



# THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

August / September 2021

Issue No. 443

SUMMER  
21



## FLOWER T POT

Original Art

### Art Classes at a venue near you.

Art classes designed for anyone who has an interest in fulfilling their artistic ambitions to explore art. The groups will suit both experienced and complete beginners alike.

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[flowertpotart@gmail.com](mailto:flowertpotart@gmail.com) or phone  
07729105584/07716410344

## 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.

**Cover:** Please see page 12 for more info

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, all-caps, sans-serif font, flanked by two horizontal lines.

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The July 5th, 2021 Parish Council meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms, with Social Distancing precautions. Online meetings for Councils are no longer legal.

**Public Participation:** Toby Christian from WH Barley (who have leased part of the former Wickes Site in Furnace Lane) introduced himself, and the company to the Parish Council. At this stage, the company are waiting for a decision on whether they will be granted a road license. Concerns had been raised about noise, light pollution, quantity of traffic and disruption caused by drivers trying to access the site from the wrong side and having to turn near the low railway bridge. Mr Christian sought to allay these fears. He says that the warehouse would normally be closed at 6pm, and most lights off. There would normally only be their own drivers coming in and out, (approx. 30 vehicles) and once they are familiar with the area there should be no problems about wrong access. There should only be one or two articulated lorry deliveries per day.

Nick Essex gave a report on the refurbishment of the phone box. The outside has been repainted, and a new handle and replacement glass are being sourced. Ideas for using the space are being sought. CK thanked Nick Essex and Lee Pratt for their endeavours.

## Reports

**PCSO:** it was reported that things are generally quiet, and that Matt Taylor is currently mentoring another PCSO who will replace him. CK felt the PCSO had been a good visual deterrent.

**Lights:** Winston Close light situation not yet resolved. A concrete column light in Watery Lane had allegedly been demolished by an Amazon van driver. Clerk had instructed Aylesbury Mains to make safe and replace with an LED light on a modern column.

**Roads and pavements:** Hillside Rd and Furnace Lane are in very poor condition. Heyford Lane will be subject to both closures and traffic controls due to strengthening of the river bridge. The situation has been unclear with a lack of information.

**The Green /Play Area:** Multiple problems have been caused by Gigaclear during cable installation. Quote for £3305 from Playground Safety accepted for urgent remedial work on wet pour surfaces identified as trip hazards, and other issues identified in the annual report.

CT thanked the Guglielmi family for allowing him to use their water and electricity supply when cleaning the War Memorial.

**Trees:** Coronation Ave work in progress. The working party for tree planting has met. The buried watercourse under the Green has been identified. A report will be given to the September meeting.

**Allotments:** 3 on waiting list. Hedge needs cutting. DM has asked that this be done sensitively with regards to insects and biodiversity.

**Footpaths:** Footpath between Church Lane and the river felt to be in poor condition. An accident had recently occurred. KS2 between Manor Park and the river bridge will be closed during the bridge strengthening works.

**Youth Club:** All internal maintenance work has been done in preparation for the re-opening in September.

**Defibrillators:** In working order. New batteries awaited

**Impending Closure of Post Office:** Much concern had been expressed by residents and it was felt that a closure would be a major loss to the community. Clerk to write to One Stop/Tesco. The Chair felt that there were people in the village who had had success in business and wondered whether an alternative site could be found. This would not be easily achieved.

**Litter:** The Linkman has asked me to draw attention to a problem he has been having. Council is well aware that many residents play their part in keeping the Green and other areas of the village free of litter and is very grateful to them for that. The Linkman litter picks the Green on a regular basis and empties the litter bins into a large bin for collection by Waste services. This is a straightforward exercise unless residents or others choose to load the litter bins or the main bin with domestic waste. This happens regularly and lately has been happening to the point that he cannot get any Green litter into the main bin. This means he can't empty the litter bins and build ups occur.

If it is you who are loading up any of the bins with domestic rubbish – please desist. One person has been persuaded not to put large quantities of beer cans from home into the bins, and we hope to identify others who are misusing the bins on a regular basis.

The June meeting of the Parish Council took place on June 7th at the Baptist Church Rooms, with a very limited agenda. Council was placed in a curious position concerning this. The legislation to allow council meetings to take place online ran out on May 6th. All in the sector expected it to be extended – but it wasn't. Thereby making remote/online meetings unlawful despite the continuing Covid emergency.

The Parish Council therefore decided to follow the advice of the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, and to hold a short, limited agenda meeting. The meeting accepted the report of the Internal Auditor and her recommendations – the two sections of the Annual General Return were then filled in for the Clerk to send them to the External Auditor. PKF Littlejohn.



**Election:** Subsequent to the Election the Parish Council is now 3 members short of its full quota of 11. 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).

**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/>

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/>

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 Monday Aug 2nd Planning and Finance only. Monday Sept 6th. Full meeting.

<b>Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.</b>	
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.
N. Haynes, 30, Weedon Rd, Nether Heyford Tel. 01327 340167	Tree Warden, Planning. Joint Burial Board,
D. Musson. davemusson073@gmail.com	Footpaths.
C Thomas	
A. Wallace. 5, Western Avenue, Nether Heyford. NN7 3NQ. andrew.wallace8765@gmail.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 August

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Benefice and Partnership Communion Service at Flore Church
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service for the whole Benefice at Heyford
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service for the whole Benefice at Brockhall
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service for the whole Benefice at Flore
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service for the whole Benefice at Upper Stowe

**August Services** – During the summer we shall be holding just one service each Sunday morning and moving around the benefice. I do hope that everyone who is not on holiday will also move around with us. The services will all be at 10am.

**Midweek Services** of Morning Prayer are held on Wednesdays, 9.30am via telephone conference call (not 4<sup>th</sup> August) and Fridays via Zoom at 9:00am. Details from The Rector.

During **August**, we are praying for Rolf Crescent, Western Avenue and South View in Heyford; Chapel Lane and The Green in Flore; The Manor in Church Stowe and The Gate House and The Old Dairy in Brockhall.

## Services for September

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	First Sunday informal worship at Flore Church
	06:00 pm	Informal worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Upper Stowe
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Heyford Church – all welcome
	06:00 pm	Harvest Service at Upper Stowe
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church – all welcome
	04:00 pm	Café Church Harvest Service at Heyford Church

**Midweek Services of Morning Prayer are held on Wednesdays, 9.30am via telephone conference call (not 1<sup>st</sup> Sept) and Fridays via Zoom at 9:00am. Details from The Rector.**

During September we shall be praying for people living in Furnace Lane here in Heyford, the High Street, including the shops and the Millennium Hall in Flore, The Old Dairy Farm in Upper Stowe and the outlying farms around Stowe and the Mews Houses in Brockhall.

## 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

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are on the eve of our so-called 'Freedom Day' when the last legal Covid restrictions on life in England will be lifted. Thereafter, we'll be responsible for our own actions and behaviours as we 'learn to live with the virus'. For life with Covid will continue; the pandemic is not yet over. As a nation, as communities, as families and individuals, we will inevitably face fresh challenges ahead.

I wonder how you are feeling at this crucial moment in our national – indeed our global - journey with the coronavirus? Are you looking back, reflecting on the tough times of lockdown? Or are you looking forward to the coming weeks of the summer with hope and expectation? Are you concerned and anxious, especially in light of the rising numbers of infections? Or are you desperate to get out and about to meet family, friends, church members and fellow sports fans? I'm sure that we will all find a place on that spectrum from anxiety to anticipation and will need to find a way of living which respects where others are on it, continuing to do all we can to look after ourselves and one another.

I've been reflecting on the impending change to the way we live through the first eight verses of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, which begin, "*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...*" The government has decided this is the time to take a big step towards the next normal. After the long, dark months of lockdown, with their times to weep and mourn, perhaps we can look forward to times to embrace, to dance, to laugh. Verse 15 of Chapter 3 is strange but reassuring: "*That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by*". It reminds us that there is nothing about the past, the present or the future that is out of God's sight, or beyond God's knowledge. As we remember what has gone on in recent months, God can bring healing for the past. As we reflect on where we are now, and how we are feeling, God can bring comfort. And as we look forward, as we carefully emerge from all the restrictions, as we begin to recover, God brings hope for the future.

As always, at this time of year, with the school summer holidays now upon us, I pray that you will all find time for rest and refreshment, and that you stay safe and keep well in the weeks ahead.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev Stephen (tel 01327 344436)*



## Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services will continue in the school room currently to allow social distancing and mask wearing is requested as we continue to be cautious.

### Services for August / September

August 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:30am	Worship led by Les Britten
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Worship led by Martin Buckby
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Worship led by Wendy Manley
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30am	Worship led by Clive Leakey
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Worship led by Les Britten
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Worship led by Clive Leakey
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Worship led by Tony Brown
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

**Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2pm** The First Wednesday Group recommences with "Graham entertains", the 34<sup>th</sup> birthday afternoon with Graham Kinnersly.

**All welcome**

## **Church of St Peter and St Paul, Heyford**

Some events we are planning to hold during August and September  
(all being well!!!)

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August and

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September

### ***Coffee Mornings***

In the Church Rooms 10.30-12noon

Everybody welcome for a cuppa, cake, and a chat

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September

### ***Church Fete***

In the Rectory Garden 2-4pm

Cream Teas, Cake Stall, Tombola, other stalls etc

Plus, **Free**, children's activities

Come and have a fun afternoon and help raise funds for your  
village church

*More details of these, and other events, will be on the Village  
notice boards and Facebook page nearer the time*

*Thanks for your support*



## Your Scout Group needs you!

Heyford Scout Group has been running for nearly eighty years and this year also sees the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beavers Section. We've seen generations of young people through the Group and want to make sure that continues. Sadly, the pandemic has meant the Group has remained non-operational this last year or so in order to protect young people and leaders alike, but we are planning to return to activities in September.

Also, sadly during this period both Sally and Ian have stood down as leaders. Running an effective and vibrant Scout Group depends on the adult volunteers who give their time as Section Leaders and as members of the committee. At this point in time, as a minimum we need a new Scout Leader, and we need a new committee chair. At some point we'd also really like someone to take on the role of Group Scout Leader, but that would be subject to experience and training.

We'd obviously welcome additional leaders and committee members as well. Some of us in the Group have been involved for decades and it really is time for a new generation to step in with new ideas and new energy!!

Previous Scouting experience would be a bonus, but what really matters is the desire to work with young people. The Scout Association offers extensive training for both experienced leaders and those new to Scouting.

If you are interested or know someone who might be please contact any of the below for an informal chat.

### Section Leaders

Beavers: Clare Webb - [clarewebb107@gmail.com](mailto:clarewebb107@gmail.com)

Cubs: Steve Bird - [steve.bird35@outlook.com](mailto:steve.bird35@outlook.com)

Scouts: Steve Rayner (interim) - [stephen.rayner1313@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.rayner1313@gmail.com)

### Committee

Chair: Tony Williams (interim) – [anthony.k.williams@talk21.com](mailto:anthony.k.williams@talk21.com)

Secretary: Shirley Waterhouse - [shirley.waterhouse@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:shirley.waterhouse@tiscali.co.uk)

Treasurer: Nick Sands - [nick\\_sands2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nick_sands2003@yahoo.co.uk)



# FLOWER T POT

## Original Art

They wouldn't let me do art at school,' 'The art teacher said I wasn't weird enough to be an artist' ..... do these statements sound familiar?

WELL NO LONGER. Flower T Pot, the new art group in Heyford has been created to encourage anyone who has an interest in fulfilling their artistic ambitions and achieve their dreams.

Experienced amateurs and complete beginners leave the world behind and come together for three hours of complete bliss to satisfy their creative desires. This week the theme was 'Gorgeous Gardens' led by Andrea one of the leaders, who began the session explaining the importance of brushes and paper to achieve the best results when painting with watercolours.

Following a bit of practice of the many watercolour techniques we all set about planning our 'garden' painting. After a well deserved coffee and piece of home made cake ( this week was especially delightful being a 'Mary Berry' apple and lemon cake) we chattered, put the world to rights, then continued with our paintings.

The time flew by and before we knew it, it was time to pack up, but not before displaying our paintings to compare and admire our achievements. 'It's the highlight of my week' said one participant, 'yet again, a terrific week!'

Next week we are looking forward to Veneeta ( the other leader) exploring 'Pen and Wash' with us. Can't wait!

If you want to know more about Flower T Pot Original Art you can contact us via [flowertpotart@gmail.com](mailto:flowertpotart@gmail.com) or phone 07729105584/07716410344



# W A N T E D

Sponsors for Alwyne please



**Alwyne Wilson**

**is doing**

**A Tandem Sky Dive**

**on**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**in aid of**

**Nether Heyford Village Hall**

**and**

**The Prattler**

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Our Village Hall and Village Newspaper are two of the mainstays of our village. As a result of the pandemic they have both lost significant income. Please help me to raise some extra funds for them with your sponsorship.

**Sponsorship forms with Glen the Butcher  
With Faye at The Forrester's Arms  
Or contact Alwyne on 01327 340 803  
29 Church Lane, Nether Heyford NN7 3LQ  
Email [alwyne76@gmail.com](mailto:alwyne76@gmail.com)**



## NETHER HEYFORD GARAGE SALE

**Sunday**  
**19th September 2021**  
**10am - 4pm**

Maps available on the day in Nether  
Heyford village Hall - £1.00  
Refreshments also available  
**For more details tel: 07802 210440**  
**nvhvents@gmail.com**



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# **Astronomy on the Green**

If we look up at the night sky many of us are looking for familiar Asterisms (patterns of stars), the most well known of these is the Plough. An asterism is purely a recognisable shape of stars that form part of a constellation, they are handy guides to finding your way across the sky by 'star-hopping'. As many will know the two stars at the plough's tip are called 'the pointers' (Marek & Dubhe) and tracing a line from them across the sky will lead you to Polaris, the pole star around which the sky apparently rotates. Of course, it is the rotation of the earth that causes this effect.

## **August**

Gazing to the NNW at around 23:00 you will see the plough sitting unusually low; just above the handles of the plough lies M101. With a pair of binoculars you may be able to discriminate the Pinwheel Galaxy as a fuzzy spot (only the centre of the galaxy being resolved). That fuzzy spot is 27 million light years away.

## **Events**

Second week - Perseides shooting stars (peak nights of 12/13) debris of comet Swift-Tuttle slam into our atmosphere at around 180,000 MPH (do not worry the debris is the size of coffee granules) and burn up in a terminal flash. The display will centre on (and radiate from) the constellation Perseus, up to up to 100 meteors per hour is possible.

A good month to view the Eagle Nebula (M16) made famous by the Hubble's photography of the 'Pillars of Creation', in the constellation Serpens. (A good refractor telescope is needed).

## **September**

One of my favourite asterisms forms a noticeable 'W' in the sky and is in the constellation Cassiopeia, she sits in the edge of the Milky Way and contains both the Pacman Galaxy (yes shaped like the character from the game) and M52 Cluster. The second dip in the 'W' followed downwards will lead you to the splendid Andromeda Galaxy.

## **Events**

The Milky Way stretches across the sky from the SW to the NE, in the SE end the Great Rift lies (dark stellar dust) which one day will collapse under Gravity and create new stars, our old Galaxy is still active!

22<sup>nd</sup> Vernal Equinox – we travel towards the darker nights and winter skies.

## **Do you have an interest in Astronomy?**

I am currently considering setting up an Astronomy Group/Club in the village.

Plans are in the initial stages, if you are interested in joining, helping or supporting this please either email me [tony.boutle@protonmail.com](mailto:tony.boutle@protonmail.com) or phone me on 07415 352550.

At this point I mainly want to assess the level of interest.

Cheers & clear skies.

*Tony Boutle*

## Village Hall News

With the lifting in England, of most Covid-19 restrictions from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July – so called ‘Freedom Day’ - certain changes will be implemented in the hall. These can be found on our website: [www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org](http://www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org).

We are pleased to say that, with one exception – Cha Cha Chimps, who have moved elsewhere - we now have all our regular user groups back in the hall. In addition, we have a new group – Instrumazing – ‘committed to giving your child the best start in their musical journey.’ There may still be a few vacant slots in our bookings calendar so, if you would like to use the hall, you can ring our booking secretary on 01327 342 167.

We are looking forward to our two fundraising events in September:

**Tandem Sky Dive** by the chairman – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September – in aid of our Village Hall and the Prattler village newspaper, both of which help to make our community such a great place to live. This event will definitely be a one-off so don't miss your opportunity to support the village hall and the Prattler – information on how to sponsor Alwyne appears elsewhere in this edition.

**Garage Sale** – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 4pm. Information is elsewhere in the Prattler. Bookings are coming in so if you want to be included, please let us know on 07802 210 440 or email [nhvhevents@gmail.com](mailto:nhvhevents@gmail.com).

Also in September we are holding our **Annual General Meeting** : Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> at 11am, followed by drinks and nibbles. Come along and join us, and see how smart our village hall now looks, following its refurbishment and redecoration. Enjoy the nibbles too.

*Alwyne Wilson*  
01327 340 803

## View from the Wildlife Patch

**“There is no pathway to tackling climate change that does not involve the recovery of nature. It is our most powerful asset. When we invest our time and resources in helping nature recover, we are helping reverse biodiversity loss, we are sequestering carbon emissions, and in the right circumstances we are helping reduce flood risk, retain water in dry seasons and reducing temperatures”.**

The above is a quote from this recent update from our District Council.

<https://paper.dropbox.com/doc/Plant-for-our-Planet--BO5j3qfMxID41GEFjmDm48WrAg-YiCOyCaSeRnVieLPG6kNW>

Really, much of what is recommended is no more than we have been doing since the inception of the Wildlife Patch and in some cases in our own gardens.

In our own attempts at turning a patch of lawn into a “meadow” Pauline and myself have been encouraged by a huge increase in insects such as Bees, Hoverflies, Moths and more, and in only in one season. Of course we have been doing this on the Wildlife patch right from the start and now have some experience in this field. A wildlife meadow can be a square yard to tens of acres.

We have found the choosing the right seed mixture is important. I recommend looking at the “Emorsgate Seeds” website for this. They give good advice on sowing etc. including seed rates and list several Meadow Mixtures for different situations. It is fun to look through the choices before making a decision.. They also give good advice on getting the best results. Our experience has shown these seeds are best sown in Late Summer or Early Autumn after the danger of drying out has passed.

Ground to be seeded needs to be cleared of deep rooted perennials. From experience-: Creeping Thistle, Coltsfoot, Hedge Convolvulus (with the large white flowers) and Maretail are the main culprits in this area, Don't worry about perennial grasses, they will be sorted by Yellow Rattle. The remaining vegetation needs to be planed off to ground level -I use a strimmer for this– aim for at least 50% of bare earth-. Again experience has shown the more bare earth the better the result.

Next scarify the ground with a rake or cultivator. I find a lawn rake does a good job if you rake it over several times in different directions. You don't need deep tilth, wild seeds don't need to be covered.

When that is done it is time to sow the seed. It is important to sow at an even rate with all species evenly distributed. I find it best to mix the seed with dry building sand. An old Wok is a good container to sow from. Distribute by scattering with finger and thumb is how the old farmers sowed seed. Try to measure it so you go over the ground several times in different directions to give best coverage.

Next, flatten the ground. By foot if the patch is small enough as in most gardens. A garden roller will be useful for a bigger patch. Again go over two or three times from different directions. That's it, you've done it. Now let nature take its course.

Don't be tempted to cut it till next summer when the seeds are ripening. Try to use a brush cutter or scythe. These are less destructive to insects living in the meadow. Leave the grass to dry then collect it with a fork to put somewhere where it will shelter other wildlife.

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*Dave Musson*

## **The Late Delia (Dee) Hillyard**

Thank you so much, to so many people from the village, for the support, phone calls, cards, flowers etc following Mum's passing on February 19th. The total raised, in her memory, for the Northamptonshire and Warwickshire Air Ambulance, was £712.50.

*Sheena, Mark, Paul and Sara and families*

## **Keith Clarke**

The family would like to express their sincere thanks for all the cards, kind words and messages after Keith passed away on the 16th June aged 92 years.

We also very much appreciate the support from Heyford Bowls Club and for the touching tribute at Northampton Crematorium.

*Brenda, Elaine and Trevor*

**Dear Diary,**

**August 1961**

The past year has been a real change for me. I left school in July last year and started work at The Express Lift Company the following week. I chose there mainly because it's on our bus route. Some of my other girlfriends chose hairdressing, nursing and dressmaking. I catch the No. 305 bus at 8:20 am, outside the Foresters Arms, sit upstairs with my cousin Ken and enjoy the ride through Bugbrooke and Kislingbury. You can only smoke upstairs.

The bus arrives in the village with "Lower Heyford" on the front, then, after it's turned round outside the shop, the conductor changes it to "Northampton". As Heyford is the terminus and I'm usually early, I can sit and watch people coming round the green at a leisurely pace, to catch the bus. One day the conductor will ring the bell and the bus will go off without them. If Mr. Faulkner is the driver, he knows everybody because he lives here. He sometimes teases them by starting up the engine.

Dad bought me a season bus ticket so that I can use it at weekends as well, plus it's cheaper that way. I am working in the Personnel department which means I get to meet so many people, it's great. I've started a part-time course at the Technical college for Shorthand & Typing, one afternoon and one evening which the company are paying for.

Mum bought me some new clothes to start work. Up to then I'd lived in socks and flat shoes, so she got me stockings, a suspender belt and some shoes with little heels, with two new skirts, two new blouses and a Duster coat, so I'm all set now until I start earning enough to buy my own.

I was very nervous on my first day at work. I had to report to the Commissionaire at the front gate and someone came to fetch me. The place was huge and quite frightening but now that I've been there a few months, I'm more familiar with the offices and the factory, but I still worry I'll lose my way, especially after I've been to the canteen.

There's a new programme called Coronation Street on TV. In it is a pub called The Rovers Return which is run by Annie Walker, a little corner shop run by Florrie Lindley, and a Mission Hall run by Ena Sharples. There's a family called Barlow and a lady called Elsie Tanner who has a son just out of prison. It all happens in this lively Manchester 'soap'. I like the adverts between the shows as well, "The Esso Sign means Happy Motoring" and "Put a Tiger in Your Tank".

I've had two boyfriends since I started work. The first had a motorbike which I thought was great but mum was concerned because we didn't wear crash helmets, well nobody does, do they? He's gone. The second boy took me to see The Cobblers play one Saturday afternoon, went through the turnstile and left me to pay for myself. He's gone as well.

I wish I hadn't started smoking but when you sit on a bus to town upstairs and everybody else is doing it, you feel like joining in. I don't indulge at home or at work, only when I'm out although I might as well, as the pubs smell of smoke. Even mum and dad smoke which means that the ceiling turns yellow and has to be painted every year.

Dad had us save all the Chronicle & Echo's for him to cover furniture when he painted the kitchen at Easter. I like this daily paper because it's all local news and the Situations Vacant pages are always full, giving details of jobs including hours of work and pay. Trouble is it's so big and hard to handle.

*Polly*

## **International Admiration for Nether Heyford**

In 2011-2012, Sallie Hunter came from Maine, USA, to Nether Heyford to teach at Bliss School on a one year exchange under the Fulbright Exchange Programme administered jointly by the British and US governments. Under the same programme, we had been to Maine in 1982-83 before we moved to Nether Heyford, and we found we had much in common with Sallie. Many of you would have met her, either as students, parents, neighbours, friends, etc. Last month Sallie was featured on the Maine Fulbright page in which she recorded her experience of living and working in Nether Heyford. Readers may be interested to read her account of her time here which they can do by clicking on the link below. We are delighted to tell you her experience was as positive as ours was when we had the privilege of participating in the same scheme and living & working in Maine.

Exchange programmes are a very powerful experience that can result in enduring friendships. We have kept in touch with good friends from our time in Maine; Sallie has been over to visit us on several occasions; and we have made return visits to Maine, most recently in October 2019 before the pandemic.

*Tony and Gillian Pont*

<https://maine.fulbrightchapters.org/2021/06/02/sallie-hunter/>





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## Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

I am pleased to say we are resuming our monthly meetings, which are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.45pm, in Nether Heyford Village Hall. Please come along and join us to relax and watch demonstrations by fully qualified NAFAS Demonstrators. Learn how to arrange and enjoy flowers and there is the opportunity to win one of the arrangements in the raffle at the end of the evening.

At our next meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August we will welcome Sharon Badger with her demonstration "The Midas Touch".

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September we look forward to Emma Remington with her demonstration "Tricks of the Trade".

Visitors are always welcome so why not come along for a relaxing evening.

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



## In Nether Heyford

In July we met as a 'face to face' group for the first time since lockdown. Due to an unexpected problem the venue was changed and thanks go to Deborah and Stephen for allowing us to use the Rectory garden. The weather was kind to us and it was so good to be able to see and chat to people without masks as we ate cakes and drank tea!

With covid's permission, August 5th sees Heyford WI ladies with plans to visit Lamport Hall, a beautiful Grade 1 Listed House which was built as a Tudor Manor and was the home of the Isham family from 1560 – 1976. It was developed by them over four centuries and in 1974 Sir Gyles Isham opened the Hall and Gardens to the public. He also established the Lamport Hall Trust to which he left the Hall and the running of this lovely house and its beautiful gardens. Terracotta figures were introduced into the garden in the 1840's and Lamport Hall is now credited with beginning the tradition of garden gnomes in the UK. In fact, Lamport is the home of the world's oldest garden gnome!!

We will be looking forward to September which will be our first indoor meeting since the start of lockdown. Our speaker will be former Judge, Chris Tickle, whose talk will be called 'You be the Judge' and sounds as if audience participation will be a feature of the evening. Anyone, lady or gentleman, who would like to join us will be very welcome.

The date - Thursday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the venue - the Village Hall, the time - 7.30pm and the cost £5, Nether Heyford WI is friendly group of ladies and, I promise you, not all of us spend all of our time in the kitchen making Jam and singing Jerusalem. Although we have varied interests we do all share a good sense of humour and would welcome any of you who are like minded to come and join us!

*Mary Rice*  
*Heyford Lodge*  
*01327 340101*

# Allotment News

## Vacant plots

We currently have no vacant allotments and at the time of writing this article for the Prattler there are three people on our waiting list. That is a situation we never thought we could achieve and an indication that there is a growing interest in people producing their own fruit and veg as well as getting some fresh air and exercise.

We aim to try and provide plot sizes to suit all levels of commitment and expertise, and so would-be allotmenters should not be daunted by the prospect of having to cultivate a huge tract of land! If you would like an allotment do contact us on one of the telephone numbers or email addresses below and we will add you to our waiting list. We are trying hard to ensure that all allotment plots are kept in reasonable order and that should a plot become vacant, it is quickly strimmed and covered to prevent the more pernicious weeds from taking over.

## Current state of plots

We currently have sixty seven allotments on the Watery Lane site and in the annual July “allotment check” the vast majority were in a good state of repair. Much credit must go to allotment holders for their hard work in making this happen. Our thanks also goes to those allotmenters who mow or strim around their own plots as well as helping out by also cutting the grass around neighbouring allotments. Every little helps. Especial thanks must go to Bill Corner, who regularly and voluntarily mows pathways and the orchard area.

## Resources

Over the course of the last six months, we have been able to distribute a wide range of donated resources to allotment holders and our very successful sharing Saturday in March saw us give away a lot of garden equipment. In addition, we have made available a wide range of tools, acquired from generous village folk. These are regularly borrowed and then returned to the large bucket by the community shed. There are of course occasions when things go AWOL so if anyone has borrowed one of our yard brooms and forgotten to return it – you now know where it lives!

Any other such pieces of equipment are always appreciated.

The Sharing Barrow, that can be found in the community picnic area, continues to be well used. Allotmenters are encouraged to add surplus plants or produce that they no longer require. It's good to share.

## Rubbish

We spent a good deal of time clearing rubbish from the allotments in the Spring and what was once a junk pile by the Watery Lane gate has now become a beautifully tended small allotment. What a transformation and well done to the new tenant in that spot.

Allotment holders are now taking responsibility for disposing of their own rubbish and, where appropriate, composting green waste. It is a free resource that can only benefit their plots and help the environment. If any allotmenters or villagers would like further advice on composting, don't hesitate to get in touch via the contacts at the foot of the newsletter.

### **Sheds**

It has been good to see more sheds appearing on the allotment site. They give the place a sense of permanence as well as offering their owners a space to store tools and shelter from the elements. Before erecting a shed, allotmenters are asked to seek permission from the Parish Council, to ensure the structure is appropriate.

### **Community Use**

It has been so inspiring to see a wide range of people using the community space on our allotments and along with our neighbours in the local area, they are helping keep the site safe and well cared for.

The community fruit area has been productive and the produce on offer – initially rhubarb, then strawberries and now raspberries, blackcurrants and gooseberries has been picked by allotmenters and villagers alike. That was always our aim. And to think that all the plants in that area came about as a result of donations or discards is even more satisfying.

The community flower patch is looking very colourful (again most plants have been donated) and we would encourage you all to come and enjoy, and help yourself to some cut flowers – just don't take them all. If you are able to put a can of water on the thirstier looking plants that would be a bonus. A can and a water cistern are nearby.

It still surprises me that so many people in the village are not aware of what has been achieved on the allotments in the last few years and those people who do venture to the site are amazed by what they find.

In August we look forward to welcoming the local garden club for their annual summer picnic.

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](mailto:lyndaeales@aol.com)

Mike Langrish - 28 Manor Park - 01327341390 - [langrish\\_heyford@hotmail.com](mailto:langrish_heyford@hotmail.com)

Good Growing.

*Mike Langrish*



## Heyford Garden Club

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

### **Zombie Greenfly**

Whilst checking our roses for greenfly earlier this year we noticed some odd small pinky-brown objects on the leaves. Inspection with a hand lens showed them to be aphids of some sort. Further investigation revealed that these were indeed greenfly but ones which had been attacked by a type of tiny wasp which lays its eggs in its victims which are then eaten by the wasp larvae. One macabre feature of this parasitism is that the behaviour of the greenfly is altered so that they wander away from their kin so that when the new wasps hatch out they are not all in the same place.

### **The year so far**

It's been an interesting year from the gardening point of view. The dry cold weather in April seems to have reduced the damage from slugs and snails to seedlings and young shoots. As a result our delphinium has produced a fine show for the first time in years. Aphids on the other hand have been more than usually troublesome this year. It's easy to panic when the roses are covered with greenfly but the various predators, ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies will reduce their numbers as the season progresses. Our sparrows also take a lot of aphids to feed their young; they spend hours combing the roses for them.

The cooler wetter weather in June and early July has meant that the growth of plants has been remarkable and I for one have been glad not to have to spend hours carting cans of water around.

Over several years I have been propagating box plants from cuttings which is an easy but slow process, and have some achieved some decent hedges. Or had; we noticed in July that there were some oddly coloured leaves on the bushes and closer inspection showed that blight has arrived. There is little that can be done about this, so all the plants will have to be removed and destroyed. I try to be optimistic and look on this as a new planting opportunity but it is a pity.

### **Things to do in August**

1. Deadhead flowering plants (and collect seed where possible)
2. Remove fruited canes from summer raspberries

### **Things to do in September**

1. Start planting spring bulbs (but NOT tulips; wait till November!)
2. Divide herbaceous perennials
3. Sow some winter salads (rocket, leafy mustards, lettuce etc)

*Mark Newstead*

# Nether Heyford Village Hall



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[www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk](http://www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk)

*Bring me sunshine  
In your smile  
Bring me laughter  
All the while  
In this world where we live  
There should be more happiness  
So much joy you can give  
To each brand new bright tomorrow*

From “**Bring me Sunshine**” as sung by Morecambe & Wise

I write this article on a beautiful summer’s day, a perfect day for a family and friends’ picnic on the village green, listening and singing to well-known and much-loved songs (including the one above). Sadly, the planned Summer Celebration concert was not to be! Disappointment all round, for Mary Rice who had arranged a lovely programme of music, the committee who had been organising the event, the choir ready to rehearse and perform, and last, but by no means least, the many village folk who had hoped to come along! Covid restrictions, still in place on 18<sup>th</sup> July meant that rehearsals haven’t been allowed and any audience could only total 30! Maybe next year ... and a “brand new bright tomorrow”? However, we now move on and look forward (Covid restrictions allowing), to the autumn season when rehearsals can resume, to the Heyford Singers Christmas concert, and Carols on the Green – scarves, gloves and torches instead of sunhats and picnic baskets.

I know that, like many other organisations, those who are part of Heyford Singers are desperate to get back together. Speaking to many of them during the past few months, their comments reflect my

**“5 reasons for joining a choir”** ..... so, let me offer them to you and maybe encourage you to think about joining us?

### **Belonging**

“I thoroughly enjoy belonging to the group; I have really missed it after so much time spent isolated during the past year”.

“I’ve made so many new friends and met people of all ages, different backgrounds’

“The choir is like a big, happy family, we care about each other.”

### **Confidence**

“So many people were told at school that they can’t sing. Being in a community choir lets you sing as part of a group, it’s so good for your self-confidence”

“I never expected to perform in front of an audience, but that experience is just wonderful!”

### **Well-being**

“Singing just makes me feel good”.

“On a cold, dark winter’s evening I turn out for a rehearsal, and return home with a spring in my step! It’s amazing how wonderful an evening’s singing together makes you feel!”

## Understanding music

"I am amazed that when we learn what seem to be different tunes, they can then fit together, to make something new. I realise that's what *harmony* is - like magic!"

"Getting out of your comfort zone, a phrase often bandied around, applies to learning new and different songs. It can be so rewarding"

## Physical workout

"A good sing is a wonderful workout for your lungs, warming up, deep breathing, and feeling good".

"Singing makes you stand up straighter and pull those muscles in. It helps tone your body"

It has been said, by many in the medical profession. that "If we could engage more people in singing, we would have a healthier nation".

## So, what are you waiting for?

At 7.30pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September (subject to current guidelines) Heyford Singers are planning an Opening Evening in the village hall. We invite you to come and join us for the evening, realise how good it makes you feel, and receive a really warm welcome !

*Jill Langrish*

If you would like to find out more about Heyford Singers please look at our website  
[www.heyfordsingers.org](http://www.heyfordsingers.org)

## 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](http://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.





## Heyford Cricket Club

Heyford Cricket Club are enjoying an excellent summer of cricket across the whole club. We've had a record number of Junior Cricketers at the club, with 120 members ages 13 and under (which looks like good news for the future). Friday evenings have been packed out with children and parents enjoying the outdoors and either being introduced to cricket or developing their game. With the BBQ and bar available, we made sure no-one went hungry or thirsty. All this was thanks to Ed Rogers and a great team of volunteer coaches and helpers throughout.

The three Adult sides have fared well also, with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI enjoying their first full seasons in Divisions Two and Seven respectively, competing towards the top half of the league. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, in their first full season are also doing well, and are pushing towards the top of league. Finding 33 willing players each week hasn't gone without its challenges, but we've managed to get and have been delighted to welcome some new players too. Congratulations to James Kirk (125) and Connor Robson (109) for becoming club centurions for the first time, and we have six players picking 5-wicket hauls, notably 16-year-old Max Mcleod (5-31) taking his first senior 5fer.

As restrictions were lifted deep into the season, our annual events such as the Golf Day and Family Fun Day will be put on hold for another 12 months, but we plan for them to come back bigger and better than ever next year. We are however delighted to be able to host our Sponsors and Patrons Day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August, this is a day where invite those the support the club financially to join the 1<sup>st</sup> XI for a Cricket Tea and to thank them formally. Their support goes a long way in helping us to 'get the game on' for adults and youngsters alike. Interested in getting involved at the Heyford CC, drop us a line at

**[heyfordcricket@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heyfordcricket@hotmail.co.uk)**

Also, plans are now afoot for the Annual Dinner in November. Our annual (last year excluded) event is key date in the calendar to socialise as a whole club and celebrate the up and downs of the season, and we always like to welcome all players, members and supporters past and present.

As always, the hubs of information are our website  
**<https://heyfordcc.teamapp.com/>** or our Facebook page.

*Rob Pardon - chairman*  
**[heyfordcricket@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heyfordcricket@hotmail.co.uk)**

## ***PLEASE SPONSOR EMMA'S SCARY***




Visually impaired Emma Richardson is at it again, raising funds for the local community. This September Emma is braving a "Wing Walk" and 50% of monies raised will go to Weedon Surgery following their fantastic response with vaccinations to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The remaining 50% will go to Nether Heyford Baptist Church following the enforced lockdown of the church and room used for community activities during the last year.

Emma would be grateful for your support and has set up a go fund page at <http://gofund.me/e2c8e4a9>.

If you prefer please send monies in an envelope to:

Emma, C/O 3A watery Lane, Nether Heyford NN73LN

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## ***OPEN EVENING***

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**Nether Heyford Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**If you would like to join us as a singer, or just to find out what we're all about, please come along; we'll make you very welcome.**

**No previous singing experience is required, you don't need to read music and you will not be asked to audition or to sing solo - just join in and have fun.**

**We're looking for men (Tenor or Bass) and ladies (Alto or Soprano) of all ages. If you're not sure which section you'd fit in just come along and try it out.**

**We rehearse on alternate Thursdays and Fridays from 7.30 to 9.30pm and you'll be singing in our Christmas Concert in December!!**

**For more info visit [www.heyfordsingers.org](http://www.heyfordsingers.org)**

**Or telephone Mary Rice on 01327 340101**

## Heyford Bowls Club

There is only one word to describe Heyford Bowls Club's performance in the Manfield Cup – disastrous!! All four rinks lost, which put us in the bottom three of the twenty-seven competing teams. In fairness, two of our rinks played Earls Barton – who won the competition – and Corby Forest, who finished third. But that does not excuse the other two rinks. End of term report – must do better next year.

Moving on.

After eight games in the Monday Night League, we have won six and lost two, and lie in third place in the league table. Realistically in order to be promoted we need to go through the rest of the season undefeated, which is a challenging task. Nevertheless, we will be giving it a go.

Our home games for the rest of the season are: -

### August

Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Byfield Ladies	6.30
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	St Crispin	6.30
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Woodford Halse Ladies	6.30
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Cogenhoe	2.00
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Daventry Tigers	6.30
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Kislingbury	6.30
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Golden Horse	2.00
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	West Haddon	6.30

### September

Saturday/Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup>	Finals Day	2.00
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Gala Day	2.00

We still have not decided the date for our AGM 2020. What we have decided is that we are not going to have two AGMs this year; Instead we are going to have two AGMs on the same night; a sort of BOGOFF.

Keep safe, keep strong, and keep in touch.

*Geoff Allen*  
349909

## Flood Watch

Climate change is top of the news agenda with temperatures reaching over 50 degrees Celsius in the USA and over 3 months rainfall in 1 day causing major flooding across Europe. The June Climate Change Committee report prediction to 2080 indicates temperatures rising by nearly 5 degrees compared with the 2 degree target and a 15 to 35% increase in flooding, indicating that the UK is totally unprepared. In spite of these predictions the Government continues to ease building restrictions in its attempt to meet its target for new build homes. Regretfully recent history shows that over 200,000 homes were built in floodplain, zone 3, in the last 10 years with 1 in 5 being at risk of flooding within a 10 year period. Given that 1 in 200 years is required of new build properties and the projected increase of flood risk the E/A, Local Councils and the Government need to reach a consensus agreement on a way forward.

Locally the weather has shown significant improvement since the May Bank holiday with temperatures in the mid 20s up to the middle of June, when temperatures dropped back into the mid teens. However July started with temperature again rising above 20 degrees reaching a peak of 30 degrees on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Although the local area missed the heavy rainfall and thunder storms experienced in the S and SE of England the unstable jet stream continues to cause unstable conditions. As a result longer term weather forecasts are becoming less reliable.

Rainfall across the area remains variable as local cloudbursts although heavy at times remain brief. Total annual rainfall to the end of June was almost average but improvements through July indicates that the month end result will show about 50% of a normal July average.

The long expected partial solar eclipse on 10<sup>th</sup> June was a major disappointment due to heavy cloud cover. Fortunately during brief breaks in the cloud at 10.45 am and 11.30 am allowed a clear sighting of the event. By use of a mirror to reflect the sun's image onto a matt black card the eclipse was clearly visible together with a high resolution detail of the sun's surface. Clearly more northerly areas of the UK witnessed a greater degree of coverage of the solar disc.

Now that the longest day, 21<sup>st</sup> June has passed, the length of daylight hours will progressively shorten. By the end of August daylight hours will reduce by 3 hours 7 minutes and a further reduction of 1 hour will occur by the end of September. The long term weather predictions for the remainder of July/ August/September are currently showing that from 24<sup>th</sup> July to first week in September will remain around 20 degrees, then gradually fall to 10 degrees by the end of September.

*J. Arnold.*



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# THE PRATTLER

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