




THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

December/January 2023

Issue 455



Laugh Out Loud Theatre Presents
Little Red Riding Hood

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 7PM

TICKETS £9 ADULTS & £3 CHILDREN UP TO AGE 11

CONTACT PAT on 07802 210440
Or THE BARN, 1A WATERY LANE

December is upon us once again and at last, the village is recovering from the Covid years and resuming its normal events again.

It seems hard to believe that we moved to Heyford 10 years ago now but what a good decision we made. As other residents know, Heyford has an active vibrant community which we are pleased to be part of. We can look forward to 2023 and the events that the community will arrange.

Thanks are also due to everyone that has contributed to The Prattler or helped with deliveries, fund raising or ideas over the past year.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Sue

Bus Timetable

We have heard that some people have had difficulty in getting a copy of the new bus timetable, we don't have enough space here to print one, so we have arranged for a copy to be put up on the noticeboard by the One Stop shop.

Post Office Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed



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

The Parish Council voted to co-opt Charles Kiloh on to the Council to replace Neil Haynes who had stood down.

Reports

PCSO Chris Dudley reported that there had been little crime in Heyford over the last month and that he had been involved in preventative work at Campion School. He was aware of the Nitrous Oxide canisters found around the village and was advising children. This is a problematic issue as possession of the canisters is not illegal, so the potential harm that it can do is stressed.

Lights 8 lights are reported to be out, and Clerk asked that it be decided which were to be repaired and which replaced with LEDs. This is to be determined. The new contract for electricity for streetlights starts this month – so that a much higher bill can be expected.

Roads and pavement Clerk had reported drains in Church St to Fix my Street after complaints by a resident that drains were clogged with leaves. The drains had been inspected by Highways and no problem found – allegedly. Seasonal maintenance and cleaning of gullies should take place this month.

The Green/Play Area Hags had completed work on repairs to the Play Area. A further problem with a swing had been dealt with. Council thanked CT for organising this.

Playing Fields AW confirmed that the PFA Chair would stand down next year.

Trees The planting of trees on the Green had attracted some adverse comments on social media, and a Freedom of Information request has been received. The planting programme had been approved and paid for by Council. One of the Oaks is the Village Platinum Jubilee tree and will be marked as such; being part of the “Queen’s Green Canopy” – a nationwide tree planting project.

The councillors involved in the project had visited residents in Hillside Road last year to consult with and inform them. There is no bar to planting trees on the Green (the existing trees are testimony to that) and these trees are being planted for the future; many of the existing trees are short lived species approaching the end of their

natural life span (Cherries, Birches, Robinias, Hawthorns). The eastern section of the green belongs to the Parish Council – having been gifted by South Northants Council some years ago. The centre and eastern areas of the Green are a designated “Village Green”, and the Parish Council are custodians, responsible for the maintenance and upkeep. The previous Clerk (Joan Kirkbride) has been consulted and she knows of no covenants or bars and was involved in the planting of 25 Silver Birches on the Green for the 1977 Jubilee. Coronation Avenue was planted for the Coronation of the late Queen. So many trees have been planted on the Green in recent times. There are no plans to plant any trees in the middle of the Centre and main Green, though there may be some on the periphery.

Allotments Resolved - To ratify the decision made at the September meeting to make amendments to the Terms and Conditions for plot holders, as previously distributed to Councillors for their consideration. The allotments assoc. would meet on 8th Nov. LE stressed that the Allots assoc. always asked the Parish Council for permission before implementing any new policy. The prize money from ACRE would be used to buy a bench.

Youth Club LE reported that 22 children had attended tonight. Volunteers had come forward and the club could now open on a weekly basis.

Canal DM reported that there were no problems and reported an increase in the number of people living on the canal.

Bugbrooke Surgery PPG group Next meeting 28th November; group progressing well – lots of ideas and initiatives.

Coronation Date confirmed as May 6th, Council considering what to do.

Planning – Gravel extraction – Public Meeting. Oct 6th. Report TW reported that the meeting had been well attended, that Cllr Adam Brown had “called in” the application subsequent to the meeting; and that it had recommended that Council employ a barrister to advise on how to proceed. At the public hearing two persons could speak on behalf of the village. It was felt this should be a retired barrister living in Upper Heyford and TW. Council thanked Cllr Adam Brown for his assistance and advice at the meeting.

Resolved. Mr Sidhu-Brar and TW to be asked to represent the Heyfords at the public hearing. Resolved. A barrister to be employed to advise Council.

It was resolved to accept a Freedom of Information Policy, a Protocol for Public Participation in Council Meetings, and a Complaints Procedure.

Warm Room Clerk reported that the project had got off to a steady start, but that it had not yet got cold. Funding from One Stop/Tesco and the Arnold Charity had been applied for. The project had been registered with WNC and further funding might be

forthcoming. Clerk and other councillors and residents were willing to volunteer for the future weeks. Volunteers and One Stop Shop were thanked for their contributions. It was suggested that the Wednesday prior to a Parish Council meeting could host a Councillor surgery.

Resolved. Warm Room project to continue until the February meeting when it would be reviewed again.

Boundary Review / Electoral Reform Clerk to respond that Nether Heyford PC would be willing to consider forming a cluster with Bugbrooke, Flore and Upper Heyford which would have its own Councillor.

Parish Council meetings in 2022/23 will be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30. The next ones are on Monday Dec 5th. (Short meeting) and January 9th at the Baptist Church rooms.

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/>

*Clerk to the Parish Council: Guy Ravine Tel: 07935 931787
E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com*

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Mrs L. Dilkes. 17 Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3JF e-mail thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967 753216	Chair, Youth Club, Finance.
Mrs L. Eales – 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 01327 341707 e-mail lyndaeales@aol.com	Allotments, Youth Club
Linda Hall, 8 Western Ave, Nether Heyford linda.hall.netherheyford@outlook.com	Vice Chair, Website
Charles Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 07779 900860	Planning. Arnold Trust Rep.
Cllr Mel McClean, Burnham Cottage, Furnace Lane NN7 3JY mcleanmj@aol.com	Council rep. to Bugbrooke surgery
D. Musson. 16 Rolfe Crescent, Nether Heyford NN7 3NG Tel: 01327 344461 davemusson073@gmail.com	Footpaths.
Cllr Ian Parris, 1 Winston Close, NN7 3JX 07909 514916 ianparris@ianparris.com	Councillor
Colin Thomas, 17 The Green, Tel: 07776 180187 C.thomas327@btinternet.com	Councillor
A. Wallace. 5, Western Avenue, Nether Heyford. NN7 3NQ. andrew.wallace8765@gmail.com	Council rep to Village Hall. Playing Field Rep.
A. Williams 26 Church St, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LH anthony.k.williams@talk21.com	Chair of Planning, Finance, Council rep to School governors
K Woodbridge-Dodd, 15 Bliss Close, Nether Heyford, NN7 3ND khedgehog@msn.com	Finance
Cllr Karen Cooper - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD Karen.cooper@westnorthants.gov.uk Tel: 07753 638180	Conservative Councillor for Bugbrooke Ward – Lead Member for Nether Heyford, Blisworth & Gayton



Happy Christmas

From St Peter and St Paul Church
and the Baptist Church in Heyford

Services in Heyford, Stowe, Flore and Brockhall in December 2022

Everyone is invited to attend any of these services and will be very welcome

Saturday 3rd	2:00-4:00pm	Messy Church Christingle at Flore Church
Sunday 4th	8:00am	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	10:30am	Morning Worship at Heyford Baptist
	11:00am	United, informal First Sunday Service at Flore Church
Sunday 11th	10:00am	Benefice and Partnership Holy Communion & Gift Service at Flore Church (Gifts for Re:Store)
	10:30am	Christmas Gift Service at Heyford Baptist (Gifts for homeless people)
	3:00pm	Nativity service at Upper Stowe
	4:00pm	Carols by Candlelight at Heyford Baptist
Sunday 18th	10:00am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00am	Children's Service (Instant Nativity) at Flore Chapel
	10:30am	Lessons and Carols at Heyford Baptist
	6:00pm	Carols by Candlelight at Heyford Church
	7:00pm	Carols by Candlelight at Flore Chapel
Christmas Eve	6:00pm	Village Carol Service at Flore Church
	8:30pm	Holy Communion for Christmas at Church Stowe
Christmas Day	9:00am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00am	Christmas Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:30am	Christmas Family Service at Heyford Baptist
	11:00am	Christmas Morning Service at Flore Chapel
	11:15am	Holy Communion at Brockhall



Dear Friends,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

I had just read the last line of this passage one Christmas Eve during my curacy, when the church I was in was plunged into near-complete darkness. The fuse had tripped, all the lights had gone out, and only the two candles on the altar provided any light. Fortunately, there was a torch by the Rector's seat, and we were able to reset the circuit and continue with the service – the light shone, and the darkness did not overcome it!

Literally and metaphorically, we are living in dark times. In the northern hemisphere, the days are short, the nights long. The shortest day of the year falls just four days before Christmas. Added to that, we're aware of the darkness of war, poverty, anxiety and uncertainty. The challenges we face as individuals, communities and nations can seem overwhelming, and we can feel lost and overwhelmed in the dark. Sometimes, it can be all too easy to dwell on the darkness, rather than search for the light. But the simple act of lighting a candle can drive away the darkness and lead us to hope.

The powerful, poetic words from the beginning of John's Gospel, remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. At the darkest time of the year, Christmas tells us that we can look to the light of Jesus, a light that shines with God's grace, truth, love and hope – for us and for our communities. And we can share that light at Christmas and throughout the year in our kind words and actions.

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a peaceful new year. And I pray that you will know the light and life of Jesus Christ this Christmas, and in the new year ahead.

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)

Please join us in Nether Heyford Village Hall on Saturday 21st January 2023 at
8:30AM for our first
Benefice Breakfast

Come along and share in food and fellowship as the Rector,
Reverend Stephen Burrow, shares something of his journey of faith.

There is no charge, but donations to help cover the cost of the food will be
gratefully received



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for January 2023

Sunday 1 st	11:00 am	United Service of Holy Communion at Flore Church
Sunday 8 th	10:00am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Sunday 15 th	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel, celebrating 30 years of the Flore Christian Partnership
	6:00 pm	Service of Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 22 nd	10:00am	Service of Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00pm	Café Church at Heyford Church
Sunday 29 th	10:00am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	3:00pm	BCP Evening Prayer at Church Stowe

Midweek Services

Wednesday	9:30am	Morning Prayer via telephone conference call. (not 7 th or 28 th December)
Thursday	10:00am	Holy Communion at Flore Church (not 1 st , 8 th or 29 th December)
Friday	9:00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom. (not 30 th December) Please contact the Rector for an invitation All welcome.

Praying for our villages: During **December** we shall be praying for people living in Winston Close, Roberts Field and Ridgeway Furlong in Heyford, Nether Lane and Thornton Close in Flore, The Green in Church Stowe and The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage in Brockhall.

During **January** we shall be praying for people living in Church Lane and Weedon Rd in Heyford, Spring Lane and Russell Rise in Flore, Francis Row in Upper Stowe and the Stables and Coach House in Brockhall.



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for December 2022

December 4 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
December 11 th	10:30 am	Christmas Gift service led by Martin Buckby
	4:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight service led by Martin Buckby with tea and cakes
December 18 th	10:30 am	Lessons and Carols led by Les Britten (with coffee and mince-pies)
December 25 th	10:30 am	Christmas Family Service led by Les Britten

Services for January 2023

January 2 nd	10:30 am	Communion service led by Clive Leakey
January 9 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by John Perkins
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise led by Martin Buckby
January 15 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Ted Hales
January 22 nd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Les Britten
January 29 th	9:30 am	Prayer meeting followed at 10.30am by communion service led by Martin Buckby

Events

December 9 th	2.00pm to 4pm	Afternoon Tea and cakes
January 6 th	2.00pm to 4pm	Afternoon Tea and cakes

All welcome

I was interested to watch and listen to a TV advert recently in which a well known table football game was being promoted and the closing slogan was "a game of yesterday, for today and for tomorrow." This of course was reminding the viewers and potential purchasers that this game has survived in the past, is still the game of choice for today and will be there for our tomorrows. I can confirm that I have been around for some years, have played the game and am here to tell the story. I found it reassuring to know that a game from "yesteryears" was still seen as relevant, important and worthy of purchase.

As we approach our Christmas and New year celebrations we know that they can be soon come and soon gone events. An event which raises so many hopes and expectations but which can be soon past and soon forgotten.

There is a clear difference between an event that is planned and soon gone to that of an experience which can have lasting importance, impact and impressions.

The Christmas event can become an enduring life experience which takes us from just remembering the "season of Christmas" to knowing each day something of the "reason for Christmas."

I am reminded of a lovely verse in The Bible and it has a useful and meaningful link with the table football game and it is this "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever" - and that means each of our tomorrows.

We will have the Christmas and New Year events and of course to enjoy them with familiarity, family and friends but we can also embrace the Christian faith, an experience which takes us through each day of the year ahead.

Please join us at the Chapel on the green - you will be made most welcome.

Thank you and best wishes

*Martin Buckley
On behalf of the Chapel fellowship*

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.

NETHER HEYFORD BAPTIST CHURCH



**SONGS OF
PRAISE**

4.00 - 5.00pm

SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER

+ 8th JANUARY 2023

+ Tea & Cakes

NETHER HEYFORD BAPTIST CHURCH



Friday Cake & Coffee

9th December + 6th January 2023

2.00pm - 4.00pm

Donations in Aid of Church upgrading

Waste and recycling collections

Christmas and New Year
2022

Give the gift
of knowledge to your
friends and neighbours
Why not take a photo
of this poster...
Help share the message
and pass it on...

Pass it on

What's happening in a chestnut shell

- Waste and recycling collection days in the South Northamptonshire and Northampton areas will not change over Christmas and New Year.
- Collections in the Daventry area which are due to take place on Monday, 26 December will take place on Saturday, 24 December instead.
- Garden waste collections across West Northants will be suspended from 24 December until 6 January

Real tree collections

Crews will collect real Christmas trees between Monday, 9 and Friday, 20 January

For more
information
scan here



Have a Very Merry Christmas



West
Northamptonshire
Council



West Northants
recycles

WestNorthants

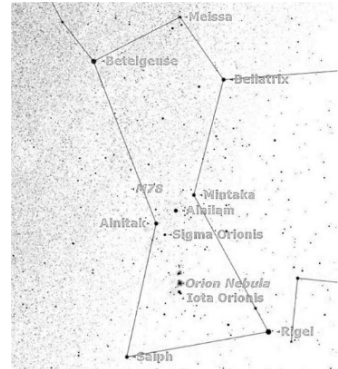
www.westnorthants.gov.uk | 0300 125 7000

Astronomy on the Green

The Hunter is back with us; what is so appealing? Well, it has a plethora of deep sky objects that reside next to our spur in the Orion spiral arm of the Milky Way. In an area known as the Orion molecular cloud complex (this is 1,500 light years away from us). The stars that make up the constellation vary much more in their distances from us, this is due the fact that constellations we see are not groups of stars in one location. Rather they are merely a product of our viewing point from Earth.

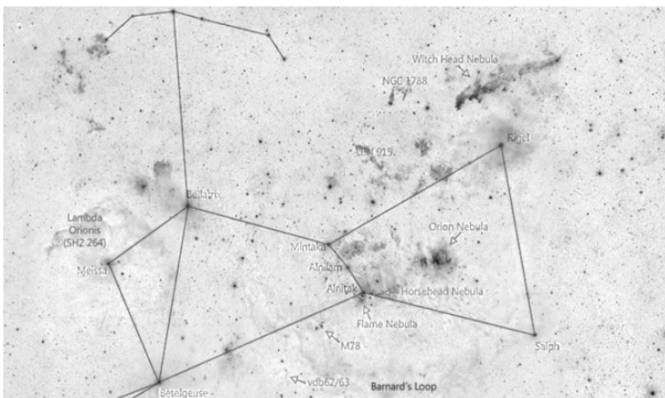
Bright stars of Orion

Proper name	Bayer designation	Light years	Apparent magnitude
Betelgeuse	α Orionis	548	0.50
Rigel	β Orionis	863	0.13
Bellatrix	γ Orionis	250	1.64
Mintaka	δ Orionis	1,200	2.23
Alnilam	ϵ Orionis	2,000	1.69
Alnitak	ζ Orionis	1,260	1.77
Saiph	κ Orionis	650	2.09
Meissa	λ Orionis	1,320	3.33



Deep Sky Objects

The Orion Molecular Cloud Complex contains most of the well-known deep sky objects in Orion: the Orion Nebula, Barnard's Loop, the Flame Nebula, the Horsehead Nebula, Messier 43 and Messier 78.



The reason for the richness of this part of space is that we are looking into the edge of the Milky Way (our view currently is out through the outer edge of our galaxy).

At the bottom of the image (left) you will see Betelgeuse a bright Red Giant (thought to be a possible Supernova candidate). Diagonally is Rigel a young star at the opposite end of its life cycle. Rigel is the brightest star in Orion (the lower the number the brighter the object).

In one myth, Orion fell in love with the Pleiades, the seven sisters, daughters of Atlas and Pleione. He started pursuing them and Zeus scooped them up and placed them in the sky. The Pleiades are represented by the famous star cluster of the same name, located in the constellation Taurus. Orion can still be seen chasing the

sisters across the sky at night. The hunter also chases Taurus (the Bull) and Lepus (the Hare) assisted by Major and Minor Canis (the Hunting dogs).

Nice stories, but mine have come to an end for this year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year – Clear skies in 2023!

Tony Boutle

Village Hall News

We had a great night on 28th October at our Heyford Feast Harvest supper. The food was excellent thanks to James Allen and his team and by popular request we will do it again next year. James already has the date in his diary. It was such a pleasure to sit down with friends for a meal in our excellent village hall. This is something I think we all missed during the covid lockdown.

Our next event is the pantomime on 16th December at 7.00pm. Tickets are available from Pat Paterson Telephone number 07802210440. Adults £11.00 and children up to age 11 £3.00. I look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas seems to come round earlier every year but the village hall Christmas tree was delivered in time for the Crafty Club to decorate it for the start of advent and the village hall committee will be putting the Christmas decorations up in the hall on 4th December.

We have an excellent village hall but we are always looking for ways to improve what we have. We will be discussing ideas at our January meeting.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you at our events in the new year.

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

100% NO SALE NO FEE

- No Upfront Marketing Fee
- No Withdrawal Fee
- Local and Experienced
- Free Energy Performance Certificate
- Free Premium Listing
- Free 360° Virtual Tour

Check out our
reviews on Facebook



Chris Gibson
- Horts Property Consultant



arla naea
propertymark



PERSONAL • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE



THE Heyford SINGERS

CONDUCTOR: MARY RICE

ACCOMPANIST: GRAHAM KINNERSLY

Christmas Concert

Tidings of
Comfort
and
Joy



A Joyful Celebration of Christmas

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH

AND SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH

AT 7.30PM

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

ADULTS £10 CHILDREN (UNDER 12) £5

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED!

ADVANCE TICKETS FROM MIKE ANDREW

07970 794321 mike@3istudio.com

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

www.heyfordsingers.org



Heyford Picturedrome

NEXT FILM: PHANTOM OF THE OPEN + CHRISTMAS SUPPER EVENING

15th DECEMBER 2022

TIME: 6.30pm for 6.45pm Supper

COST: £15.00 (Ticket only)

This film is a comedy sport drama about amateur golfer, Maurice Flitcroft, who manages to infiltrate the Open Golf Championship in 1976 and records the worst score in Open history.

January Film to be shown on Thursday 19th is to be **Mrs Harris Goes to Paris** starring Lesley Manville as a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress that she decides she must have as one of her own. So she works and scrimps and gambles to raise the funds and embarks upon an adventure to Paris that will not only change her life but also that of the House of Dior. Great reviews!

The February film to be shown on 16th is to be **Fishermen's Friends: One and All** – a sequel to the original Cornish sea shanty singing group of fishermen that was so successful a few years ago.

Tony Clewett (Phone no. 341533)



**Keep our Village Green,
Footpaths and Streets Clean**



In Nether Heyford

Our last meeting, on November 3rd, was a true celebration of Bonfire Night - although not perhaps as we were expecting it! Our speaker was Keith Meredith, a retired teacher who made us look at the story of Guy Fawkes as we never had before. We were also given a 'test' as to whether we thought that the gunpowder plot was, in modern parlance, a 'set-up'. On the whole it would appear that it could have been and, with a lot of laughter involved, I have to admit that it is an evening that I won't forget. I also feel that Keith Meredith must be a teacher that few of his pupils will forget, either! The refreshments at the end of the evening were also in keeping with the event, consisting of sausages in rolls, parkin and jellies to name but a few and all washed down by punch. What more could we ask for?

We will end our November activities by making bacon rolls, tea and coffee at the Crafty Club Christmas Sales in the Village Hall on Saturday 25th between 10 am. and 2 pm. I hope we will see you there.

There will be no December meeting in the Village Hall as we will be having our Christmas Meal and supporting the charity of our July meeting by eating at the Greenacres Rural Enterprise Cafe at Staverton. The menu looks delicious and we are all very much looking forward to the evening.

January 6th will see us back in the Village Hall for our monthly meeting, which will start at 7.30. The cost for the evening will be £5 and include refreshments.

The Nether Heyford branch of the WI would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and healthy and prosperous New Year. Who knows, perhaps some of you might consider making it your New Year's resolution to join the WI? You would be very welcome.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

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

2 Courses per head £25.00

3 Courses per head £30.00



Festive Menu



Starters

Soup, served with warm bread

Duck orange pate served with warm bread & red onion chutney

Baked filled mushrooms, cheddar cheese, panko crumbs & rocket

Prawn cocktail with avocado & mango served with warm bread

Cured meats, sundried tomatoes, olives, balsamic oil & warm ciabatta

Mains

Treacle roasted beef served with seasonal veg, red cola cabbage, Yorkshire pudding, roasted potatoes & red wine gravy

Roasted breast of turkey served with seasonal veg, red cola cabbage, Yorkshire pudding, roasted potatoes & red wine gravy

'No' Beef Wellington served with cranberries, seasonal veg, red cola cabbage, Yorkshire pudding, roasted potatoes & veg gravy (V)

Pan fried cod loin served with cranberries, new potatoes & asparagus

Pan fried duck breast served with cranberries, roasted pear & sautéed potatoes

Desserts

Classic Christmas pudding served with brandy custard or cream

Deconstructed chocolate extraordinaire, mousse, brownie, gold chocolate soil served with ice cream

Selection of cheeses served with chutney, grapes, celery & biscuits

Caramel crème brûlée

Afters

Mince Pies & Coffee to be served at the end

Please note this is a pre booking menu only and will not be available without booking & pre order.

£10 non refundable deposit per person will be needed 2 days before your booking

Call now : 01327 340164

Bugbrooke Medical Practice

We have been very fortunate to be joined by Lorraine Spicer as our new Practice Manager. Lorraine joined us in October, she has been working in the NHS for over 20 years, as a Practice Manager and within a Primary Care Network. She is keen to be working with us to maintain the high standard of care we provide to our patients. If you have been following us on Facebook you will have seen lots of announcements and links. These include staff being involved in baking/donating cakes for Macmillan Nurses, raising £50.00 and our Pretty in Pink Days raising over £72.00.

We have also been asking patients for their feedback during October, and this will continue throughout the first two weeks of November, looking at specific ways we are working well or where we could improve. We will be giving you our feedback in the New Year. We are continuing to support our community with our inaugural New Mums meet and greet time, on Wednesday 7th December 2022. 12:15 to 1:15pm at Bugbrooke Rugby Club, keep an eye out for your invite.

Meet our staff

Did you know that as well as our Doctors and Nurses we have other professions working with us? You may have already been offered an appointment with one of our extended team who are here to help you, and will be able to offer you a more specialised assessment and support. You may be offered an appointment with one of our Physio First Contact team who are experts in their field.

Mehzabeen Warsi: Mehz is one of our Physiotherapists. She studied at Manipal, India and gained a Bachelors of Physiotherapy, MSc in MSK Physiotherapy, MSc in Sports and Clinical Biomechanics, at the Robert Gordon University, Scotland. Mehz's Specialist area is a Musculoskeletal Specialist Practitioner who are Senior Chartered Physiotherapists working in your GP Surgery to see you alongside the GP team to provide an assessment service. They are trained to a high level and specialise in any conditions involving muscle, bone, tendon, ligament, nerve and many other conditions such as arthritis, sciatica, fibromyalgia etc

What should you expect when you have an appointment with Mehz?

A thorough assessment just as you would have with your GP and then where appropriate you will be given:

- * The chance to discuss your condition and receive advice and exercises
- * Medication to help with your pain. Always try over the counter medication first under the guidance of a pharmacist
- * A referral for further investigation such as X-ray or Ultrasound Scan
- * A referral to Physiotherapy
- * A referral to orthopaedics/spinal team or other services such as Podiatry or Rheumatology You will be under the care of the Musculoskeletal Specialist Practitioner who will ensure you are on the best pathway for a speedy recovery.

Muhammad Ahmad: Ahmad is one of our Physiotherapists who can help you. His expertise lies in the advanced evaluation/assessment of individuals with suspected musculoskeletal conditions. Ongoing spinal issues, management of ongoing Arthritis pain with exercises and activity modification through patient centred approach.

Or you may be offered a chance to talk to one of our Clinical Pharmacists who will talk to you about your medications and help you understand them.

Shiv Chadha: Shiv is our Senior Clinical Pharmacist. Shiv works alongside his team managing medications and helping with medicine reviews. In his spare time Shiv enjoys riding his motorcycle and has ridden around Europe in 7 days. He plans to have many more adventures in the future.

Tracy Lengu: Tracy is one of our Clinical Pharmacists working alongside Shiv, managing medications and carrying out reviews. Her hobbies include reading and listening to music.

Krishna Champaneri: Krishna is our Pharmacy Technician. She assists with transferring medication and supporting with medication reviews. In her spare time Krishna enjoys travelling.

Heyford Scouts Christmas Card Delivery Service

Heyford Scouts are pleased to confirm our Christmas Card delivery service this year. Donations are still 20p per card, for collection and delivery in Heyford.

We will do a single house to house collection, which will be on the evening of Monday 12th December.

We also plan to have postboxes available at:
Bliss School, Heyford Meats, One Stop Shop, Foresters Arms and the Olde Sun.

Please post cards in a bag with payment by 20th December latest.

We wish all residents of Heyford a very Merry Christmas!



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Carols on the Green

Sing In Christmas!

Thursday December 22nd

At 6.00pm

*Nether Heyford Village Green
in front of the Village Hall*



BRING A TORCH!

**All profits from a Bucket Collection will go to
Heyford Singers and Nether Heyford Parish Church**



Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

Our November meeting featured our long delayed biannual plant swap, and an amazingly eclectic variety of plants, many of which were of extremely high quality, were brought and rapidly reallocated to happy new owners. When you consider the prices that would be asked in the garden centres it is not surprising that this was a popular event.

Our December meeting will be on the 12th and will feature a talk on the gardening influence of Beatrix Potter. The meeting will start at 8:00 pm as usual.

That was the Summer that was

Sitting here on a grey November day the heat of the summer seems a long way off but looking at the garden it will be interesting to see if those extreme conditions will have an effect as the time passes. It was noticeable how quickly lawns changed from brown to green as soon as there was some rain. Some vegetables, such as broccoli and leeks, which had hardly grown at all during the summer suddenly put on a spurt and now look much as I would expect in any normal year.

I have noticed a number of spring flowering plant's which have bloomed this autumn, including strawberries and primroses.

Autumn flowering shrubs seem to be better than usual though our Viburnum has flowers of pale pink, almost white, instead of its normal deep colour. The autumn has also been unusually warm, which may mean a profuse show of flowers next spring, the fruit trees in particular are full of dormant flower buds. That though will depend on the weather we get from now on.

If we continue to get these hot dry summers I shall have to rethink how many things I grow in containers, and perhaps only have drought tolerant plants and spring bulbs in them in future.

Some Things to do in December and January

- 1 Keep ponds clear of ice
- 2 Put out food for the wild birds
- 3 Buy and plant bare root trees and shrubs (if weather permits)
- 4 Sit indoors and decide what seeds to buy for the spring

Mark Newstead



www.heyfordsingers.org

*'There'll be parties for hosting,
marshmallows for toasting
And caroling out in the snow.
There'll be scary ghost stories
And tales of the glories of
Christmases long, long ago'*

*From: It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
Words and Music by Eddie Pola and George Wyle
Arranged by Alan Billingsley*

This excerpt is from our Christmas Concert – please see full page advert on how to obtain your tickets – and if you look at the lyrics you will see getting your tongue round some of these phrases can be a little challenging. This is why we are forced by our illustrious Conductress to do 'warm up' exercises both literally (not a pretty sight) and by singing tongue twisters like 'If a woodchuck could chuck wood'. It is surprising how after a few attempts in the early days the 'woodchuck' song now rolls off our tongues which stands us in good stead for the more complicated lyrics of our Christmas songs.

You will have seen from the posters round the villages that the title of our Concert this year is 'Tidings of Comfort and Joy' and I think in this troubled world we could certainly do with both. Who would have thought that Europe would be at war again, our politics would be in turmoil and our lights threatening to go out. But there is warmth and light in our village hall so save your bills and book a couple of hours enjoying a bit of Christmas with our Choir and if nothing else, a glass of wine and a mince pie.

I can now confirm that Carols on the Green will be on Thursday 22nd December at 6pm so wrap up warm for this, bring a torch and we hope to see as many of you as possible on our lovely village green. This is being held in conjunction with our Parish Church and the Reverend Stephen Burrow will be opening and closing the singing with prayers. There will be buckets for donations to both the Church and the Singers.

I must mention one more song we have been practising. 'Night of Miracles' by John W Peterson. This is one of those pieces of music which builds up gradually with 'Rejoice O weary, worn and wand'ring world' and ends with a tumultuous 'Wondrous night of miracles! They all combine and shine to make this night divine'. The very last chord is made up of a top 'A'. We are very fortunate indeed to have Sopranos that can reach this note. It really is a glorious piece of music and brings the Christmas story into sharp focus.

We are now heading into December with all its difficulties and not least its warmongering. But let's hope that as I have said in previous articles, our Concert will bring a little cheer to us all, young and old, and shed a little light in this weary world.

JRA

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Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Wishing all our members a Happy Christmas and thanks for their support in 2022.

The next meeting is our AGM on 23rd January, 2023.

Allotment News

Getting together and sharing ideas

The first of our open committee meetings took place in November and we were pleased to welcome a number of allotment holders and share ideas and developments on the allotment site. It is good to listen to other people's opinions and helps us shape how the allotments might look in the future. We plan to hold these meetings four times a year and would welcome even more participation in the future.

The Parish Council, as the controlling authority, ultimately make the final decisions regarding rules and regulations affecting the allotments. However, it is important that we, as the people who use and benefit from the plots, should inform their decision making with practical advice. That is why we encourage all allotmenters to get involved.

Vacancies

We currently have two vacant plots available to rent, although we are aware that there may be several more available in January. These have either been cleared and covered or are ready to be cultivated. If you know of anyone who would like to take on an allotment, do tell them to contact us on the usual numbers and we will be happy to show them what there is to offer or add them to the waiting list.

Winter

There is often an assumption that when winter arrives we stop gardening, that it is the "dead time". Nothing could be further from the truth. I recently visited the wonderful RHS garden at Hyde Hall near Chelmsford and read the following message in their inspiring winter garden:

"Winter has a bad reputation. It can often be seen as death, darkness and decay. There is an expectation that nothing happens. But in the garden we can see the jewels of winter."

There is much to do and if you wrap up warm and what a great way to get some fresh air and much needed exercise. On a practical level we should advise everyone to keep off frozen soil and ground that is water logged, but that aside there are so many jobs to do in preparing the allotment for the explosion of spring.

New Bench

The prize money we received from ACRE in recognition of the community space created on the allotments, has been used to purchase a circular tree bench. This will be sited around the tree planted two years ago in memory of all those people from our community who are no longer with us. The bench will be a lasting tribute and something that everyone can benefit from when visiting the allotment.

Rent Night

Our annual rent night will take place in January and allotment holders will receive an invitation to either attend or directly send their rent to the Parish Council via a bank

transfer or cheque. It is not anticipated that there will be any increase in rents, which in these troubled times, makes us something of an exception! Even more reason to take on an allotment.

If you are thinking of taking on plot or have any other queries about the allotments 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 Bowls Club

As we approach the end of another year we will look back at the season and our achievements. 2022 was a season where we returned to some form of normality after the two year disruption due to Covid. It was great to get back to a full year of friendly and county matches, inter club competitions, together with County and National competitions together with our Bowls Tour to Weymouth. We had good results in our friendly matches, excellent results in County competitions and our men were promoted up to the second league in their Monday night triples.

Our winter season of fund raising has started with two events already having taken place, both well supported by members. Saturday 26th November was spent celebrating the winners of this seasons inter club competitions. These popular events help raise the necessary funds needed for the next bowls season maintenance costs.

Maintenance is continuing on the green to ensure the best possible surface for next season. Our maintenance team work throughout the winter to maintain the whole bowls complex and we welcome any volunteers willing to help with the various tasks needed, both indoors and outdoors. They meet every Wednesday morning throughout the year. If you are interested in lending a hand then contact us via the club website.

The Short Mat section of the club continues in the Village Hall every Wednesday afternoon and evening (2.00 – 4.00pm and 7.00 – 9.30pm). Visitors are always welcome. Look out for future announcements of open days and events at the club by visiting our website www.heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and helpers for their support throughout the year. Have a great Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Lorraine Streeter - Club Captain

Flood Watch

The end of October and the start of November saw the onset of cold, wet and windy weather as the jet stream became very unstable resulting in low pressure being established over the UK. Flooding in southern England on 31st of October resulted from storm Claudio (European Met named) initiated a series of flood warnings being issued. Locally rainfall at the end of October resulted in the months total rainfall being 150% of normal and to date November has already exceeded a typical months rainfall. The river level peaked at 1.3 metres on 17th of November the highest since March 2022. The years total rainfall remains at about 80% of a typical year. Overall 2022 has seen records broken for warmest summer day, longest dry spell and declaration of draught. As climate changes continue to dominate COP27 and the target temperature goal of 1.5 degrees may be amended to 2 degrees changes to our weather patterns will continue.

Given the risk from flooding of homes in the UK the Environment Agency held a week of flood awareness from 7-13th of November. With over 2.4 million homes at risk of flooding from sea and rivers and over 3 million due to surface water and the cost of repairing a home averaging £40,000 the Agency stress the need for each homeowner to assess their own risk using published flood risk maps for the area and take suitable precautions. Simple measures such as garden walls to front or rear with raised steps and any open gates protected by simple flood gates backed up with a submersible pump. Remember water and electrics don't mix so ensure use of suitable power safety devices. If you have not already done so the enrolment for early flood warnings can be set up on-line or by phoning floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Since the clocks went back the early onset of darkness has become more apparent. Daylight hours will continue to shorten up to the shortest day on 21st of December, the winter solstice. Thereafter daylight hours will slowly increase throughout winter which ends on 20th of March 2023.

In the November issue of The Prattler the role of satellites in both weather forecasting and climate change monitoring was outlined. The realisation of such advanced satellites was made possible by advances in technology developed locally at Plessey Research, Caswell. Based on Gallium Arsenide, GaAs and nanotechnology microwave chips known as MMICS allowed miniaturization of circuit functions. Whilst everybody is familiar with silicon chips this new technology changed our every day lives making possible the realisation of satellite tv receivers, mobile phones, advanced LEDs and fibre optics, high efficiency solar cells and ground based radars and microwave links.

As a result Plessey became a World leader and led to the UK and European Space Agencies being major players in satellite development.

J.Arnold.

View from the Wildlife Patch

As I write this on the 17th of November, it's raining. I have not been to "The Patch" for couple of days but I am expecting to see that our pond is nearly full as predicted.

I found a fat, female frog in one of the allotment water troughs last week. I guess she was looking for a place in which to spend the winter before spawning next spring. The males accumulate in suitable ponds to croak in a chorus that attracts fertile females. These are full of eggs when they arrive. It is believed they are attracted by the smell to water where certain types of Algae thrive.

We conceived a plan for a Wildlife Patch after watching a steady decline of our local wildlife, however at the time none of us were aware of the scale of this catastrophic decline.

The full weight of evidence indicates that since 1966, we have lost 44 million birds from our skies.

Once familiar birds such as Grey Partridge, Yellowhammer and Linnet populations are in sharp decline. Turtle doves are on the brink of extinction in the UK as are many other once common birds. Wrynecks are already extinct, as are Red backed shrikes. Many more will follow if nothing changes. These figures are from 2018. Without a doubt this free-fall will have continued since that time with bird losses increasing rather than decreasing. To make matters worse our birds now have Bird Flu to contend with. Yet birds are not the only group to who have witnessed a catastrophic decline. During the last 20 years we witnessed an 82% loss in insect numbers. Worse still, it now seems that this "Insect Armageddon" is occurring on a worldwide scale.

I have searched for studies that refute these figures in some way. I cannot find any. People of my generation will remember scraping insects from car windscreens and number plates after a Summers evening drive. Not any more. My children can just remember it but my grandchildren have no idea what I am talking about.

In addition, many mammal populations, including Hedgehogs and most Bats are also in free-fall.

In the book "Silent Earth" (averting the Insect apocalypse) 2022. The author, Prof, Dave Goulson quotes "Insects are essential for life as we know it. As they become more scarce, Our world will slowly come to a halt. We simply cannot function without them. There are many books with the same, sobering message right now, many voices from many sources, all agreeing. All based on sound, reliable, scientific evidence. Few seem to be listening.

The sound of buzzing insects is becoming increasingly rare in modern Britain, As things stand, our great Grandchildren will never hear the sound of turtle doves purring or hear the sound of a thousand insects buzzing on a hot summer mid-day.

For many years, all over the world, people like me have dreaded something like this happening and have been striving to raise awareness of the situation.

This is why we began the Wildlife Patch. Why we are trying to re-wild public places, why we are planting more trees in public places. Why we are uniting with others of similar minds to pressurise Governments to act to halt this decline. It is also why we will never give up.

This is the last Prattler of 2022, the next one will be for February 2023.

During 2023, along with bringing news from the Wildlife Patch I will explain what current evidence says is the reason for this catastrophe and what you and I can do to fight back.

Merry Christmas,

Dave Musson

The Prattler

The Prattler is run by an active voluntary committee comprising of Sue Boutle, Vicki Hamblin, Mary Rice, Jez Wilson and Mick Watts. If you would like to submit articles or have any suggestions for future issues, please get in touch with us by email or messages left in Heyford Meats or the One Stop shop.

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.



Nether Heyford Playing Fields

The Nether Heyford Playing Fields committee is currently advertising for new members. There are lots of different areas you could get involved in on the committee and they hope to find ten or more people for 2023. Full details will be published in the next edition but in the meantime if you can offer some time and skills to the committee of this community asset then please email heyfordsportsclubs@gmail.com

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The Editors reserves the right to edit or refuse any submissions at their discretion.

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