



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

March 2023

Issue 457

HEYFORD GARDEN CLUB

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL 8PM

13 MARCH
2023



WOODLAND
TRUST

TREES
AND
CLIMATE
CHANGE

Liz Taylor

Everyone
Invited

Heyford Garden Club
welcomes everyone from
our village and beyond.
Just £2 for members, £5
for visitors, with annual
membership £10 each.

Daffodil Mini Show
Large and Small
categories



Irene Gilkes

With great sadness our Mum - Irene Gilkes formerly of Nether Heyford passed away peacefully in her sleep on Saturday 21st January 2023 surrounded by her Family at Ashdown House - Daventry. She is now united with Dad - Cliff Gilkes.

Funeral to be held for Private Immediate Family only (as per Mum's wishes).

Post Office Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed

NETHER HEYFORD

OFSTED No. EY450747

CHARITY No. 1029571

Pre-School

Ages 2-5 years

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

Highly qualified and experienced staff

Excellent links with Bliss School

Fantastic village location

Use of numerous outdoor facilities including:

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

Before & After School Club

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

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

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

Transition sessions available for Bliss School reception class.

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

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





The February 6th, 2022, Parish Council meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms.

Public Participation Cllr Brown had sent a report that had been circulated. He highlighted that it was budget time at WNC, and that a lot of attention would be paid to road surfaces, to make up for under investment during NCC times.

Warm Room Clerk reported that the opening for 2 days a week was continuing and would be maintained throughout January and February. Another publicity drop would be done through the year. The installation of WiFi was under consideration. Gratitude was expressed to all the volunteers, without whom the project was unviable. 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.

One of the big positives of the warm room has been the regular attendance of the PCSO Chris Dudley and other police officers. This has given the opportunity for informal contact with both Councillors and residents. And the chance to clarify issues and pass on information.

Reports

PCSO No major incidents reported. Some new graffiti seen.

Lights Nos 5 and 6 in Bliss Close to be repaired. Clerk to inform residents who enquire that "At the moment repairs will be done on lights on the bus routes, main thoroughfares and if the fixture itself is unsafe." A review will take place in April. Costs are the main issue – both the cost of electricity and of maintenance are spiralling.

Roads and pavements. It was recommended that residents and councillors continue to report issues to "Fix My Street". It was noted that some work had been done in Hillside Rd, but that it was completely inadequate.

Truelo would arrange removal of the VAS sign and a give a refund. He would look at other makes of "speed cam" and try to obtain 3 quotes.

The Green/Play Area Play Area in need of tidying up. The Green in reasonable condition generally.

Mosaic The mosaic restoration was nearly complete. The final cost would be c£350. It's future location had not yet been finally decided.

Playing Fields. The design of the Pavilion had not yet been finalised. The Clerk confirmed that Council could not reclaim VAT on behalf of the PFA.

Trees. Limes not yet pollarded. Clerk to contact SB. The Allotments would like the chippings. A resident had contacted Council regarding tree planting on the Green. It has been established that a Parish Council has no statutory duty to consult on its normal decisions, and that any reasonable expectation of consultation had been satisfied since the councillors involved with the planting had contacted residents around the Green. The Friends of the Green were invited to address the Parish Council.

Allotments Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the rents had been collected on and since the rent night on 26th Jan (c £880). There were 2 vacancies.

Footpaths DM reported that they are in reasonable condition. The Parish Council is not responsible for footpath maintenance and complaints should be put on Fix my Street. There had been complaints from some residents about the erection of gates on the footpath between Manor Walk and Manor Park.

Youth Club LE reported an average of 25 per session, and that all was going well.

Planning Gravel extraction No committee date set – more work to do on Hydrology and wildlife.

The Green It was decided not to agree to ceding a small part of the Green.

Barley Resolved to object to the GVOL application to remove " no maintenance within the operating centre" clause from conditions. Clerk to write to Traffic Commissioner.

Councillor Surgeries Resolved. A Councillor surgery to be held at the Warm Room/Community Lounge 2 weeks before a full Council meeting. 2 Councillors to be present. First one to be held on Feb 22nd from 2 – 4 pm at the Youth Club.

Annual Parish Meeting This will take place before the April Parish Council Meeting. This meeting is a vestige of the old style parishes that existed in the 19th Century prior to the creation of Parish Councils. It is still a legal requirement that it take place. It can be attended by any resident and there is the opportunity to speak during the public session. It is also an opportunity for village organisations to give a report. These should be e-mailed to the clerk at

netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

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 one is on Monday March 6th.

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/>

Paid Casual Employment Opportunities (Elections)

Have you ever considered working in a Poll Station or at a Count Venue during an election and supporting the democratic process? The Returning Officer for West Northamptonshire employs casual staff at different times of the year to assist with the running of elections.

Staff can sometimes be required at short notice, for example when a General Election is called. You can apply for an election job at any time of the year. Even if there are no elections scheduled, we continuously recruit to the staffing database in preparation for the next electoral event. Once you have joined the staffing database, you will be the first to hear of available jobs and be invited to confirm your availability to work. Many roles require no previous electoral experience. Where appropriate, full training is provided.

All applicants must be aged at least 18 and have the right to work in the UK. Political working restrictions apply. To register your interest and for more detailed information on these jobs, please visit www.westnorthants.gov.uk/electoral-services and view the 'employment opportunities section'.

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 March / Easter 2023 **More detail of Easter Services in the Rector's letter

Sunday 5 th	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00am	Informal First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00pm	Informal Evening Worship at Heyford
Sunday 12 th	10:00am	Benefice Communion Service at Brockhall Church
	10:00am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 19 th	10:00am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00am	United Mothering Sunday Coffee Church at Flore Chapel
	10:00am	Mothering Sunday Service at Upper Stowe
Sunday 26 th	10:00am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	10:00am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00pm	Café Church at Heyford Church
Saturday 1 st Apr	2:00pm	Messy Church Easter at Flore Church
Sunday 2 nd Apr Palm Sunday	11:00am	United Palm Sunday service at Flore Church (incl Communion) **
Thursday 6 th	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Supper at Flore Church **
Friday 7 th	2:00pm	Walk of Witness leaves Heyford Church **
Good Friday	4:00pm	United Service at Heyford Baptist Church
	7:00pm	United Service for Good Friday at Flore Chapel
Sunday 9 th	7:00am	Sunrise Service at Upper Stowe
Easter Sunday	9:00am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Heyford Church
	10:00am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Flore Church
	10:00am	Easter Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	11:15am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Brockhall

Dear Friends,

As you read this, we are in the season of Lent, according to the Church calendar. This season of penitence and reflection was introduced by Pope Felix III in the fourth century. Originally lasting 36 days, a further four days were added, and the link made to the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by the devil. The name, 'Lent' comes from the Old English word for spring, '*lencten*', reminding us that the days lengthen as we make our way through spring and on into summer. In Western Christianity, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday (that's more than 40 days, but Sundays don't count because each is a feast day remembering Jesus' resurrection). In the past, a Lenten fast was observed, perhaps because food supplies from the previous autumn harvest were beginning to run out. These days, we tend to give something up for Lent, perhaps something we enjoy eating, such as chocolate or biscuits, or something that takes up time that we might spend doing other things, such as reading, or going out for a walk. Sometimes, we can make more of our self-denial, perhaps by donating the money we save by not eating chocolate to a good cause, or by using any extra time we save to pray for our communities and our world.

Christians use the forty days of Lent to prepare for the celebrations of Easter and reflect on Jesus' life and death. That's particularly true of the last week of Lent – Holy Week - when we follow Jesus on his journey to the cross, from his entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, to his crucifixion on Good Friday. This year, Holy Week falls on the first week of April. The dates and times of the main Easter services are included on the service rota, but here are a few more key details:

On Palm Sunday, there will be a Walk of Witness, leaving Flore Chapel at 10:30AM and walking to Flore Church for the United Palm Sunday service. Refreshments will be available in the church from 10:30AM, and the service will begin at 11:00AM. If you would like to join us for the Maundy Thursday Supper in Flore Church – which will include a time for worship and reflection - please let Mrs Sue Raven know by Sunday 2nd April. (*Sue's contact details: 01327 340183, or email sueraven26@gmail.com*).

On Good Friday, there will be a Walk of Witness leaving Heyford Church at 2:00PM and walking to Heyford Baptist Church. Refreshments will be served in the Baptist School Rooms before a united Good Friday service in the Baptist Church at 4:00PM. There will be a united Good Friday service in Flore Chapel at 7:00PM.

In the meantime, as we anticipate the Easter celebrations, I wish you all a restful and reflective Lent.

With prayers and blessings,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for March 2023

March 5 th	10:30 am	Morning Service led by John Perkins.
March 12 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Nathan Toseland from the Central Baptist Team
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
March 19 th	10:30 am	Morning Service led by Clive Leahey. (Coffee after the service)
March 26 th	9:30 am	Prayer meeting followed at 10.30am by our Communion service led by Martin Buckby.

Events for March and Early April

March 10 th	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Afternoon Tea and Cakes
March 18 th	10 am to 12 md	Coffee Morning
March 20 th	10am	Church AGM
March 21 st	10am	Prayer and bible study
April 1 st	12md to 2pm	Lent lunch with monies for The Hope Centre.

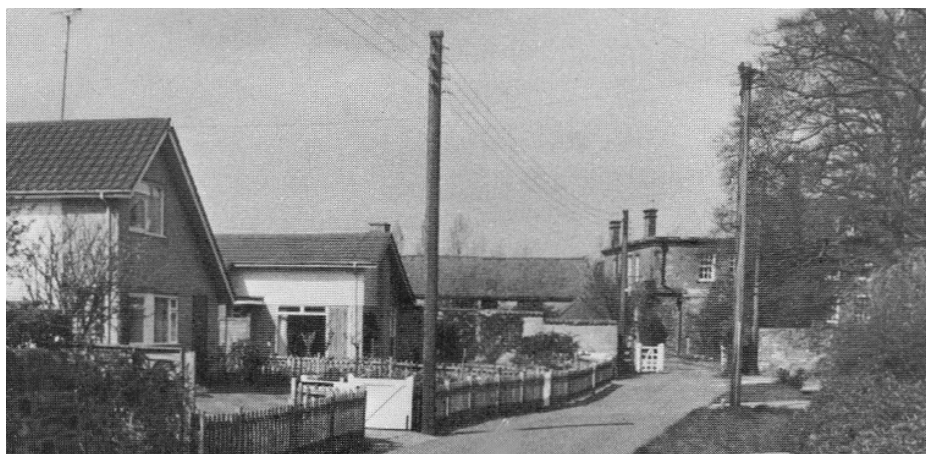
All welcome

Past Photographs of Nether Heyford

Over the years many people in the village have expressed how much they enjoy looking at photographs of Nether Heyford in former times. Here are two more to enjoy.

In view of recent conversations that have been taking place in the village recently, the words issued by Buckingham Palace in 2022 on behalf of our late Queen Elizabeth II seem most appropriate - "Recollections may vary".

Tony & Gillian Pont



RECENTLY REFURBISHED OFFICES TO LET NETHER HEYFORD



4 offices to let either individually or as a whole.

Room 1 Ground Floor	21.5 m ²
Room 2 Ground Floor	15.8 m ²
Room 3 First Floor	19.0 m ²
Room 4 First floor	17.4 m ²

Recently refurbished, new communal kitchen area, toilets, car parking

A peaceful rural location:

10 mins from M1 Junction 16.

15 mins from Towcester

15 mins from Daventry

30 mins from Northampton centre

To discuss and arrange viewing

Email Heyfordhillsfarm@gmail.com or contact Jim on 07767 777445

Heyford Hills Farm, Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LB

Heyford Parish Church and Baptist Church

invite you to join them for a

Lent Lunch

(Home-made soup, cheese and crusty bread)

on Saturday 1st April



12noon -2pm

In The Baptist Schoolroom
The Green, Nether Heyford

There is no set charge, cash donations are invited for the Hope Centre, Northampton

Food Bank

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

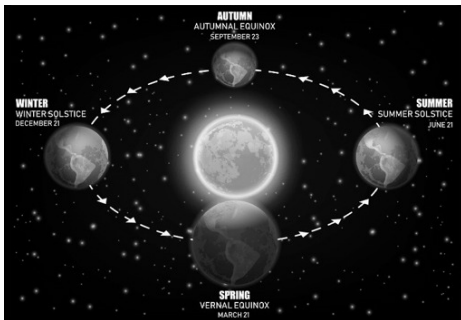
Alternatively if you wish to help, please leave donations for the food banks in the box outside the door of 15 Middle Street where they are delivered to the banks twice a week.

Thank you.

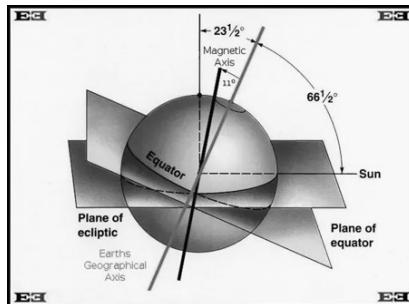
Astronomy on the Green

This month we have the Vernal equinox, astronomically this is the start of spring. So, you may ask what is an equinox? It is the time of year when the length of day and night are equal, this year the Vernal equinox is 20th March. As we head towards the warmer months we may think we are getting closer to the sun, in fact this is not the case. The Earth is at its closest to the Sun in early January (91.4 million miles), so distance is not the reason for the seasonal temperature change.

The reason is related to the tilt of the Earth on its orbit around the sun, the poles of the planet are inclined at 23.5 degrees to the sun. winter months the northern hemisphere is pointing away from the sun whilst the southern hemisphere enjoys its summer. The day the equinox (or Solstice) fall on varies from year to year (due to a year being 365.25 days long).



There are two equinoxes and two Solstices which broadly define our seasons. The Vernal (Spring) and Autumnal equinox. The Winter (shortest day) and Summer (longest day) Solstices.



In addition, our position on the planet determines how we see the sky. Nether Heyford's Latitude is 52.2 degrees North, so Polaris will sit at that angle in the sky, and apparently the sky revolves around that point due to the spin of the Earth. Our Longitude determines the East/West position we inhabit -1.03 West. The Green itself is at an elevation of 79 metres above sea level.

All this data is needed for navigation, and this was the reason for the development of the earliest of all the sciences - Astronomy.

Clear skies all!

Tony Boutle



Village Hall News

Our AGM is booked for 17th April at 7.00pm in the village hall and all residents of the village are welcome. Come along and meet your committee.

Don't forget our Garage Sale on 21st May. This is a good time to sort out what we have in our cupboards and no longer need. Contact our events secretary Pat Paterson on nhvhevents@gmail.com if you would like to take part.

The pantomime is booked for Friday 30th December at 2.30pm. A date not to be missed for all ages but especially children.

The hall continues to be 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.

We have appointed a new cleaner who started on 1st February. Many thanks to Jill Garratt, who resigned last month, for the excellent condition in which the Village Hall was kept during her time with us.

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



Heyford Picturedrome

TICKET TO PARADISE

Released September 2022

THURSDAY 16th MARCH 2023

7.00pm for 7.45pm

ADMISSION: £6.00

A man and his ex-wife race to Bali, Indonesia, to stop their daughter from marrying a seaweed farmer.

Cast includes Julia Roberts and George Clooney

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

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

LICENSED BAR

Quote from Facebook:

“Brilliant film in Heyford Village Hall last night about the Cornish Fishermen, filmed in Port Isaac and the Minack Theatre, two of our favourite places.

Only £6 to watch and a coffee or wine in the interval. A very good turnout, keep it up folks so that film night can continue to function.”

Over the last few months we have seen tree planting on the green and a group of us have complained to the Parish Council as to the lack of consultation as we do not agree with it.

Nether Heyford is blessed with the best green in the country and we want the open space left for the whole village to enjoy.

Unfortunately there is a group (Heyford Wildlife Association) who want to plant trees and don't care where they put them as long as they get there way.

On Saturday 18th February, they came and planted 3 trees by the side of Hillside Road and my neighbour went to complain to them but they could not care and his wife was left in tears over their comments to them.

The Parish Council have indicated that we could address them but what is the point as the offending trees have been planted.

We are really disgusted with the council as it seems they will do what they want without looking at the other side of the argument.

We also want people to know that we agree wholeheartedly in planting in the village as we agree it is to the benefit of everyone

Bob Lewis and others in Hillside Road



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In Nether Heyford

At our last Meeting, Stuart King gave us a wonderful insight to what seems to be most people's favourite charity - the Air Ambulance Service. We all know what we think of as the basics of the service they give, but it was fascinating to hear about it from the inside. Stuart had knowledge of the many pieces of equipment that they carry, the dedicated and experienced staff, travelling times and the difficulties of some of the places on which they have to land. All of this is expensive and paid for without Government help, relying on charity from people like us. We were told about the shops, the lottery and collecting boxes at shopping centres and shows. In fact, the WI ladies all turned up clutching Smartie tubes which we had been given at our Christmas party. We were told that we could eat the contents but then had to try to fill the tubes with coins for the Air Ambulance - not quite as easy as it sounds, especially as, since covid, quite a lot of shopping is paid for by card!

In March we start the evening with a short AGM followed by a Speaker who lives in Northampton and who has used her own ill health to help others. Sarah Veness is a stroke survivor who is committed to raising awareness of those living with memory loss. She is an author who has trained as a Dementia Champion and co-hosts a reminiscence group and is coming to Nether Heyford WI to talk to us about how to make memory books and memory boxes. Dementia is something that can happen to anyone and, having walked the dementia path with my own Mother, I can only wish that I had made one of these with her. To quote Sarah herself "I am a photo-loving, camera toting, fund-raising, story writing, fun-making sort of person". Personally, I think that makes her a perfect WI lady and I can't wait to meet her!

If you don't mind waiting for the few minutes our AGM will take and would like to join us, please do come. You will be very welcome. We meet in the Village Hall at 7.30 on Thursday, March 2nd and the cost for the evening is £5, which includes tea and refreshments.

The Speaker at our April 6th meeting will be Deb Jones, who will be demonstrating Willow Basketry and Sculpture, so please put the date in your diary if you would like to come along for the evening and see what the WI is all about.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

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Phone: 01327-342167



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www.heyfordsingers.org

*'Never fear about composing
a tune you can whistle to'*

*Burt Freeman Bacharach
1928 – 2023*

Concert Dates: Friday 12th May & Saturday 13th May Tickets: 01327 342110

As you will all know Burt Bacharach died last month at the age of 94. What an innings! He is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential figures of 20th Century popular music - a prolific composer from the late 1950s, many songs in collaboration with lyricist Hal David and writing specifically then for Dionne Warwick who had many a 'hit' with his little masterpieces. More recently Elvis Costello has compiled a new release called 'The Songs of Bacharach & Costello' that brings together all of the published songs that he has written with him. Three more decades of songwriting. And as the *Daily Mail* put it – he kept the world singing for 50 years. How many of us will hum or sing 'Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head' or 'What's It All About Alfie' (his favourite)? Many a famous name have performed Bacharach's songs from (going back!) Marty Robbins, Gene Pitney, Nat King Cole and Perry Como to Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones. And anyone of a certain age will remember 'Say a Little Prayer', 'Walk on By', 'Do You Know the Way to San Jose' which all live on now. Bacharach worked in the earliest phase of his career as accompanist and conductor for Marlene Dietrich's night club act. Not bad for a teenager who disliked his classical piano lessons and would use a fake ID to gain admission into 52nd Street nightclubs where he got to hear bebop musicians – his great influencers - Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker.

And not to be outdone, we have our very own composer and lyricist in The Heyford Singers and we will be performing Graham Kinnersley's work at our next concert in May. Under wraps at the moment whilst we practice but we hope to do credit to two of Graham's compositions. There are many jokes about Choirs, not least of which are aimed at the Bass section. However any potential amusement was wiped off the Sopranos and Altos' faces at rehearsals recently when the gentlemen sang 'Let it be me'. Grins were quickly replaced by tears. You will all know this wonderful little song (composed in part by Manny Curtis) 'I bless the day I found you, I want to stay around you'. This was originally sung in French in 1955 and interpreted by Gilbert Becaud, becoming popular worldwide with the famous English version by the Everly Brothers. Come to our concert and see for yourself. And bring a handkerchief.

And you might need a hanky for 'The Long and Winding Road' which is of course by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Check out the last note which, when you are learning it as a Choir at first seems wrong, but sung in its four parts, is beautiful. 'Benedictus' is from The Armed Man and is a Mass for Peace – so relevant in today's world. Sung well beyond the reach of the Second Sopranos and in Latin, this isn't the easiest of pieces to master but our top Sopranos are reaching new

heights and mastering this arrangement.

The men are also singing an old favourite 'Mama Don't Allow' and a lot of stamping and whistling goes into this whilst the Ladies struggle gainfully to imitate Abba. So no-one can say we don't have a varied Concert planned this Spring. We may not strut the stage like the performers in the rock concert I went to last night, but at least you won't be deafened nor have to wave your arms in the air – but hey, you should hear our 'Blue Tango'...

JRA



Opportunities down the Playing Fields

Down the playing fields, we've got a range of sports and activities that cater for just about everyone's needs and are as good as anywhere in the county and maybe the country.

We recognise that the social area and changing rooms are now past their sell by date, fortunately we've got a small group of people who are focusing on getting new changing rooms in place, that will serve us for many years into the future.

What we are now looking for is some new people to come onto the playing fields committee and some additional volunteers who just want to 'lend a hand' on jobs like cutting the grass.

Getting involved does require some commitment, however in return you'll get an enormous amount of satisfaction from seeing how the facilities are enjoyed by so many people from the village and the local community.

If you'd like to understand a bit more about what's involved as a committee member or as a volunteer to 'lend a hand', with no obligation, please pick up the phone and call:

Chris Andrews on 07880 996511

Jeff Buck on 07808 705767

Nether Heyford Community



Lounge

Based at the Youth Club
Ridgeway Furlong

The Community Lounge is a fab warm space where you can enjoy great company and relax and chat to other people from the village, it is a great opportunity to meet and make new friends.



Every Wednesday
9am to 5pm

Refreshments available at no charge, including Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, squash, cup-a-soups, biscuits and much more as well as daily newspapers

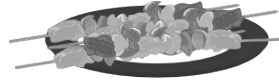


We would love to see you, so why not just give it a try, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain

**If transport is required please contact
Charles Kiloh on 07779 900860**

Heyford Lunch Club

(for the over 55's)



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

Next one is on 2nd MARCH at 12.30pm

2 course meal with tea/coffee all for £7

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

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

The next meeting is on Monday 27th March at 7:30pm. Our President Simone Squire will be presenting 'The joy of Spring'. I am sure this will be an interesting talk about this lovely time of the year.

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

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:

Charles Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 07779 900860

Heyford Allotments and Garden Club

Two for One!

I know that a number of Heyford allotmenters and garden club members have often spoken to me about these two groups of good people combining their enthusiasm and passion for gardening by sharing more ideas and information. Therefore, when we discovered that Heyford Garden Club were in need of a new writer of articles for the Prattler, it seemed a good opportunity to bring the two together. So, for the foreseeable future, you will be getting “two articles for one”. And it goes without saying that allotmenters are always welcome to join in garden club activities just as garden club members are more than welcome to either take on an allotment (if we have any vacant plots) or simply come and visit the site and enjoy the community areas.

Open Committee Meeting

Following the success of our last open meeting, we will be holding a similar event at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4th April. The venue will again be the village youth club in Roberts Field. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to have your say in how the allotments are run, to contribute your ideas as how things might develop in the future and find out more about what we plan for 2023. Some really positive ideas were proposed when we last met, leading to changes in that I hope will benefit all. Although we, as a committee, don't have the power to change terms and conditions or important things like rents - that is the responsibility of the Parish Council - we can be a major influence in their decision making. That remains a very positive relationship and one that we both find beneficial. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Rent Night and Allotment Vacancies

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

Allotment Rent Night was held in January and many thanks to everyone who either attended or were able to pay their dues by cheque or via a bank transfer. A big thank you also to those allotment holders who contacted us to say they'd forgotten the event but were anxious to pay up promptly! If you still need to pay your rent, or if you still haven't been contacted with a rent demand, do let us know via the details at the end of the article. Sometimes contact details change and the Parish Council is not made aware of this.

As things stand, we have 2 small starter plots available at just £5 per annum, one large plot at £16.78 and two medium size plots for £13.20 and £7.60 respectively. They are all covered with landscape fabric and ready for new tenants to take on. 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.

Heyford Garden Club

The February meeting of the garden club saw the election of a new committee and the presentation of annual accounts. Rising costs have resulted in annual membership increasing to £10, although entry fees for each meeting are still held at £2.00 for members and £5.00 for visitors. That represents remarkable value, especially when you consider that it also includes refreshments.

The garden quiz that followed the AGM was won by Gil and Pauline Guglielmi, aided and abetted by Mark Newstead. Well done to them and to Billy Hawes for acting as quizmaster. Prizes were kindly donated by Dobbies Garden Centre. It is good to see local businesses offering their support and many thanks goes to them.

The March meeting of the garden club will take place on the 13th and will include a daffodil show (which is open to all). More details of how to enter will follow. Liz Taylor from the Woodland Trust will be attending and her topic for the evening will be "Climate Change and the effect on Woodlands". All meetings take place in the village hall and start at 8.00pm.

Allotment 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 note in your diary. We have also again collected together a number of free resources for allotmenters to take advantage of and these will be laid out in the orchard for you to take on the morning. If you have any useful gardening items you are keen to dispose of do let us know and we will add them to our collection for 25th.

Manure and Wood Chippings

Apologies if you are still awaiting delivery of manure and woodchip. We hope to arrange for delivery in March. 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.

Willow Arch

Many years ago, a willow arch was planted by Heyford Pre-school (with the support of David Farmer) on a vacant allotment. It grew - as willow does - and untended over the years became an unwieldy tangle. I am pleased to report that the arch has at last been tamed. It is now ready to come into leaf and will hopefully provide another beautiful feature in our community area. If you are visiting the allotment, do go and have a look.

Good Gardening.

Mike Langrish

Flood Watch

Following an exceptionally wet January when river levels rose close to the flooding threshold, February has been exceptionally dry with total rainfall less than 2mm and daily temperatures in double figures. However the forecast for the rest of the month indicates a higher probability of rain. As we approach March daylight hours and sunset times will continue to increase by 4 minutes per day with the latter advancing by one hour as clocks go forward on 26th March.

As a property owner or resident have you ever considered your flood risk from river, stream or run-off from roads or fields especially in view of the impact of climate change? The starting point is to assess your risk on web sites where potential risk maps are categorised as high, medium or low with assigned probability. Although many consider these maps controversial they provide the best available data and are continually updated. However like any modelling the outputs are dependent on numerous factors such as terrain profile and chosen mapping model, the accuracy of data input such as terrain profile and grid size. Our local mapping is based on LIDAR, a ground mapping using laser measurements to provide the greatest accuracy especially where the terrain adjacent to the floodplain is of a shallow profile. Some published altitude data on Google is as much as 2mm in error.

The growing risk from climate change poses the question - how much to factor into future risk assessments. For planning purposes areas at risk will be required to provide FRAS, flood risk assessments up to 200 years, which must include estimates for climate change. Currently figures from a few percent up to 40% are being disputed. Clearly the worst case needs to be used as it has significant impact on future river peak flow rates and degree of run-off. Whilst a catchment area is well defined the rainfall pattern is less predictable, varying across the local areas from Daventry to Kislingbury and even Towcester. However a useful on-line connection to a growing range of rainfall gauges and river levels and peak flows provide a more immediate guide to conditions, generally monitored and recorded every 3 hours. Personally from experience and correlation to actual events peak flow rates of 5m/sec are a good guide to flooding events from the river. In fact the CEH, centre for Ecology and Hydrology, has records from 1945 for the Dodford/Kislingbury branch of the Nene. When converted into graphical form the trend of such events is increasing from circa 1965 (note the last two years are the exception). The requirements for FRA generally involves consultants with little knowledge of the local area and are therefore dependant on standard risk maps produced by the E/A combined with standard software to analyse run-off rates to take into account a level of climate change.

Within the Village areas away from the river or culverts are more prone to surface water run-off and are therefore more dependent on the quality and state of maintenance of the drainage system. Some areas are still reliant on drains of Victorian vintage whilst other areas may have drains which may be considered

sub-standard by modern standards. In any case the Village roads are adopted and should be serviced by Anglian Water or the local Highways department. In any case problems should be addressed to these Authorities especially blockages caused by annual autumn leaf fall. Camera inspection should be performed periodically to establish the condition of the drains and culverts especially in areas vulnerable to excessively heavy goods vehicles.

Whilst the Village generally is at low risk we need to remain vigilant whilst maintaining pressure on the E/A, Anglian Water and Local Authorities to undertake improvements with further protective measures and avoid developments that may increase our flood risk.

J. Arnold.

Flore Arts Events

The box office is now open for our next event:

Northampton Male Voice Choir, Saturday 13th May (*please note corrected date*). All Saints Church, Flore; 7.30pm. Masterfully led by Stephen Bell, this is one of Northamptonshire's premier music ensembles. They perform regularly throughout the region, delighting audiences with a varied selection of songs chosen from their wide repertoire.

Some of you may remember that the choir last visited Flore four years ago when they delivered a barnstorming performance. Reviews have described the choir as "sublime", "breathtaking" and "a triumph" with "great singing". We are expecting another fabulous evening.

Tickets £12 (Under 18s £5). Call Rosemary Read (between 9am and 6pm) on 01327 341026. There will be a licensed bar (cash only).

We're still working on our autumn programme but please note our annual summer diary date:

Jazz in the Garden, Sunday 16th July (afternoon). Rock Springs, Flore. Now pretty much a fixture on the Flore Arts calendar; in 2023 we'll be entertained by Tad Newton's Jazz Friends.

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with our plans on our recently refreshed website at www.floreartsevents.com and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page. We hope to see you soon!

View from the Wildlife Patch

Good news from the patch. Today I discovered a snail species that is new to the patch. Unfortunately - as with most of our smaller snails, this species does not have an English name. However, it does mean we are achieving our goal of encouraging a biodiversity that is as rich as is possible given the small size of the site.

There are quite a few jobs to do on the patch. These include -: repairing the two holes in the Wildlife Pond that have been nibbled out by Mice or Voles. We then need to top the pond up with water ASAP in readiness for the Frogs breeding season. Next, we need to dig out those volunteer brambles that have grown up in the long grass areas. Ideally these would be left to allow the site to develop into open woodland over time. Unfortunately we don't have enough land to accommodate this ideal, so we maintain it as our "Tussock Area".

There is another piece of "black plastic sheet" to be laid over the second of our new meadow areas. We need to do this to eliminate the perennial plants that would take over from the planted Meadow Flora. Some of these perennials are very aggressive in growth and once they get a foothold will quickly suffocate all but their own species. The area will be left covered over to next Autumn or even Spring 2024 before being sown with an appropriate meadow mixture of our own choosing.

I must warn that some commercial wildflower or grassland mixtures that are marketed in non specialist outlets contain non native and unsuitable species. They look good when in flower but are inferior in their ability to attract and sustain native fauna. I have also noticed that ordinary Commercial Seedsmen, even though they do offer the right mixtures, these mixtures are often quite limited in number and more expensive than those offered by specialist Wildlife Seedsmen.

Increasingly few readers will remember a time when mature Elm trees were a common feature of the British landscape. There were vastly more trees altogether in those days with Elms being among the most numerous and one of the tallest hedgerow trees. As Elms were so numerous they had developed a their own community of fauna that depended on them.

Sometime in the late 1960s / early 1970's, a fungal disease which became known as "Dutch Elm Disease" (DED) was imported into the UK accidentally. This disease proved to be over 99.9 % fatal to our native Elms. It did however leave some Elm roots alive. At the time Farmers and other landowners cut down the Dead Elms in their hedgerows then, there being no other mature trees in the hedge, decided to "grub out" that hedgerow altogether. I was farming at the time and remember it very well.

In late 2021, I located a breeder of DED resistant Elm Trees in Wiltshire who supplied us with a small number of them. Three of these have been planted on The Green and there is one on the Wildlife Patch. I still have one left to plant out.

The hope is that these will flourish and produce the "Suckers" which are a feature of the species. We can then harvest these suckers and grow them to a large

enough size to plant out. Then the White Letter Hairstreak Butterfly and other species that depended on Elms will begin to return.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

Already the second month of 2023 has been and gone and we move into March. January and February saw the County and National competitions calendar and entry deadlines. I am pleased to say that several of our members have entered many of the County competitions again this year and we have also entered a couple of the National Club competitions. We wish all players good luck in their efforts and hopefully look forward to some great results.

Saturday 11th February saw the Short Mat's first competition of the year, The President's Cup. This was a great afternoon with 18 players taking part. We would like to congratulate the winners - Rosemary Dunkley, Graham Drake and Geoff Groom and the runners up - Liz Davison, Rosemary Haddon and Gil Guglielmi.

Saturday 17th February saw another social evening at the Clubhouse. Bingo night was a huge success with over 60 members enjoying an evening of fun and laughter. This was a great way to blow away some of the winter blues and we look forward to many more fund raising events in the coming season.

The maintenance team have been busy getting the club and surrounding area ready for the new season. We cannot thank the Wednesday team of volunteers enough for all their hard work undertaken over the closed season. During the extreme cold weather we had a major flood in the Portacabin and as a result we have had to overhaul of the plumbing both there and in the changing rooms. March sees the maintenance move forward to ensuring the bowls green will be ready to open in April.

Our enrolment evening for the 2023 season will be held on evening of Monday 20th March in the Clubhouse at 7.00pm. This is the ideal opportunity for any new members wishing to take up this sport to chat to members during the evening. We offer special prices to new members for their first year. We look forward to seeing both current and new members there.

Lorraine Streeter
Club Captain

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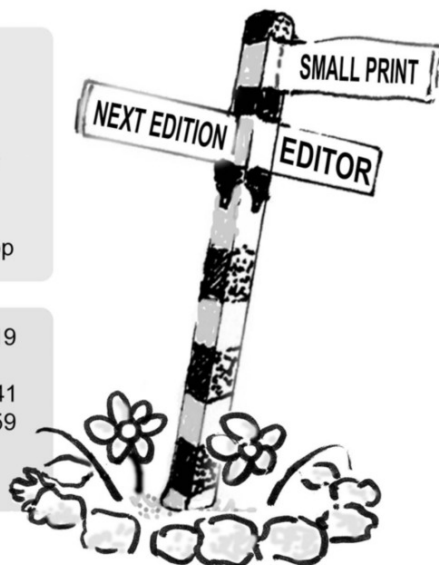
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