 340682

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

or they can be downloaded from the Prattler Website:

www.heyfordprattler.org

Arnold's Charity Social Grants

Many individuals and families have found things challenging during the Covid 19 pandemic. A small cash grant may help during this difficult time.

The Arnold's Charity can provide small cash grants for residents of Nether Heyford and Upper Heyford. These could be towards heating bills, school uniform, dental care or other unexpected/increased costs.

Application forms can be downloaded from The Heyford Prattler website or a paper copy can be delivered through your door. Please do not hesitate to contact one of the charity trustees listed below for any help with this. Forms are also available for families to pick up at the school.

Eligibility: Resident of either of the villages (for 1 year)

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

We are affiliated to NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies) and during April NAFAS are holding a Virtual National Show. Each week for the first three weeks there will be a demonstration, talk and "how to" sessions viewable on all the various media platforms, plus photographs of the winning designs – just log on to the NAFAS website.

Watch out for some floral arrangements as you walk around the village on the 7th May as this is National Flower Arranging Day – members will be putting something floral on doors or garden fences to celebrate. If things go to plan and we continue to move towards coming out of lockdown we are hopeful it won't be too long before we can meet up with all our friends and enjoy, once more, our evenings of floral demonstrations.

Until then we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Easter and as the days get warmer and longer we shall be able to start work in our gardens.

For more information please follow us on Facebook or contact Dianne on 01604 830063 or Simone on 01327 342167.

Dee Hillyard

Sadly, our Mum Dee passed away in Northampton General Hospital on 19th February aged 88 years. She had been admitted to hospital following a routine Doctors appointment at Bugbrooke Surgery. Mum was well known in Heyford as she spent 22 years as a school dinner lady at Bliss from the early 70's to 1997. As a family we still have the newspaper article from the Chronicle & Echo with a lovely photo of Mum with some of the children. The article said she hung up her apron the day before her 65th birthday!

The Prattler also featured a full-page piece written by then teacher Jill Langrish about Mum and all that she experienced at school. (Reproduced on the next page). The lovely comments we have received from past pupils has been really comforting. Especially those messages about wobbly teeth, grazed knees, 'seconds' at lunchtime and lots of reassuring hand holding.

Mum was born one of nine, in Kislingbury, and leaves behind her older sister Daph (Faulkner) who still lives in Church Street. When she married Dad (Alan) in 1959 they started married life in Heyford and never left. They lived first at the B&B in Church Street and then in Church Lane where they had Sheena and Mark before moving to Furnace Lane where both Paul and Sara were born. This was the family home, at number 72, until Mum & Dad downsized in 2008 to their lovely bungalow at 5 The Pound. They used to say that they had the best view in the village, out across The Green.

We have lovely memories of Mum and Dad going off to play bingo at the village hall when we were young. Mum also enjoyed a game of cards and kept this tradition going on Christmas Day until a few years ago. It was something she took seriously!

She will be truly missed and we are sure many people have many memories of Mum as she used to walk up and down Furnace Lane, with her shopping, and would stop to chat on the way.

Sheena, Mark, Paul and Sara.

From Spam Fritters to Hula Hoops

Twenty-two years ago on 20 October 1975 a new dinner lady joined the lunchtime staff of Bliss Charity School, a staff that included Mrs Clark, Mrs Faulkener and Mrs Nial. The new dinner lady was Mrs Dee Hillyard and she was appointed to a temporary post with one month's probation.

Her duties were to work in the kitchen preparing the food and then serve it to the children. At that time the teachers supervised the children in the school hall but in time, this became the responsibility of the dinner ladies together with clearing away plates and cutlery, wiping tables and sweeping the floor. Then it was out to the playground, in winter to button up coats and help fingers into gloves, and in summer to shelter from the sun and allow trips to the drinking fountain. The playground crazes of Hopscotch, Skipping, Tig, Tazos, Football Stickers and Marbles have all been part of Mrs Dee Hillyard's "lunchtime diet" over the years.

As the years passed so another area of the hall was developing, that of the packed lunch group. Now the dinner ladies had to open Thomas the Tank Engine lunch boxes, peel back yoghurt tops and pour drinks from flasks. These 'picnickers' became more numerous and in March 1992 the school kitchen finally closed, the kitchen staff departed and lunchtime supervision was left to the three dinner ladies.

But whilst the weather outside remained as unpredictable as ever, the children, like their choices of food changed term by term, year by year. With hundreds of children, Dee Hillyard has watched their games, enjoyed their secrets, marvelled at their appetites and perhaps been surprised by their table manners!

Mrs Dee Hillyard has lived in Nether Heyford for over 30 years and is a mother of four children, Sheena, Mark, Paul and Sarah. When these children grew up she acquitted a new set of children to enjoy - her grandchildren Kelly, Ben and Louise. Several years ago Dee's husband Alan was very seriously injured in a road traffic accident. It was a difficult time for her and her family but time, patience and care resulted in a full recovery for Alan Hillyard. Although Dee had a few days absences from school at the time of the accident she was soon back at work. We all admired her strength and fortitude at such an emotional time.

So, sadly on 20 June we will be saying goodbye to Dee as she retires on her 65th birthday. We are Bliss School, staff, parents, governors and above all the children, who will miss her very much. We would like to say "Thank You" for the past 22 years. We hope you have a very happy birthday and an even happier retirement. You certainly deserve it, especially the lunchtimes.

Jill Langrish



Our Neighbourhood Plan - Latest News

We're really pleased to report some great progress since our last update. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening work has been undertaken and reviewed by our Local Authority and independent consultants. The feedback was very positive and subject to some minor amends and additions the report is ready to be submitted to the relevant statutory bodies, such as the Environment Agency and Historic England.

The conclusion of the screening report is that we should not need to undertake detailed environmental assessments for each of the proposed development sites in the plan. We are hopeful that the statutory bodies will confirm this position and allow us to move on to the next stage of the process.

In parallel with this work, we have also had the plan itself reviewed by independent consultants and our local authority. Again, the feedback has been very positive. The plan is now undergoing some 'polishing' on the basis of that feedback.

The next step, once we have the responses from the statutory bodies for the SEA, will be to bring the plan and screening report together to form the 'full' plan. This 'full' plan will then be published for formal public consultation under something called Regulation 14. This is a legally required step in the process.

Subject to any changes in response to consultation the plan is then adopted by its sponsoring body, the Parish Council, approved by our Local Authority and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. Subject to their approval the plan is then 'made' and becomes legally enforceable and part of the Local Authority's Development Plan.

Given current circumstances we are not able to share a hard and fast timeline for all of these steps, but our goal is to see the plan 'made' by early 2022.

If you'd like a reminder of why we set out on the journey to create a Neighbourhood Plan, please do visit the website.

<http://netherheyfordneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/>

Tony Clewett, Tom Dodd, Tony Williams and the NHNPG Group



In Nether Heyford

As the covid lockdown goes on Nether Heyford WI, along with many others, are becoming used to seeing each other, and our speakers, on a computer screen. As we have progressed it has become less daunting (thanks to our joint secretaries Chris Pardon and Jane Wareing) but we hope it won't be too much longer before we are back in the Village Hall!

Our February and March evenings were very different in content but both really enjoyable. In February Mariella Bliss showed us how to make Italian Biscuits whilst chatting and telling us about Italian cookery. She made it all look so easy and had said that we could cook along with her but the thought of being in the kitchen surrounded by ingredients, listening, copying AND coping with Zoom was a step too far!!

In March we spent a really interesting evening listening to David Gelsthorpe – Hill telling us the story of Extra Mile Secondary School in Sierra Leone. Mike Fielding was asked by local people to build a school and, as David put it, that was when one man's dream started to come true. The building process was hard - large rocks had to be cleared from the site, building blocks made on-site and water had to be delivered. Then, in 2014/15, building had to stop because of the Ebola outbreak. The school was opened in 2016 with 55 students and today that number has increased to 129. What a wonderful dream!

On April 1st we have Dr David George whose topic for the evening will be 'A Merry Heart is Like a Medicine'. His talk is divided into three sections:- A brief history of humour which dates back to the Greeks; Why humour is good for your health; and Types of humour illustrated with amusing anecdotes and jokes.

I think we would all agree that the one thing we certainly need at this time is humour!!

The title that Pat Heed, our speaker for May 6th has given us is 'From Ration to Fashion'. I am really looking forward to this one as she goes on to say that it is a tribute to our Mothers and Grandmothers who turned 'make do and mend' into a fashion triumph. A light hearted talk which should generate interaction with the ladies – lots of childhood memories.

Anyone who would like to join us for either of these zoom meetings would be very welcome. Just let me know and I will arrange for the details to be sent to you. Let's hope we will be freed from lockdown soon.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

View from The Wildlife Patch

I was walking round the Patch earlier this week. Our resident pair of Blue Tits seem to be occupying the usual bird box again, Queen Bumble Bees of two species were searching for suitable nest sites and I even saw a Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly. Everything was looking reassuringly “normal” there.

Our pond, whilst looking healthy in every way appears to be devoid of amphibians this year. There is still time for the Smooth Newts and Common frogs that were present last year to turn up. However, at home, our three garden ponds have more frogs than ever and the pond that has Smooth Newts looks to have more than we have seen in years past. I understand that when seeking spawning sites, Common Frogs are attracted by the smell of algae in the water. Maybe that is factor here, or they could be late.

There is a really good colony of Common Rough Woodlice under the bark of the Ash log by the pond. I am sure that placing logs and stones around for wildlife to shelter under will make a huge difference in many ways. The huge variety of species these will attract should not be underestimated. The species of Mammals, Amphibians, Insects and other invertebrates that could use these is much too extensive for this short article. We hope to be placing some of these features around the site as they become available.

We are planning to do more species recording this year. Some of the tools we could use include Live Mouse traps and Pitfall traps. We may well be placing pieces of ordinary Roof Felt against the ground to count the species of mini beasts using them for shelter.

Also, on the list of jobs is the cultivating of soil and sowing seed. You may recall that we intend to create a variety of habitats. One of which we already have is unmown Grass Sward. I needed to mow a small part of some of this that we already have and was surprised at the extent of Vole runs in less than one square meter. A real boost to the belief that if we create the habitat, species will move in to occupy it.

Dave Musson

Village Hall News

Despite the Government’s latest announcement about the lifting of national lockdown restrictions, the Village Hall will have to wait until 17 May before it can be hired out for many functions including exercise classes, coffee mornings, performances and celebrations – as well as its regular events.

However, new enquiries are being received now, so anyone interested in booking the hall is invited to contact Simone Squire at: nvhbookings@gmail.com or 01327 342167.

Allotment News

New Plots

Since I wrote my last article for the Prattler, the remaining vacant allotments have been let, including the starter plots that enable people to try out allotmenting for one year free of charge. One of our aims when we began the refurbishment of the Watery Lane Allotment Site, just two and half years ago, was to see every plot in use. That has been achieved, in fact we even have a short waiting list.

From time to time plots do become available so if you are interested in taking on an allotment in the future and would like to be added to our waiting list then contact Lynda Eales on 01327 341707.

Busy People

Anyone recently visiting the allotments cannot fail to have noticed the amount of work that has been done by allotmenters. Even at this early stage in the growing season, the plots look in excellent condition - an indication that there have been some busy people at work. I certainly think that everyone who has dug, raked and sown so far this year should be proud of their achievements. As the weather warms up and plants begin to grow, things can only get better.

The Memory Tree

Prunus 'Kanzan', a beautiful flowering cherry tree, has now been planted in the allotment community area, in memory of allotment holders who have either died in the recent past or have experienced loss, particularly during the current health crisis. A big thank to all those kind people to who have donated money towards the purchase of the tree and the slate plaque that is sited next to it.

Readers of these articles will be aware that trees have a very special place in our hearts and it was our unanimous decision that there could be no better way of remembering those dearest to us. A welcome break and some refreshment on a bench in the shade of the tree has got to be good for you.

Furniture

At the beginning of our refurbishment programme, several villagers kindly donated to us various items of unwanted wooden garden furniture. That has all been put to good use but we are keen to increase our stock in the community area, in the orchard and in the wildlife area. If you have any unwanted items that are in reasonable condition but would otherwise end up at the refuse tip, then do get in touch with one of the people listed at the end of the article. It is amazing what can be achieved with some sandpaper, a few screws and a lick of paint.

Vandalism

You have probably heard via Facebook or the "village grapevine" that there was some vandalism in the village in February and March. We on the allotments got off

relatively lightly, although some unkind souls did rip one of the allotment notice boards from its posts on the roadway down to the Playing Field.

We would kindly ask all villagers to keep their eyes and ears open and, if they are on the allotments or simply passing through, remain vigilant for people up to no good. Compared to many places we are incredibly lucky when it comes to vandalism. Let's try to keep it that way.

New Plot Numbers

Over the years, the plot numbers on the allotments have become more and more misleading. Plots have been divided (and some doubled in size), pathways have disappeared and, in the case of the orchard and community areas, have vanished completely. We have therefore renumbered all the plots and created a more accurate record of who rents what. New number posts are now in place.

Rubbish

A huge pile of old allotment rubbish by the Watery Lane gate that had been gathering over the year, has now been removed. And, as a bonus, the small plot that it occupied was almost immediately rented to an aspiring allotmenteer. We would now ask all allotmentees to try and either recycle their allotment waste or dispose of it using the local authority refuse sites.

If you wish to know more about the allotments or about anything in this article then don't hesitate to contact either:

Lynda Eales - 3 Church Lane - 01327341707 - lyndaeales@aol.com

Mike Langrish - 28 Manor Park - 01327341390 - _langrish_heyford@hotmail.com

Regards and Good Growing.

Mike Langrish

Village Clean Up

The next village clean up will take place on the weekend of 29/30th May 2021 on conjunction with the Great British Spring Clean. This will be for individuals to clear various locations in the village of litter. If you would like to take part, please get in contact with the Prattler. We have a small quantity of Litter Picks that can be borrowed if needed.

TowFood is born and is ready to welcome you all!

It is clear that the COVID19 pandemic has revealed things that we ought to have known, but weren't at the forefront of our minds in relation to social inequalities in the UK.

Coronavirus has affected all our lives in one way or another and food is one of the most tangible impacts the crisis has had on our daily lifestyles. From the very early impacts of panic-buying at shops and supermarkets, to the present day when stocks of certain items still aren't back to normal.

Lockdown has many new experiences that we have been navigating: we're all preparing food at home; no-one is popping out for a lunchtime sandwich to the local café near work; parents are thinking about what to give their children for lunch on a school day; we've all had to adapt to having larger shopping lists & stocks available at home.

But, the challenges to our food distribution system run much deeper than that. The COVID-19 pandemic has served to deepen inequalities in our society. The elderly and vulnerable have had to rely on others to bring them food. Many others have lost their jobs and livelihoods and are having to rely increasingly on informal support such as food banks and newly-established community mechanisms. All of this can be particularly difficult for people without established support networks.

The closure of schools has highlighted a desperate plight of families who normally rely heavily on the food provision at school. This has been highlighted by the campaign fronted by Marcus Rashford another volunteer for FareShare. SOFEA working with FareShare were already working to prevent food poverty, to make food healthier, more environmentally sustainable and to reduce food waste. These skills were adapted during the present pandemic. But only 7% of the food wasted is collected by FareShare nationally. Therefore it is important to reach out into our local communities to work out ways to collect food, reduce waste and therefore reduce hunger by getting this good food onto peoples plates.

Towcester Community Fridge

Launched in September 2020 on the High Street in Towcester the fridge immediately gained amazing community support, with 150 – 200 visitors per week, and given the increased amounts of food surplus that was regularly received, 2021 has meant a move to a new premises at the Towcester Town Football Supporters Club (TTFSC) on Islington Road.

The session times remain the same Monday, Wednesday (10am-12pm) and Friday (3.30pm-5.30pm) so please come and see us. We are open to **EVERYONE!**

Towcester Community Larder

When we found ourselves in another lockdown in November 2020, the Towcester Community Larder was re-set up to pack and distribute food boxes to anyone who was unable to source enough food due to economic, isolation or health reasons. The Northamptonshire Community Foundation has continued this support and our food boxes will continue throughout lockdown 3. There are future plans that involve the Larder adopting a subscription model so that anyone can access this service for £3.50 per box. We are also looking at a 'pay as you go' option. More information can be found on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/towcestercommunitylarder>

Towcester Community Food

Towcester Community Fridge and Towcester Community Larder have the common goal of reducing food waste so collaborating was a very natural step. We are therefore pleased to announce that we have submitted our application to become a charity 'Towcester Community Food' and await approval! A special thanks to Jeanette at SNVB for her support with the application. TowFood is born!

One of our first collaborative projects has been to renovate our space at TTFSC. Following our appeals, we have been overwhelmed at the offers of support received from local businesses and trades. Travis Perkins Harvey Reeves Road, Denmans (Brackley), Buckingham Flooring and TBS have donated needed equipment and building supplies. Local trades that have offered their services for free are: Hallmark Home Upgrades, WD Plastering, MJ Building, Michael Adams Shelving and Grey Dog Decorating. Rotary Club Towcester have also agreed to buy us a new fridge freezer and we've had donations of paint (Lionel and Joan) and a larder fridge (Pat Clapp). We can't thank you all enough.

Our future vision is to renovate the kitchen area and host cooking clubs, for anyone that wants to learn basic cooking skills, with our partners at Cooking Good (www.cooking-good.co.uk). Their recipe cards have been included in Larder boxes and have received great feedback! We also look forward to collaborating with other local community partners to nurture the wonderful spirit that is present in Towcester and the surrounding area. A special mention must go to all our volunteers for their support and generosity in making the Community Fridge and Larder a fabulous service to Towcester and the surrounding villages. Thank you!!

TOWCESTER COMMUNITY FOOD will be available to EVERYONE with our main ethos being to REDUCE FOOD WASTE. Please come and see us at Towcester Town Football Supporters Club (TTFSC) on Islington Road!

We thank you all for your continued encouragement and support.
If you need to contact us our email is Team@towfood.org.uk and our number is



Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

It has been a year since the Garden Club has been able to have a meeting and it is still not clear when normal service is likely to be resumed. As well as the talks and the shows we have, I miss the chance to meet up with people I don't see from day to day and chat about our experience horticultural and otherwise. Normally as part of our meetings we would have small competitive flower shows, of daffodils and narcissi in March, tulips in April, roses in July and so on. We will try this year to have some shows this year on a virtual basis with the entries being presented photographically. It won't be as good as the real thing but will be a way of keeping things going.

Dahlias

When I was younger, dahlias were very popular particularly as a show flower, and I was put off by the site of marshalled ranks of plants tied to stakes and fed and primped to get monster blooms. Not my idea of gardening at all. Then there was the complicated business of lifting the roots and storing them away from frost over winter. However a few years ago I grew some dahlias from seed (a lot easier than expected) and decided to grow them as annuals leaving the roots in the ground at the end of the season. I was somewhat surprised to find the next spring that they had survived the winter and that they grew well the following year (if a bit slow to start). This spring, ten years or so later, I decided they probably needed splitting and replanting only to find that the roots were enormous, enough to fill a wheelbarrow, and so solid that I needed to use a saw to split the the plant up. It remains to be seen whether it will survive this treatment.

Things to do in April

1. Feed roses and shrubs
2. Sow hardy annuals, herbs and vegetables

Things to do in May

3. Divide and replant spring flowering bulbs
4. Keep a watch for lily beetles and viburnum beetles

Mark Newstead

Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
Parties, Weddings, Business
Meetings etc. Modern facilities,
Disabled access friendly

Bookings: nvhbookings@gmail.com

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167

NETHER HEYFORD

OFSTED No. EY450747

CHARITY No. 1029571

Pre-School

Ages 2-5 years

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

Highly qualified and experienced staff

Excellent links with Bliss School

Fantastic village location

Use of numerous outdoor facilities
including:

- Bliss Schools' Outdoor Classroom
- Forest School activities
- 'Rising 5' sessions for those starting school in September
- Childcare vouchers accepted



Before & After School Club

Wrap around are available for
children aged up to 11 years old

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

'Walking Bus' to and from Bliss School
provided if required

Transition sessions available for Bliss
School reception class.

**Drop in and see us at
The Church Rooms, Church Lane,
Nether Heyford or call on
07984 055 828**

info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk
www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk



*Thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing
Thanks for all the joy they're bringing
Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty,
What would life be?
Without a song, a dance, what are we?
So I say thank you for the music
For giving it to me.*

(Abba)

A year ago, I wrote the April article for the Prattler, just as we began the first lockdown. Beautiful spring days with summer ahead of us, yet the uncertain feeling of being confined to our own small patches, wary of a new threat to our way of life. In the twelve months since we have seen sadness and suffering, experienced loneliness and loss, and missed our families and friends. Yet time passes, the seasons come round again and with spring the eternal message of hope and new beginnings. There is much to look forward to, much to savour each new day, and much to cherish and remember.

Meetings and AGM's have continued throughout the year, albeit in 2D format, and so it was with Heyford Singers AGM on 5th March. At this meeting I stepped down from the role of Secretary, after ten years in post. It was shortly after I retired from Bliss Charity School that Bob Wilson, then Chairman, persuaded me to take on the responsibility of secretary. I have really enjoyed 'keeping the little grey cells busy', it has honed my IT skills considerably and I am delighted that the choir has gone from strength to strength during that time.

Geoff Allen is taking over as secretary and will do a wonderful job. He informs me that Heyford Singers is one of the very few village committees that he has not served on!

Tony Wright will maintain his very long-standing commitment to the choir by joining the committee (and representing the basses), replacing Frances Johnson who has also decided to step down. Frances has served the choir with enthusiasm and dedication since its formation, and we all hope that she will still be there to support the altos for many days to come.

Arthur Hanley has finally relinquished the post of Village Hall Representative for the choir, doing a longer tour of duty than his intended one year. Alwyne Wilson has agreed to succeed Arthur in this post, which enables her to continue her very strong links with everything pertaining to village hall activities in Heyford!

I would like to thank Frances and Arthur for their years of hard work on the committee, Geoff, Tony and Alwyne for taking on the vacant roles, but also to everyone else in Heyford Singers, committee and choir, who work so hard to make this organisation such a wonderful part of our village community.

The HS committee is almost fifty percent **male** now (with Mike Andrew and Keith Rands-Allen)! We would now dearly like to recruit more men to sing with us. The choir is fun, it's sociable, it's so good for your wellbeing, it ticks the boxes of everything we've missed this past year – so why not think about it?

Take care, look after yourselves and each other.

Jill Langrish

If you would like to find out more about Heyford Singers please look at our website

www.heyfordsingers.org

*I may no longer be taking the minutes at meetings, but I shall continue to write these articles for the Prattler for as long as there is someone happy to read them!

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

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



Heyford Cricket Club

It's been the most unusual 12 months for everyone, and the club is optimistic that 2021 will be a year where we can return to some sort of normality and enjoy a full season of cricket at Heyford CC starting on Saturday 1st May. If we cast our mind back to last summer, we were actually very lucky to get half of a cricket season, albeit in slightly different circumstances. Nevertheless, we are delighted to look back on the 2020 with a number of positive steps forward, even in the face of the global pandemic.

Firstly, the club launched a 3rd XI in 2020, this means Heyford CC have gone from a club that has one team playing league cricket, to a club that has three teams - all within 15 years. The trend is that local village cricket is a declining pastime, and many clubs have sought mergers or reduced the number of teams in that period. This is a great testament to the committees and membership over these years to truly make Heyford CC the special club it is. The 3rd XI is a platform to develop younger cricketers, and is key in providing a transition from junior cricket to adult cricket, whilst allowing more senior players to continue to enjoy competitive cricket in the 'autumn of the years'. To see pictures of 'Dads and Lads' playing 3rd XI cricket gives the club great pride.

In addition to the mini-season for the senior teams, we were able to run Junior cricket on Friday nights, and make some great improvements at the ground thanks to the amazing efforts of our Grounds Team complementing some new sight screens. We've also treated the Grounds Team to a brand new roller, due to arrive before the 2021 season commences.

When heading into a cricket season, we normally hope for good weather, a few wins of the toss and some good teas, but this year we have fingers and toes crossed that we can just play a full summer of cricket. Whether we are 6 or 66, it's all about getting out there and having fun. We'll be taking to the field with three senior teams, so if you fancy pulling some whites on there is an opportunity to play cricket at all levels.

In the all-important Junior section, we are delighted to offer the All Stars cricket format again (Ages 5-8), new Dynamos format (Ages 8-11) as introductions to the game, as well as Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12 teams. We welcome all ages from the village and surrounding areas.

We'd love to tell you about the events coming up, but we staying cautious with regard to our Golf Day, Fun Day and any other events. However, what we do know is that the sound of leather on willow will be heard at the Playing Fields from May. Feel free to pop down and support us and follow us on Facebook for updates.

We always welcome new members, be that players or volunteers – so if you want to play, umpire, coach, sponsor or volunteer in any way, please do get in touch. The club's contact details are below.

One final message must go to the previous Chairman Matt Baker, who led the club wonderfully over the last 5 years. The club have nothing but thanks for his effort and hard work, truly taking the club forward over his tenure.

Rob Pardon – Chairman
heyfordcricket@hotmail.co.uk
07894 865194

Heyford Bowls Club

Is that a light I see at the end of the tunnel? Heyford Bowls Club certainly think so. At a Zoom Committee Meeting the other day we started laying plans to have some sort of bowls season.

According to Boris' roadmap out of lockdown, outdoor sports can commence at the end of March, which is well before the start of the outdoor bowling season. We therefore plan to open the green on Monday 19th April. Initial play will be restricted to roll ups, with limited numbers, on rinks 1/3/5 or 2/4/6. If all goes to plan, we shall be back to some form of normality by the middle of June, which means we might be back playing matches against other clubs, but we will have another copy of The Prattler by then and we can tell you for sure.

We also need to arrange our AGM when greater numbers can gather together, and this will be on the agenda of our next Committee Meeting which we hope to hold out of doors in the week commencing 12th April. Our Chairman will be scanning the skies and consulting his seaweed before deciding on the actual date and time. Otherwise, it will be on Zoom again.

And I should have had my second vaccination by then.

Happy days.

Geoff Allen
349909

Flood Watch

As we moved into 2021 January storm Christoph saw more periods of heavy rainfall and more local flooding up to the very last day of the month, by which time the monthly average rainfall was exceeded by 75%. February started milder but by the end of the first week temperatures plummeted to -5 centigrade over night with daytime temperatures around zero and we experienced the first snowfall brought about by the “Beast from the East 2”, named Darcy. This was followed by a week of strong winds with coastal speeds of over 80 mph although locally they only reached 45 mph. In spite of these wind speeds and the issuing of yellow warnings the storm remained unnamed (should have been Evert!). The instability of the jet stream which had brought down cold polar air suddenly reversed to bring warm air from the south. The monthly rainfall returned to average and although the river level peaked several times no more flooding occurred.

March started slightly warmer but wind chill factor kept temperature in single figures. However rainfall throughout the month has dropped and should end up below average. As we approach the end of the month the Spring equinox will be reached by the 20th when day and night hours are equal at the equator although locally this will occur on 17/18th being in the northern hemisphere. On the 27th the clocks will go forward 1 hour when sunset will be at 7.30pm and daylight hours would have extend to 12 hours 40 minutes.

April's forecast expects a period of more stable weather as long as US hurricane season does not create problems with the jet stream.

An historic event on 28th February saw a meteor stream deposit debris of up to 300 grams in Gloucestershire. The finding of such fragments, not seen in over 30 years, identified the age in excess of the earth at 4.5 billion years.

I have been informed that our local E/A contact has been re-assigned to a new location and that all contact will revert to the Partnership and Strategic Overview team. I have contacted the team leader to try to ensure continuity and that he is fully aware of our concerns over lack of progress. I am currently awaiting his response to my E-Mail.

J.Arnold.



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Quiz Answers:

1. Dot 2. Ivy 3. Joy 4. May 5. Peg 6. Bess 7. Dawn 8. Iris
9. Jane 10. Judy 11. Lily 12. Rose 13. Ruby 14. April 15. Holly
16. Grace 17. Kitty 18. Olive 19. Polly 20. Lizzy 21. Heather 22. Mary



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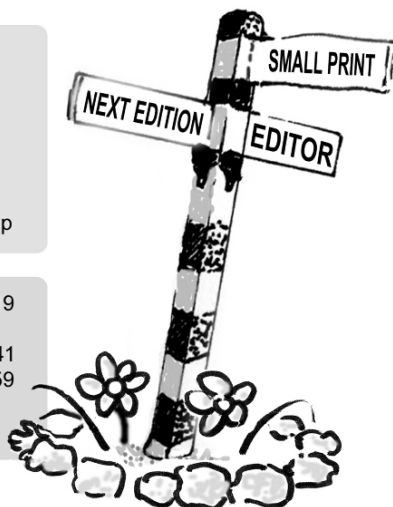
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