



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

April 2023

Issue 458



March 2023 captured by Mick Parker

A warm welcome to our new Heyford Lunch Club

I've now attended its first two lunches and have been greatly impressed. Almost 30 people have enjoyed superb 2-course meals with tea, coffee and chocolate mints, at tables set with white tablecloths and fresh flowers – all for £7! Congratulations to Julia and her lady helpers.

Guests have included people not only from Nether Heyford but also other villages, including Braunston (by bus), and one lady from even further afield, travelling by train and bus.

For over 55's, the restoration of a monthly lunch club for our village is now adding to the already many benefits we enjoy here. I warmly recommend you to come along. It is now regularly announced in our Prattler, with a telephone number to ring in advance.

Alwyne Wilson



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

Please note that the Parish Notes and the Parish Council notes are not the same document and that there will always be differences between the two documents. The notes are based on the minutes – but they are not identical documents.

Public Participation

West Northants Councillor report - Cllr Adam Brown reported that he was waiting for a report on the footpath on Manor Walk. Highways would be able to use a new funding stream to work on potholes. The new ward boundaries are likely to include The Heyfords, Flore, Brockhall, Harpole, Bugbrooke, Kislingbury and Rothersthorpe. There would be new stickers for waste bins with details of what should and should not be put into them.

Further concerns were expressed about the footpath between Manor Park and Manor Walk,- that this is part of a national footpath -The Nene Way, and about the use of cameras, and problems mobility scooters might have.

Nick Essex reported having replaced 2 panes of glass in the phone box over the last year. He said that a lock could be fitted if required, but it was not felt necessary at this time.

Reports

PCSO - report had been distributed. The PCSO was planning to hold a surgery at the Community Lounge in the near future.

Lights - DM reported that EON would like to carry out a survey at a cost of £340. It was felt that we already have all the information needed for them to quote to upgrade to LED lighting. Clerk would update information by including details of new LED lights fitted. Council will review the overall situation regarding lights in May/June.

Roads and pavement - It was hoped that WNC's new programme for pothole repairs would improve road surfaces. Clerk to ask highways to repaint white lines which were felt to be badly faded in many locations.

The Green/Play Area - The Green has been cut. It was not felt that "No Mow May" should be applied generally to the Green – although a small patch could be chosen Clerk to highlight No Mow May in the Prattler for gardens.

The Mosaic was now finished and would be installed as soon as possible.

Playing Fields - AW reported that designs for a new pavilion were still under consideration.

Trees - Contractor due to pollard Limes. There were concerns that if not done very soon it would be too late for this year.

Allotments - LE reported that 2 small plots were left. 85% of rents collected. Reminders to go out. There had been a request for a shed larger than the 6x4 allowed in the conditions. Council agreed with LE that this should not be allowed.

Footpaths - Jitty between Manor Walk and Middle St appeared to have been closed by a builder. DM to check.

Youth Club - A sewage leak had taken place, and been partly cleared up by Anglian Water.
AGM to take place on Weds 8th March.

Speed Cams - IP and CK had inspected a new system which had impressed them. LD wondered where one could be seen. 3 quotes had been sought and would be considered at the April meeting.

Planning - Gravel extraction still awaiting a committee date.

Barley/Wickes site - The Clerk had contacted the traffic commissioner about GVOL application to remove "no maintenance within the operating centre" clause from conditions. The reply from traffic commissioner states that as the Parish Council does not own adjacent land that its opinions carry no weight.

Neighbourhood Plan - TW reported that WNC has completed their Regulation 16 consultation and that the plan is now with the independent examiner. The consultation responses can be seen at:

<https://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/downloads/download/737/nether-heyford-neighbourhood-plan-consultation-responses>

Litter - KWD commented on the amount of litter on the road between the Heyfords and was concerned at how it could be removed safely. This was not in Nether Heyford parish, but a number of residents collected litter from here and other locations. Steve Corcoran had put up some anti-litter signs. KWD felt that Council should show appreciation to those who voluntarily clear up litter from the road signs. Clerk asked to record Councils appreciation in the next Prattler article. Council are indeed very appreciative of all voluntary litter collecting and it is sad that this is necessary and that there are those among us who do drop litter thoughtlessly.

Fete - It was resolved to give permission for the Fete to take place on the green on June 10th, and to allow a procession of vintage vehicles provided that weather conditions were suitable and the ground not too wet.

Community Lounge report - The Clerk reported that this would open on Wednesdays only until further notice. The first Councillor surgery had taken place on Feb 22nd with 2 Councillors present. The next would be on March 22nd 2-4 pm. PCSO was also planning to hold a surgery at the Community Lounge in the near future. The experience of running the facility had been somewhat different from what had been anticipated, but LD felt that great benefit had been derived from it by those who used it.

Councillor surgeries are to be held at the Youth Club/Community Lounge 2 weeks before a full Council meeting. 2 Councillors to be present. Forthcoming dates will be May 3rd and 24th, June 21st, July 26th from 2 – 4 pm at the Youth Club.

Middle St Yellow lines around the school - Highways will look at imposing further traffic controls around the school in the form of additional double yellow lines. There were concerns about the effect of the proposed lines outside the School house, Parson's Close and near the pub. It was felt that the main problem was around the junction with Bugbrooke Rd. Resolved. Council resolved to approve the proposed changes. Clerk to inform Highways.

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

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 one is on Monday April 3rd.

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 Trustees
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 Tel: 07935 931787
E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for April 2023

Saturday 1 st Apr	2:00pm	United Messy Church for Easter at Flore Church
Sunday 2 nd Apr	10:30am	Walk of Witness from Flore Chapel to Flore Church
Palm Sunday	11:00am	United Service for Palm Sunday at Flore Church
	6:00pm	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Monday 3 rd Apr	7:30pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Thursday 6 th Apr Maundy Thursday	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Supper and Service of Light and Darkness at Flore Church
Friday 7 th	2:00pm	Walk of Witness from Heyford Church to Heyford Baptist Church
Good Friday	4:00pm	United Service for Good Friday 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	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	11:15am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Brockhall
Sunday 16 th April	10:00am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00am	United Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00pm	Ante-Communion Service at Upper Stowe
Sunday 23 rd April	10:00am	Holy Communion at Flore Church (followed by APCM)
	10:00am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	10:00am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00pm	Café Church at Heyford Church
Sunday 30 th April	10:00am	Holy Communion at Brockhall Church
	10:00am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	3:00pm	Muddy Church - Walk from Upper Stowe to Church Stowe

Dear Friends,

Holy Week and Easter fall at the very beginning of April this year. So, as you read this, you might be looking forward to all the chocolate Easter Eggs you have to eat come Easter Sunday. I wonder how many chocolate eggs you'll have, and what it is that makes them special. Is it the person who gave you a particular egg? Is it the colourful box, or the crinkly cellophane wrapper? Is it that it's made from your favourite chocolate, and it comes with extra chocolate bars or buttons?

Sadly, I don't eat chocolate, so I won't be having any chocolate eggs of my own, but I do buy lots of Easter eggs to give away at Messy Church, and at church services on Easter Sunday. And for me, the special thing, the important thing about chocolate Easter eggs is that they are hollow, empty! – a reminder of the empty tomb that the disciples found on the first Easter Sunday morning.

If you look at the services for April, you'll see that during the first week of April, we will walk with Jesus through the days leading up to his crucifixion. On Maundy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper, Jesus' anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest and trial. On Good Friday, we recall the cruelty and sadness of Jesus crucifixion, and how, at the end of the day, he was laid in a tomb, and a great stone was rolled across to block the entrance. On Holy Saturday, we think of the pain of Jesus' friends, bereaved and leaderless.

Early on Easter Sunday morning, we follow Jesus' friends as they visit the tomb and find the stone rolled away. And then, joy of joys, the tomb is empty. Jesus is risen! He's burst out of the grave and risen to life. The empty tomb is one of the greatest and happiest things we'll ever see. And that's why Easter is the happiest day of the year. So when you eat your Easter eggs on Easter Sunday, find the empty space in the middle of the egg, remember the empty tomb, and celebrate, for Jesus Christ is risen again. Alleluia!!

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen

Muddy Church. We're taking the church outdoors on Sunday 30th April at 3:00PM. Please put on your walking boots or wellies and join us as we walk from the Wildflower Meadow at St James', Upper Stowe to the Wildflower Project at St Michael's, Church Stowe, and look for signs of God at work in creation! Hot chocolate will be provided! All ages welcome!

Coronation Celebrations. Please join us for a very special 'Songs of Praise' to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. It will be on Sunday 7th May at 3:00PM on the Brodie Lodge Playing Field in Flore. Come along and have a really good sing!!



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for April 2023

April 2 nd	10:30 am	Palm Sunday service led by Les Britten.
April 7 th	4:00 pm	Good Friday service led by Rev. Stephen Burrow.
April 9 th	10:30 am	Easter day service led by Allan Pope
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
April 16 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Wendy Manley (coffee after the service)
April 23 rd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
April 30 th	9:30 am	Prayer meeting followed at 10.30am by our Communion service led by Les Britten.

Events for April

April 1 st	12md to 2pm	Lent lunch with donations for The Hope Centre.
April 7 th	2 pm	Good Friday walk of witness leaving the Parish Church at 2pm followed at 3pm with tea and hot cross buns in the Baptist rooms.
April 18 th	10 am	Prayer and bible study

All welcome

Hello

Life for many of us is made up of certain routines, preferred way of doing things and this regularity brings meaning, purpose and security to our daily life. Why change this when it works? We don't change it because it does bring meaning and purpose to our lives and it is good to have priorities and essentials in life. Churches and chapels up and down the country are known for their particular and important routines, patterns of worship and annual events which mark out the Christian calendar. One such occasion, is that of remembering Good Friday and Easter Sunday - such an important event and central to the Christian message. When we walk or travel along familiar high streets we can often notice that changes have been made to the frontage and to the interior of the buildings - but the foundations remain. So it is with the foundational messages of the Christian message, examples being Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Sunday - the foundation stones if you like, of the Church.

This year during my monthly visits to "The Chapel on the Green in Heyford" we are looking at the calling and responsive lives of the disciples who Jesus first called to take the Christian message to others. Those ordinary men were the beginning of the church and they were encouraged, energised, equipped, challenged and confronted to share the faith. Last month we thought of Peter. Jesus once asked him "who do men say that I am?" and eventually Peter declared "you are the Christ the SON OF the living GOD" to which Jesus said "on this will I build my church" - in other words that statement of belief and faith will be the foundation of the church. But long before that, in Isaiah chapter 7 we were told of Jesus being Immanuel - GOD WITH US.

Before Jesus went to the Cross on Good Friday people were reminded of this "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the SON OF MAN be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth – referring to his death and resurrection and Jesus himself said "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days. Then after Jesus had died, the centurion who had been centrally involved in the crucifixion event declared "surely this man was the SON OF GOD" Later, the excited and enthusiastic disciples ran to the tomb to find the crucified and dead SON OF GOD who they had witnessed die and be buried discovered that "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." The Christian Church cannot change its pivotal message. The Christian Church does not need or want to change its this message. But why should it want to change it? - because it is sufficient, it is all we need, it is what we need.

Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are inextricably linked. Many people love and enjoy the season of Christmas but we all can find life enrichment when we discover the reason for Christmas when we look again to The Old Rugged Cross but also to the empty tomb and discover afresh "he is not there but has risen just as he said".

Easter services in the Chapel are detailed elsewhere - do come and join us if you can. Thank you.

Martin Buckby
On behalf of the fellowship at Heyford Baptist Chapel



Friday 7th April
Good Friday
Walk of Witness

2pm Meet at Heyford Parish Church to walk round the village, pausing at various points to reflect on the events of that first Good Friday

3-4pm Free Refreshments and Display in the Baptist Schoolroom

4pm Good Friday Service in the Baptist Church, led by Revd Stephen Burrow

Everybody welcome to join in at any point

(The route will be advised on Facebook and the notice boards)

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

Something new at the Village Hall

Many of you may recall seeing a large photographic display in the foyer of the village hall, created in April last year to support our entry into the ACRE Village Awards Scheme. The judge was so impressed she immediately took photographs, and we believe that this helped us to win one of our two Gold Awards. (The other being for the creative use of our communal space by the allotments association – see separate item.)

The display was the result of Mick Parker going around the village and taking photographs of as many of our community and group activities as he could, and it received many compliments. When it was time for it to be dismantled, it was felt that it would be a great shame for all these pictures of our village life to disappear completely. So, Mick and Tom Dodd got together and selected one photograph from each set of group pictures. The remaining photographs were then passed to all the relevant groups for their own records.

Since then, Tom has created an amazing montage, which has just been installed in the village hall foyer underneath our Welcome Sign – as a permanent 'snapshot' of our village life in 2022. You are recommended to go and see if you can find yourselves and your group in action. We are pleased to say that the cost of this undertaking has been fully covered: first, with £100 awarded to us by ACRE as Gold Award winners; plus a grant of £100 from our parish council; and with the balance coming from proceeds of a sponsored skydive by the then, village hall chairman.

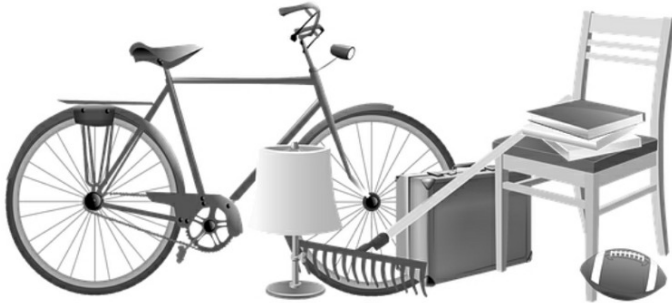
Like Mick, Tom most generously gave his time free. One of the many aspects of our village, which helped to win our Gold Award, was the evidence of so many gifted members in our community.

Tom and Mick – we salute you!

Alwyne Wilson



Garage Sale



**The Garage Sale will be on Sunday May 21st from
10 am until 4 pm.**

The cost to register your garage (or Drive) is £7.50.

Application forms will be on the Prattler Website and the Village Hall
Website soon.

If you are unable to use this method you may apply direct to Pat who will
deliver a form to you if you email on nhvhevents@gmail.com
or call 07802 210440.

Payment by BACS is preferred but cheques can be sent.

All details will be on the forms.

Something new at the Allotments

The second ACRE Gold Award presented to Nether Heyford was for 'Creative Use of Communal Space', won by the Allotments Association for their revitalisation of the allotments area. This, too, came with a Gold Award grant of £100, matched by a £100 grant from the parish council.

This £200 has been used to purchase a circular metal bench which has been placed around a special tree on the picnic community space on the allotments. This tree, a Japanese flowering cherry, was planted in memory of villagers who had died in recent years, including the pandemic.

Pictured here, it is hoped that this bench will provide a place for busy gardeners to rest awhile, a place for friends and families to enjoy this community space, and a place for quiet reflection.

Mike Langrish



Astronomy on the Green

“Life... Don’t talk to me about life” said Marvin the paranoid android (HHGTTG). Well Marvin, sorry but I’m going to...

We know of only one planet in the Solar system, Galaxy or Universe that harbours life, ours. Historically this influenced our opinion of just how important we are, indeed even that the whole of the universe revolved around us. Here and now, in the twenty-first century we realise the vastness of the Cosmos and it is unlikely we are alone.

Now, I’m not talking about LGM (little green men) or beings like us, but organisms capable of reproduction and evolution (simple life-forms like bacteria etc.). For a long time, we suspected that life required a temperate planet like ours. Then we discovered extremophiles, creatures that live under extreme temperatures, pressures, or corrosive conditions on Earth. I was in contact (in my former work) with scientists that were actively looking for instruments that could detect the chemical signatures of extremophiles (to create detectors) for space probes targeting planets and moons in our solar system (Planetary Sciences, Open University).

So where are the local targets:

Mars: the rovers are currently looking for signs of water (assumed to be an essential, but other liquids could be life capable). Most water had been thought to be under the surface, but recently evidence of modern glaciers have been found at the poles.

Enceladus: Saturn’s Icy moon has water lakes under the surface (gravitational heating). Geysers observed, plans to sample on a future fly-by.

Titan: Saturn’s largest moon has lakes on the surface (of Methane & Ethane at -179°C) Chemistry has been observed.

Europa: Jupiter’s giant moon is known to have enormous salty lakes under 10 miles of ice. Probably has more water than Earth. Photosynthesis not possible, but geothermal heating may encourage life.

Venus: an odd choice, as surface conditions are very harsh (sulphuric acid rain and 434°C) but the atmosphere is more temperate and organisms could feed on carbon monoxide or sulphur dioxide gas.

Calisto & Ganymede: Both of Jupiter’s smaller moons have briny oceans under 60 miles of rock. There may be life; getting to it would be tiresome.

Next time on AOTG: SETI (search for extra-terrestrial life). Life Jim, but not as we know it!

Clear skies.

Tony Boutle

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

Village Hall News

Just a reminder, our AGM is on Monday 17th April at 7.00pm in the village hall and all residents of the village are welcome. We would like to re introduce a list of Friends of Nether Heyford Village Hall. This was started by Ray Haddon when he was chairman. This does not mean having to attend our monthly meetings but receiving advanced notice of our events and giving support at these events if possible. I look forward to seeing you on 17th.

Preparations for the fete on 10th June are on the way and our raffle tickets will be on sale soon. All proceeds of the fete and raffle will go towards maintenance of the hall. We are replacing the glass in the windows to make them more heat efficient and giving the floor in the main hall a refurbishment.

Booking for the hall continue to be strong and bookings for parties and celebrations are always welcome. Our booking secretary Simone Squire will be happy to give advice on availability at simone@the-squires.co.uk.

Next time you visit the hall don't miss our superb village montage on display in the foyer. Many thanks to Tom Dodd for this excellent display.

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

THE Heyford SINGERS

Spring Concert

Conductor: Mary Rice

Accompanist: Graham Kinnerly



Featuring Songs from: Les Miserables, Oliver!

The Beatles, Abba and many more

Friday, May 12th & Saturday May 13th

Nether Heyford Village Hall 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £10, Children (under14) £5

From Keith Rands-Allen

01327 340741 07971 786912

kvra44@gmail.com



Heyford Picturedrome

THE LOST KING

2022 British Comedy/Drama

THURSDAY 20th APRIL 2023

7.15pm for 7.45pm

ADMISSION: £6.00

The life-affirming true story of a woman who refused to be ignored and took on the country's most eminent historians, forcing them to think again about one of the most controversial kings in England's history.

Cast includes Sally Hawkins and Steve Coogan

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

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

LICENSED BAR

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](http://www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk)

Leave a message and they will phone you back. They can issue vouchers for food as well as a delivery or collection service.

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

Thank you.



In Nether Heyford

Our March Meeting began with the AGM which showed another successful period for the Nether Heyford Branch.

Stuart King, our speaker from the February meeting, had sent us a receipt for £245, which was the sum raised for the Air Ambulance Service from our 'Smartie tube' collection. Proof that little things do add up!!

The AGM was followed by Sarah Veness telling her story of overcoming the physical results of having a stroke. A very determined lady, who had looked after her father as he struggled with old age, found that one of the after effects of her stroke was memory loss. She loved to read, but finding that she was struggling to remember the names in novels she turned to short stories and, from there, wrote books of her own. She had found that photographs and mementos had helped her father and used her experiences to show others how to make memory books and memory boxes. Definitely a lady who has learned how to keep fighting!

We have a complete change for our April Meeting, when Deb Jones, an Arts, Crafts and Cookery tutor, will be talking to us about, and demonstrating, Willow Basketry and Sculpture. Deb sells her crafts (decorative willow basketry items for the home and garden) and runs courses from her workshop at Greenacres, Staverton.

If you would like to join us for the evening to see what the WI is all about we would love to see you at the Village Hall on Thursday April 6th at 7.30 pm. The cost for the evening will be £5, which will include refreshments.

There will be no Meeting in the Village Hall in May as we are going on our annual outing!

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Our next meeting will be on Monday 24th April when Joanna Davis will present 'Blooms and Tunes'. There will be a competition entitled Spring Bounty.

Visitors are always welcome so if you love flowers come along to the Village Hall at 7.30pm and enjoy a relaxing evening.

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

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Community Orchard

When we planted the community orchard in 2018 with the help of the generous donations from the people and businesses in Nether Heyford we knew that it would be a few years before there would be any harvest from the trees that we planted. The trees were small and would have to be pruned quite hard in the first years to ensure that they grew in the manner that would be most productive in the long term.

And so it proved, with a few exceptions very little fruit was produced over the succeeding years. There were a few pears and some damsons, but little else. In 2021 some apple trees bore some fruit but we were concerned when these were mostly found to be afflicted by a condition called “bitter pit” where the flesh has small brown specks in it. This is apparently a symptom of calcium deficiency, but some further research discovered that this is not unusual in young trees because the tree is using calcium to form growth leaving insufficient be available for good fruit formation.

In the spring of 2022 things appeared to be more promising, there was a good show of blossom and a mild spring with no late frosts meant that there was a good set of fruit. The only negative issue was that wood pigeons ate the fruit buds on the plum trees with the result that we had no plums at all. In June we felt it necessary for the first time to thin out the clusters of fruit on the apples and pears in the recommended manner, and had high hopes of being able to offer fruit from the orchard to anyone in the community who wanted some. Then came the summer. Record high temperatures and no rain caused such stress on the trees that nearly all the apples dropped from the trees or were of extremely poor quality. The pears however were less affected and the few that we did have were quite good.

So what can we expect in 2023? Last years hot summer will have ripened the growth on the trees and the spells of cold weather that we have experienced during the winter should help in producing a good amount of blossom. If we have a reasonable spring and the summer is less extreme than last year we should have some fruit to offer this autumn. In preparation we have given the trees some fertiliser and before the end of March they will be mulched in order to help conserve moisture.

So, if all goes well, from August onwards keep an eye out for signs that fruit is available. Please don't pick your own from the trees though because the fruit has to be picked at the right point and each variety is ready at a different time, we will do that and put the fruit out ready for you to take.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for a fruitful autumn.

Mark Newstead



www.heyfordsingers.org

*Do you hear the people sing?
Singing the song of angry men?
It is the music of the people
Who will not be slaves again!
When the beating of your heart
Echoes the beating of the drums
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!*

Les Miserables

Concert Dates: Friday 12th May & Saturday 13th May Tickets: 01327 342110
Please see poster in this issue of *The Prattler* for further details
Hear The People Sing

Our Concert title is taken from one of the main works we will be performing – a medley from *Les Miserables*, the marvellous choral version of the show that hit our theatres in the eighties. Originally of course in French, lyrics by Alain Boublil and the music by Claude Michel Schonberg, the English lyrics were written by Herbert Kretzmer and the London production opened under Cameron Mackintosh in 1985. And fortunately for Choirs we are able to sing the arrangement by Ed Lojeski.

Victor Hugo's historical novel was first published in 1862 and is considered one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. Little did he know that his tragic book would be popularized through numerous adaptations for film, television and the stage and be set to music. The story is about poverty, the torment of individuals, the injustice of society and the evil of greed. And the Paris uprising of 1832.

For those of you who haven't watched Channel 4 'The Piano' I strongly urge you to find it on 'catch up' if you can. Set in four of our railway stations – St Pancras, Birmingham New Street, Leeds and Glasgow Central – the series follows passionate pianists who perform at public pianos in these train stations much to the delight of passers by and to two judges hidden behind the scenes. The winners from each station go on to perform at The Royal Festival Hall. These pianists are from all walks of life but you will be moved to tears when you see Lucy, aged 13, playing a highly complex Chopin Nocturne. She has been blind from birth and has various neurodiverse problems. She was given the chance to learn the piano when a special tutor asked her to place her hands on his whilst he played. She picked it up from there. Quite extraordinary. The finale at The Royal Festival Hall is a treat for music lovers and for those that purport to be tone deaf alike.

I can now reveal we will be 'Dancing with Anton' (du Beke) at our Concert thanks to Graham Kinner's clever composition of this piece of music inspired by 'Strictly'. There is only one downside to this four-part arrangement – you can't stop singing it. Come to our Concert and see what I mean.

JRA



Update from down the Playing Fields

Following on from the recent communications asking for volunteers, we've had some interest in the committee roles and are having further discussions with these people. We've also had a couple of 'firm' offers of help with cutting the grass and maintenance.

We're still keen to hear from anyone else who is interested in getting involved in whatever capacity that may be. Just give us a call and we can have an initial, no obligation, chat.

We're quite excited that the final drawings for the new changing rooms are nearing completion and we'll be going for planning permission in the near future. We're hoping this will be straight forward as we've previously had planning permission but progress was halted due to COVID and other unfortunate events.

This is a real opportunity to make a difference in our great village, so give us a call:

Chris Andrews on 07880 996511 - Email: heyfordsportsclubs@gmail.com

Jeff Buck on 07808 705767 - Email: jeff.buck22@btinternet.com

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**Available for Club Meetings
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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**

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

The Prattler

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

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

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

Time flies (with thanks to Jeff Buck)

The other day I decided to wash my car. As I started towards the garage, I noticed that there were letters on the hall table. I decided to go through the letters first. I laid my car keys down on the table, put the junk in the bin and noticed the bin was full. So I decided to put the bills back on the table and take out the rubbish first. But then I thought, since I'm going to be by the letterbox when I take out the rubbish, I may as well pay the bills first.

I took my cheque book off the table and noticed that there was only one cheque left. My new cheque book was in the desk in my study. I went to get it and noticed a vase of flowers needed watering. I also discovered my reading glasses that I'd been searching for all morning. I decided that I'd better put them back on my desk after seeing to the flowers. I set the glasses down, filled a container with water and suddenly I spotted the TV remote, someone had left it on the kitchen table.

I realised that I would want to watch TV that evening and I would be looking for the remote but wouldn't remember it being on the kitchen table so I decided to put it back where it belonged, after I'd done the flowers. I splashed some water on the flowers, but most of it spilled on the floor so I put the remote back down on the table and got some kitchen towel and wiped up the spill. Then I headed down the hall trying to remember what I had planned to do.

At the end of the day, the car wasn't washed, the bills weren't paid, the flowers weren't watered, there was still only one cheque in my cheque book, I couldn't find the remote, or my glasses and I didn't remember what I did with the car keys. Then when I tried to figure out why nothing got done that day, I was baffled because I know I was busy all day long and I was really tired.

Heyford Allotments and Garden Club

Welcome

Heyford Allotments would like to extend a warm welcome to all those good folk who have taken on allotments since we wrote our last article for the Prattler. We are a friendly growing community who are keen to support to each other. If you, or anyone you know, would like to join us and begin "growing your own", don't hesitate to contact us on one of the numbers below.

The upkeep of plots

The allotments are looking in really good condition for this time of the year. Before things start to grow, our gardens can look woebegone. But not on our allotments. Allotmenters hard work in preparing the ground for the growing season has meant that all looks well. A little bit of winter preparation goes a long way.

Vacancies

We currently have only two small starter plots available to rent. These have been cleared and covered and are ready to be cultivated. At just £5 rent a year, they represent amazing value.

Community Use

The circular bench, purchased with ACRE prize money that was awarded to the allotments last year, has now been put in place and a plaque commemorating the award has been added to this. If you are ever in the vicinity of the allotments, do come and have a look. It is very peaceful spot.

As some of the older wooden items are beyond repair, we are looking for some replacement metal garden furniture for the community area. If you know of anyone who has any metal chairs or a metal table they wish to donate, do let us know.

Community days

We organised another "Community Day" on Saturday 25th March. Many hands make light work and we were grateful to those people who were able to spare an hour or two and help keep the allotments looking good.

Committee Meetings

A small group of allotment holders meet on a monthly basis to discuss the allotments. Topics range from upkeep and plot vacancies, to how we might better develop the allotment site. We are keen to involve more people in these sessions and if you are interested in joining us do get in touch. If you feel unable to make this commitment but would still like to have an influence on how things are organised and how we might better advise the Parish Council regarding the allotments, then we have four "open committee meetings" each year. These are held at the Nether Heyford Youth Club in Ridgeway Furlong.

Our next "open meeting" will be at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 4th April.

Manure

For some time now we have been considering the regular delivery of manure to the allotments, so all allotmenters can benefit from this rich source of organic fertilizer. Buying and delivery in bulk is so much cheaper. A substantial load was delivered to the allotments on Saturday 18th March and, as we had been successful in obtaining it very cheaply, allotmenters were only asked to make a small contribution to cover the transportation costs. It was certainly more cost effective than buying compost or manure from a garden centre or supermarket.

Sunflowers

We are inviting allotment holders to sow and share sunflowers this year. We have collected a variety of cultivars and mixed them together for distribution to those who would like to take part. Although this initiative was originally created for allotment holders, if anyone else in the village would like to participate (and we have enough seed left), then do get in contact. The arrangements are as follows:

1. Sow the sunflowers in the packet, (or your own seeds) at home.
2. When they are established, we would be grateful if you could donate half for the community cut flower border.
3. In late summer this will make a wonderful spectacle, provide pollen for bees and butterflies, and will be a village tribute to the people of the Ukraine, for whom the sunflower is a special symbol

We hope you are able to join us in this community activity and thank you for your support.

Heyford Garden Club

Unfortunately, the speaker for the March meeting of the garden club, was, at the last minute, unable to attend the meeting. 'Liz Taylor from the Woodland Trust will now be talking to the club in June. Her topic: Trees and Climate Change. Despite not having a speaker, the meeting went ahead and the annual daffodil show took place. Even though the inclement weather played havoc with daffodil flowering, there was a good display on show. The winners were:

Large Daffodil

1st Pauline Groom, 2nd Geoff Groom, 3rd Gil Guglielmi

Small Daffodil

1st Val Jackson, 2nd Pauline Guglielmi & Rosemary Dunkley, 3rd Pauline Groom & Philip Reeves

The next meeting of the Garden Club will be on Monday 11th April when, instead of gathering in the village hall, club members will be visiting Whilton Locks Garden Centre for tea and cakes as well as some garden retail therapy!

Contacts

Don't hesitate to contact either Lynda or me for any allotment related questions.
Mrs Lynda Eales, 3 Church Lane, tel. 01327 341707 email: lyndaeales@aol.com

Mike Langrish, 28 Manor Park, tel. 01327 341390 email:
langrish_heyford@hotmail.com

Mike Langrish



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Flood Watch

The transition from February into March brought a radical change to the weather from the driest February in the past 30 years, about 18% of normal rainfall to snow, rain and strong wind in March. The combination of heavy overnight rain on 9th and 10th of March, 40mm in all, followed by 5cm of snow caused the river to rise to its highest level in over a year, albeit without flooding although Broad Meadow was a reminder of how close we were to a flooding event. So what caused such a change? A combination of cold Arctic air, cold air from the east, Atlantic winds and extreme temperature in the south of Europe with Spain at record 30 degrees centigrade resulted in a stationary low pressure over the UK. Temperatures ranged from -6 overnight to 14 degrees centigrade in daytime. These rain/snow bearing conditions have raised March rainfall to date to 75mm, 165% of a normal March with unstable conditions forecast to continue.

As we approach the end of March with the clocks going forward on 26th, lighter evenings will make it more Spring like with sunset increasing towards 8.30 pm by the end of April.

A recent announcement on BBC News highlighted a new UK Flood Risk Map being released by Bristol University that include climate change of 1.8 degrees centigrade and the consequential cost of increased flooding claims. In view of general concerns about flood maps and especially the impact of climate change being an ongoing area of debate, I was prompted to make contact with the University to talk directly to the Academics involved. The dialog that followed highlighted similar concerns with a lack of consistency or accountability or inclusion of local knowledge together with the fact that the E-A were not contractually obliged to update flood risk maps in line with climate change forecasts. The reference provided makes interesting reading and for those interested I would recommend you read <https://nhess.copernicus.org/articles/23/891/2023> and the attached references. Unfortunately it appears that unlike the E-A flood risk maps that can be accessed by postcode or address these maps will be restricted to professional bodies such as Insurance Companies.

The good news is that central England will be less vulnerable than areas to the north or around the coast.

Finally did you spot my typing error when comparing the accuracy of Lidar with Google map on altitude. The correction should have read 2m not 2mm. Our current flood risk maps are at 0.2m resolution for elevation compared to 10m on Google or OS. The Environment Agency have been undertaking a National LIDAR Programme aimed at mapping the whole of the UK. These provide the most accurate terrain mapping data especially where relative elevation data is needed for flood risk prediction. An accuracy of 1cm horizontal and 2cm vertical can be achieved.

J. Arnold.

Flore Arts Events

The box office is now open for our next event:

Northampton Male Voice Choir, Saturday 13th May. 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 almost ready to publish our autumn programme but please note our annual summer diary date:

Jazz in the Garden, Sunday 16th July (afternoon). Rock Springs, Sutton St, 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!

Post Office Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed

View from the Wildlife Patch

After a record breaking dry January and February, this area is heading for a severe water shortage. We were planting trees on the green 2 weeks ago. The soil, whilst not dry and dusty, was much drier than one would expect in late winter.

I write this after a short but very welcome period of snowy weather. Heavy rain largely runs off the land to watercourses without really soaking into the soil, whereas melting snow has a tendency to soak into soil. Thereby increasing the soil moisture content much more than would the same volume of rainwater. I am writing this earlier than usual due to an impending trip to Scotland. Hopefully we have a lot more rain to come before Summer.

I was surprised to see a Merlin - which is a small species of Falcon - swooping over the large mound of grass by the A45 roundabout. When we lived in Orkney, Merlin's were a common site as they chased house sparrows round the chimneys of the nearby small village of St Margaret's Hope. The Upper Heyford Merlin will have been passing through on it's way to a wilder part of the UK. It could be that snowy weather drives predatory birds to seek different feeding areas.

Look out for unexpected migrant birds at this time of year. In early April last year, I was surprised to see a Hobby (another species of small falcon) chasing small birds round the bungalow roofs at the top of Rolfe Crescent.

The "Heyfords Wildlife Association" is beginning a campaign to make our Village into a hedgehog friendly village. Ideally everyone will have the opportunity to get involved. Look out for news and notices to see how you can become hedgehog friendly.

You will soon be hearing lots about "No Mow May". This is a campaign to encourage folk to leave lawns and grass unmown for all of May and hopefully longer. Some of our villagers took part in this last year which was very encouraging. At the last Parish Council meeting it was decided not to leave any of the Green unmown. I want it on record that I argued for leaving some grass unmown. Describing the aims and ideals of the "No Mow May initiative" is beyond this small article. However, lots of information on No Mow May is readily available online. I started No Mow May with good intentions last year but there were so many unexpected species of insects and even unexpected wildflowers that somehow, I could not bring myself to mow again till late September. If you love nature you will be delighted with the result and be amazed at what you have been missing all the years you kept your grass short.

It's still not too late to put up Blue Tit, Great Tit, Robin and Wren nest boxes,

Increasingly we are being encouraged to put homes for insects in our gardens. This is another huge subject but well worth reading up on before making/buying homes for insects that will encourage more of these into your garden.

Don't forget to look out for Hedgehog Friendly News.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

April sees the start of the outdoor season for bowls. Over the winter our maintenance team have continued to work on both the bowls green and the clubhouse making it ready for the coming season. A work party will be busy on Saturday 15th April moving all the benches, tables, chairs and ditch mats back out around the green. Volunteers to help are always welcome.

Dependant on the green condition and weather permitting, the bowls green will be open after the 15th and our members will then be able to practice on the green in readiness for our first friendly match on Tuesday 25th April away at Kislingbury. Friday night is our club night, if you would like to give lawn bowls a try why not come down and have a few free taster sessions. We open around 6.30 – 7.00pm and have spare bowls for you to use, all we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes to protect the green surface.

Our social calendar for the year has now been confirmed and all the 2023 events are listed on our website, www.heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk in the Events section. We always welcome visitors to the club on our home matches, so check out the 2023 Fixtures section and select Club Friendlies to find out the relevant dates.

Why not make 2023 the year to take up a new sport, we would love to see you join us down at Heyford Bowls Club.

Lorraine Streeter
Club Captain

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 6th April at 12.30pm

2 course meal with tea/coffee all for £7

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

Ticking the Boxes – Finding Your Next Home

I can't recall when moving home, ever having actually made a list of boxes to be ticked, but it's important at the outset to have a clear idea of what you want. At the risk of stating the obvious, think about 'must have' and 'would like'. My perfect home would be in a quiet location within walking distance of a wide range of amenities, especially where eating and drinking can be enjoyed. It would have a double garage, ample parking for visitors, a medium-large sized garden, sea views and country views. Needless to say, I don't live in my perfect home.

As we are always being told, the main thing is Location, Location, (I can't remember the third one). Concentrate on the things that can't be changed, whilst keeping in mind things that might change. When we bought our previous home we had a branch of our bank in the town centre, now gone, a post office a few metres down the road, now gone and a nice restaurant just past where the post office was, now closed. So don't make too many assumptions about the area you are buying in.

See what's going on locally if that's important, e.g., clubs, societies, cinemas, theatres etc. If you are lucky, you could even have some nice surprises.

If you are buying for the next stage in your life, buy something that should, as far as you can tell, be easy to sell later. When the time comes, you won't want to put your life on hold indefinitely while you wait for a buyer to come along.

It's well known that moving home can be stressful, but it can be an adventure. Just take your time and think carefully about what's important. You will almost certainly not be able to tick every box, but make sure you tick the ones that are most important.



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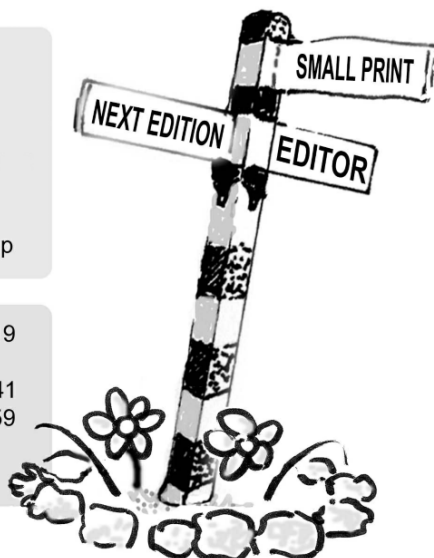
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