



THE PRATTLER

July/August 2023

Issue 461

A circular logo for the Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan. The background is a green field. In the center is a rectangular mosaic. The mosaic depicts two figures, a man and a woman, standing in a landscape with a river, a bridge, and a church. The word "NETHER" is written in a blue banner above the figures, and "HEYFORD" is written in a blue banner below them. The mosaic is framed by a decorative border.

**Nether Heyford
Neighbourhood Plan**

**SPECIAL EDITION
SEPTEMBER REFERENDUM**



Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan - It Will Soon be Time to Vote!

Well, dear parishioners, by the time this issue of the Prattler is published we are quietly confident that WNC's Planning Policy Committee will have agreed that our Neighbourhood Plan may go forward to referendum.

In that event all parishioners who are registered to vote will receive a voting card from WNC's Elections Team as per any local or national election. You may vote either for or against the plan. All being well voting day will be a Thursday early in September.

As mentioned in previous articles the referendum will work to a simple majority and if that is for the plan it becomes 'made' and legally adopted by WNC.

The benefits of having a 'made' plan have been extolled in previous articles, but just to reiterate, this plan belongs to the parish and the village and expresses the wishes and priorities of you the parishioners.

During its lifetime it will protect what we value and appreciate, enhance wherever practical and only allow development where appropriate.

If you would like to see more detail about Neighbourhood Planning, please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

Once 'made' responsibility for the plan will lie with the Parish Council, who will undoubtedly reach out to the community for engagement and support where required. Similarly, once 'made' the Neighbourhood Planning Group who have worked on behalf of the Parish Council to create the plan will be dissolved.

The approved plan will be available online at our website and there will be paper copies available at our pubs and shops in the village, and with the Parish Clerk.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please direct them to the Parish Clerk in the first instance; netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

We will of course publish the results of the referendum as soon as they are available.

NHNP Group

The Vision for Nether Heyford's Neighbourhood Plan

By 2029, Nether Heyford will have retained and celebrated its historic rural village character, by protecting and enhancing the appeal and uniqueness of the Parish of Nether Heyford, and will have ensured that any housing development opportunities have been sustainable and appropriate to the identified housing need of villagers. It is a place where people want to and are enabled to live, work and contribute, now and in future generations.

Wellbeing as a core theme throughout our policies

The Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan includes a range of policies which have a wellbeing component, or have an impact on the individual's as well as the community's wellbeing. Societal and personal wellbeing in the village is looking beyond what we produce, to areas such as health, relationships, education and skills, what we do, where we live, our finances and the environment. In order to maintain wellbeing as a theme throughout the plan, it can be used as a framework in decision making for any proposed changes within the NP, or for proposed changes by external parties regarding the village. In this way:

Any proposal or change must demonstrate a positive impact on the wellbeing of villagers and the community of the Parish of Nether Heyford.

**Scan this QR Code with your
smartphone or tablet to go to the
Nether Heyford Neighbourhood Plan
Website. Prior to the referendum in
early September 2023, the Plan will
be available to read, along with all
of the supporting documents.**



Thank you for voting

Our village

Our decision



The June 5th Parish Council Meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms.

Village Fete June 10th

Congratulations to all those involved in the organisation of the village fete for all their hard work – which was rewarded by fabulous weather and a really good attendance. Our beautiful village green is the ideal setting for this very English event. The Parish Council would especially like to thank Dan Musson and Julian Moriarty for their additional Grasscutting work which presented the Green at it's absolute best. Thanks are also due to the chair for arranging this, as well as a late clearance of the epicormic growth on the Limes and Robinias.

Declaration of a Casual vacancy

A vacancy now exists for a councillor. West Northants Council (WNC) have given formal permission to co-opt which we hope will take place at the July meeting.

Presentation re Lighting from Electricity Network Contractors

Suggestions for a programme of replacements and improvements were given to Council. The installation of more efficient timers was suggested as was a schedule for replacing wooden, fibreglass and concrete fixtures starting with those most likely to fail. They would forward a written plan for Council's consideration.

Public Participation

Councillor Adam Brown reported that the gravel application may go to committee this or next month.

Community funding grants would be available until the end of the month, village organisations would be eligible.

WNC Planning

A new committee structure was being introduced. WNC enforcement do not feel that planning condition infractions at the site behind Denbrook are sufficiently severe to merit any action; he will continue to argue that they do. Cllr AB and Helen Howard of Highways will be looking at Furnace Lane with a view to acting on traffic issues identified between the canal bridge and Winston Close. The installation a chicane may be a possibility.

More work is scheduled for Hillside Rd.

Cllr AB also mentioned there would be information stickers placed on recycling bins.

A resident felt that an additional or larger bin was required in the Play Area.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

Tony Williams reported that the Examiner had been complimentary. The updated version of the plan goes to committee at WNC on 22nd June. It is hoped that it will then go to referendum on Sept. 7th. The Plan will be put online on the Prattler website. Copies will be made available at Councillor Surgeries and elsewhere in the village.

Gravel Extraction.

TW was concerned that this might go to committee next week and was disturbed at the possible lack of notice.

Reports

PCSO report had been circulated.

Lights Resolved to delegate authority to the Finance Committee to decide on how much to spend on lighting and authorise the expenditure.

Roads and pavements Road sign in Hillside Rd still not repaired. More work is scheduled for Hillside rd

The Green/Play Area Council thanked Dan Musson and Julian Moriarty for a “pick up” cut on the green in order to present the Green at its best for the Village fete. Concerns were expressed at the quality of grass cutting otherwise. The contracts come up this year.’

Playing Fields Committee now considering a modular rather than a brick-built pavilion.

Trees Clerk to thank Mr Lloyd for the report on the memorial Green Oak tree.

Allotments LE reported that all was looking good at the allotments and all plots let.

Footpaths One of the jitties reported as overgrown. Bus shelter cleaning had not yet occurred.

Churchyard TW had mentioned the North wall to the PCC. Clerk to reply to resident that the area between the path and the North wall had been left to grow to encourage wildflowers, and that as the graves in that area were not tended, it was not felt necessary that they be cleared.

JBB Further concerns were expressed about the contractor and grass cutting. The chair felt that the issue had been addressed.

Youth Club Council discussed the situation regarding parking on Ridgeway Furlong associated with events at the Y.C. Council has no powers over parking,

and if there is obstruction it needs to be reported to the police. It was not felt that the photographs showed any evidence of obstruction.

Community Lounge. Closed now until September as attendances had fallen.

Internal and External Audits The Internal Audit had been satisfactory with no negative issues, and the Annual General return was completed at the meeting. The Clerk would complete the paperwork and submit the return in time for the July 3rd deadline.

Sign pointing to church It was felt that the existing Village Only sign could be repainted to include a "To the Church".

Annual Parish Meeting It was resolved not to hold the meeting in 2024 and then review the situation for the next year.
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 one is on 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
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 July 2023

Sunday 2 nd	8:00 am	Prayer Book Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 9 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Heyford
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Saturday 15 th	2:00 pm	Messy Church at Flore Church (until 4:00pm-ish)
Sunday 16 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 23 rd	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
Sunday 30 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel

Midweek Services:

Wednesday	9:30am	Morning Prayer via 'Why Pay' conference call. Please contact the Rector for the numbers to use. (not Wed 26 th July or 3 rd August)
Thursday	10:00am	Holy Communion at Flore Church (not Thu 20 th and 27 th July or 4 th August)
	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Flore Church open for private prayer
Friday	9:00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for an invitation

Services for August 2023

Sunday 6 th	10:00 am	United Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
Sunday 13 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 20 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
Sunday 27 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Brockhall Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel

August Services – During the summer, as is our custom, we shall be holding just one service each Sunday morning and moving around the four parishes of the benefice. I do hope that everyone who is not on holiday will also move around with us. The services will all be at 10am.

The Streets

During **July** we shall be praying for people living in Upper Heyford; Capell Rise, Collins Hill, Sears Close, Muscott Close and John Campbell Close in Flore; Francis Row in Upper Stowe and the Stables and Coach House in Brockhall. And during **August**, Rolf Crescent, Western Avenue and South View in Heyford; Chapel Lane and The Green in Flore; The Manor in Church Stowe and The Gate House and The Old Dairy in Brockhall.

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.

Dear Friends,

In recent days, my mobile phone has repeatedly reminded me of the trip to Normandy that Deborah and I took last year, taking me back to the many photographs of the beaches, battlefields and museums we visited. Coming days after this year's 79th anniversary of the D-Day landings, I again reflected on the courage of the ordinary men who crossed the English Channel to liberate the continent from Nazi tyranny. Why, in June 1944, did tens of thousands of men travel hundreds, or even thousands, of miles to help liberate people they didn't know? What did they value - or even love - more than life itself? What motivated them? How did they overcome their fears? What made them risk the bombs and the bullets they faced as they exited landing craft, or jumped from aeroplanes?

Could the answer be love? Love of country, love of friends and family, love of freedom. In an individualistic, materialist world, love makes no sense. If we are simply biological organisms functioning in an environment, love is completely unnecessary – even surplus to requirement. Yet, the Bible tells us that God is love (1John 4:16), and that we are made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). And love makes us act in ways that mere biological organisms would not behave, such as staying with a terminally ill partner; running into a burning house to save a child; volunteering in a soup kitchen, charging across a bullet-strewn beach and so much more.

In his book, 'Romans; A letter that makes sense of life', Dr Andrew Ollerton likens the Gospel - the good news of Jesus Christ - to the Western allies' D-Day success at Normandy, after which, it was only a matter of time before victory was achieved. By dying on the cross, and rising to life three days later, Jesus has overcome our greatest enemies of sin, death and evil. There may still be battles and 'mopping up actions' to come, but God's ultimate victory is assured. Humanity's worst enemies have been defeated through the risen Jesus, and now, through the faithfulness of God, everyone is welcome into the People of God. This really is good news, this is the power of God for our salvation. Something to give us hope and confidence in challenging times.

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for July/August 2023

July 2 nd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Wally Mular
July 9 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Les Britten
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
July 16 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Wendy Manley (coffee after the service)
July 23 rd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
July 30 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby
August 6 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by John Perkins
August 13 th	10:30 am	Service led by Les Britten
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
August 20 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
August 27 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

Events

July 5 th	2 pm	"A Mercy Ship Experience" with Alice Walsma (No charge but donations welcome)
July 8 th	2.30 to 4.30	Alwyne invites you to "Tea on the Lawn" at 29, Church Lane. (No Charge but donations welcome)
July 14 th	2:30 to 4:30	Afternoon tea and cakes
July 18 th	10 am	Prayer and bible study meeting
August 11 th	2:30 to 4:30	Afternoon tea and cakes
August 15 th	10 am	Prayer and bible study meeting

All welcome

St Peter and St Paul Church Heyford



Church Fete

Saturday 9th September

2-4pm

In The Rectory Garden

(in the church and church rooms if wet)

Stalls, Tombola, Teas, Children's Activities



‘A Mercy Ship Experience’

with Alice Walsma

Do come to this Wednesday

Afternoon meeting on

5th July at 2pm

In the schoolroom at

Nether Heyford Baptist Church

There is no charge

donations welcome,

Drinks and biscuits after

and a chance to catch

up with friends

EVERYONE WELCOME

Village Hall News

In this coronation year with a new king on the throne we felt that we should make it a tradition to always have a King to accompany our beautiful Rose Queen to preside over our Village Hall Fete. We were extremely fortunate to have Harry and Eva to step into the roles and they played a huge part on the day from their arrival in the open air car to picking out the winning tickets in the raffle at the end of the afternoon. Thank you Harry and Eva . You did a great job.

It was wonderful to see such a huge turnout on such a lovely day and I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the day so special from our stall holders and entertainers to our refreshment providers. Thanks also to our generous donors who provided the raffle prizes. We raised over £1000 on the raffle and although the accounts aren't finalised yet we have made over £2000 which is used for maintenance of our hall.

Our Garage Sale in May raised over £600 and again many thanks to everyone who took part.

It is a lot of hard work to put together these events and I would urge anyone who has a little time to spare to become a "Friend of Nether Heyford Village Hall". All you need to do is Facebook message your email address to receive notifications of what we are doing and offer to help if you can. If you don't have email just pop your name and phone number into our post box at the village hall and we will let you know by phone. You can keep up to date with what we do on Nether Heyford Village Hall Facebook page.

Our next event is our Harvest Feast Supper on 27th October and I look forward to seeing you all there.

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

This issue is a double one covering July and August. Thanks to Carol Tuckley and Mick Parker for the photographs from the fete.

The next issue will be published in September.

Enjoy Summer.

Sue



Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
Parties, Weddings, Business
Meetings etc. Modern facilities,
Disabled access friendly

Bookings: nhvhbookings@gmail.com

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167



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Astronomy on the Green

Galaxy season is with us, the excitement is that Galaxies truly are DSO'S (deep sky objects). Our closest galactic neighbour being the Andromeda Galaxy, some 2.5 million light years away. This means the light we see now left the Galaxy during the middle of the Pleistocene Epoch. The Earth was going through a period of repetitive Ice Ages when Mammoths were hunted down by early Homo Habilis. I wonder if those early humans glanced up at the night sky and wondered what that smudge in the sky was? So yes, Galaxies are all far away in distance and time from us, but merely 100 years ago we believed our Galaxy was the only one, and all we saw in the night sky was within it.

Now the Hubble telescope has shown us many amazing images of distant galaxies (as can be seen at (<https://hubblesite.org/images>), but the real Hubble, Edwin Powell Hubble (20 November 1889 – 28 September 1953) was interested in small faint objects that most astronomers of the time dismissed as 'gas clouds' or Nebulae. By careful observation and implementing the work of Henrietta Swan Leavitt (in the early 20th century), Edwin was able to demonstrate that some of the objects lay well outside the limits of our own Milky Way.

Leavitt's work used variable stars (Cepheids) and the periodical brightness variation they displayed to measure their distance from us (she realised the brightness and variation could be plotted to give us a scale [or standard candle] for measuring the vast distances in space). Henrietta spent many long days examining photographic plates by eye and recording the star intensities. Eventually, careful science revealed that the brightness of the stars was related to the cycle period of the luminosity and distance.

These two scientists show the effect of 'standing on the shoulders of giants' or put more plainly - that one discovery leads to the next. We now know from the observation of many such individuals that the Universe is vast and the things that evolve from that; the Earth is not the centre of the solar system or Universe. That our Galaxy is not the Universe, but a tiny part of a Cosmos that contains 100 – 200 billion galaxies.

Now we are a minuscule part of the Cosmos, but we should congratulate ourselves on being able to use our observations and logic to uncover clearly that which surrounds us. We have come a long way in understanding space in an 'eye blink' that is 100 years.

Astronomy on the Green meetings will recommence in September - look out for details on the Facebook page.

Clear skies,

Tony Boutle

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Our meeting on 24th July is a visit to The Manor at Priors Marston. Fingers crossed the weather will be kind.

No meeting in August as it is a bank holiday.

For more information about our friendly club please contact Simone on 01327 342167 or Dianne on 01604 830063.

NETHER HEYFORD

OFSTED No. EY450747

CHARITY No. 1029571

Pre-School

Ages 2-5 years

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

Highly qualified and experienced staff

Excellent links with Bliss School

Fantastic village location

Use of numerous outdoor facilities including:

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



Before & After School Club

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

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

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

Transition sessions available for Bliss School reception class.

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

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

Post Office Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed



In Nether Heyford

I do hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather, even if the odd bouts of thunder and heavier showers of rain have stopped us being too complacent!

Sadly, due to holidays, our June WI meeting was not quite as well attended as usual but the evening was very entertaining as we were given an insight into the life of a professional photographer. The photos of the elderly lady with all the ornaments in her home was incredible. She and her husband had frequented car-boot sales and, when he died, she just carried on... and on... Her daughter gave permission for her photo to be taken, which went to the local newspaper and she became well known in the area!

I need hardly tell everyone that the Fete was the usual success as I think that most of us were there. A big thank you to all who patronised the WI stall and an even bigger vote of thanks to all those who organised the day!

On July 6th we are due for a visit from Alan Gray. Born and educated in Scotland his interest in tennis was kindled by watching Rosewall, Gonzales and Sedgeman play at Dundee ice rink. Following this, he became a line judge and an umpire for 25 years. During this time he officiated at six finals, including Becker v Sampras and Agassi v Ivanisevic. The title of his talk is "You cannot be serious: Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire".

The meeting will be on Thursday July 6th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and will be an evening open to all. The cost will be £5, will include refreshments and, as usual, a very warm WI welcome!

In August the WI are meeting with the Bowls Club to try our hand at bowls! For several years we played Skittles and Darts but this is a first attempt at bowls for some of us! I am sure it will be highly entertaining!!

Advance Notice!! A 'WI Coffee Morning with a difference' will be held on Saturday September 2nd, at which there will be a 'book-swap' and other stalls of interest. More information will be posted in the next copy of the Prattler and we hope to see you there.

All good wishes for a wonderful summer from all at Nether Heyford WI!

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge

01327 340101

100% NO SALE NO FEE

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

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reviews on Facebook



Chris Gibson
- Horts Property Consultant



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www.heyfordsingers.org

***I believe that if you'll just stand up and go
Life will open for you***

Well she certainly did that. The above is from Tina Turner who died last month aged 83 after years of bad health. She is one of the legends of rhythm and blues who broke into the mainstream defeating poverty, lack of parents and surviving an abusive relationship. Her songs and dynamism are legendary. And she will be remembered. After all who doesn't belt out 'Simply The Best' and 'What's Love Got to Do with it' from time to time?

And in contrast, Paul Simon at 82 continues to this day with a remarkable new album. He is a musician synonymous with the bustle of the New York suburbs where he grew up in the fifties, the basketball-mad son of Hungarian-Jewish parents. His father was a musician and gave him his first acoustic guitar when he was twelve and which he still has, battered and stringless hanging on his studio wall. He now lives quietly on a ranch in Texas having suffered sudden loss of hearing in one ear. But still working. He belongs in the top tier of 20th century songwriters, a chronicler of America and the human condition every bit as sensitive and important as Dylan. And those of you with long memories remember him with Art Garfunkel whom he met at school – and who of us can forget this duo bringing us Bridge over troubled Water or The Sound of Silence? And later Paul Simon became a solo artist with the Grammy-winning 1986 album Graceland which sold more than 16 million copies. Enough for any musician you would say - but not him! Often so many veteran musicians continue to release records long after you wish they had hung up their guitars or stopped singing. But here we have two examples of fine music going into perpetuity.

Meanwhile Heyford Singers are on holiday, hopefully keeping their voices going singing in the shower or by humming along whilst listening to the radio. Ready for a new challenge come September. We are all rooting through our music cupboards already looking for Christmas music that we will sing in December - a concert comprising old and new tunes - seemingly a strange thing to do looking for winter music whilst outside we have a heat wave. Meanwhile Glastonbury has been and gone with all its abilities and talents. A veritable paradise for the young whilst others prefer to sit quietly and listen to classical music. I once went to a Japanese drumming concert with a friend at the Derngate - which I was dreading. It was a fabulous evening. Music comes in all shapes and sizes so whatever you are up to this summer - enjoy the moments which the pleasure of music brings.

Heyford Allotments and Garden Club

Quite a Picture

If you have had to chance to visit the allotments in the last few weeks you can't have helped but notice how good they are looking, how hard the allotmenters have been working and how bright and colourful they are. As the growing season unfolds, we have every hope they will also be equally productive.

Vacancies

There is always some change in ownership of allotments through the year – as one tenant moves on and vacates a plot, another person occupies that space. Currently we have only one vacant plot and at least four people interested in either taking on an allotment now or in the near future! In the recent past, when many of the allotments in Heyford were overgrown and the site looked unloved, we doubted that would ever be possible.

Our allotments are now an indication that there really is a growing interest in producing your own fruit, vegetables and flowers and benefitting from everything that entails.

Cut Flower Patch and Sunflowers

Once again, a huge thank you to all the allotmenters and villagers who have grown sunflowers for us this year and who continue find a few moments to offer them a can of water. Now that the foliage from our wonderful display of spring bulbs has been cleared, the extent of the planting that has taken place is clear to see. We should have a dazzling display later in the summer. This initiative has truly been a community effort.

The Orchard

Although many of our trees are looking healthy, we have had a lot of infestation by aphids and, latterly, caterpillars on smaller trees. The extremely dry weather has not helped, as this places the trees under a high level of stress and therefore more prone to disease – a bit like us if we are not in the best of health.

We shall be trying to ensure the trees are irrigated more regularly if no rain falls. As we are unwilling to resort to harmful pesticide sprays, we will also remove caterpillars by hand and try to encourage as many natural predators as possible. During the autumn we will also be removing a circle of grass from around trees that are ailing, tease out as much weed root as we can, add a layer of well-rotted manure or organic matter and then cover the area with a weed suppressant cover and wood mulch. Hopefully we will see the benefit of this in 2024.

Water

It will not have escaped anyone's attention that we are currently experiencing a very dry period and for anyone interested in gardening that means watering. There are some very simple tips to apply when doing this in the garden or on the allotment:

1. **Water when the sun is not at its hottest** – early morning or evening. This stops the water simply evaporating and prevents the sun from scorching foliage that has recently been soaked.
2. **Water round the roots of plant, not the leaves and fruit** – using a watering can rose on anything other than young seedlings tends to scatter water rather than direct it accurately. The same rule applies to sprays on hoses.
3. **Try to irrigate thoroughly so that water reaches deeper into the soil** – put your finger into the soil and see how dry it is after watering.
4. **Once the soil around the plant is well irrigated, add a mulch to keep the water in the ground.**

As a long-term aim, improve your soil. This usually means adding lots and lots of organic matter such as garden compost. Organic matter holds onto water in the soil as well as often providing nutrients for your plants. There is much sense in the mantra that to feed ourselves we need to feed our plants, and to feed our plants we should first **feed the soil**.

Heyford Garden Club

Heyford Garden Club had another very successful day at the village fete, held on Saturday 10th June. Members contributed over 100 plants and containers of plants for the tombola. A record sum of money was raised and the club were able to donate £150 to the Village Hall. Many thanks to everyone who contributed plants or helped out on the day. Thanks to the efforts of Pauline Guglielmi, the Garden Club acquired two family tickets for Althorp House and Gardens. These were a kind donation from Earl Spencer who has been a long-time supporter of the village. The tickets have been raffled and the draw was made at the Garden Club meeting on 12th June.

The annual Garden Club party will be held in the allotment community area at 5.00pm on Monday 10th July. All members and friends are welcome. For further details contact Linda Hall or one of the committee. This event will also be an opportunity for another mini-show. The theme this time round will simply be – Flowers.

The Garden Club welcomed back 'Liz Taylor from the Woodland Trust at their last meeting on 12th June. Her topic was "Trees in a Changing Climate". The scale of the task facing mankind in trying to slow down global warming was starkly outlined and the message that 'Liz imparted was powerful and urgent. The link between items mentioned above on watering, the trees in our orchard, and this topic, cannot be stressed enough.

On a less gloomy note, the winners of the Rose Show, held that evening, were:

1st Pauline Guglielmi, 2nd Geoff Groom, 3rd Brian Jackson.

The next meeting of Heyford Garden Club will be held at 7.30.pm on Monday 11th September when they will be staging their Autumn Show. More details to follow in the September article.

Contacts

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

Mrs Lynda Eales, 3 Church Lane, NH
tel. 01327 341707 email: lyndaeales@aol.com

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

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The Prattler

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

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

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

Nether Heyford Parish Council - Councillor Surgery

On Wednesday 21st June. 2-4pm @ Youth Club in Roberts Field.

14.00 – 16.00.

Free refreshments are available. Tea, Coffee, Biscuits.

Councillor Surgeries will take place 2 weeks before the monthly Parish Council meeting. 2 Councillors will normally be present to answer questions and to hear matters of concern. July 26th, Aug 23rd, Sept 20th.

Guy Ravine. Clerk to Nether Heyford Parish Council.

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

Flood Watch

As we approach the end of Spring June has exceeded all expectations with temperatures rising to 30 degrees and rainfall totalling about 25% of a normal June. The question arises why the sudden change. Climate change and its impact on El Nino in the southern hemisphere had resulted in a stationary low pressure system to the west of the UK and a stable high pressure over the UK drawing warm air from Europe. As a result temperatures rose and rainfall was severely reduced. Surprisingly the years total rainfall is about average with an exceptionally dry February and June compensated by heavy rainfall in January and March. In spite of this, parts of the UK such as East Anglia are on drought alert whilst most of Europe is already in severe drought with hose pipe bans in force.

The longest day 21st June 2023, 16 hours 46 minutes marks the official start of Summer with sunset at 21.30 hours. Henceforth the day length will shorten by 1 hour 12 minutes by the end of July.

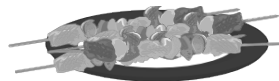
Clearly with minimal rainfall river levels have remained low and the record period free of any flooding event continues to increase beyond 2 ½ years.

A meeting was held with the Environment Agency to discuss many issues in particular any progress on culvert maintenance. Although progressing slowly, partly due to change of staff at Anglian Water, all areas which currently need attention are now being discussed. As a result the E-W culvert, N-S culvert (Church St) and the culvert from South View to the junction with the E-W culvert at Bugbrooke Road/Watery Lane junction are all being included.

J. Arnold.

Heyford Lunch Club

(for the over 55's)



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

The next ones will be on the 6th July & 10th August at 12.30pm

2 course meal with tea/coffee all for £7

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

Flore Arts Events

The events season is well and truly here. Box office is now open for...

Jazz in the Garden, Sunday 16th July. Gates open 1.30pm. 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).

This is usually our best-attended event and tickets are already selling fast, so don't miss out!

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 remaining 2023 events (but note one change below). 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 with something for everyone. If you're a Facebook user you can have a look at their page to see what you can expect.

We're now taking reservations: entry will be £12.50 (£5 Under 18s) to include tea and cake. Please call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm).

Singer Neil Richardson entertains, Saturday 2nd December, 7.30pm. Flore Millennium Hall. (Note: Tom Pegg has unfortunately had to cancel). 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!



View from the Wildlife Patch

It's hard to believe we are halfway through 2023 already. I am still waiting to see butterflies in any numbers on grass or flowers, still waiting to see Swallows, Swifts, Willow Warblers etc. Or in fact any insectivores. The fact is there has been an enormous drop in insect numbers across much of the UK this year.

Much of this can be explained by the long, cold and wet spring resulting in insects emerging from a winter spent as an egg, caterpillar, chrysalis or adult to find themselves unable to move due to the cold. If they could move they were unable to fly due to the rain. This meant many insects were unable to do what was necessary to get their species going as in a normal year.

No one can predict the consequences of this inability to procreate in usual numbers or what the long term effect on our natural world will be. However, it is certain that this comes at a time when we have seen an 80%+ drop in all insect numbers over 40 years. It has to be said that this has come at a very bad time for most insects. However, in the last 4 days we have seen a number of Buff Tailed Bumblebees on Poppies in our garden. These will be second brood of workers from a small nest established in Spring. I pray that this will be repeated everywhere throughout Summer 2023.

The above circumstances highlight the need for developing wildlife patches, letting lawns go unmown, planting more native trees and hedges. In fact, all the things we do corporately and individually to promote wildlife.

On the Patch, the success of our grass management regime is bearing fruit, as demonstrated by the sighting of a "Mother Shipton Moth". Not a rare moth at all but one that depends on exactly the habitat we are seeking to create. We should be seeing many more of these little day flying moths in the weeks to come. It has to be said that insect numbers are very low on The Patch as they are everywhere else.

On a brighter subject. The Dutch elm disease resistant Elm on the patch is apparently unaffected by that disease. The Wych Elm next to it has been devastated and the English Elm close by is just showing signs of DED. If this disease runs to form, both of these trees will lose all of their aboveground parts.

If our tree remains successful in resisting the disease and produces suckers at its base, we plan to transplant these suckers to grow into more DED resistant trees. Hopefully these will be planted in this Parish to re establish Elm as a common tree in the area. We have already planted DED resistant Elms among the trees on the Green.

Many people will be disappointed that the wildlife pond is still dry. After a brilliant start it soon became apparent that dealing with the loss from evaporation would be difficult to manage. We decided early in this year to try once more and refill it and keep it full. That was when I discovered that rodents - probably field Voles - had nibbled at least two small holes in the pond membrane.

I like to imagine that a vole decided to gnaw a hole in a material previously unknown to voles. As soon as it's teeth penetrated the membrane, his home would have been inundated with water. For this reason these holes are very small which makes them hard to find.

We need willing, sharp eyed volunteers to go over the whole of that membrane that is above water - nearly all of it - and fix each hole as it is discovered. The pond then needs to be topped up using buckets or a syphon as there are no taps on the allotments.

Any willing volunteers will be welcome.

Dave Musson

Heyford Fete 2023 - Mick Parker





Heyford Bowls Club

Our Big Bowls Open weekend in line with the Bowls England national event was a huge success with over 60 visitors over the two afternoons. We would like to thank all those who attended to make this event enjoyable together with all the members who helped out. I am pleased to report that we have already signed up two new members with further visitors showing a keen interest, several who have already taken the opportunity to try out bowls at our Friday Open Nights from 6.15 onwards. We always welcome new visitors to join us Fridays who are interested in seeing what bowls is all about.

We were pleased to be part of the Village Fete again this year with our Bottle Tombola and we would like to thank all those who supported the club and again we were surprised by how quickly we sold out. We also had the Bean Bag target game again this year and the overall winner was Joshua Tyler from Duston. We were also pleased to discover that Harry Foulks had been crowned Rose King with Eva Richardson as Rose Queen. Harry is a regular junior bowler on the green each Friday evening and is increasing his skills as the weeks go by and is definitely a future bowling member in the making.

Other news. The friendly matches against other clubs are on going. To date we have won seven and lost 3. On the County competition front, we have several teams including Mens, Ladies and Mixed teams playing in the initial rounds so I will report on these towards the end of the season.

July will be another busy month starting with our Men taking part in the County Manfield Cup on July 1st. This year we have joined Bugbrooke Bowls Club for this competition with both clubs entering two teams of four players each. Whilst the men are away we take the opportunity to hold a Ladies Day at Heyford on the same day. The emphasis of this afternoon is to have fun and an enjoyable social event. Ladies from several different clubs enjoy the opportunity to break from tradition and are encouraged to come in various colours making for a kaleidoscope on the green. The afternoon ends with a Cream Tea and raffle.

July and August sees a further 17 friendly matches against other clubs scheduled. Our various teams will continue with their county competitions and there will also be a number of inter club competitions starting with the various rounds spread over the two months ending with our Finals Weekend on the 2nd/3rd September. Don't forget to check out our website www.heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk for all our news, events and match information.

Lorraine Streeter
Club Captain

Reflections of the past or maybe the future

Heyford Hornets was an athletics club formed in the village during the nineteen eighties. This club was born out of an idea to encourage the village youngsters and older people alike to participate in enjoyment of running and athletics in general. We formed a committee which consisted of villagers at the time - Arnold Wareing, Tony Inwood, Linda and Brenda Smith, Carol Collins, Christine England, Reg Royle, Ken Bogg and Olive Peck who was a regular helper. Our initial start up meetings were held at Reg Royle's house in Hillside Road which proved lively and interesting. His wife Shirley would have the village youth in the front room along with her children whilst we were plotting the formation of the Hornets in the back room.

We approached Walker Pack, a big employer in the village at the time for sponsorship via Carol Collins and Linda Smith who were employed there. Our running tops of red white and blue were duly bought with the sponsorship money obtained from Walker Pack and up we started. Over a period of three and a half years we had membership numbers of fifty plus people consisting of young people and adults from all age groups. Heyford Hornets trained on Wednesday evenings and Sunday morning on the village green. Our last training item on a Sunday morning session would see everyone running to Bugbrooke and back, not so much a health and safety issue then. We also held our own inter cross country championship by running up to the fields around Heyford Mill and back to the village green awarding trophies to various age group winners once a year.

We also managed to upset both Northampton Phoenix and Daventry A.C and were duly reported and advised to train with either one or the other clubs. It was pointed by us out this was not practical logistically and we were quite happy using the village as our base and would continue to do so.

We competed at many events even taking on the might of Birchfield Harriers at one meeting in Banbury where we duly arrived via a hired fifty four seat coach. I recall Selina Stamford managed a silver medal in her event. Other events included a cross country at Cannock Chase and numerous local events such as Abington Park, Billing Aquadrome with each age group running various distances on a number of occasions. We also had three marathon runners in our ranks in the early years of mass marathon running. The rub was all our entry forms had to be filled in as individuals due to the the information mentioned in the last paragraph. If any readers would like to follow up with their recollections of the club I for one would be interested in reading it.

To the future, at the moment there are two Hornets left standing, myself and Will Bridges who used to live in Manor Park. We are both signed up to do 5k Park runs which take place on Saturday mornings at 9am all over the country. The nearest ones in Northampton are at Upton Park and Daventry Country Park, the best thing is they are free to enter. If you are interested in running and live in the village you can register for park run by visiting the Park run site www.parkrun.com. Consider entering as a Heyford Hornet in the club section as the name is now recognised. If you need any further information or interested in bringing the club back to life please contact me @ tonyin@mail.com

Village green is the venue for charity race On their marks for sponsored scooterthon

Mobility scooter users are busy charging their batteries for a sponsored scooterthon ... a one-lap parade around Nether Heyford's village green. The scooter owners have the chance to show off their machines at the village's fete on June 14, which will raise money for the village hall. Twelve drivers have already signed themselves up to take part in the event and are collecting sponsorship money to have a go at completing the half mile lap. Mary Hyde, a Nether Heyford resident has already collected more than £50 to book her six miles per hour scooter into the main event of the day.

The day will also boast more than 26 stalls – crammed full of arts, crafts and old fashioned goodies – and the two village pubs, The Sun and the Foresters, have agreed to stay open all days to provide visitors with refreshments. The drivers are planning to screech off the starting line at 3pm, in two minute intervals.

Mary, aged 85, is hoping to complete the lap to receive a certificate, and of course, enable her to donate her sponsorship money towards her beloved village hall. Christine Metcalf, fete organiser, said "The idea of a scooterthon is designed to get the older members of the community involved in raising money for the hall. "Everyone is getting excited about it. More and more people are signing up to take part every day.

This is the village's fifth and final attempt to raise cash to rebuild the hall which is in desperate need of a new roof, windows and toilet facilities. Christine is hoping for a response from the National Lottery by June 20 to add to the money raised.



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