



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

September 2023

Issue 462

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN

Crafts

Body Shop

Stalls

Book Swap



COFFEE MORNING

10am
- 1pm

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND
At the village hall

Come & see what other activities are
available in the village.

Nether Heyford Village Hall



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

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

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EGM

The Chair called an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on August 14th to decide on a response to the Community Governance Review. (CGR.) – which had been called at short notice by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC). The meeting had been called to consider whether there would be any benefits in amalgamating Upper Heyford Parish Meeting with Nether Heyford Parish Council at the time of this CGR. Some felt that combining the Councils might be beneficial in light of the possibility of gravel extraction near Junction 16, and the various retail and industrial activity around junction 16.

CK was anxious that these considerations should not be taken as a desire to “take over” Upper Heyford, other Councillors agreed. David Banner (representing Upper Heyford) felt that Upper Heyford needed to maintain its own identity and was well able to look after its own interests.

It was resolved not to ask for any changes at this time.

The July 3rd Parish Council Meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms

Casual Vacancy There being two candidates a vote was taken, and it was Resolved that Nick Chatt should be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

West Northants Councillor report Cllr Adam Brown reported that some changes in planning procedures were being proposed. He was concerned that there would be no consultation on certificates for lawful development, TW echoed his concern. WNC were carrying out a drive to promote reading, and a new newsletter would be emailed as of next week. He had been unable to obtain a figure for the cost of installing a chicane, other than that it was “expensive”.

Reports

PCSO Council discussed the renewal of contract. It was felt that the PCSO was doing a good job and that it was good to have a visible Police presence. Resolved To renew the contract on condition that Bugbrooke continue with the present arrangement.

Lights Resolved to proceed with a programme of works to replace wooden lamp columns and replace 20 sodium lights with LEDs at a cost of c£16,000. This would include the removal of the light outside no 8 Middle St.

Roads and pavement. Hedge at Canal/Furnace Lane had been cut back. Road signs at Close Rd and Hillside Rd. The school had asked for support for a Flashing

Light at the School to alert traffic. Council were unsure as to whether this would be effective.

The Green /Play Area Resolved to proceed with the programme of repairs proposed by Hags at a cost of £3956.40 plus VAT.
Resolved To proceed with the restoration of the swings by Wickstead at a cost of c £800 plus VAT.

Playing Fields Playing Fields meeting awaiting costs of modular pavilion, and clubs looking at an open day sometime over the summer.

Churchyard The Parochial Church Council confirmed that they wanted the North side of the path left unmowed and that they would take advice on the best way to assist the flora and fauna. It was not known to whom the graves in this area belonged.

Gravel extraction TW reported that the WNC Committee would meet on September 12th. The Advisor was ready to review comments at short notice. TW would attend.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) WNC Planning Committee had signed off the NP, and the referendum will take place on Sept. 7th, supervised by the WNC election team.

Planning With regard to Denbrook. The resident said that he had been unable to build a full brick wall around the property (Clarke's Orchard) for fear of damaging conifers that had been planted. He reported that he had been in touch with planners at SNC/WNC throughout the building, and that they had supported everything. TW expressed concerns that what has been built had been previously refused permission, and hoped that everything could be resolved at WNC committee.

Speed Cams The new SID is ready to collect. Murray Morgan had sent a police report on the road which seemed to suggest that there was little problem, but it was pointed out that the survey it related to had taken place in 2021. After some debate it was Resolved to continue with the installation of an SID, rather than a chicane – which it was felt would be prohibitively expensive.

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 September 4th and Oct 2nd at the Baptist Church rooms

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

What is a parish council?

Parish and town councils in England and community and town councils in Wales are the first tier of local government. They deliver a vast range of services at a community level. There are around 10,000 community, parish and town councils in England and Wales, made up of nearly 100,000 councillors. These first-tier councils can respond to the needs of the community - delivering the services or representation it most needs.

At present, in Northamptonshire, there is a two-tiered structure of local government.

Parish Council > District Council(WNC)

Before the imposition of the Unitaries we had three tiers.

Powers and duties

Parish and town councils have a large range of powers, albeit limited, and the activities parish and town councils are involved in are immense. Parish and town councils are able to be involved in planning, promoting tourism, licensing, community halls, representation, management of town and village centres and providing community halls. These powers are limited by the ownership of land/property and finance available. A list of powers can be found on the website.

How parish councils work

Parish councils are statutory bodies. Members are elected for a term of four years and councils are funded principally by an annual precept. Income and expenditure for the next financial year are calculated in the form of estimates. The net amount (the precept) is added to council tax, collected by the county, borough or district council (principal authorities) and paid to parishes in two six-monthly instalments. Parish and town councils can apply for other funding such as grant and funding awards, but they do not receive funds direct from central government, as principal authorities do.

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Nick Chatt. 69 Furnace Lane. Nether Heyford. NN7 3JX e-mail n.chatt@live.co.uk	Councillor
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, Finance, 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 September 2023

Sunday 3 rd	8:00 am	Prayer Book Communion Service 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	Evening Worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 10 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 17 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 24 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Worship at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church Harvest Service at Heyford Allotments

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 28 th) Flore Church open for private prayer
Friday	9:00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for an invitation

During **September** we shall be praying for people living in Furnace Lane in Heyford, the High Street, including the shops and the Millennium Hall in Flore, The Old Dairy Farm in Upper Stowe and the outlying farms around Stowe and the Mews Houses in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

For me, one of the key stories in the Bible, is that of Peter, stepping out of the fishing boat and walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33). Just before this event in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus had miraculously fed the five thousand with just five loaves and two fish, before sending his friends across the lake in their fishing boat, whilst he went to pray. As dawn approached, Matthew reports, Jesus walked across the lake and approached the boat as it was buffeted by the wind. His friends saw him and were afraid, thinking he was a ghost. Jesus reassured them and encouraged Peter to step out of the boat. For a moment, Peter also walked on the water, but then he saw the waves and the storm. Afraid, Peter began to sink, and Jesus reached out to save him.

I regularly survey the daily newspaper headlines, and it strikes me that there seems to be much to be afraid of in the world today. Our fears may be trivial or significant. They may be personal, communal, or global. And most insidious of all, perhaps, is FOMO - the fear of missing out! The decisions we make in life may bring us closer to or further from the realisation of our fears. And we can all make ourselves or others less fearful by the way we behave.

The Bible teaches that there is only one fear essential to human life, the fear of the Lord. That isn't the kind of fear that leaves us powerless and cowering before God. Rather, it speaks of a deep respect, reverence and awe for God's authority and might. In the Proverbs and Psalms, we find that fear of the Lord brings wisdom, confidence, and right-living. In the hymn, 'Through all the changing scenes of life' we're told; *"Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then have nothing else to fear"*. Without fear, we can then devote ourselves to addressing the causes of fear in other people, through prayer, encouragement, love, and care. Human life will always be a mixture of the good, the bad and the ordinary, but we're called to do whatever we can to help move peoples' lives towards the good.

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)

Christian Aid

This year's village Christian Aid collection raised £251. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Shirley Waterhouse



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for September 2023

September 3 rd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Les Britten
September 10 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Allan Pope
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
September 17 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Sarah Crane (coffee after the service)
September 24 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby.
October 1 st	10:30 am	Harvest thanksgiving service led by Les Britten

Events

September 8 th	2:30 to 4:30	Afternoon tea and cakes. (Donations to church funds)
September 11 th	10:00 am	Church Meeting
September 18 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). 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.

By the time this short article about harvest is published I will have had another birthday and with that a year closer to the end of my 60's. I guess like so many, the older we get the more we recall past events, remember those people who have passed from our lives and reminisce over past experiences. The past can be so important to us as it can help us in the present and into our unknown tomorrows. Someone taught me this little phrase many years ago when I was struggling a "good bit" about past events in my life. "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift and that is why we call it the present" I have so often reflected on the loveliness and the truth of those words.

So what has that got to do with harvest?

Well, one of my very early and precious memories was going to harvest services in the local Chapel where I attended Sunday School and Boys Brigade. Amongst all the carefully arranged produce so thankfully and generously donated by many people, centrally placed was a loaf of bread and a glass of water. Central to the display and emphasising the importance of those two basic and familiar items which are common if not essential items to our daily diet.

Last week I conducted the funeral/farewell service for a gentleman who was in his late 80's and the amazing thing was, (and with the permission of his family I share this) I remembered this gentleman's father who lived next door to my grandad - yes memories were stirred and shared. One of the Bible readings at the service was from John 6 v 35 "Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" just as bread is such an important part of a daily diet, so those who seek to tread the path of faith in Jesus would say he is essential to their daily lives. Jesus often spoke about bread and water because people of the day would have understood and relate to these common daily items. But in a very personal and profound way Jesus explained that his body, the bread of life, would be remembered each and every time communion is taken and shared. "This is my body broken for you"

Bread at the harvest display and bread on the communion table are both so important and symbolic of faith and following. Harvest festival services are not like they used to be but bread and water is still important and men, women and children are still hungry.

I recently learnt that there are just over 2000 food banks in the UK and most of them are run by volunteers, churches and charities and 1,200 are under the Trussell Trust – yes, people are still hungry for physical nourishing food and where we can, we can help to bring relief to those who so desperately rely on these provisions. My wife, Sue, volunteers at one and she tells me often that the demand or need is so much greater than the supply.

We need physical food but do we see the need to take, embrace and eat the spiritual food which Jesus came to give and to keep giving day by day?

People who attend the food bank do so expecting to go home with a supply of food to satisfy their need and they take it when offered. The supply of spiritual food which Jesus still offers us today is there for the taking and it will satisfy our deepest longing. John 6 v 35 "Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Please join us at the chapel when you can as a warm welcome awaits you and details of services and events can be found elsewhere in The Prattler.

Thank you.

Martin Buckley
On behalf of the Chapel fellowship

Keeping Faith at the Front in WW1
with Helen Frost

Do come to this
Wednesday Afternoon meeting
on 20th September 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

St Peter and St Paul Church, Heyford

Invite you to

A Harvest Festival Service

Followed by refreshments.

At The Community Area of

Nether Heyford Allotments

4pm

Sunday 24th September

Everybody welcome

*We will be collecting donations of non-perishable items (for example tinned or packaged food, pet food, toiletries, toilet rolls). for **Daventry Food Bank**. Thank you*

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

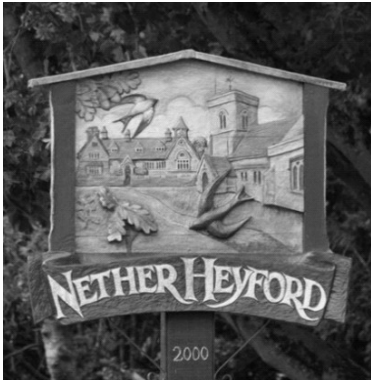


Heyford's Calendar 2024

We hope to produce another limited edition local Calendar this year which would go on sale in the village around mid November.

We would like to have as many images from as many local people as possible depicting the months of the year which need to be of local scenes rather than people.

We will need 13 final images, one cover image (portrait) and 12 (landscape) due to the Calendar's format; see below:



Portrait



Landscape

In the event of us receiving too many photos, a panel will decide the ones to use.

Please note that the Calendar will only be produced if we receive enough images. All proceeds from the sales will go to support the Prattler's production costs.

We will need all digital images emailed to heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk by the end of October 2023.

So either get snapping or search through your pictures for your submissions and have your photo on display throughout the village next year.

Astronomy on the Green

“Life don't talk to me about life” mumbles Marvin in the Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy.

So, let's talk about life! As we know scientists are assiduously searching for life in our Solar system or in the myriad of Exoplanets we have now found (an Exoplanet is essentially a planet that orbits a star other than our own). So, what are the scientists looking for?

Well let's start with the definition of life from NASA; Life is a self-sustaining chemical system capable of Darwinian evolution. Snazzy or what (and I thought it was just fun!). To unwrap NASA a little, we know that chemical self-sustaining systems exist, the important part is Darwinism – which defines organisms that self-replicate in generations and are capable of change to suit their environments or changes within it. Neatly this covers all life from the humblest microorganisms to us. Viruses on the other hand are chemically self-sustaining but are dependent on a host to replicate and would fall outside the definition of life.

Why does finding life exercise us so much, well the eternal question is “Are we alone”?

Now then, what life are we looking for, well in a nutshell, any (biosignatures included). Biosignatures are chemical indicators that signal that life may be present on a world or satellite. We are finding biosignatures on some Exoplanets, but these need further exploration, as they could be formed by chemical processes other than life. The best hope currently lies in our Solar system and mostly on the moons around the gas giants Jupiter and Saturn.

NASA has plans for a probe (the Enceladus Orbilander mission) to visit the moon of Saturn with an ocean locked beneath its icy surface that is expected to be earth-like. JUICE (Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer) will launch to explore Europa, Callisto, and Ganymede next year. The key in all these cases is the presence of water, known to be essential to life on Earth.

The important question is how likely are we to find it? Well, on the one hand, life in its simplest forms has existed for around 4 billion years; that may give us a 90% chance of finding life. If we look for highly evolved species (equivalent to us) then we have been around for three hundred thousand years, and technological for around 150 years – making the probability less than 0.0000002% based on time alone (not including the vast distances between stars and other solar systems).

So ‘Aliens’ (our fabled Little Green Men) are very unlikely to find any time soon.

Clear skies,

Tony Boulle

Village Hall News

Despite the summer break there is still a lot going on in our Village Hall including private bookings for events and celebrations. Residents of the village have a special rate when booking for a private party and we do have availability especially at weekends.

We will be holding our Harvest Supper again on 27th October. This was a great success last year. This is not a fundraising event but a chance for village residents to meet up in pleasant surroundings and enjoy good food, wine and company at a reasonable cost. I am delighted to say that James Allen will again provide the catering. Tickets will be available from committee members or send our Facebook page a message and we will get tickets to you. Alternatively pop your details down and put a note in our post box on the village hall. We will be running a raffle on the evening.

Our pantomime this year will be a matinee performance on 29th December. Again this is not a fundraising event as ticket prices will only cover our cost but is an opportunity for children and families to enjoy a traditional pantomime at a reasonable cost performed by the same company that provided the excellent entertainment last year .

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

Prattler Opportunities

Would you like to get involved with the Prattler?

We are looking for fresh faces to help us with the editing and production. IT skills would be appreciated.

If you are interested, or would like further info, please get in touch by emailing Heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk

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**

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 7th September at 12.30pm

2 course meal with tea/coffee all for £8

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



In Nether Heyford

By the time you read this I expect you will all have been on your summer holidays. I do hope you managed to avoid the weather extremes of the past few months and enjoyed yourselves.

Way back in July we were treated to an entertaining evening of tennis stories. Alan Gray, a retired tennis umpire, took us back in time with a sheet of photographs of former champions and his personal observations of characters from years past. This was followed by a delicious cream tea with strawberries – if you can have a ‘tea’ at 9pm!

Our August meeting was very different as we spent a lovely evening trying to play bowls on the beautiful green at the Playing Field. We were made really welcome and all had a good time playing to the best of our ability (albeit somewhat limited in my case!). We really are so lucky to have such lively sports groups in our village.

As you will have seen on the front cover of the Prattler, the Nether Heyford W.I. are holding a Coffee Morning with a difference on Saturday September 2nd. We do hope you will join us anytime between 10am & 1pm for coffee and a chat.

Our next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday September 7th when the speaker, Christine Farmer, will be telling us about her experiences at ‘The Repair Shop’. This is one of my favourite TV programmes and I am looking forward to first hand stories. If you would like to join us, the entrance fee is £5 for the evening and will include all refreshments. We do hope you will come along and join us – we would love to see you.

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
- Local and Experienced
- Free Energy Performance Certificate
- Free Premium Listing
- Free 360° Virtual Tour

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reviews on Facebook



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- Horts Property Consultant



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www.heyfordsingers.org

*'Maybe September
I love again
Maybe a rainbow
Will catch me then*

The above was sung by Tony Bennett and Bill Evans. Recorded in 1976 for their second album 'Together Again' released in 1977 and written by Percy Faith for the 1965 film 'The Oscar' which is the only movie that Tony Bennett acted in. It had very mixed reviews but 'Maybe September' lived on. As you will know Tony Bennett died in July this year but his legacy of music carries on. 'I left my Heart in San Francisco' and 'The Best is Yet to Come' along with his first release 'Because of You' which propelled him to more than seven decades of fame remains with us as iconic pieces of music. Tony Bennett joined the artistic boycott of apartheid South Africa and performed for Nelson Mandela during the South African President's first state visit to Britain. His commitment to Civil Rights is legendary. He was 96 and had the accolade of Frank Sinatra saying that he was the 'best singer ever'.

And different in so many ways Sinead O'Connor also passed away in July at the age of 56. But she too brought attention to the things she believed in tackling: child abuse, human rights, racism, organised religion and women's rights. Very controversial she used her fame and singing to break down many different prejudices. And we all know 'Nothing Compares To You' which was one of the biggest ballads of the 1990s. And I quote - 'Those choral synths. The black turtleneck. Her shaved head. The tears that fall on cue. But most of all, that voice'.

Last month we lost Sir Michael Parkinson. Through him we 'met' the rich and famous, singers, songwriters and cinema icons once a week in our living rooms for years. And there was the extraordinary interview with Bing Crosby and the sight of them singing together was a joy. And according to Michael Parkinson, the only song Bing Crosby had trouble with were the words for White Christmas. He always had them written down for him on cue cards. And then there was Duke Ellington in 1973 jamming 'Satin Doll' with the studio band – magic!

We go back to our Choir for rehearsals on 1st September which isn't long now. We have been given a list of music to bring as we start on our Christmas Concert schedule – a varied selection which we hope you will enjoy in December. We have an Open Evening planned for 29th September and we invite all of you who would like to sing with our Choir – or just see what we do – to attend at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall. No experience, no audition, nor reading of music necessary. And halfway through there will be tea and biscuits. Come on, join us...

We are also hoping to plan one of our Pianist Graham Kinnersly's Concerts for 10th November. Full details of this will appear in the next issue of the Prattler but please try and keep this date free – no-one is disappointed with what Graham can produce...

As the Autumn approaches and summer fades we need something to look forward to. And our weekly meetings with voices raised helps to concentrate the mind and count our blessings.

JRA

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

Picturedrome is back for our new season.

NEXT FILM:

BANK OF DAVE

Starring Rory Kinnear, Phoebe Dynevor and Paul Kaye

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

7.15pm for 7.45pm

ADMISSION: £6.00

Taking on the big boys. Popular British comedy based on the true-life experiences of Dave Fishwick, the film tells the story of how a working-class Burnley man and self-made millionaire fought to set up a community bank.

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

TEA, COFFEE, BAR



Update from down the Playing Fields

Lots of really good stuff going on down the Playing Fields. At the recent Playing Fields committee meeting, it was great to hear so much good news coming from all of the individual clubs:

The Netball Club is going from strength to strength on and off the courts. They're enjoying playing in a league, are continuing to attract new players and recently held a very successful social event. It really is great to see the 'newest' club fulfilling the ambition we had when we built the courts;

The Tennis Club have refurbished the courts and these are being constantly used for competitive and social tennis. They recently held a successful quiz night and will hold their club championships at the beginning of October. Members of the tennis club have also spent some time having a good tidy up in the clubhouse kitchen;

The Bowls Club acquired some new members at the beginning of the season and are enjoying social and match games. The bowls green is looking as good as it ever has and is certainly now something to be proud; this is a result of the continuous investment of time and money;

The Cricket Club is fielding 3 teams on a Saturday and is regularly getting around 100 children enjoying every Friday night; whilst the bar is being frequented by a number of adults;

The Football Club commenced pre-season training a number of weeks ago and the league matches have now started. The future is looking bright on a number of fronts and there is a real sense of 'we want to make this our club, not just somewhere we turn up and play football'. This was recently evidenced by a number of their members decorating the inside of the clubhouse and changing rooms; successfully applying for a grant for a much needed new mower and attendance at our Playing Fields committee meetings;

The Walking Football Club continues to attract a band of 'merry men' who enjoy themselves walking, and occasionally accidentally running, every week around the smallish pitch.

Outside of the individual clubs, the maintenance team won a county award for the work they do down the playing fields and have now been entered in the National competition. Members of the committee undertook a site visit to view the new modular changing rooms installed at Weedon and have decided to investigate this option due to the significant cost of the 'new build' option.

And finally, we've managed to attract some new members for our committee but would still welcome hearing from anyone who might be interested in getting involved.

Heyford Allotments and Garden Club

Harvest Time

The month of August is one of plenty on allotments throughout the land. Although gardeners, like farmers, will always say that the weather could have been better suited to their needs, this year has been kind to everyone on the allotments in Heyford. If allotmenters were fortunate enough to get away for a holiday in July or August they will have returned to their plots to find that not only had most crops put on a tremendous growth spurt but the weeds and grass paths were almost knee high! The downpours may have spoilt many UK holidays but were having a very positive effect on growing fruit and veg. How different from last year, when we were carrying can after can of water to keep things alive.

It is inspiring to see so many people leaving the allotments carrying boxes and bags full of beans, courgettes, beetroot, onions, cucumbers, potatoes, etc, etc. And isn't it encouraging to hear that excess produce is being so freely shared with family, friends and neighbours.

If you wanted an advert for why more of us should have an allotment then simply look at the current abundance of produce and the smiles on people's faces as they harvest their crops. And to think we have still got so much more to crop in the coming month(s).

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 no vacant plots. 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.

However, if you'd like an allotment in Heyford, don't hesitate to contact Lynda Eales on the contact numbers below and she will be able to update you on any likely vacancies. Things constantly change and "no vacancies" today could change by the time you read this article.

Cut Flower Patch and Sunflowers

The sunflowers that many of you sowed for us back in the Spring and then donated for our Community Flower Patch are now blooming profusely. They look beautiful. This initiative has truly been a community effort and we thank you for your contribution and your help in giving them a helping hand by watering – when the heavens were not coming to our assistance.

The Orchard

The infestation by aphids and caterpillars on some of our trees set the orchard back a little at the beginning of the growing season. The dry weather in May and June placed 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.

However, the rain of July and August has meant that foliage and, more importantly, fruit has recovered reasonably well. Once fruit is ready to eat, we will pick it and make it available for you to enjoy. As our trees have been selected so that fruit matures at different times of the year (early, mid and late season) we would ask that you don't just pick from the trees because an apple, pear or plum looks ripe. You might be in for an unpleasant surprise when you take a first bite.

The Wildlife Area

Congratulations to all those volunteers from the village Wildlife Group who have worked hard over the summer to keep the wildlife area on the allotments in such a thriving condition.

Water

I fear I put the evil eye on the issue of watering in my last article, when I went into great detail about how to irrigate plants in dry weather. Since the last issue of this splendid village magazine, it hasn't stopped raining!

Church Harvest Festival

Nether Heyford Parish Church will be holding their annual Harvest Festival in the community area of the allotments at 4.00pm on Sunday 24th September. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special celebration, in such a bountiful part of the village.

Soil Health

It's not really a snappy title is it? And yet it is fundamental to almost everything we, as growers, do. We took part in the recently held Oxford Food and Farming Conference by attending one of their online presentations and the overwhelming message that came across – from farmers, environmental campaigners, scientists and members of the growing community (like us), is the need to look after and nurture our soil. We take it for granted at our peril. If we deplete it by cropping the same thing over and over, rely on agrochemicals to continually boost yields and control weeds and pests we eventually end up with dead soil. Put back some of the organic matter and naturally occurring nutrients that you have removed with your bumper harvest this year.

Lost Property

A pair of glasses were found near the allotment last month. If you know who they belong to please contact Linda Hall: linda.hall@open.ac.uk

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

Heyford Garden Club

Sadly, the wet weather meant that this year's Garden Club Annual Summer Party had to be abandoned. Better luck next year.

Garden Visit

On Monday 21st August Heyford Garden Club visited the National Herb Centre near Banbury. They looked at garden displays, nature trails, as well as visiting the shop to buy herbs and other plants.

For those of you interested in visiting in the future, the address is: Banbury Road, Warmington, nr Banbury, OX17 1DF

Garden Show

The Garden Club annual show will be held in the village hall at 7.30.pm on Monday 11th September.

All villagers are welcome to attend and if you want to enter you don't have to be a member. The schedule is as follows:

Section 1 Fruit and Vegetables

Class 1: 3 root vegetables (assorted)

Class 2: 5 runner or French beans (of the same variety)

Class 3: 5 salad vegetables (assorted)

Class 4: A basket of mixed vegetables

Class 5: A plate of 5 to 7 soft fruit (of the same variety)

Class 6: 3 Tree fruit (of the same variety)

Section 2 Flowers

Class 7: A vase of dahlias

Class 8: A vase of mixed flowers (large flowers)

Class 9: A vase of mixed flowers (small flowers)

Class 10: A flowering pot plant

Class 11: A foliage pot plant

Section 3 Baking and Preserves

Class 12: Homegrown produce cake

Class 13: Homegrown produce preserve (one jar)

2/3 judges will be selected out of members who haven't entered to taste/judge this section.

Further details of each category and how the items should be presented are available from Linda Hall: linda.hall@open.ac.uk

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Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Our meeting on 25th September will be a demonstration by Emma Remington a very talented member of our club. Her title is 'Tricks of the Trade'.

A reminder to members that there is a competition entitled Autumn Colours.

Looking forward to welcoming members and visitors to the Village Hall at 7.45pm

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

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.

St Peter and St Paul Church, Heyford

Invite you to put your thinking caps on and join us for a

QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of church funds

Saturday 7th October, 7.00 for 7.30pm start

in the Village Hall

Teams of up to six people

or make up teams on the night

£5 per person

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served at half time and there will be a raffle

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles if required

Quizmasters Rev Stephen and Deborah Burrow

Please book beforehand by contacting Jane on janerands@gmail.com

or 01327 340678

Flood Watch

What ever happened to Summer with June being the warmest on record, July having twice its normal rainfall, August being cooler than normal together with the seasons first recorded storm, Antoni on 5th of August. The jet stream settled further south than normal creating prolonged low pressure over the UK and forming wintry conditions whilst the rest of Europe suffered extreme temperatures due to hot winds from Africa. The outlook for the rest of August into early September remains unsettled.

The 23rd of September sees the end of summer with the Autumn equinox. The darker evenings are already evident with sunset at the end of August at 8pm reducing by 2 minutes per day to 6.45pm by the end of September.

River levels remained low in spite of the July rainfall with previous dry spells leaving the water table low, ideal conditions to absorb any rainfall. As a result the lack of flooding events continues, setting growing records since the last event in December 2020.

The Environment Agency remain in contact as negotiations continue with Anglian Water over responsibility for culvert maintenance.

J.Arnold.



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Flore Arts Events

With summer drawing to a close here is a bit more information about our next two offerings.

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. 'Cellist Morgan Key - born and raised locally - is joined by violinists Josie Chapman and Jess Dugard and viola player Lydia Elderfield.

The quartet make a point of bringing music to lots of different audiences and they have played at a wide variety of venues in London. Expect a wide range of beautiful string music with something for everyone. Their programme will include music from Mendelssohn and Haydn, and perhaps some surprises too.

For a better idea of what's in store social media users might like to take a look at the quartet's Facebook or Instagram pages where you can see some video clips.

We're now taking bookings: 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. A relaxed wine and cheese evening with a Christmas twist. More details to follow with box office opening shortly.

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

I have just been watching news about the terrifying wildfires that are right now devastating large areas in many parts of the world. Whilst these are very frightening, I find it more worrying that the conditions that propagate these fires are brought on by the long periods of drought that large parts of the world, at certain latitudes, on both sides of the equator are now suffering.

The real concern now must be that the wooded areas that these fires are now devastating would previously have acted to absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen as do all plants. Obviously these hundreds of thousands of hectares of land will no longer perform this function and if current drought conditions continue, these areas will no longer be woods and forests but become arid deserts.

Back at home, many of us will have noticed the lack of spring Butterflies. The most notable of these will have been small Tortoiseshell and "Cabbage Whites". (The

latter really including 3 species). Our UK population of small Tortoiseshells has been devastated by a small parasitic fly. It lays eggs on stinging nettle leaves that are then eaten by the small tortoiseshell caterpillar. The fly larvae eat away the inside of the caterpillar avoiding essential organs to emerge from the then dead caterpillar or chrysalis as adult flies. Apparently, this fly species has increased its range due to climate change. Thankfully this butterflies population is reportedly unaffected further north in the UK.

It seems the white butterflies along with many other insect species were devastated by the heat and drought in 2022. Food plants shrivelling up leaving caterpillars with no food was one damaging factor. There are other factors too long to discuss here. Hopefully, with 2023 weather being exactly opposite weather to the heat and drought of 2022, our butterflies will get a boost this year.

Realising our wildlife pond was losing water rapidly, we had to decide if topping the pond up was a sensible use of water. We decided that this pond is a valuable asset to the wildlife patch. Two holes were found in the pond liner by members of the Heyfords Wildlife Association who then went on to mend these holes. The pond is now being replenished by the ample rain of the summer of 2023.

Our next major development work will be to remove the black plastic sheet from what will be the final wildflower meadow area. This area will then be sown with a proprietary "Wildflower Annual" seed mixture and should grow on to provide a good show of flowers next year whilst feeding thousands of pollinating insects. These plants will also take a lot of spare nutrients from the soil to allow for the development of the wildflower meadow flora and fauna that is developing on the other wildflower meadow patches.

The ground that is not meadow or pond, we have termed "Tussock Area" and have decided to improve ours by scattering seed from wild, tall perennials among the grass. We already have Wild Carrot and some others but no Hogweed etc. Many projects concentrate on meadow areas only. However, "tussock areas" are much more valuable in many ways. Small Mammals, Beetles, Reptiles, Amphibians etc. all flourish in perennial long grass.

The Wildlife Patch is a long term project and we are all learning as time goes by.

May we continue to do so.

Dave Musson

Grounds Team of the year - Heyford Athletic FC

Bob Hancox and Brian Edgington have won the Grassroots Football Grounds Team of the Year Award for Northamptonshire after being nominated by the senior football management team.

Both have been associated with the club in various capacities over the last 30 years. Bob played for the senior sides in the 90's then came out of retirement to play for the Veterans. He continued to watch the seniors play on a Saturday and was persuaded to fill the vacant Chairman position in 2010 moving onto become the secretary in 2011 a position he held until 2022. Brian helped start the Veterans and became their treasurer and then became the senior/youth treasurer in 2011. Like Bob he held this position until 2022.

Both Bob and Brian took over the running Saturday match days including the bar. They also got involved helping to mark the many football pitches on Heyford Playing Fields. They eventually became the full time groundsman looking after the pitches for Saturday, Sunday and Youth teams 6 years ago. In recent years they have been helped out by such people as Mick Parker, Dave Pickford, Colin Forrester and Jeff Buck.

They currently spend every Wednesday morning at the Playing Fields working on the pitches and general ground maintenance together with other days as and when required. They are helped by regular Jeff Buck and recent additions Simon Tuckley and Graham Rolph who have both moved to the village recently.

Bob and Brian are retiring from doing Groundsman work full time but still plan to come down on a Wednesday to help out as and when they can.

The picture shows Bob (2nd left) and Brian (2nd right) receiving their awards from Stuart Smith (1st left) from Northants FA together with representative from Fleet Pitch Markers who have supplied the football club with a new line marking machine and paint. The club also have a £50 voucher to spend on kit.

A link to an interview with the NFA and the team can be seen at :
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elliOYG0iAI>



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Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed



Heyford Bowls Club

Whilst the Prattler has been on its summer break our Ladies and Mixed friendly matches against other clubs have continued with only 3 more matches to go before the end of the outdoor season. Of the matches played to date we have won 15, lost 6 and had to cancel 4 matches due to the weather or insufficient players. Our club also takes part in the local Men's Monday Night Triples League which will also be completed in the first week of September.

Many of our players have continued with their involvement in the County Competitions with varying success. Our Ladies have fared better than the men having made their way through the not out rounds to reach the Quarter Finals in the Pairs, Over 55's Fours and the Benevolent Triples so congratulations go to Liz Davison, Julie Spreadbury, Lorraine Streeter and Jill Welch. In the Mixed Pairs competition Darrell and Jill Welch got through to the Area Final. The Mixed Triples team of Liz Davison, Jill Welch and Darrell Welch are through to the Quarter Finals which will be held on 3rd September so we wish them good luck.

On the 1st July we held our Ladies Day at the club, an annual open event played on the same day the men play away in the County Manfield Cup. This was another successful afternoon of fun with many returning ladies from other clubs and some new ones. The weather was much kinder this year and the afternoon was finished off with a lovely Cream Tea, fresh strawberries and a glass of Pimms.

In the Manfield Cup we submitted a joint entry with Bugbrooke Bowls Club. This was the first time but am sure it will be something we will continue. As with most clubs, we are struggling with playing members so therefore could not field a team of 16. There was a similar situation at Bugbrooke so a joint venture meant both clubs could take part.

Our Friday night club league will be completed by the end of August but we will still open up the club every Friday up to and including 16th September. If you are interested in having a go then why not come down and join us. We are open from 6pm and there will be plenty of opportunity to have a roll up with our members.

Throughout the summer members have been taking part in the knock rounds of the various inter club competitions. The Finals weekend of these competitions takes place on the 2nd and 3rd September. Spectators are always welcome. Sunday 17th September sees our Gala Day, the final outdoor event of the season. This is a fun afternoon where members take place in a bowls competition in fancy dress. Members pull out all the stops on their costumes or face a fine. Again we welcome spectators at the event from 2pm onwards.

The Short Mat bowls section obviously runs throughout the year in the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. The afternoon session runs between 2.00 – 4.00pm and the evening session between 7.00 – 9.30pm. The next Short Mat competition is the Men's Pairs on Saturday 16th September.

New members are always welcome at the Short Mat section of the club at either of the sessions. If you are looking for something to get you out why not pop along to the village hall and have a go.

Lorraine Streeter
Club Captain

Bugbrooke Badminton Club

New members welcome

Did you know there has been a badminton club in Bugbrooke for over 45 years?

We are a friendly club with a mix of ages and abilities. We play competitively in both the Northampton and Rushden Leagues, enjoy a weekly knock-about with other club members, and also make time for social gatherings.

We play on Thursday evenings (19:30–21:30) in the Sports Hall at Campion School, Bugbrooke, NN7 3QG. However, when the sports hall is being used for exams we move to Towcester Leisure Centre.

We play club nights throughout the year. Matches are normally played between September and May but we continue through the summer where the tempo is more relaxed so this would be a good time to come along and try us out.

We are eager to increase our membership and would welcome visitors, just turn up or for more information contact:

Geoff French | 07889 524300 | frenchgeoff@outlook.com
Bob Boys | 07902 266469 | bobboys1@yahoo.co.uk
Twitter | [@BugbrookeBC](https://twitter.com/BugbrookeBC)

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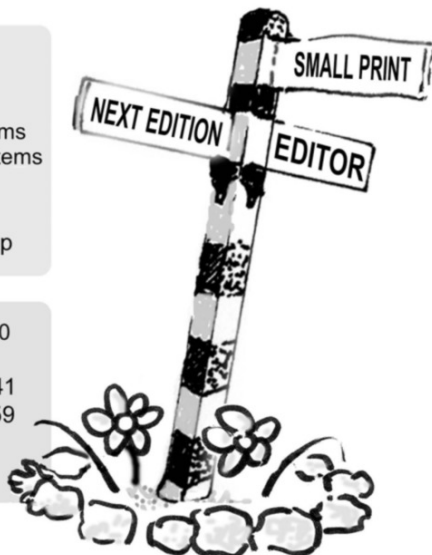
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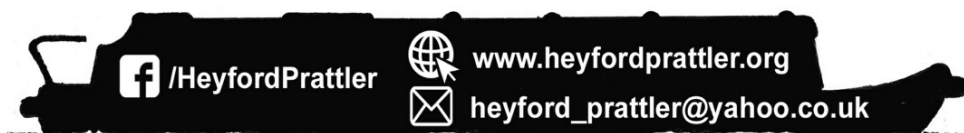
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