



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

March 2022

Issue No. 447



Cover Photo: An early photo of Bliss School

Heyford School had a uniform The blazers had a school badge on the top pocket which was a blazing torch motif.

Sports days were held, as they are now, on the Village Green, but we also sent representatives to a county sports day which was held at the sports field of Daventry Grammar School. Swimming lessons were also on the agenda, and this meant an afternoon out on a Yorks coach to the Midsummer Meadow swimming baths, which sadly disappeared a long time ago, although the water was never that warm. A lot of people owe their swimming prowess to those days.

The headmaster at that time was Mr Woods who was quite strict, and if he found any of his class out on the streets after a certain time he would send them home saying that they needed to be at their best to do justice to their lessons the next day.

Gardening was also part of the school day and the school gardens were found in different places, firstly on the Bugbrooke Road, then in the jitty near to the new school house, and then in the garden behind the school itself.

(Taken from The Story of Heyford – Vol. 4 by Ken Garrett)

Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
Parties, Weddings, Business
Meetings etc. Modern facilities,
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Bookings: nhvhbookings@gmail.com

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167



The February 7th, 2022, Parish Council meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms.

Public Participation: Mr Andrews reported that nothing further had been heard regarding the enquiry on the former Wickes depot. He felt that the tree planting and the bund opposite his house were completely inadequate in terms of noise abatement.

Reports

The new PCSO is felt to have made a good start and is frequently visible around the village.

Lights. Clerk to chase up maintenance company as lights were not being repaired. He has subsequently been told that there is a long waiting time for some parts. Clerk warned that there could be a dramatic increase in the cost of street lighting, which had not been anticipated. The two-year contract was nearly at an end.

Roads and pavement. The Mosaic by river needs restoration. Rescued from riverbank by Jason Kelly and Jez Wilson after vandalism. Tom Dodd has volunteered to repair the damaged mosaic sections. CK will take possession of the mosaic this week and supervise the restoration. It had been suggested that the mosaic be relocated to help protect it from further vandalism, while maintaining it as part of the project it came from – “The Spirit of the Valley.” The memorial green area where the Luddle passes under the road was felt the most likely suitable location.

The Green / Play Area. An early grass cut had taken place and was felt to have been worthwhile and well done. Council decided to turn down a request to allow metal detecting on the Green. There was a move for a memorial for Major Geoff Thorneycroft. Council felt that a bench or a tree with a plaque would be most appropriate.

Playing Fields. LE reported that the football club were struggling to find volunteers. The PFA feel that a larger sign would be useful. Council had no objection provided it was at PFA's expense.

Trees. Memorial Green Oak had been damaged by recent high winds. Tree surgeon to check state of tree. DM reported that 5 trees had been planted in Coronation Row, with more being grown on at the allotments for future planting. It was hoped that disease resistant Elms might be re-introduced.

Allotments. LE reported that there were 6 vacant plots, and that 70% of due rents had been collected.

Youth Club. LD reported that everything was going well, except that there had been some issues with bullying. The school had been consulted. It was hoped that the problem had been resolved.

Canal. DM reported the paths muddy; and despite further reporting the issue, no work had been done on the damaged bridge brickworks.

Planning

Land behind Denbrook issues. It was reported that a wooden fence had been erected around the property rather than the brick wall stipulated in the planning conditions. Since WNC seemed unwilling or unable to enforce their own Planning regulations or stipulations some Councillors expressed concerns as to the fitness for purpose of WNC's Planning Committee, regulations, and enforcement; as did residents.

There was a debate about the necessity to pollard the Limes, and whether they should all be done at once. AW felt that pollarded Limes looked awful and that the practice was unnecessary. However, it was felt that the Limes opposite One Stop were affecting overhead wires and blocking streetlights, and trees at the top of the Green blocked off light to the houses.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Events for 4-day bank Holiday June 2 – 5th. Council approved use of the Green and discussed Council support. A committee headed by the Village Hall Committee, had tabled a list of events to include a fete on the Saturday.

It was Resolved that Council to contribute £500 to the Jubilee events, with the proviso that it be used on an event that benefitted the whole village, rather than be used to defray fete expenses.

Speed Cameras – VAS. Two systems are being considered, VAS & SID. Battery operated, and mains powered. Battery operated units require the batteries to be maintained. Cost approx. £2800. Mains power necessitated extra costs for fitting, and opening the road for wiring etc costing about £3000 + per unit. Limited funding is available from Northants Police and is being applied for. Further information being sought. It is hoped that the system will be mobile.

Path verges on Bugbrooke Rd/Green. CK felt that it would need the paths to be re-surfaced in order to alleviate the issue of the paths gradually becoming grown over. In the past Highways had a programme of scraping/edging pathways, but this seemed a thing of the past. Clerk to ask a contractor whether he would look at it.

Parish Council meetings in 2022 will be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and will start at 19.30. The next one is on Monday March 10th.

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. Please do not report to Balfour Beatty as they deal only with major Highway lights – i.e., motorway, A5 and A45.

Roadworks locally & nationally can be seen on this site:

<http://streetworks.org.uk/live-traffic-works-map/>

The Prattler

The Prattler is run by an active voluntary committee comprising of Sue Boutle, Christine Watts, Vicki Hamblin, Jez Wilson, Nick Essex, Richard Musson and Mary Rice. If you would like to submit articles or have any suggestions for future issues, please get in touch.

The Newspaper is supported by donations from the Parish Council, the Parish Church, the Baptist Church, Heyford W.I., Heyford Garden Club, Heyford Singers, the Bowls Club, the Village Hall and Heyford Picturedrome as well as the advertisers.

Thanks are also due to the volunteers who distribute it every month. It is all very much appreciated.

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
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Cllr Karen Cooper - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD www.westnorthants.gov.uk Karen.cooper@westnorthants.gov.uk Tel: 07753 638180	Conservative Councillor for Bugbrooke Ward – Lead Member for Nether Heyford, Blisworth & Gayton

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Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for March 2022

Wednesday 2 nd	7:30 pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday at Flore Church
Sunday 6 th	8:00 am	BCP Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	Informal First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Informal Evening Worship at Heyford
Sunday 13 th	10:00 am	Benefice Communion Service at Brockhall
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 20 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Morning Worship (Holy Communion) at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 27 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Brockhall
	10:00 am	United Mothering Sunday Coffee Church at Flore Chapel
	10:00 am	Informal Worship at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church and APCM at Heyford

Midweek Communions are held Thursdays, 10am at Flore – all welcome.

Midweek Services are held weekly on Wednesdays, 9.30am via Conference Call and Fridays, 9:00am via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for details of how you can join these services.

The Streets we shall be praying for during March are: Close Rd, The Pound and The Peak in Heyford, The Avenue and The Glebe in Flore, The Old Dairy Farm in Upper Stowe and the outlying farms around Stowe and the Mews Houses in Brockhall.

Dear Friends

As I write this letter, the sun is streaming through my study window, snowdrops and aconites brighten up different parts of the rectory garden, and daffodils are blooming outside the dining room. Even in the first half of February, the signs and the hope of spring abound. Hope is a crucial part of living. Without it, we lose courage, we lose any sense of purpose. 'Hope is like salt in sea water', writes Alison Dauntton-Fear, 'that gives us buoyancy and refuses to let us sink'. In the midst of difficulty, such as the pandemic, we hope for deliverance and relief. In tough times, we hope for better things to come. When ill, we hope for recovery and healing. In the darkest nights of our experience, we hope for the dawn and a new day. In the fiercest storms, we hope for the sunshine and the rainbow. And in the cold and dark of winter, we hope for the spring.

Hope is powerful. It keeps us looking forward, rather than dwelling on the past. Alison Dauntton-Fear relates the story of a Japanese Christian, returning to Hiroshima to look for his family, a few days after the dropping of the first atom bomb. Finding the garden of the house where they lived, he surveyed the utter devastation. Surrounded by death and desolation he wondered how people could ever hope to rebuild their lives. Then, staring at the ground, he noticed the burned root of a banana tree, and there, a small green shoot peeping through the soil. 'It reminded me', the man wrote, 'of the creative, vital power which had fought the destructive force of the atom bomb for these ten days, and had already broken through the burned earth. It had been working under the ground while we were in despair. I heard the words of Christ, "If God so clothes the grass of the field... shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" I came to Hiroshima in despair but I left in hope'.

If you like to reflect more on hope, we are running a three session Lent course entitle 'Hope Explored' via Zoom on Saturdays 26th March, 2nd April and 9th April. Please get in touch if you'd like to join us. I leave you this month with the words of St Paul, *'I pray that God, the source of all hope, will infuse your lives with an abundance of joy and peace in the midst of your faith so that your hope will overflow through the power of the Holy Spirit'* (Romans 15:13, The Voice).

Yours in Christ,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for March 2022

March 6 th	10:30 am	worship led by Clive Leakey
March 13 th	10:30 am	worship led by Alan Pope
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service recommences today led by Martin Buckby with tea and cakes as usual
March 20 th	10:30 am	worship led by Les Britten
March 27 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

Events

March 14 th	10am	Church AGM
March 19 th	10am to 12md	Coffee morning in aid of church funds.

All welcome

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.

**The Church of St Peter & St Paul,
Nether Heyford**

Church Coffee Morning

**Saturday
19th March,
10:30AM -
12:00 Noon**



In The Church

**Everyone welcome for a cuppa, cake
and a chat.**

Freda Bramhill (1938-2022)

I am sad to report that Freda has passed away. Many of you may not remember her because she was shielding for last few years but, those who have lived in the village for some time, will remember her. When her husband, Jack, was alive, they were often to be seen walking their two cavalier dogs around the village.

Freda was a Special Needs teacher who worked at the Grange School in Daventry before moving to Campion School. After her retirement, she continued to support young people excluded from school. Many fond memories of her from both students and staff have been shared on the Campions 50th (2017) Facebook page. Her 'Beech Babies' have even fonder memories of both her and Jack.

Freda was very keen on the Arts in all of its forms. She enjoyed ballet and was fortunate enough to see Rudolf Nureyev perform. Her musical interests ranged from opera, musicals and even rock music. At the age of 77 she met the group members of Halestorm and they were so impressed that someone of her age was a fan that they dedicated part of their performance that evening to her calling her Granstorm; this was picked up and reported in Kerrang. Freda was also a regular theatre goer both locally and in London.

Her Funeral is at 2pm on 21st March at the Counties Crematorium Milton Malsor.

Lynn Finn





Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

The February meeting featured our AGM, which was held via Zoom. Linda Hall has now taken over from Avril as our chairman. Avril had to chair the club during a difficult couple of years, we hope that the coming years will be less “interesting”.

Hopefully next month we shall be able to resume normal meetings in the Village Hall in which case on the 14th March we will be having a talk from Liz Taylor of the Woodland Trust who will tell us about “ancient and venerable trees”.

The evening will also feature our daffodil show The classes are:

1. Single coloured daffodil
 2. Bicolour daffodil
 3. Small flowered daffodil or narcissus
- each exhibit will require only one bloom.

Talking Rubbish

The announcement by W. Northants Council that from April we will have to pay for our green bins has given some cause for thought on the topic of garden rubbish. We already compost all the soft green stuff, so the bin is mainly used to get rid of prunings and perennial weed roots. Even so it is normally full for every collection. If we don't use the bin what are the alternatives? Bonfires are antisocial and taking the material to the tip would likely cost more in petrol than the fee to the Council. It is tempting to buy a garden shredder so that the shredded prunings could be added to our compost or used as a mulch, so that the cost might be offset a bit by not having to buy so many bags of compost from the garden centre. A simpler (and cheaper) method of disposal might be to put the prunings around shrubs to keep down weeds and, eventually, to rot down. However this will take a long time and we would quickly run out of space. Another possibility is a brush hedge: two wire netting fences close together with the prunings pushed between the fences, but we haven't room for a large enough hedge to be practical. All in all I think we shall have to pay up for now unless we can think of a practical alternative.

Some Things to do in March

1. plant early potatoes, onion sets, garlic, shallots and summer bulbs
2. top dress containers and pots with fresh compost
3. last chance to plant bare rooted shrubs and trees

Mark Newstead

Astronomy on the Green

The good news is that the 20th of March sees the Vernal (Spring) equinox, when day and night lengths are the same. Seven days later and we are back in BST and farewell to winter.

For the Astronomer the long nights going gives us less time to observe and the season of the Nebulae is passing. Now we approach the Galaxy season in our skies, so swings and roundabouts. In a way my hobby reminds me of fishing, new season – new tackle to catch our prey. We are preparing our scopes currently and looking to fill our keep nets.

We are as competitive as any hobbyists and the New Moon in March brings the opportunity to view all 101 Messier objects in one night. Just like a fishing competition the more you get, the better the recognition. This is one long night of observation. So am I signing up, well in a word, no – I do this for fun not additional stress!

So, I suggest one Messier object that is worth a look at with binoculars or a small telescope is the Beehive Cluster (Praesepe) know as a visual nebulous patch since ancient times near the centre of the constellation Cancer. To find this in the sky, look for the red star at the left shoulder of Orion, now look up to the left and you will see the two bright stars close together, Castor and Pollux (the heads of Gemini's twins) look down to the left and you will see Leo's bright star (Regulus). The Beehive is a misty patch halfway between Pollux and Regulus.

Now, as it turned out this was one of the first objects observed by Galileo and it is an open cluster of at least 1000 stars. This is 574 light years away and is a lovely sight in small optical instruments. You may notice that the larger stars are towards the centre of the cluster with stars of reduced size as you go outwards. This is the effect of mass segregation caused by kinetic energy rather than gravity, the lower mass stars are shifted away from the centre where the higher mass star congregate.

This is very obvious when looking at Globular Clusters, such as M53 in Coma Berenices but the cluster is not too spectacular in binoculars or a small telescope. If you want a look anyway, follow a line at the same angle down and left from Regulus and another line down and right from the first star on the handle of the Plough (Alkaid) M53 will be where the lines intersect.

This procedure is known as star hopping and is the celestial equivalent of the way people hopped from one town to the next on long journeys prior to Sat Nav (and yes town hopping often resulted in lost motorists (personal recollection)).

Clear Skies all!

Tony Boulle

Allotment News

Only a Few Plots Left

We have just completed the new plan for the allotments to reflect changes that have taken place over the winter, including a number of new allotmentees joining us. We extend a warm welcome to them all and hope that over the coming year they will find much pleasure (and good eating) from growing their own fruit and veg.

I am pleased to report that we have just four vacant allotments; three smaller plots (each measuring about 6m x 6m) and one larger plot (measuring 15m x 7m). They have all been covered with landscape fabric and it should therefore be relatively easy to start cultivating them – or simply rolling back the fabric and tackling a small section at a time. Annual rent for these plots ranges from between £5 and £20. That is remarkably good value.

If you are interested in acquiring an allotment contact Lynda Eales on 01327 341707 or at lyndaeales@aol.com

The Cost of Food

With news that the price of food, particularly fresh produce, is set to soar in the coming months why not invest some time and energy into growing your own? With a little bit of perseverance and practise it is amazing what can be grown in a short space of time. What is more, you are in control of what goes into the ground, into the plant and ultimately into your stomach!

I watched a TV news item several days ago in which the manager of large jam factory was trying to explain to a shopper, anxious about rising prices and household budgets, why items such as jam were rising so dramatically in price. He talked about the alarming cost of importing fruit, the cost of transporting goods to factories and then to shops. The question I asked myself, when this rather depressing item concluded, was why we were importing soft fruit when it grows wonderfully well in the UK and why we were logging up thousands of food miles when we could source so much fresh produce a short walk from our own doorstep? Tips of jam making to follow!

Community Saturdays

We plan to have a Community Saturday on 19th March, starting at 10.00 am. If you can join us we would be very grateful. A shed needs painting, tables and chairs need freshening up and there will always be a bit of weeding and planting to do. We might even stretch to some refreshments - and if enough people volunteer we can begin eating by 11.00!

Sharing

We will be holding another of our very successful sharing days on Saturday 5th March between 10.00am and 11.00am, when we will be offering allotment holders – free of charge – a range of allotment equipment and resources that had been given

to us. If any villagers have tools or garden equipment surplus to requirement do get in touch and we will add it to what we have on offer.

Security

As the lighter evenings approach and more people begin to get out and about, we would ask a small favour of everyone in the village. Please can you keep an eye open for any vandalism or suspicious behaviour around not only the allotments, but the village as whole. We live in a wonderful community and despite the antics of a very small minority we suffer little vandalism. That is down to all of us as good citizens. Our much missed friend Geoff Thorneycroft once said to me, as he wandered down to the playing field and stopped by our allotment for his obligatory chat, "You have to look for the best in people and if they are given the chance to shine then they will". Wise words from a wise man.

Keeping in Contact

If you would like to know more about the allotments in Heyford or anything in this article, please contact either Lynda Eales at lyndaeales@aol.com or on 01327 341707 or Mike Langrish at langrish_heyford@hotmail.com or on 01327 341390.

Good Gardening.

Mike Langrish

Heyford Spring Clean 2-3 April 2022

It's Back!

Once again, we are cleaning up the Heyfords in conjunction with the Great British Spring Clean. Clean a part of the village and make it litter-free. Last year, over 20 bags of litter were collected - lets see what we can do this year!

Please let us know if you are taking part and what road/area in the village you are litter picking on either by replying to the Prattler facebook post or emailing heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk.

We have some littler picks available if you wish to borrow one.



View from the Wildlife Patch

I am writing this in the aftermath of of “Storm Eunice” which battered and bruised our Wildlife Patch along with all surrounding countryside. I haven't seen what happened there yesterday but already one of the Elms that succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease has blown over.

Just a few days ago Mark suggested that due to its poor condition, we needed to remove it. I decided it best left upright as it had a bird box that had been claimed by a pair of Great Tits. These will now need to find a new nest site. I suspect this will be played out in many places following the current crop of storms. Birds nest in hollow trees and hollow trees are often vulnerable to wind damage.

We have already planted a disease resistant Elm to replace those lost. Elms are a native British Tree species which supported a huge number of other wildlife species. Then came Dutch Elm Disease in the late 60's. The result was a near 100% fatality of mature native Elms. Roots still survive which sprout and grow for around 10 years old before being cut down again by this disease.

After some research, Butterfly Conservation UK were found to be planting and supplying DED resistant elms. This resulted in Pauline and me travelling to Wiltshire to collect a number of small disease resistant elms. If these succeed, we will be able to take cuttings to repopulate the parish with Elms. It is one of these trees that is now planted in The Wildlife Patch

The frogs in our garden are now croaking every night. Pauline counted 16 on Thursday night. These will soon spawn. Last Autumn I saw a frog in the pond on The Patch. Hopefully this means that Frogs have hibernated in the pond and we will soon see Frogspawn there.

Last year, on The Patch, we had a good number of Dragonflies flying around the Wildlife Pond although I don't know how many species actually bred in this pond. A pond in our garden is a fraction of the size of the wildlife pond. Yet we saw 4 species of Dragonfly hatch from Nymphs that had grown up in the pond. We had only seen two species flying there previously.

There are quite a lot of jobs to do now on “The Patch”. There are small Briars scattered around that have grown from seed distributed by birds and mammals. These need to be uprooted before the whole patch becomes one big “Briar Patch”. At the same time the roadside hedge has grown well and is producing suckers that are attempting to take over. These also need to be dug up. This is a part of the natural process of all lowland ground which is constantly moving toward reproducing the ancient forest that was here before humans cut it down. Britain is now the least forested country in Europe with only 13.5% of land covered by woodland, This is made worse by the fact that only half of this is Native Woodland.

The rest is an artificially planted monoculture of forest, and of little value to wildlife with only a fraction of the carbon capture capability of our native Forests.

Dave Musson



FLOWER T POT

Original Art

"I stayed up all night to finish my painting" texted one of our members the other week "I just so enjoyed it, I couldn't stop." Crazy, but true. Our members are loving our weekly art class and look forward to showing off their art work on our 'WhatsApp' group as well as in person on a Thursday. We have such fun.

'Portraiture' is the main theme this month. We begin with what has become one of our favourite mediums, that of black and white charcoal. Last term our members just loved the simplicity of the smudgy line when they learnt how to draw the domestic cat.

This time around we will be exploring the techniques of layering and the significance of light and shade when we attempt a whole range of wildlife animals with Veneeta. We will then move on to soft pastels. Andrea, the other leader is an expert in this medium and back in December produced some wonderful pictures of ballet dancers, which we all attempted to replicate. This time the focus will address how skin tones can be effectively achieved in self portraits and drawings of a family member.

If you would like to join in the fun, come along. Our group is very social. There is a wonderful mixture of amateur and experienced people who all share a keen interest for all kinds of art, love a chat and enjoy a piece of homemade cake. We meet on a Thursday in the Baptist Rooms 10:00 till 1:00 and 6:30 till 9:30.

If you want to know more about Flower T Pot Original Art you can contact us via flowertpotart@gmail.com or phone 07729 105584/07716410344

Veneeta Rayner

Quiz - Plants or Flowers

Answers on Page 23

1	Give us an answer, do	
2	Pantomime cow	
3	By any other name it would smell as sweet	
4	Beside the lake, beneath the trees	
5	This Carson became Ena	
6	Miss Langtree, from Jersey	
7	Neat scooter needs changing	
8	You can find this is saucepan syllables	
9	Prickly leaf with the leg of a swine	
10	Remember me	
11	Initially it's very yummy	
12	Unpopular on the dance floor	
13	It's all in the eye	
14	Worn for washing up	
15	Bovine blunder	
16	Amphibian fibre	
17	Take a picture of a mythical bear	
18	Could get your fingers burnt playing this game	
19	It's velcro somehow	
20	Mrs Bucket	
21	On Flanders field	
22	Sounds as if shepherds watch these	

THE Heyford SINGERS



20th Anniversary Season

An Afternoon of Comedy and Song

The Lads

Graham Kinnersly
presents

Go To



Blackpool



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Thursday March 17th at 2.30pm

Tickets £8.00 each to include refreshments!

One performance only!

Only 50 tickets will be sold!

Book yours now from 01327 340741 or 07971 786912

www.heyfordsingers.org



Heyford Picturedrome

Our March film will be **Rocketman** to be shown in the Village Hall on 17th March.

This is a 2019 British biographical musical fantasy film based on the life and music of **Elton John** featuring many of his hits since his entry into the British music scene in the late 60's/early 70's. Directed by Dexter Fletcher and written by Lee Hall, it stars Taron Egerton as Elton John, with Jamie Bell as Bernie Taupin and Bryce Dallas Howard as Sheila Eileen, John's mother.

The film follows John in his early days in England as a prodigy at the Royal Academy of Music through his musical partnership with Taupin and is titled after John's 1972 song "Rocket Man". The film received positive reviews from critics, with praise for Egerton's performance, the costume design and musical numbers.

Doors open at 7.00 for a start to the film at **7.45pm**.

Admission is **£5.00** per person and there is no joining fee. There is free tea or coffee and a biscuit on arrival and there will be a licensed bar for the purchase of wine and soft drinks both before the film and during the interval.

The **April** film will be **The Constant Gardener**, to be shown on 21st April.

Tony Clewett (Phone no. 341533)

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Our meetings are held in Nether Heyford Village Hall on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.30pm (please note the new time). We have a demonstration by a fully qualified NAFAS Demonstrator who is always willing to give advice and tips on the use of flowers and foliage. All the arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 28th March when we look forward to Louisa Rigden with her demonstration "Spring Delights". Please join us for a relaxing and enjoyable evening - new members and visitors are always most welcome.

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



heyford books

Set in the country-side of West Northants, near the M1 and A5, Heyford Books offers a warm welcome and a wide selection of 40,000 books.
Refreshments provided.

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-  @heyfordbooksnh

Box Pond and 'the Humps'

A favourite play area recalled by Doris Lovel was in the field where the furnaces used to be. There was a pond here called 'box pond' because it was near the signal box. There was another pond across the road in the brickyard where deep water had formed into the claypit. Both ponds were popular play areas with much wildlife in them, including lizards and moorhens.

Also in the furnace field were four huge clinker mountains. These had been formed out of clinker waste from when the furnaces were in operation. Each seemed as high as a house. They had set solid into various shapes, weathered through time and were full of interesting nooks and crannies. They were affectionately known as 'the humps'. Cut hands and scraped knees were common.

The 'humps' were eventually moved when the M1 was built in the late 1950's. The field was full of hills and hollows from where the furnaces had been, and the contractor, Dowsett, was looking for somewhere to put the topsoil from the construction of the M1. So they broke up the humps, rolled them into the hollows and covered them with topsoil. Box Pond was also filled in.

(The story of Heyford, Vol 4)

Village Hall News

At last we seem to be getting over the pandemic and all our regular users of the village hall are back. Private bookings are also up making up for all those missed birthday celebrations.

Like all of us we are looking at our future energy costs and this will be constantly reviewed to make sure we get the best deal possible.


Preparations for the fete are full steam ahead with bookings for stalls already coming in and we have had some very generous offers of raffle prizes. We would be grateful for all offers of raffle prizes to make this year's raffle the best ever.

Our AGM is planned for 25th April at 7.30pm. All are welcome to attend so please put the date in your diaries.

Joan Kirkbride
Village Hall Chairman
Tel 01327 340370
Email jknvhchairman@gmail.com

Quiz Answers:

1. Daisy 2. Buttercup 3. Rose 4. Daffodil 5. Violet 6. Lily
7. Cotoneaster 8. Pansy 9. Hollyhock 10. Forget-me-not 11. Ivy
12. Wallflower 13. Iris 14. Marigold 15. Cowslip 16. Toad Flax
17. Snap-Dragon 18. Red Hot Poker 19. Clover 20. Hyacinth
21. Poppy 22. Phlox



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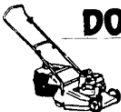
What an uncomfortable time we have had with the two storms, Dudley and Eunice, causing havoc in the country! I hope you all managed to escape too much damage to hearth and home, although it was not as bad as some had predicted for our area, thank goodness!

The WI ladies enjoyed their February meeting listening to Andrew Tennet, from Tiffield, telling us of his Father's wartime experiences. These included not being able to reach Dunkirk in time for the evacuation and having to make his own way back to England. Later, in the build-up to D-Day he was assigned to Montgomery's staff and had access to many historical documents. The numerous photos he took plus his service records etc made it possible for Andrew to build up a picture of what it was like for the 'ordinary' soldier. So many of our families have people who fought for their Country but, in my experience, rarely wished to talk about it and I, for one, came away with a better picture of the horrors that they saw and had to put up with.

We have a complete change for our next meeting. Heather Goram, who is a Complementary Therapist, is coming to give us a talk on how complementary therapies, alongside other healthcare options, can support you and your families. From 'A Touch of Heather', her base in Wootton, she offers massage, reflexology, KORE therapy, Clinical Acupuncture, essential oils and Chinese Cupping. I know, from first-hand experience, how much some of these can help and I look forward to finding out about those I haven't heard of.

The meeting will be held on Thursday March 3rd at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Any ladies who would like to come along and join us for the evening will receive a very warm welcome. The price for the evening is £5 and refreshments are included.

Mary Rice
Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

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Dear Diary,

March 1965

The Queen and Prince Philip are to visit The Guildhall in Northampton at the beginning of July and they are to have lunch with Earl Spencer at Althorpe House.

The Methodist Chapel is to open its doors to The Youth Club. It'll be good to see some life back in the old building. The thatched cottage next door is derelict and likely to be knocked down. They'll probably build a new one in its place.

New houses are also planned for Potters field in Church Lane, or Back Lane as it's known, on Bugbrooke Road and Brookside Place, just off Watery Lane. Also we have two new Council houses just up from the butchers' corner. As I took the dog for a walk up Furnace Lane this morning I passed the site of these two houses, past the old bakehouse where Dennis now lives and sells fresh fruit and vegetables (he makes me laugh when he salutes dad because they were in the forces together), and Pear Tree cottage, past the Roberts Field allotments, the council houses and Pinky Lilley's bungalow and on to the bridge.

Two busloads of us from Express Lifts are off to Wembley again this year for the New Musical Express Awards. A great line-up to be hosted by Jimmy Savile including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Animals, The Moody Blues, The Walker Bros and The Kinks, Tom Jones, Cilla Black & Dusty Springfield, and all for the ticket price of 17/6 plus the bus fare. This year we will be in the front, whereas we've been behind the stage the last 2 years, which will be much better.

I'm changing jobs soon. I have been accepted for work as a Shorthand Typist at the Borough Architect & Town Planning Office where I will share an office with 5 other girls. I saw the job in the Chronicle & Echo and it's another ten bob a week, making my annual salary £570 a year, well that'll come in handy, won't it?

We got engaged at Christmas. It wasn't what you'd call a romantic proposal. M just said "shall we get engaged at Christmas and married in 1966?" and I said "OK", so that's the plan. My engagement ring came from Ratners, a sapphire & diamond and cost £20 + 12/- insurance. Now mum is planning a "Bottom Drawer" for me. We are looking for a house to buy but there are none in Heyford we can afford, so Duston is our next choice because they are much cheaper and we can get to work easily.

Meanwhile we are off to Davos in September for 10 days holiday. It will cost us each £23 ½ guineas & 1 ½ guineas single supplement, and we are only allowed to take £25 out of the country. Should be enough but we could still have a bit of change in our pockets, couldn't we? We both have a single, annual passport at the moment, so when we are married we can apply for a double, annual one. Maybe we should be putting this into our wedding fund, but we have been saving hard for a while, so a holiday it is.

Polly



Heyford Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022

Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June.

**** We are now open to take bookings for stalls & attractions at the Village Hall fete on Saturday - email: nhvhevents@gmail.com for a registration form.**

**** We are taking bookings for anyone who wants to display a classic bicycle, car, motorbike or truck. Simon Howes is kindly compiling our list just to make sure we have room to park everyone up.**

**** We are also kindly asking for Fete raffle prizes.**

Latest Plan

Thursday - Sports Day + Road Race + Children's Disco

Friday - Heyford Feast + Open Mic Night

Saturday - Village Hall Fete + Comedy Night

Sunday - Songs of Praise + Teddy Bears Picnic

If you would like to get involved or have any ideas to contribute, please visit the facebook group:

**Nether Heyford Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022
or contact Patricia Paterson at nhvhevents@gmail.com**



The Foresters Arms Dart Team

The Foresters Darts Team is one of Heyford's best kept secrets, established 8 years ago. Back then the team was made up of a few core players and anyone who wandered into the pub on a Wednesday night that could be persuaded to play. We joined the Daventry & District Darts League and in our first year we were awarded the Wooden Spoon at the end of the season. We have floundered around the bottom of the league table for several years, last year seeing a slight improvement finishing runners up in the final of the Plate competition.

This season we have had some good results, but we could only dream of making another final. Dreams sometimes come true and we made the final on Wednesday 2nd February 2022. We were up against the mighty Heart of England, Weedon. The game was to be played on a neutral board at the White Horse, Norton.

The Game

The competition starts with two doubles matches. First up for us was Jules "Witchbed" Wickham and our Captain, Adam "Cool Hands" Corbett. A bruising encounter against two experienced players from The Heart, Paul and Pete, our boys coming out on top.

Next Faye "Scattergun" Brassett and Bob "The Railwayman" Stow taking one for the team facing the Hearts finest Gibbo and Ross. The game was now all square. Into the singles, Ed "The Eradicator" Lang stepped up to the oche, the Hearts man was no match for "The Eradicator's" heavy hitting. We were back in the lead.

Round two and "Cool Hands" was masterful, a 112 checkout was the pinnacle amongst a handful of Ton plus scores. 3 -1, things were getting exciting, "Witchbed" verses Gibbo, "Witchbed" a little out of sorts from the battle in the doubles was eventually trounced after a fine effort. 3-2 and things were a little tight for myself as the anchor man. I have my moments, but not this time, crushed by Ross and his impressive scoring.

Into a decider, both teams selected their most reliable player, "Witchbed" versus Ross. One leg all, "Witchbed" hanging in there but struggling to find form, a 140 in the third and he's back in the game, taking his double and the impossible dream is realized! Our first piece of proper silverware, Fantastic!

I can't promise this excitement every week, but if anyone fancies coming down for a game or just a practice we play on Wednesday nights in The Foresters, 7.30 onwards, bring your darts or pop in and have a chat with "Scattergun".

Dom. "The 1-2-1 to Watch" Cawley



NETHER HEYFORD CLASSIC & VINTAGE VEHICLE SHOW

Platinum Jubilee Fete on Saturday 4th June 2022
Village Green

Classic Cars, Bikes and Trucks. Vintage Vehicles.

Bring along your classic vehicle and park up on our village green surrounding our village fete.

Village Hall Fete 2pm – Set up from 11am - all welcome

Slots are limited but only by the size of our village green.
It's the only time we allow any vehicles on our village green.

We hope you join us for a great day out. Please book your slot with:

Simon Howes of Nether Heyford

Mobile: 07770 487909 or

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/simon.howes.5>

We shall close the booking of slots on 1st May to give us time to plan the layout.

Nether Heyford Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/netherheyfordjubilee>





www.heyfordsingers.org

*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 or a dance
What are we?*

ABBA

We are now back to rehearsals in full swing and glad to see so many Choir members returned for our Spring season. Our Concert this year is called 'Score' to celebrate 20 years of making music and will be full of some of our favourites. What a milestone this is, especially for the few founder members that were there at the beginning. The above - words and music written by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus - form part of the highlights from the movie soundtrack to Mamma Mia and sums up what we get out of the Choir although some of the music is a little challenging. Just because we know a tune so well doesn't mean we can sing it, especially in four part harmony and the arrangement we are singing by Mac Huff should be straightforward. But you should have heard our 'Waterloo' ... I was reminded of one of Jilly Cooper's books – and no, our 'Score' bears no resemblance to her version – where an opera was damned with the faint praise 'at least they finished together'. That would have been a good trick with 'Waterloo'. It was Chet Atkins, the American musician and vocalist who helped create the Nashville sound of country music who said 'If you make a mistake, repeat it in the next verse and people will think you meant it.' But that takes a true professional to pull that off.

I will keep reminding you of our Concert dates so you can put them in your diaries now (and due to limited ticket sales if Covid is still with us, it will be necessary to book early) this year we will be performing on Friday May 13th and Saturday May 14th. We have a range of songs to sing but until our Conductress makes a final decision we won't know the programme until she is convinced we have the right balance. Always difficult in a Choir that needs more men in the Bass and Tenor sections.

In the meantime I am very pleased to announce that our highly talented Pianist Graham Kinnersly will be performing 'The Lads Go To Blackpool' as a one off performance in the Village Hall. Please see our Advertisement in this edition of The Prattler. This promises to be an afternoon of fun and laughter, much needed after what seems a long, cold winter.

Did anyone see David Attenborough's The Wonder of Song? This programme consisted of favourite recordings from the natural world – a new take on Desert Island Discs. Darwin thought only the male birds sang – well he got that wrong. But my favourite was The Cello and The Nightingale which was a radio broadcast that 'spoke to the public, causing emotion and joy, a nightingale singing along with a cello. It was the first time people had been able to hear wildlife broadcast live on the UK radio. On 19th May 1924 – two years after the dawn of BBC Radio – listeners

heard for the first time an extraordinary duet live from a Surrey garden. The duet featured famous cellist Beatrice Harrison, who had recently performed the British debut of Delius's Cello Concerto specially written for her. She played to a nightingale in the woods around her home in Surrey and the bird – seemingly attracted to the sound of her cello – responded with its own song.' I quote this from an article written in March 2016 by Robert Seatter, Head of BBC History. And for those of you lucky enough to have heard Lemurs sing (check out Youtube) – the only other mammal species to possess rhythm – you realise that music is certainly the universal language and how wonderful for us the birdsong is now back in the lighter mornings.

I was hoping to report on our Open Evening which should have been on the 18th February but sadly we had to cancel this due to the dreadful weather – we didn't want people driving in Storm Eunice. So now it will be the following week, but as this article has to be with the Prattler by the 20th, this will have to wait for the April article. However we know of at least six people that have expressed interest and will hopefully be with us on the 24th February, our next rehearsal which coincides with the nearest date the Singers actually started - 28th February, 2002. Apparently when they first formed there were forty members – a real achievement for a new Choir. We hope to get back to that level in our Twentieth Anniversary Year.

JRA

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www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk**

HSC 300-Club Draws

After a pause due to Covid, I'd like to thank all our 300-club members for their continued support of the Playing Fields. Our draws will now commence in November and run through to August, with the jackpot prize being drawn in December.

The winners to-date are:

November 2021

1st Prize (£65) 51 Chay Adams

2nd Prize (£30) 278 Kit Andrews

December 2021

Jackpot (£150) 105 Tennis Club

1st Prize (£65) 281 Richard Denny

2nd Prize (£30) 259 Jill Langrish

January 2022

1st Prize (£65) 184 Roger Minchin

2nd Prize (£30) 165 Tennis Club

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 Bowls Club

Since my last article I am pleased to announce that the indoor Short Mat sessions have resumed in the Village Hall. There are two sessions taking place every Wednesday throughout the year at 2.00pm and again at 7.00pm. After the recent pandemic restrictions enforced on us all perhaps you are now looking for something to get you out of the house and meeting people again. What could be better than trying something local to you and where you will meet fellow villagers.

Short Mat bowls is a great sport for all abilities and is ideal for complete beginners. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to chat to current members and get help and instruction on the techniques. We do have spare bowls available for you to try to enable you to find out if this is a possible sport for you. We only ask that you come with a pair of clean flat soled shoes or you can play in your socks if necessary to protect our bowling mats. We make a small charge of £2 per session to include tea/coffee in the break and if you take to the sport there is an annual membership of £10 payable at enrolment time at the end of March.

The outdoor lawn bowls season will start early April and we welcome anyone interested in trying out this sport. Friday night is our open evening where those interested can come along and see what lawn bowls is all about. We have a selection of spare bowls for you to use and plenty of members around to show you how to bowl. Flat soled shoes are required to protect the bowling surface and we do have some that you can borrow.

During the season the club takes part in friendly matches both home and away against other local clubs. We run inter club competitions and some of our members take part in the Ladies, Mens and Mixed County competitions together with a couple of National competitions. We also hold a Club Friday Night League where members are grouped into several teams and bowl weekly against each other over several weeks. Throughout the season we hold several social events which are always well supported.

Enrolment time will soon be upon us. For the outdoor members this will be on Monday 21st March at 6.30pm in the clubhouse. For Short Mat the sessions will be 2.00pm and 7.00pm both at the Village Hall. We always welcome new members both young and old, so perhaps now is the time for you to consider this sport. For more information please visit our website at Heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk or email heyfordbowls@heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk.

Lorraine Streeter
Club Captain

Flood Watch

The storm season continues with storms Dudley and Eunice (next in line Franklin, Gladys and Herman). Whilst storms mainly effect northern and western parts of the UK, storm Eunice effected the south and west. Such a severe storm has not been experienced since the Great Storm of 1987 which created huge devastation along the south coast. Storm names generally run in alphabetical order with a renamed group running from September to August. Occasionally, as with storm Malik, the sequence is broken, so why does this happen? Within Europe there are 5 main areas run by Met offices, each with its own storm names.

- (a) Western group - UK, Ireland and Netherlands
- (b) South Western group - France, Spain, Portugal
- (c) Eastern group - Greece, Israel
- (d) Central Med - Italy, Slovenia, Croatia
- (e) Northern group - Denmark, Norway, Sweden

Occasionally the storms originate in areas outside the UK and affect the UK, such as Malik, reported by Denmark Met Office when the Irish Met Office, Eirann repeated the warning. Storm severity is graded yellow, amber and red dependent on wind speed (50-90 mph), potential impact and probability.

Locally the weather has continued to be variable with unseasonably high temperatures in double figures. Storm Eustace on 18th February brought local wind speeds of 60 mph (amber rating). Whilst rainfall has increased in February overall this year has been relatively dry. Lighter evenings are now becoming more evident with daylight hours expected to be near 13 hours by the end of March. The latter will also see the Spring Equinox and the clock changing (advancing 1 hour) on 27th to daylight saving.

I have received an initial response from E/A following the meeting on 7th January 2022 covering some of the issues raised, but responses on urgent repair actions to E-W and N-S culverts are still ongoing. Generally they reiterate their position that priority will be given to properties which have suffered significant flooding ie. east of Northampton.

Flood map predictions were discussed especially as they relate to river floodplains. It is worth reiterating the E/A criteria for classification shown on flood risk maps. There are 3 main zones-

- Zone 1-0.1% or 1 in 1000 years
- Zone 2-0.1% to 1% (1000 to 100 years)
- Zone 3 is divided into two categories-
 - 3a-1% or greater
 - 3b-functional floodplain, 5% or 1 in 20 years.

The functional floodplain is an area adjacent to the river where periodic flooding will occur but not pose a risk to property. Dependent on the terrain the extent of this boundary will vary but as recent issues of the flood risk map show (January 2022) the risk to properties is 1 in 1000 years. These predictions are always subject to review as modelling techniques improve. However it should be noted that these maps do not take account of climate change, although the Agency do issue guidelines for new planning applications based on flow rate predictions to 2100.

The greatest concern relates to the Capita Report predictions of 1 in 25 years unless action is taken over E-W and N-S culverts. The Agency were concerned that the wording of such a report led to unrealistic expectations that these schemes will be delivered. But as I pointed out these reports are commissioned on the basis that the actions highlighted will be followed up otherwise they just become archive material and are an unnecessary expense when funding is limited.

J. Arnold.

U3A

Monthly meetings take place in Bugbrooke Sports & Community Centre, Camp Close, Bugbrooke NN7 3RW.

Prospective Committee Members are still being sought – please consider this carefully, for the existing Committee is at the minimum for a viable Group. Offers of help and participation are always welcome.

Meetings will be subject to prevailing government guidelines in relation to coronavirus.

Monday 21st MARCH – A SOLO WALK ACROSS AFRICA by Fran Sandham.

An account of Fran's 3,000 mile solo walk across Africa from the Atlantic on Namibia's Skeleton Coast to the Indian Ocean in Zanzibar. The first time anyone has crossed Africa solo entirely on foot by this route.

Guests welcome at the monthly meetings – to learn more visit our website **www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene**



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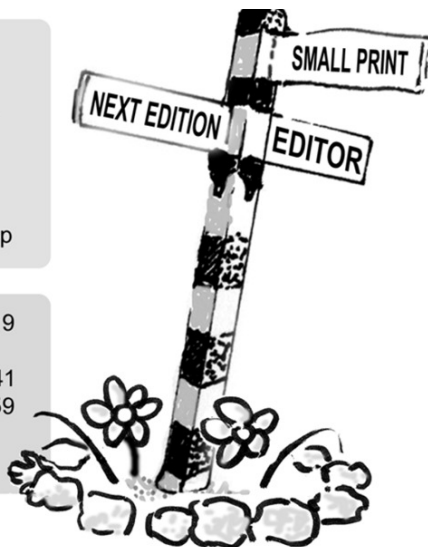
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