



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

June 2023

Issue 460

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

SUMMER FETE

• **FEATURING:** Grand Raffle ★ Gymnastic Display
★ Rose King & Queen ★ Vintage Vehicles
★ Stalls & Amusements ★ Barbecue ★ Licensed Bar
★ Round the Village Race ★ Band ★ Tug of War
★ Tombolas ★ Dog show & lots more!

SAT 10th JUNE 2023
2pm - 5pm

Afternoon teas in Village hall
Call 07802 210440 for further details
Nether Heyford Village Green

Nether Heyford Village Hall



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

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167



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The May 15th Parish Council Meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms

Grasscutting - The Parish Council are sorry that the extension cemetery got overgrown. A contractor is paid to do the extension cemetery once a fortnight, with an agreement that he has some discretion depending on the growing season. The same contractor has been doing the cemetery for the past 6 years. There are also volunteers, formerly led by Geoff Thorneycroft who so sadly left us during covid. The Council is very grateful to the volunteers who have worked extremely hard. The contractor has had various problems this year (machinery failures, staffing issues, heavy rain when he is due here) not to mention a 300% rise in the cost of the fuel he now has to use. These problems have been compounded by a terrific surge in growth – which is nature catching up after a cold start to spring. Councillors have spoken to the contractor who is now trying to catch up. The grass generally does not look great but we hope that it will settle down and that things will start looking more as they normally do.

Some cemeteries have little or no maintenance work done at all and are left to nature. Some have paths cut through and the rest is left to grow. Some are tended purely by volunteers. There are examples of each of these in the immediate vicinity. Nether Heyford pays several thousand pounds p/a for grass cutting at the cemetery. The extension cemetery costs more than the Green to cut. If there are volunteers willing to get involved, please contact me or Jez Wilson.

Declaration of a Casual vacancy - A vacancy now exists for a councillor following the disqualification of a councillor under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 (Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings). A statement prepared by NALC was read out. The Clerk to thank the former councillor for her service and inform that she is able to stand for future elections or to apply for co-option.

Public Participation - A Furnace Lane resident asked about the situation with SIDs (Speed cams) as he felt that momentum had been lost, and that the former camera had been in the wrong location. Councillors disagreed. The Truvelo camera had been returned with a full refund, and Council would be choosing a replacement. There had been problems with obtaining a licence as the Highways officer responsible had been on long term sick leave. The resident felt that chicanes would be a better option, as did some Councillors although they were wary of the downsides, noise, increased pollution etc. The 3 sets of double chicanes at Flore cost Flore PC £150,000 which came from CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy. It was felt many of the speeding motorists on Furnace Lane

were from the village – and that the installation of an ARP camera at the canal bridge would be a good deterrent.

It was also reported that a meeting had been set up with Barley to discuss the “No maintenance” on the site clause. Councillors could attend.

Neighbourhood Plan - (NP) had been approved by WNC to go to referendum. The Bugbrooke Rd site had been removed as WNC would prefer it to be housing, rather than a school. However, if the NP is approved then that site could not be housing. It was revealed that the village has two conservation areas – the second being the canal. Chair thanked Tony Williams and the NP group for their years of work on the plan.

Gravel Extraction - No further news of a committee date but it was understood that work on hydrology reports is going on.

Reports

Lights - Electricity Network Contractors had approached the council and offered to do a free survey and consult with Council on conversion to LEDs. Clerk to invite them to June or July meeting.

Roads and pavements - Notice had been given of further resurfacing work on Hillside Rd later in May.

The Green and Play Area - Concern was expressed about the state of grass. The Play area had been inspected. The main cause for concern was the roundabout. Hags to be asked to repair. Clerk to contact Wickstead again regarding the swings.

Trees - The Memorial Green Oak had been thought to have died, but had come back into leaf. Resident arborist to be asked to report. It was felt that it was dying but that this would take some time, perhaps years. The tree was planted in 1907 for the coronation of Edward 7th. It was felt that if the tree had to be felled, then the butt should either be carved in situ - or planked; and the wood retained for local use.

Allotments - It was resolved to allow a Harvest Festival to be held on Sept 24th. It was resolved to allow the Gardening Club to hold a garden party. Help was needed with maintenance.

Churchyard - TW felt the grass was not cut often enough. Concerns were expressed about the North wall which was in poor condition. Council had given £6,700 towards previous repairs to the wall in September 2017.

JBB - Concerns about the grass were being widely expressed. The contractors had had various difficulties and had agreed to try and catch up. Council expressed gratitude to the volunteers.

Canal - The river and canal trust had asked whether Council were willing to take on the dog bins on the canal path. Council Resolved - Not to take over the canal path dog bins.

Youth Club - LD reported all going well and numbers increasing.

Speed cams - 3 quotes had been obtained. Resolved. To purchase the Traffic Technology device having received positive reports from Yelvertoft.

Report from Finance Committee - The minutes of the Finance Committee had been distributed. It was felt that Lighting was the first priority as funds had been earmarked for new lighting. The Play Area would come next after a fundraising group had been formed. The creation of an office space would follow on after that.

Parish Council meetings in 2023/24 will be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30. The next ones are on Monday June 5th and Monday July 3rd.

Reporting Highway and Footpath Issues - The Clerk will report issues that Council is made aware of, but Council would encourage residents to use the Fixmystreet service to report issues themselves as there will then be no time lag; and first-hand reports are almost always better than 2nd or 3rd hand reports. The service can be found here

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

It is easy to use; you can have your own account and can check up on any issues you have reported.

Streetlights - within the village can be reported to the Clerk, who will report them to the maintenance company. Please do not report to Balfour Beatty as they deal only with major Highway lights – i.e., motorway, A5 and A45.

Roadworks - locally & nationally can be seen on this site:

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

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

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
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
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, Finance
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. Tree Warden
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, Burial Board
Cllr Adam Brown - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD Tel: 07714 255077 Adam.Brown@westnorthants.gov.uk	Deputy Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture & Leisure
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



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for June 2023

Sunday 4 th	8:00 am	Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Service of Prayer and Praise at Heyford Church
Saturday 10 th	2:00 pm	Pop up Messy Church at Heyford Village Fete
Sunday 11 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Brockhall Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 18 th	10:00 am	United Flower Festival Service at Flore Chapel
	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
	7:30 pm	United Flower Festival Thanksgiving at Flore Church
Sunday 25 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford

Midweek Services:

Wednesday	9:30am	Morning Prayer via 'Why Pay' conference call. Please contact the Rector for the numbers to use.
Thursday	10:00am 2:30pm – 3:30pm	Holy Communion at Flore Church (Not Thu 15 th) Flore Church open for private prayer
Friday	9:00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for an invitation

The Streets we shall be praying for during June are: Middle Street, Manor Park and Parsons Close in Nether Heyford; Brockhall Road and The Crescent in Flore, the Main Street in Church Stowe and in Brockhall, The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage.

Dear Friends,

I'm not a great reader of newspapers. I tend to follow what's going on in the country and the world through the BBC News website and other online news feeds. Everyday, the BBC website shows a summary of that day's newspaper front pages, and I was particularly struck a couple of days after the coronation, by the front page of one of the tabloids. The page was dominated by a picture of King Charles III, sat on the throne, crown on his head, orb and sceptre in hand. Beneath the picture was a separate report that over two million households were struggling to pay their bills. The two stories were in stark contrast to one another, reflecting the wide range of peoples' experiences of life in the UK, if not quite the full extremes of poverty and wealth.

Last month's coronation was an unashamedly Christian event, although one or two small changes reflected something of the multi-faith, multi-cultural nation in which we live. The crown, orb and sceptre all bore the cross of Christ, symbolising the belief first declared by King Henry VIII, that the monarch is the head of the Church of England, and their authority comes from God. I sat and watched the coronation and found it a fascinating event. At times, I thought the service in Westminster Abbey was powerful and moving. The Church of England was on display, with its archbishops and bishops in their finest robes.

The next day, however, it was business as usual for the Church. Like local clergy across the country and across the denominations, I led congregations in Sunday worship, as we had done the Sunday before, as we do every Sunday. That return to routine was also true for those who attended church that day, as - with the bank holiday weekend over - Christians took their places alongside people of other faiths and none in communities, workplaces and voluntary roles, striving to make a better world, especially for the most vulnerable in our midst. This is the heart of the Christian faith, celebrating the life and ministry of a Saviour born, not in a palace, but in a stable, in the poorest of surroundings, and continuing Jesus' mission to bring God's love, hope and life to our communities and the world. The Gospels tell us that Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness. That life – as King Charles himself affirmed at his coronation – is found in loving service to those around us, whether that's in our homes, our churches, our communities, or our world.

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for June 2023

June 4 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Les Britten.
June 11 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Alwyne Wilson
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
June 18 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Charles Robuck (coffee after the service)
June 25 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby.

Events

June 9 th	2:30 to 4:30	Afternoon tea and cakes
June 13 th	10 am	Prayer and bible study meeting

All welcome

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.

Heyford Parish Church

Some events to look forward to, as well as our usual services.



Saturday 10th June,

Pop-Up Messy Church at the
Village Hall Fete



Saturday 9th September

Church Fete in the Rectory Garden



Sunday 24th September

Harvest Café Church at the
Allotments



Saturday 7th October

Quiz in The Village Hall



Weekend 9th and 10th December

Nativity Festival in The Church

*Everybody
welcome*

*More details nearer
the time, watch this
space!*



You and Your Village Hall

I wanted to introduce myself to you all as an existing member of the Committee which oversees your village hall and the new Vice Chair.

The village hall is a very valuable village asset used by many many villagers, but did you know that the Committee is very small and the tireless work that these few people have given over many years (not me I'm very new to all this), is becoming more and more difficult as the collective age of the Committee rises steadily.

Not everyone has the time, skills or disposition to do this but I'm sure we can all contribute what we have or know.

Recently, in an effort to save money so that hall hire etc does not have to be raised, I asked for help to clear the weeds and rubbish from the land around the hall. Unfortunately it resulted in just one (yes one) villager coming to help on the day.

I would like to put together a group of "friends of Nether Heyford Village Hall" who could be called upon when convenient to do little and sporadic jobs to keep the hall running and keep costs down.

It would be lovely if you could follow our Facebook page and message us if you are able to chip in when help is needed.

For those who don't subscribe to social media we should by now have a post box erected next to the notice board on the outside of the hall itself. If you drop a note in there I will endeavour to put together a physical list of our "friends".

There are lots of exciting things that happen here because of our wonderful hall and hard working committee. I believe everyone has something to give to some degree, even knowledge.

We would love to hear from you.

With warmest wishes

Carol Tuckley

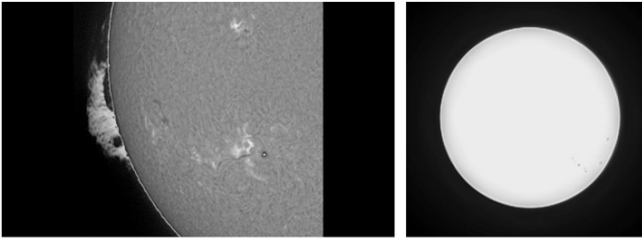


Astronomy on the Green

“Summer days drifting away to uh oh the summer nights”.

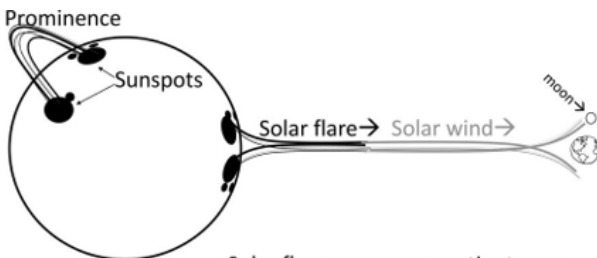
So, what do astronomers do during the long summer days? Well, some of us observe the Sun, me I do this on a simple basis with my small smart telescope, as Solar observation is one of the costliest parts of the hobby. A word of warning; **looking at the Sun with unprotected eyes will damage your eyesight, conducting this through binoculars or telescopes without the correct filtering will blind you.**

The above statement hints to the costs involved – we need to heavily filter the sun. My smart telescope uses a filter on each lens that only allows one millionth of the suns light through, and that is plenty light to view the sun and any spots on the surface. Sunspots have returned from a minimum period and now several are visible at any one time. This form of filtering only allows us to see the surface and spots on the Sun, but none of the other detail. To reveal this, we need H-Alpha filtering (this is highly specialised and expensive (a cheap but useful solar scope is £1,500 a good one £7,500)). But they will reveal surface detail, prominences, and flares.



My humble offering is on the right (early days I will get better) You can see some spots in the lower quadrant.

Solar flares are real fun!



Solar flares cause magnetic storms.
Magnetic storms can disrupt communication.
Blew the moons atmosphere into Jupiter.

uh oh the summer nights? – well Galaxy stuff to come next month short nights but some spectacular stuff.

Tony Boutle



Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan

On 7th May, the Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan took another big step towards its conclusion with the issue of the Independent Examiner's Final Report and the recommendation, subject to certain modifications, that it proceeds to the final stage – a referendum for the Village to vote either for or against the plan. The Examiner commented that *'The Plan has 26 Policies covering a wide range of topics including a number of site allocations. The Plan takes an ambitious approach and has wellbeing at its heart. The policies seek to add local detail or address matters of importance to the local community'*.

The main modification to the Plan required by the Examiner is the removal of the Bugbrooke Road site for any development. This included the potential relocation of Bliss School. This is because WNC who now own the site objected to the proposed use as they wish to see the site allocated for housing. This is against WNC's own Planning policies as well as against the Plan requiring housing only to satisfy local need. The Examiner concluded that in the present circumstance there was no realistic chance of development in accordance with the Plan and that the site allocation should be removed. This underlines the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan in only permitting development around the Village that satisfies local demand and is one of the reasons that the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan was undertaken in the first place. The other recommended modifications to the Plan do not have any material effect on the other proposals within the Plan.

Once the Plan has been amended, it will be submitted to WNC who will then make arrangements for the Referendum to take place. The final version of the Plan will be made publicly available as part of this process. We will communicate more details as soon as they are available. The referendum will be conducted by an independent authority and all villagers on the electoral register will be entitled to vote. The result of the vote will be a simple majority of those who do vote.

The Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan Group have spent nearly 7 years undertaking the preparation of the Plan for the village on behalf of the Parish Council. We have consulted with the residents of the village, taken onboard comments and feedback, and taken every care to ensure that the Plan meets the needs of the village for the next seven years. The Plan protects the village from unwanted development and lays down principles to ensure that any development is in keeping with the characteristics of the village.

To ensure that the Plan comes into force and provides this protection to the village, it is essential that all of us in the village and wider parish vote **in favour of the Plan**.

**Tony Clewett - Chair
Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan Group**

Obituary

The family is very sorry to announce the death of Liz Tench on 18 May 2023. Liz was a loving wife, mother to Tony and Kate, and sister to Alison and will be sorely missed. She lived in Heyford for the last 42 years having spent her youth in Clun, Shropshire. She used to teach locally before retiring, including at Bliss and Campion.

May she rest in peace.

**Mike Tench
Winston Close**



Elizabeth Susan Tench

11/09/46 - 18/05/23

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CHARITY No. 1029571

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Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

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Use of numerous outdoor facilities including:

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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**

Village Hall News

Preparations for the Fete on 10th June are well in hand thanks to Pat Paterson our events secretary and hard working committee so we look forward to seeing you there on the day. Our Rose Queen will be crowned at 2.00 pm and she will then open the fete officially. There is a full programme and stalls to visit and tea and cakes in the Village Hall. All donations of cakes will be gratefully received. Raffle tickets will be on sale on the day.

Many thanks to Carol Tuckley our new vice chairman for the "Big Clean" at the rear of the Village Hall which is looking great. We now need to tackle the leylandii.

Our very smart new Post Box is in place and we now have a postal address . Village Hall, The Green, Nether Heyford, Northamptonshire, NN7 3LE No more confusion for our Postmen and Ladies.

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



In Nether Heyford

What a lot has happened since the last copy of the Prattler landed through your letterbox! We have seen the crowning of our new King and Queen, with much pageantry and many street parties held around the country, with the weather being a lot kinder than it was in 1953.

Instead of our May meeting some of our Heyford WI members went to see 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' at the Derngate Theatre. It was interesting to see the stage production rather than the film but was a shame to see quite a few empty seats. However, the applause at the end of the evening certainly showed how much the performance was appreciated.

Our next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on June 8th at 7.30pm when Paul Howard will be talking to us about his experiences as a photographer. 'Story Behind the Story' will tell tales of photographs that led to newspaper stories ranging from Tony Blair and a Jack Russell terrier, a lady in Yarmouth with 25,000 ornaments (fancy dusting all those!) and the backside of an elephant (if you want to find out about that you will have to come to the meeting!) If you would like to join us the cost is £5 including refreshments.

The meeting in July will feature reminiscences of a Wimbledon umpire. This will be an open evening so, if tennis is your thing, please do come and join us. It may not improve your tennis, but there will be good company and refreshments. We hope to see you then.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

Welcome Packs

Welcome packs are available for newcomers to our Village. The information in them helps people feel at home quickly.

If you notice that someone has moved in recently, get a pack for them by calling:

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

100% NO SALE NO FEE

- No Upfront Marketing Fee
- No Withdrawal Fee
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- Free 360° Virtual Tour

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reviews on Facebook



Chris Gibson
- Horts Property Consultant



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www.heyfordsingers.org

*'If I were not a physicist, I would
Probably be a musician.
I often think in music.
I live my daydreams in music.
I see my life in terms of music'*

Albert Einstein

We do hope that you found some of our songs in our Concert last month lingering with you well after the Friday or Saturday night. I am sure Dancing with Anton by our very own Graham Kinnersly was especially memorable. A very big 'thank you' to all who came and supported our Community Choir. We were sold out pretty quickly so a triumph for The Heyford Singers and a big apology to those who were unable to secure a ticket, even through the waiting list. The atmosphere on both nights was terrific thanks to your lively interaction with us and I think the lovely mix of songs we sung resonated with everyone. I hope you are still humming some of the songs as you leaf through this Prattler.

We sung to approximately one hundred and twenty five of you and the feedback was very positive with some of you going on our newly created mailing list for future events and some of you expressing interest in joining the Choir. We raised over two hundred pounds for the Parish and Baptist Churches through our raffle and the rest of the money goes towards music, and all the everyday expenses involved in hiring the hall and our pianist. So it means we can keep singing. To you.

It is now June and what a momentous month May was with the Coronation and all that went with it. Choirs, orchestras and soloists shone in a magnificent showcase of British music-making at its best and featured Sir Bryn Terfel, the Welsh baritone, Andrew Lloyd Webber by way of his composition of the Coronation Anthem entitled 'Make a Joyful Noise' and which was performed for the first time at the Westminster Abbey service and (one of my favourites) The Ascension Choir who performed 'Alleluia'. A cappella. What an achievement - the hand picked gospel choir were brought together especially for this event and sang in perfect harmony, finishing on a high, perfect pitch. Not an easy thing to do by any means with music, but without... !!

And then there was Eurovision and all that went with it. An extravaganza of modern culture and singing with a well deserved result for Sweden and our, rather usual, slide to the bottom of the pecking order. Liverpool certainly pulled out all the stops to make this occasion a great success on behalf of Ukraine and gave out all the right messages to the rest of the world by way of music.

We are sad to lose three of our Choir members, one of whom struggled with the A5 for a long time but has now had to give up and the other two are leaving for pastures new. We wish them well and hope they will return to see us at some point. It is always very sad to lose members as there is a real bond when you sing together.

We now have a break until the beginning of September when rehearsals take place for our Christmas Concert. Come and join us? Friday, September 1st at 7.15pm. All very welcome – and no auditions.

JRA



Update from down the Playing Fields

There has been a bit of discussion on social media regarding the 'condition' of the cemetery and other social areas. It certainly appears that, on face value, these areas could be maintained to a better standard, particularly where contractors are employed to do the work. However, what we may all need to take into account is that the vast majority of people who 'manage' these areas and manage any contractors, are volunteers working on behalf of our village; the residents and the local community.

It is pretty evident that the dependency on goodwill; charities; volunteers etc is becoming increasingly important in making the environment in which we live as nice a place as possible. Some of the existing volunteers working in our village have been performing voluntary duties for many years and would now like to reduce their commitments and/or retire gracefully knowing they've found replacements to take on these roles. Unfortunately, finding replacement volunteers is a very difficult task as we are experiencing in trying to recruit new people onto the Playing Fields committee.

Fortunately, we have acquired a couple of very capable and willing people to help with the maintenance of our facilities. However, only one person has so far offered to help on the administrative/committee side of things.

So, if you want to ensure that the various facilities in our beautiful village are maintained and over-time improved, then why not volunteer for one of the many organisations and do your bit to make a difference.

Enjoy summer folks.

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

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

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 Allotments and Garden Club

Why do we grow our own?

You can go to the supermarket and buy your fruit and veg (and there are some things that not even the most dedicated, conscientious grower can produce) but what you produce on your plot is different and better in so many ways. Firstly, you have control over what goes in the soil and on the emerging plant, so no chemical or additives if you so choose. Secondly, you can, with careful sourcing, cut the cost of your food dramatically, especially if you grow foods that command a premium price in the shops, such as asparagus, rhubarb, squash and all sorts of soft fruits. Freezing, bottling and preserving many vegetables and fruits can also see you using summer's bounty all through the winter. And what a joy it is to sample rhubarb gin as snow falls in January! Finally, and perhaps most importantly, comes the sense of well-being that arises from just being outside and taking exercise in a beautiful environment, whatever the weather.

A King's Fund report recently revealed that the health benefits of gardening were found to be broad and diverse, with research studies showing significant reductions in depression and anxiety and improved social functioning. Gardening can also help maintain independence and prevent cognitive decline.

Vacancies

We currently have one vacant allotment, although, as they often tell you when shopping online ... "one other person is already looking at this item".

If you are interested in taking on an allotment, contact us directly on the numbers at the end of this article.

Cut Flower Patch and Sunflowers

The Community Cut Flower Patch is looking good and although our beautiful display of wallflowers is just coming to an end, the scent from them is still as wonderful as ever. If you get a chance, go and have a quick sniff before they all go!

A huge thank you to all the allotmenters and villagers who have grown sunflowers for us this year. Many of you will have already planted them into the patch and we are hopeful that if they all survive, we will have an amazing display later in the summer. This initiative has truly been a community effort.

Community Use

Do feel free to come and use our community area for a picnic, a rest or simply an opportunity to escape for an hour or so. Blossom time in the orchard is almost over but the community flower patch is blooming and the grassed areas are looking verdant. We even have benches, chairs and tables for all the village community to use. It is still a bit of a secret space but one that we are keen to share.

We ask only, that you leave the site as you find it and, if time allows, you put a can of water on the flowers. There are always full cans of water available.

Heyford Garden Club

The next meeting of Heyford Garden Club will be on Monday 12th June when 'Liz Taylor from the Woodland Trust will be talking about "Trees and Climate Change". 'Liz was unable to attend the March meeting and I know that many of you will be anxious to catch up with her in June and discover more about this important topic. Please note that meetings will now begin at 7.30 pm.

As a special offer this month we will be giving members the opportunity to attend the meeting for free if they introduce a guest who signs up to join the club, paying their £10 annual subs, on the night.

The Village Hall Fete will be held on Saturday 10th June and as usual, the Garden Club will be setting up its plant tombola stall. Come and buy a ticket and who knows, you may win one of their beautiful plant displays. In addition to plants, the Garden Club will also be raffling two very special prizes. Earl Spencer has gifted the Garden Club two family tickets for Althorp House, each worth £60. They are prizes well worth winning. Our thanks go to the Althorp Estate for their generous support.

The Garden Club will be holding their annual garden party in the Allotment Community Area on Monday 10th July. More details to follow.

Contacts

Don't hesitate to contact either Lynda or me if you have any allotment related questions.

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Mr. Mike Langrish, 28 Manor Park, NH
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Mike Langrish



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.



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Flood Watch

Locally the month of May has seen some improvement in daily temperatures, even reaching 21 degrees on several occasions and rainfall has been generally light. Generally the majority of Spring has been dull and cloudy with an exceptionally wet March.

The rest of the UK has experienced more gale force winds especially to the West as high pressure systems from Europe and the East interacted. The most notable event occurred on 9th of May when forecasts of heavy rain and possible flooding for the Somerset area was suddenly deluged with an exceptional and unforeseen 30mm of rainfall in 15 minutes. Over 40 homes and businesses were flooded as the river reached its highest recorded level. Although the area is prone to flooding these instances were exceptional which was little comfort for those homes that were devastated. One cannot imagine how these homeowners must have felt, let alone the cost implications and once again highlights the need for improved permanent flood defences. Flood guards tailored to individual properties which require the owner to respond to Environment Agency flood warnings would have been inadequate in such circumstances. However the Agency is committed to such forms of defence in preference to larger ready built schemes.

On 18th May northern Italy was devastated by a catastrophic flood following 6 months rainfall in one and a half days. 13 people died and 13000 were forced from their homes. This was the worst recorded flood in 100 years.

Research into Worldwide flooding showed some staggering statistics namely as a percentage of the population at risk:

Bangladesh 58%, Egypt 40%, China 28%, Europe 17% and UK 11 %.

These are based on actual flooding events and do not include climate change factors.

As the end of Spring approaches the summer solstice and longest daylight hours will occur on Wednesday 21st June when sunset will be at 21.30 and daylight 16 hours 46 minutes. Temperatures will remain in the lower to mid twenties in June. However a number of forecasters have predicted an "African Plume" raising temperatures in June to at least 30 degrees! However the Met Office are more cautious although the events of summer 2022 and climate change could upset any such long term forecasts.

The E/A have still not provided an update on discussions with Anglian Water over culvert maintenance.

J. Arnold.

Flore Arts Events

First off we'd like to say a big "thank you" to all our supporters over the last few years: together we have now raised more than £23,000 for local charities and amenities since our launch in 2016.

Next up is the one many of you have been waiting for. Box office is now open for... **Jazz in the Garden, Sunday 16th July (afternoon)**. Now pretty much a fixture on the Flore Arts calendar. Once again our hosts will be the generous and long suffering owners of Rock Springs in Sutton St, Flore. This year we will be entertained by Tad Newton's Jazz Friends.

As always we're anticipating a programme of foot-tapping jazz and ragtime favourites in a relaxed garden setting. You'll also have the opportunity to buy teas, cakes, soft drinks, Pimm's, wine and beer (cash only please). Just bring something to sit on (and perhaps your dancing shoes).

Tickets: £15 (£5 under 18s). Please call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm).

Looking further ahead we are delighted to confirm our two autumn events. Please put these in your diaries:

Ibaia String Quartet, Sunday 8th October, 3pm. All Saints Church, Flore. We will be hosting a talented group of musicians from Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. Expect a wide range of beautiful string music... and tea and cake!

Singer Tom Pegg entertains, Saturday 2nd December, 7.30pm. Flore Millennium Hall. A relaxed wine and cheese evening with a Christmas twist. More details to follow.

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with our plans on our 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

So far May 2023 has been a wonderful month for plants. Warm weather coupled with plenty of rain has produced ideal growing conditions for most of our temperate climate loving vegetation. However, insects seem to be in short supply this year. This could well be due the “stop, start” early spring that preceded this month. Many insects particularly Bees and Butterflies emerged from winter quite early, only to find a very limited food supply. Hopefully some have survived and will flourish in the ideal conditions we experiencing right now.

It is estimated that we in the UK have lost over 80% of all insects in the last 50 years. Surely this loss of insects is a major factor in us losing over 70 million UK birds over the same time. What will our children and grandchildren think of the generations that stood and watched this happen without changing their ways?

On a brighter note, May Blossom (Hawthorn Flowers) are absolutely amazing this year. Our allotment hedge - that also borders the wildlife patch - has quite a few of both Blackthorn and Hawthorn bushes. The Hawthorn Blossom has replaced the fading Blackthorn flowers that were so lovely in April. This hedge forms an ancient, species rich, field boundary which could be considered to be the greatest Natural Asset owned by this Parish. This hedge originally formed a barrier between the field which is now the allotment field and a brook which flowed between the hedge and the lane.

Species rich hedgerows are now recognised as essential in providing an important habitat for many of our Birds and Insects. We have lost over 90% of these hedgerows since the end of World War 2. For this reason it is important to look after those that still survive. Sometime in the 1950s, a Dr Max Hooper developed a theory which said “A hedge puts on one woody species per hundred years, per 30 yards.”

- This is not an exact measure and metres work just as well as yards.

So, you just divide a hedge in 30m sections, count the number of species in each section. An average number in this count is roughly equal to the age of the hedge. There are a few caveats added to this theory. Even so, most authorities agree that this is accurate enough to be sufficient for ordinary needs.

I used this method to measure the age of the allotment hedge. This put the hedge at around 300 years old. However, some of the hedge seems to have been lost and replaced by re plantings in recent years. The planters used appropriate tree species whilst using plastic tree guards. These still remain in view enabling easy location of these newer trees. I did not include sections with these plastic guards in the count and Hooper's theory still pointed to a 300 year old hedge.

There is some work to do on the hedge to maintain a secure boundary. We will put in wooden rail fencing where there are large holes before replanting with natural English hedge species.

Experience with planting trees in this area has demonstrated that trees planted after the end of March have a high mortality rate, so no planting will take place before next October.

Hopefully with appropriate care our hedge will survive for another 200 years.

Dave Musson





Heyford Bowls Club

The outdoor bowls season has got off to a brilliant start after winning our first three matches but we then lost the next two although the scores were very close. At this early part of the season most greens tend to be very soft and heavy to play but our green is looking and playing the best it has for many years.

Our men won their first round match against Whyte Melville in the Mens Club 2 Wood Fours, a national competition. At the time of writing their second round is scheduled for Thursday 25th May against West End. Our two mixed teams play their first round in the Tony Allcock Trophy, another National competition, against Kislingbury on Friday 19th May.

The Short Mat held an internal Mixed Singles competition on 22nd April, together with the Norman & Vivienne Brown Trophy which is awarded to the highest individual score during the competition. I am happy to report that Rosemary Haddon won the Singles match with Graham Drake as runner up. For the second year running Rosemary also won the Brown Trophy, so double celebrations for her.

June brings a lot of activity for both the Outdoor and Short Mat sections of the club. On Saturday 3rd June it is our Internal Drawn Triples competition starting at 2.00pm and then on Saturday 24th June we hold our annual Outdoor vs Short Mat competition down at the bowls club again starting at 2.00pm. Spectators are always welcome. We will also have our usual bottle tombola together with a fun game for families set up at the Village Fete on Saturday 10th June so come along and visit our stand and try your luck.

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 the 1st June at 12.30pm

2 course meal with tea/coffee all for £7

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

Quiz

- 1) What did the Romans call Scotland?
- 2) Who was made Lord Mayor of London In 1397, 1398, 1406 And 1419?
- 3) Who was Henry VIII's last wife?
- 4) Who was the youngest British Prime Minister?
- 5) In which year was Joan of Arc burned at the stake?
- 6) Which nationality was the polar explorer Roald Amundsen?
- 7) Who was the first female Prime Minister of Australia?
- 8) Which English explorer was executed in 1618, fifteen year after being found guilty of conspiracy against King James I of England and VI of Scotland?

True or false?

- 9) A woman has walked on the Moon
- 10) According to Scottish law, it is illegal to be drunk in charge of a cow
- 11) Vietnamese is an official language in Canada
- 12) The setting for the ITV drama Midsomer Murders is a fictional English county called Midsomer
- 13) An emu can fly
- 14) President Theodore Roosevelt's son was called Kermit
- 15) Edinburgh is further East than Carlisle

Answers

1. Caledonia 2. Richard (Dick) Whittington 3. Catherine Parr 4. William Pitt (The Younger) 5. 1431 6. Norwegian 7. Julia Gillard (2010-2013) 8. Sir Walter Raleigh 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True 13. False 14. True 15. False

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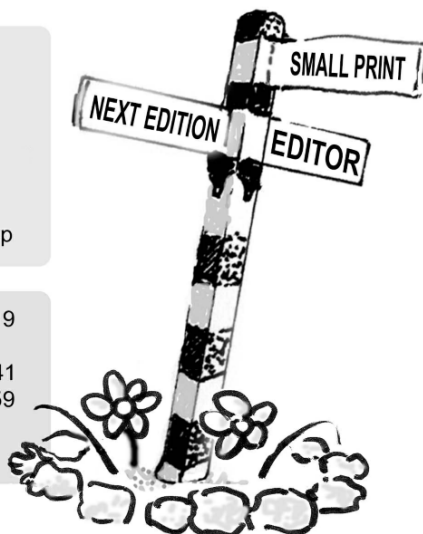
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