



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

February 2023

Issue 456



Little Red Riding Hood Panto

What an amazing night our village hall Panto was (oh yes it was!)

Not as good a turn out as we would have liked but everyone who came wholeheartedly looked to enjoy themselves. The travelling theatre company was very professional and kept the good old Panto traditions going (oh yes they did!) whilst introducing a modern touch which went down very well with the children.

It was a lovely touch that the characters drew the many raffle prizes in the interval and were happy to have photos taken with the children (and a couple of adults) after the show.

Good fun was had by children and adults alike (oh yes it was!).

We do hope to have them back next year.

NETHER HEYFORD

OFSTED No. EY450747

CHARITY No. 1029571

Pre-School

Ages 2-5 years

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

Highly qualified and experienced staff

Excellent links with Bliss School

Fantastic village location

Use of numerous outdoor facilities including:

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

Before & After School Club

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

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

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

Transition sessions available for Bliss School reception class.

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





The January 9th, 2022, Parish Council meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms.

Charles Kiloh was elected as Chair; Lesley Dilkes having resigned. CK thanked LD and LH for their efforts as Chair and Vice Chair over recent difficult months.

Public Participation. It was asked when the bollards were to be removed from outside the shop. It was understood that they would be removed but not known when.

It was asked when the Limes on the Green would be pollarded. The tree surgeon had informed the clerk that this would be at the end of the month.

Warm Room Clerk reported that the opening for 2 days a week had now commenced, to be maintained throughout January and February. Another publicity drop would be done. It was felt that the name should change in Spring to Community Hub or lounge or similar. LD felt that a large bookcase was required, as well as some more comfortable furniture. The funding that had been secured would allow the project to continue through the year. The installation of WiFi was under consideration. Gratitude was expressed to all the volunteers, without whom the project was unviable.

It was wondered whether there are residents who would use the facility if they could be picked up and dropped off. Some Councillors had offered to do this. If anyone would like to be picked up, or knows someone else who would – then please contact me or a Councillor and we will try and facilitate this. This offer only applies to residents of the village at this stage.

Reports - Lights It has been reported that a parishioner had fallen and broken her arm in Furnace Lane. Councillors expressed their sympathy. The light on the Green on Furnace Lane has recently been replaced with a particularly bright light. Five lights had been replaced on the bus route (all with new LED lights) but it has been decided to review the situation regarding the other lights that are out and general lighting in Spring and when we have a better idea of the overall costs of street lighting in the wake of a massive price increase. It is clear that LED lighting will substantially reduce the cost of lights. Cost of electricity for streetlights in 21/22 were approx. £6000: the present contract makes it likely that the cost for 23/24 will be c £21,000.

The lights in Bliss Close covering the path to Weedon Road to be replaced.

Roads and pavement. In poor condition, as are all roads in the area.

The Green/Play Area. The formation of a fund raising committee to work towards a new play area is under consideration. It is felt that the high cost of repairs is a drain on finances and a new Play Area is highly desirable.

Trees. Limes to be pollarded shortly. AW showed a map with the planned planting of 6 trees on Hillside Road and near the play area alongside the road there. Resolved. Trees to be planted.

The purpose of the planting is to replace trees that will die in the near future – most of the trees on the Green being short lived species. It is felt that the long term planting plan is a legacy for the future: Council not wishing to leave a Green with only declining trees.

Allotments. LE reported that the allotments were very wet, and that the rent letters had gone out. The round metal bench had been purchased and was awaiting installation.

Churchyard. Wildflower area on South side has been strimmed. There are high hopes for its 2nd year.

Youth Club. All in good order. LE reported that the club had been nominated for Youth Club of the year, and had been placed in the top 6. This reflects great credit on all those involved.

Bugbrooke Surgery PPG group. CK reported that he delivered prescriptions every Friday.

Coronation. CK to contact potential organisers.

Planning – Neighbourhood Plan. now in the 8-week consultation period required from WNC. AW thanked Tom Dodd for all his work in getting the presentation up to the standard required by WNC. The next stage is to go to the Examiner. There may be adjustments to be made after which the plan will be released to the village for comment.

Gravel extraction. AW and LE had had an online conference with barrister Jack Smyth of No5Barristers, which was felt to have given valuable assistance towards planning an objection. AW had been recommended a consultant to check the submission, and to review the Inspector's decision should it allow the extraction proposal.

To set precept for 2023/24

It was resolved – to set a Budget of £122,850.00 for the year 2023/24

It was resolved – to set a Precept of 105.350 for the year 2023/24

This would represent an increase of approx. 10.9%, but most of this would be due to the increased cost of electricity.

VAS sign. IP reported that the current sign (itself a replacement) was not working well and that data was very difficult to retrieve from it. He had therefore requested a full refund.

Bus Shelter in Hillside Rd. – report. Clerk had approached Highways for a map of services under the surface, as contractor was worried about hitting them. Had been told to approach the utility companies, or Digmart that could do it for Council.

Dog Mess. It has been noticeable that there is more of this on both the Green and pavements. If you are a dog owner please clear up, and keep a close eye on what your pet is doing. If you are in fields where livestock is likely to be please also clear up, as dog faeces can harbour parasites which can be very damaging to farm animals, especially sheep.

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/>

Parish Council meetings in 2023/24 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 Feb 6th and Monday March 6th.

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.

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Charles Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 07779 900860	Chair, Planning. Arnold Trust Rep.
Mrs L. Dilkes. 17 Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3JF e-mail thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967 753216	Vice 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	Website
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

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

Tel: 07935 931787



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for February 2023

Sunday 5 th	8:00am	Prayer Book Holy Communion at Flore
	10:00am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00am	United First Sunday Service at Flore
	6:00pm	Informal Worship at Heyford
Sunday 12 th	10:00am	Benefice Communion Service and Dedication of the Bells at Church Stowe with Rt Rev Bishop John Holbrook, Acting Bishop of Peterborough
	10:00am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 19 th	10:00am	Holy Communion Service at Heyford
	10:00am	United Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Wednesday 22 nd	7:30pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday at Heyford Church
Sunday 26 th	10:00am	Holy Communion at Flore
	10:00am	Informal Worship at Upper Stowe
	10:00am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	2:00pm	<i>'Refresh your Voices'</i> at Holy Cross Church, Daventry

Midweek Services

Wednesday	9:30am	Morning Prayer via 'Why Pay' conference call. Please contact the Rector for the numbers to use. (not 15 th Feb)
Thursday	9:00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for an invitation

During February we shall be praying for people living in Hillside Rd and Hillside Crescent here in Heyford, Sutton St, Yew Tree Gardens and Sutton Acre in Flore, The Manor in Church Stowe and the Gate House and the Old Dairy in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

I had an unusual experience on Thursday of last week (12th January), when I attended the Flore Primary School Christmas presentations. The original ones had been postponed from before Christmas because of illness among both staff and teachers. There were a lot of coughs and colds going around in the last week of the term, that probably marred Christmas for many people, including me, so it was good to see the children's retelling of the Christmas story, even belatedly. Perhaps there wasn't the same sense of excitement and expectation, but the children's performances were excellent, with great singing, acting and narration. The new and different songs and words gave a slightly different perspective on the Christmas story, perhaps made more powerful because of the 'odd' timing. The two performances reminded me that the message of Christmas isn't only for the twelve days of the season, but for every day of the year. It was summed up beautifully and poetically by the narrators of the story;

*"The King born in a stable, in a tatty, dirty stall
is a King who wants the world to know, he came to save us all.
You wonder why a stable, but it isn't all that odd,
you don't have to be special to be valuable to God."*

With that wonderful message in mind, in February we mark the beginning of Lent, and begin to look forward to Easter, where we see God's saving plans come to fruition in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. In preparation for that, on Sunday 26th February from 2:00PM – 4:00PM at Holy Cross Church in Daventry, the churches in the Daventry area are having a special 'Refresh your Voices' event. This event has been held in other parts of the Diocese of Peterborough to rave reviews. Please come along and enjoy a good sing, as we are led through different songs and music for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, as well as looking further ahead to King Charles III's coronation in May. Join us and be encouraged and enthused!!

In the meantime, I pray that as we head towards the spring, the message of Christmas will remain fresh, and we will know God's saving love at work in our lives, our homes and our communities.

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for February 2023

February 5 th	10:30 am	Morning Service led by Clive Leakey
February 12 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Wally Mular
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
February 19 th	10:30 am	Morning Service led by Les Britten. (Coffee after the service)
February 26 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby.

Events for February

February 10 th	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Afternoon Tea and Cakes
February 20 th	10am	Church Meeting
February 21 st	10am	Prayer and bible study

All welcome

Heyford Lunch Club

(for the over 55's)



Will be on the first Thursday of each month at 12.30 at Heyford Village Hall.

2 course meal with tea/coffee all for £7

To book your place please phone or message Julia on 07792 570082

Nether Heyford Baptist Church celebrate the School Room 100 Year Birthday



On Sunday 20th November last year a special service was held to celebrate the opening of the school room originally built in 1922 at a cost of £800. It was needed at the time with the increase of young people attending the Sunday School and other activities.

The opening was carried out by Mr E. G. Cosford, Treasurer of the Church using a silver key and the words "In the name of the Father Son and Holy Ghost" and Mr J. O. Adams another strong supporter and member also spoke.

Molly Sargent, our longest serving member re-enacted the opening, using the same words, before cutting an anniversary cake.

The upgraded building still continues to provide a Baptist witness within our community and can be hired for individual or family events.



Our Neighbourhood Plan: February 2023 Update

Since December, West Northants Council have been undertaking a consultation exercise with the proposed Neighbourhood Plan that we passed over to them at the end of last year.

They have put links to the documents on their website at:

<https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/info/47/neighbourhood-plans/35/nether-heyford-neighbourhood-plan>

Which reflect the documents on our website at:

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

After the 7th February when their consultation ends, an independent examiner will be invited to undertake a detailed inspection of the Plan. Any issues will be fed back to WNC and the Parish Council, and WNC will advise on whether the Plan can then go to a referendum in the village. Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed, we are allowed to hold public referendums again. If more than 50% of those voting are in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, the plan comes into force as part of the statutory development plan for the area.

During the development of the plan, we've seen many changes of ministers and cabinet members, each with their own take on how developments and planning proposals affect rural areas, small villages and 'greenbelt' land. With this uncertainty it is even more important that our voice is loud and clear, recorded in our neighbourhood plan, in saying what we aspire to and value in our village. Although the plan is not yet 'made' it can still be used as a reference to strengthen responses and comments to planning applications in the parish. We have great social capital in this village, with people volunteering time and expertise shared across lots of groups and clubs. The neighbourhood plan group has been no exception, and in itself a good example of what communities can do together.

West Northants Council have helpfully published some hard copies of the latest version of the plan, which can be found at the Forum in Towcester; with Guy Ravine, our Clerk to the Parish Council; also, at Heyford Meats, the Olde Sun and the Foresters. Thanks again to our local businesses for making sure these detailed documents are accessible for villagers. We will continue to update you here in the Prattler and on Facebook as the Plan continues its journey through these final few steps.

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

Footpath from Manor Walk to Manor Park

Many of you will have noticed that two new gates were recently installed on the footpath between Manor Walk and Manor Park. Such gates were in existence many years ago so their installation is merely conforming to the past. Nevertheless, it is a change which many people won't like so we felt we should offer an explanation along with a polite request.

The land on which the footpath crosses is owned by ourselves which is verified by the house deeds. This includes both the driveway and the footpath from the wall of our garden to the wall of the garages in the Manor courtyard. We have to give members of the public access along the footpath so they can travel between Manor Walk and Manor Park. The installation of the gates does not in any way deny that access. **The right of way is a footpath only and is not a bridleway or a cycle path**, a situation clearly marked by signs along the footpath and along the footpath at the rear of the Manor to Middle Street.

Let us now explain why the gates have been re-installed. Some years ago, an elderly gentleman travelling from Manor Park at speed on his bicycle was hit sideways by a car coming out of the Manor courtyard. His bicycle was damaged and he suffered some injury. He was in the wrong. Cars are regularly parked in the courtyard by residents of the Manor and by visitors, of which the latter in most cases are unaware of the access rights or the potential dangers. A driver of a car exiting from the Manor courtyard is not able to see a cyclist coming at speed along the footpath and therefore is in danger of causing injury (as happened before) or worse. Adult cyclists frequently ignore the signs putting themselves in danger, as well as being a poor example to young children who also come along the footpath on cycles.

The installation of the gates, if closed, will ensure cyclists will have to dismount, so reducing considerably the danger of an accident. Such minimisation of risk also applies to children not only on cycles, but also on electric scooters of which we have seen an increase in recent times.

Responsibility for the safety of fellow village residents, and particularly the young, is a collective responsibility and in the 38 years we have had the privilege of living in Nether Heyford have always been impressed by the way members of the village community exercise that responsibility. We therefore, request that when you use the footpath, in the interests of safety, would you please close the gates. It will only take a few seconds and it might save a child's life.

Tony and Gillian Pont

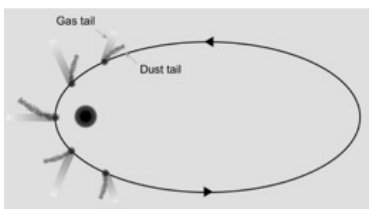
Astronomy on the Green - The Comets Tale

As you have probably heard we currently have an infrequent visitor with us. Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) was last with us 50,000 years ago when Neanderthals stared up in wonder and will return when none of us will be here to observe it in 72,023 (or indeed will any humans still be around?)

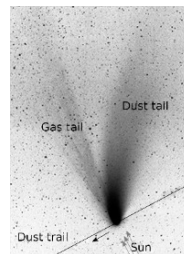
This frequency tells us that this is a Comet that most likely originates in the Oort cloud and has a highly eccentric solar orbit taking it outside the Solar system. The Oort Cloud lies beyond the Kuiper Belt, (the 'edge' of the Solar system). The belt is Pluto's home (some 5.34 billion km away) where Comets with shorter periods originate).

The Kuiper Belt contains Planetesimals and some icy remnants from the solar system formation, whereas the cloud is made up of almost completely of icy pieces of space debris the sizes of mountains and sometimes larger. The Oort Cloud might contain billions, or even trillions, of objects. The cloud is far away and large, for instance, the probe Voyager 1 travels about a million miles per day, yet the spacecraft will take about 300 years to reach the inner boundary of the Oort Cloud and probably another 30,000 years to exit the far side.

So, we know where C/2022 E3 (ZTF) originates, why the snazzy name? Partly from the discoverer, in this case the Zwicky Transient Facility, the year of discovery – E3 the third Comet in the 5th half month (March – the 6th half month is the 2nd half month in March – F). Now the C seems obvious – but “C” indicates a non-periodic comet. This means it takes more than 200 years to orbit the sun.



The tails of Comets always point away from the sun due to the solar wind.



In late January and early February, the comet should be visible in the night sky, possibly even without any equipment on a dark and clear night. However, you will get a better view of it with binoculars or a telescope. NASA said: “Comets are notoriously unpredictable, but if this one continues its current trend in brightness, it'll be easy to spot with binoculars, and it's just possible it could become visible to the unaided eye under dark skies.”

In the UK, people should look close to the north-eastern horizon in the early hours of the morning, before dawn, to see it. The common name of this comet is the 'Green comet' as it is particularly green (most comets are greenish due to ultraviolet

radiation from the sun is absorbed by a molecule in the comet called diatomic carbon — that is, two carbon atoms fused together). The reaction emits green light.

On the night of 1 February, the comet will make its closest approach to earth at approx 26 million miles.

Clear Skies.

Tony Boutle

Village Hall News

Happy New Year I hope you all had a very good Christmas. Our Pantomime was an excellent start to the Christmas festivities and we have rebooked it for this year already. Many thanks to the Crafty Club for decorating the Christmas tree so beautifully.

We have a full plan for next year including the pantomime in December. On 21st May we will have our Garage Sale with refreshments in the Village Hall so please contact our events secretary at nhvhevents@gmail.com if you would like to be involved.

Our fete is on June 10th and our Harvest Feast Harvest Supper is booked for 27th October so please put the dates in your diaries.

The hall is very busy with old and new regular bookings and is an excellent venue for parties and celebrations for special occasions. Our booking secretary Simone Squire will be happy to give advice on availability at simone@the-squires.co.uk.

At our meeting in January we discussed ways to improve the insulation of the village hall to keep heating costs down. Like everyone else we have seen a steep rise in heating costs. We are actively looking for quotes to improve the efficiency of our heating to enable us to keep the costs of hiring the hall at a reasonable price. Smart meters have been installed for both gas and electricity.

Joan Kirkbride
Village Hall Chairman
Tel 01327 340370

Email jknhvvhchairman@gmail.com



Heyford Picturedrome

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS ONE AND ALL

**Released 2022
Sequel to the 2019 film**

**THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2023
7.00pm for 7.45pm**

ADMISSION: £6.00

Based on the true story of Fisherman's Friends, about a real-life group of Cornish fishermen who land a record deal singing sea shanties.

This film tells the next part of the group's story as they struggle with fame amid their journey to performing at Glastonbury Music Festival.

We look forward to welcoming you again in the Village Hall.

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

LICENSED BAR

John Raistrick Alderson

We would like to thank everyone for their words of sympathy and kindness on John's recent passing. At this time of sadness, we are very grateful for your expressions of condolence.

Sandy, Lynne and Lisa

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

CLEANER REQUIRED

**A vacancy has occurred for a cleaner for the village hall.
Rate of pay £9.50 per hour for up to 20 hours per month**

Payment on receipt of Time Sheets. Any expenses incurred paid on receipt of invoices.

For further details please contact:

Joan Kirkbride Tel No 01327 340370



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In Nether Heyford

I do hope that Christmas and New Year has been a good time for everyone, that you are all in good health and ready to start another year!

The 'Old Year' ended well for the Nether Heyford WI, as we spent 4 hours making bacon rolls and tea at the Crafty Club Christmas Sale in the Village Hall. We should never underestimate how clever the members of this club are. It was a great sale with some beautiful things to buy and it was good to see people from the village enjoying themselves.

Our Christmas Dinner at the Greenacres Rural Enterprise Cafe at Staverton was great. The weather wasn't too helpful but the effort the Staff had gone to on our behalf was incredible - a 3 course turkey dinner with Christmas pudding and followed by mince pies, coffee and chocolates. I do hope some of you will go to see what they achieve if ever you are in Staverton on a Saturday morning and fancy a coffee (on the left-hand side along the Catesby Road)

January's Meeting was a trip down Memory Lane for many of us when David Banner took us on a walk around the Upper and Nether Heyford of his childhood. He mentioned places that I, as a 'newcomer' of 52 years ago, never really knew but it was a fascinating evening and brought back many forgotten names and places. As he had recently been unwell we were very grateful that he was able to join us.

We start our New Year with Stuart King, a volunteer and fund raiser for a Charity that I know many of us already support, but also one I'm sure we hope we will never need. The work of the Air Ambulance is something that means a lot to Stuart who has raised £31,080.15 through community collections, events and being a community speaker. What an achievement! Our Air Ambulance covers 5 counties and has no Government funding; the money coming from voluntary, community and business donations. They cover 3,850 square miles and the average cost of an Air Ambulance mission is £2,950 so the money is very important and I think that our next meeting is going to be a really interesting one. It will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, February 3rd at 7.30. Should you feel like joining us for the evening the cost is £5 and includes refreshments. We do hope to see you.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

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



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PERSONAL • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

Bugbrooke Medical Practice

Renovations:

December started with a boom, as we busily prepared for our renovation project. Desks were taken apart, noticeboards removed from walls and staff had a chance to show off their DIY skills as we cleared the Admin, Reception and Dispensary area ready for the builders. We decamped and moved staff to different parts of the building and relocated reception to the Fire Exit, which was manned by the Administration Team. We braved ice, rain and wind to make sure our Practice stayed open and our Clinician could still see our patients. We would like to thank our patients for their patience as we carried out this transition. Our staff were amazing dealing with the dirt, grime, noise and being relocated to other parts of the building.

We have received some lovely comments about how clean and welcoming the building looks now.

Enhanced Access Services

We have been able to offer Enhanced Access Services for our patients since November. This is to enable our patients to receive out of hours care at Highfields House, Cliftonville. The hours of service here are 6:30pm to 9:30pm Monday to Friday and Saturday and Sunday morning. Please make the use of these appointments if they are offered to you during our busy times or if they suit your needs.

Travel Vaccinations

We will no longer be offering Travel Vaccination advice as part of our service. This is a very time consuming exercise and takes away valuable appointment time. If you need to have vaccinations for your holiday please use the forms on these sites, contact the Surgery, making sure you let us know which vaccines you will require.

- ☐ **Travel Health Pro** (travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries)
- ☐ **NHS Fit for Travel** (NHS: fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations)

Please see our website for full details.

Meet Dr. Emily Pontin

Dr Pontin has joined us as part of her training. She is a qualified Doctor, who often works in Northampton A & E. She is hoping to specialise in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Women's Health). Her interests include Badminton and exploring the outdoors. We very much look forward to working with Dr Pontin for the next three months.

Temporary Residence/Registrations

If you have the need to register personally with us as a temporary patient, or have someone staying with you who needs medical help, please be aware that we are very happy to help you with this. However, you will not be offered an appointment

straight away, as this takes at least 48 hours to arrange. We are not able to make referrals to other services for temporary patients.

Trainees

We will be joined by two trainee Medical Students on a Tuesday starting with us on 24th January who may be in your consultations, to observe our Clinicians, or to be supervised as they carry out their own consultations. Please do let the Clinician know if you would prefer not to have the students in with you. Their names are Dr. Bryony Moore and Dr. Chloe Plater.

Staff Christmas Jumper Day and Raffle

We raised £100 in donations from our staff all monies were donated to The Community Café to build on the great work they already carry out. We would like to thank The Beauty Works, Bell Plantation for their very generous donation of two hair vouchers.

A message from our PPG Group

Recently the Patients Participation Group (PPG) was reformed for the surgery. This is an independent group and its aims are to form a communication link between the Surgery and its patients. Members are drawn from the various villages around Bugbrooke which use the surgery and include members of various Parish Councils as well as members of the public. We have held three meetings to date which occur at about six weekly intervals and we have concentrated on getting the messages out into the Community as to what is happening at the Surgery. The majority of this messaging is done via social media as this is the quickest and easily accessible method. A good example is the recent building changes that happened and avoiding as little disruption as possible. We are a two way sounding board, both for ideas from the practice and also from patients. Alongside the surgery team we hope to enhance the patients experience when visiting. If you have any feedback or wish to be involved in the Group then please contact Maddeline Langthorne at the surgery.

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Our next meeting is on 27th February when Lyn Sharp presents 'My Floral Gems'.

Visitors are always welcome at our friendly club so if you love flowers come along and enjoy a relaxing evening. You may be lucky enough to win a beautiful arrangement in the raffle. We meet in the Village Hall on the 4th Monday of each month (except bank holidays) at 7.30pm.

For further information contact Dianne on 01604 830063 or Simone on 01327 342167

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Heyford Garden Club

www.heyfordgardenclub.com

At our January meeting we welcomed Russell Atwood a gardener from Kettering who specialises in the “no-dig” method of vegetable growing. Russell apparently has 3 full size allotment plots on which he grows the usual range of vegetables but particularly large numbers of pumpkins and squashes. The most interesting point for me was his insistence that he NEVER has to water his plots and seldom needs to weed them. I am now looking to see how I can adapt his methods to my own plot which is on a somewhat more modest scale.

The talk was not only informative but entertaining ending with a sing along with words he had set to a couple of well known tunes, and Russell even provided us with some home baked pumpkin scones which I can certify were very good indeed.

Our AGM will be held on 13th February and this will include a quiz night.

Our wonderful weather

After a summer of record breaking heat and drought, December brought a cold spell longer and colder than any I can remember since 1982. I had been gradually accumulating some less hardy varieties of plants, which have been unaffected by frosts heretofore. A number of cyclamen have been killed this time however, as well some salvias and pelargoniums. Will the fuchsias and the lemon verbenas survive? It will be spring before I can be sure about that.

Bizarrely a tray of broad bean seedlings in the greenhouse were killed, but a small collection of cacti and succulents next to them were completely unaffected, no doubt because the latter were bone dry. It all goes to show that even if the climate is warming up generally, sharp cold snaps are still possible and need to be prepared for.

Things to do in February

1. Plant lily bulbs in pots for the summer
2. Plant bare root trees and shrubs, if the weather is suitable
3. Take cuttings of tender fuchsias

Mark Newstead



www.heyfordsingers.org

'Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to loneliness'

*Maya Angelou
An American poet and civil rights activist
1928 – 2014*

It is now February and although rather late The Heyford Singers wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. And a big 'thank you' for all of you who supported our Christmas Concert which was a sell-out, resulting in the Friday Concert being 'theatre style' in order to accommodate everyone. Of course we weren't to know that the Saturday Concert would be in competition with the World Cup and England were playing. However we had a very good audience and no-one in the choir wanted to know the score - except of course we couldn't resist looking at our 'phones in the interval. We carried on smiling though throughout... Through our raffles we raised £250 for Phoenix Rising which is a charity based in Stony Stratford and providing education and arts facilities for young adults with disabilities. We also raised £225 for the charity Northampton Sailability which is based at Pitsford reservoir and provides access to sailing facilities for children and young people of all abilities. Our Treasurer has now informed us that The Heyford Singers has raised over £17,000 to a variety of charities. A figure we are quite proud of.

Another 'thank you' to all of you who turned up for Carols on the Green (and were involved in setting up the gazebo, putting out the Christmas trees and lights) despite the muddy conditions – it became Carols in the Car Park. We raised £141 thanks to your generous donations split between the Choir and Parish Church, the latter providing and operating all the necessary audio equipment. And of course it wouldn't have been the same without Geoff Allen directing operations.

And now we are on a new term. The music for the May Concert is again very varied and will feature pieces from Les Miserables and Oliver (amongst many others) – all popular with both the Choir and with our audience. A lot of hard work ahead of us all especially with the nasty bugs going around, but we can assure you that come May 12th and 13th, we will all be singing in fine voice...

Talking of which, check out YouTube 'Assembly Bangers' with Jason Manford. For those of you who haven't heard of him, he is a Comedian, singer and presenter, and has produced a single which has been performed as the finale during Jason's recent sold-out UK tour. It is a dance track featuring songs sung in school assemblies for decades. It includes 'This Little Light of Mine' 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands' 'When I Needed a Neighbour' 'Lord of the Dance' and 'Sing Hosanna'. The younger generation love it... And while we are going back in time look at Luke Evans (wonderful Welsh singer) on YouTube singing 'The First Time Ever I saw Your Face'.

There is an Exhibition in Manchester at the Science and Industry Museum called Turn It Up: The Power of Music and is on at the Special Exhibitions Gallery. This is on until 21st May this year and if you happen to be up in the North (half term or Easter?) this would be a wonderful place to go for adults and families alike. The Exhibition is described as 'Make music together and play with beat, melody and harmonies in a newly commissioned musical playground. Explore how technological advancements continue to push the limits of music and make playing music more accessible for everyone. Meet Haile the musical robot that can play and improvise alongside human musicians. It is a riotous, hands-on experience encouraging us all to feel, to remember and to reflect on what music means to us and the lives of others.'

Lastly, another icon has passed away and all you drummers out there have a special reason to be grateful to Gina Lollobrigida – and I take this from a letter which appeared in The Times. 'Mumbling her name is a useful template when attempting to drum that rare and tricky seven beats to the bar.' Who knew?

JRA



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Allotment News

Appearances

A lot has been written in the gardening press about not being too tidy in the garden and on the allotment and there is much to be said for leaving some areas to grow wild. However, appearance does matter! When the refurbishment of the allotments began about five years ago, we were faced by a wilderness of invasive weeds, tangled iron and all manner of non-recyclable rubbish. Those intrepid plot holders who had hung in there trying to grow things, despite these challenges, deserve great credit for keeping things going. Fast forward to the present day and now, even on a bleak winter's day, the allotment site looks well cared for and the beds ready for Spring cultivation.

Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough are gurus of greening urban spaces. Amongst other things they were responsible for the creation of the flower meadows at Olympic Park in East London and the wild flowers in the moat around the Tower of London. They seem to neatly resolve the “wild v tidy” argument perfectly when they say “You can’t sell messiness”. So, let us set aside areas for wild flora and fauna, let’s manage our growing in a sustainable way and above all else, look after our soil **and** in addition, keep our allotments looking good. It is possible to have it both ways.

Vacancies

A warm welcome to new allotmentees and good luck in your growing for the new year.

By the time you read this article, we will have held Rent Night and there will be a clearer picture of how many vacant plots we might have. As things stand, we have 4 plots available, varying in size. Some even have fruit bushes already in situ. If you would like to begin growing your own fruit and veg then contact Lynda Eales at lyndaeales@aol.com or on 01327 341707. She will be very happy to answer any questions and arrange to show you round the allotments.

No Dig

Some of you will have been able to attend the recent meeting of Heyford Garden Club and listen to the presentation by gardening expert, lecturer and radio presenter, Russell Atwood who talked about “No Dig Gardening”.

This a topic that has created a good deal of interest in the gardening world and something that we have been trying out on our allotment for a several years. We think it works and leads to the creation of soil that is full of goodness. In light of the section above on “appearance” let me reassure you that No Dig does not lead to messiness and weedy chaos – unless of course it is done badly.

Converted? Sceptical? Think it is a load of trendy nonsense? If you'd like to learn more about the subject don't hesitate to contact me at langrish_heyford@hotmail.com or on 01327 341390.

Community Days

We will be holding another of our very productive community working party mornings on Saturday 25th March, between 10.00.am and 12 noon. If you can join us that would be most appreciated – please make a not in your diary.

Manure and Wood Chippings

We are still waiting to hear from our suppliers regarding these two valuable commodities, but hope to arrange for delivery in the next month or so. Once we have more details, we will be in touch. As things stand, woodchip will be free and manure will cost £2.50 a barrow. It is our intention to have both delivered to the hard standing area by the pumping station so that it is easy to offload and store.

Good Gardening

Mike Langrish



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Flood Watch

December started with a blast from the Arctic with temperatures plummeting to below freezing resulting in a brief period of snow and ice. However exceptionally high temperatures across Europe brought above average temperatures to the UK for the rest of the month, albeit with increased rainfall that raised the total months rainfall to above average. Overall yearly rainfall ended at about normal.

However, the new year started with record level temperatures of -55 degrees Celsius in the USA forcing an increase in the jet stream velocity which resulted in extreme low pressure developing over the UK. As a result, long periods of heavy rain settled over the UK resulting in extensive flood warnings especially along the west coast of Wales and Scotland. Significant areas experienced severe flooding effecting hundreds of properties. At the same time extreme flooding events were being reported in Australia and the USA. Locally the river levels rose on numerous occasions peaking at a level just below the flood level threshold. As reported in the last issue of the Prattler it is now more than 2 years since we experienced local flooding.

As the jet stream remains active the ongoing forecasts for the rest of January predict that the warm wet spell which has already resulted in over a month's rainfall will be followed by a severe drop in temperatures to near freezing with a risk of snow. Although the immediate risk of local flooding has abated motorists are advised never to drive into flood water even as shallow as 6 inches to avoid serious engine damage.

The lighter evenings are already becoming apparent with daylight hours increasing by 3 hours from 21st Dec 22 to the end of February 2023. Over the corresponding period sunset times would increase by nearly 2 hours.

J.Arnold.

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

View from the Wildlife Patch

2022 was a remarkable year in many ways with weather playing a major role in this remarkableness. There is little doubt that as Climate Change takes effect, our weather patterns are going to become increasingly unpredictable. This unpredictability raises many questions. How has the very mild weather of the 2022-23 winter affected our wildlife? Will 2023 be as dry as 2022? Will we experience the extreme heat of 2022? and many more. Only time will tell, questions will be answered and new questions arise as the weeks and months of 2023 go by.

There are a few jobs waiting to be done on the patch. Some small mammal has nibbled at least one hole in the pond membrane. Repairing that will be a priority.

As I have written previously. All life, including us, needs several things in order to survive. In the natural world all species have evolved to meet their own particular requirements. This enables all species to fit together in a balanced order. When one of these factors changes, many other species can be affected in some way. This effect can be either positive or negative.

A really good example of one factor having a major effect on one species has occurred in very recent years, all across the UK including in Nether Heyford. Hedgehogs eat insects as well as other invertebrates including Slugs and Snails. They wander about in the dark along fixed routes, snuffling around and picking up food as they find it. A hedgehog will cover about 2 kilometres in one evening doing this. Previously they were able to wander from garden to garden munching away, meeting other hedgehogs, finding places to breed, sleep, hibernate etc.

When hedgehog numbers began to fall lots of people were concerned. Many stopped buying the slug killer that was poisoning hedgehogs. (This substance is now banned in the UK). Many people now buy specially prepared hedgehog food. Some also buy especially designed houses for hedgehogs to breed etc.. It seems that almost everyone loves hedgehogs. Yet still the species has now declined, almost to the point of being an endangered species.

In residential areas one of the main reasons for this continuing loss is that most of us now put high fences round our gardens. This presents no problem. However, we love to put concrete "Gravel Boards" along the bottom of the fence. This results in hedgehogs no longer being able to wander from garden to garden in search of food etc. They are forced to take other routes that bring them into contact with road traffic. The results of this are only too well known.

If all gravel boards were made with one 5 inch diameter hole (the size of a CD) in each, that would solve the problem. If people with gravel boards made holes in them, it would solve the problem. I have suggested to many people that they could think about how to make their boundary hedgehog friendly.

Pauline and I work with our neighbours on one side to maintain a hedgehog route through our gardens to the front of the house. We also occasionally use a trail cam

to record the hedgehog visits. This seems to show that hedgehog numbers visiting our garden are still declining which indicates that nowhere near enough of us are making hedgehog pathways in their fences.

I know that some readers have already addressed this issue but it needs many, many more to have hedgehog friendly boundaries to make a real difference. I hope we never need to find out how the complete loss of hedgehogs affects the rest of our wildlife.

The choice is ours to make.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

We would like to wish all our members, friends and supporters a very Happy New Year and hope that 2023 brings health and happiness.

The club ended the year with its traditional Christmas party attended by over 50 people. It was a great evening of celebration and Christmas fun and games enjoyed by everyone. We then started 2023 with a James Bond Casino evening to celebrate a member's BIG birthday. Another great evening and a wonderful start to the year.

Now starts the preparation and planning for the new outdoor season. Our friendly match schedule has been organised and the competition schedule for the Short Mat held in the Village Hall has been planned with their first competition, the Presidents Cup, taking place on Saturday 11th February. Short Mat sessions are held throughout the year on Wednesday afternoon and evenings in the Village Hall so why not come along and give it a go.

Unfortunately over the Christmas break we were informed of the death of one of our Outdoor members, David Barlow. Our thoughts go out to his family and he will be sadly missed, one of the last true gentlemen. There will be a memorial service at St Peter's & St Paul church on Thursday 2nd February at 11.30am.

Lorraine Streeter - Club Captain

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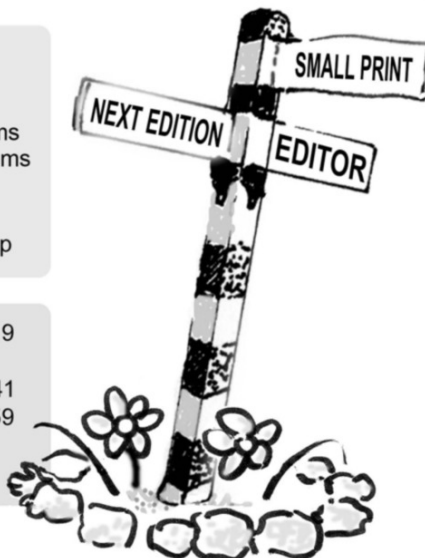
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Editorial:	Sue Boutle	01327 342519
Proofreading:	Tony Boutle	
Distribution:	Mick Watts	01327 340041
Adverts & Payments:	Vicki Hamblin	01327 341059
Design:	Nick Essex	
Website:	Jez Wilson	



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