



# THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

October 2023

Issue 463



HEYFORD

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# FEAST

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## Harvest Supper

**FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 7.00PM**

*Menu*

Antipasti with Charcuterie  
Roast Loin of Pork  
Cheeseboard Platter

*Vegetarian Option*

Vegetarian Antipasti  
Mixed Vegetable Pie  
Cheese Platter

**£20.00**  
PER HEAD

**NETHER HEYFORD  
VILLAGE HALL**

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**CASH BAR**

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**TICKETS & INFORMATION:**  
Simone Squire  
Tel: 07713 584031  
email: [nhvbookings@gmail.com](mailto:nhvbookings@gmail.com)

**NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL**



## Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings  
Parties, Weddings, Business  
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**Bookings:** [nhvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:nhvhbookings@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com](http://www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com)

**Phone:** 01327-342167



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The September 4th Parish Council Meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms.

**West Northants Councillor report** Cllr Adam Brown reported that the gravel extraction application would probably be at the October planning meeting, he would send any information. 1 school in the district has structural issues. Preliminary work on the 24/25 budget has commenced. The new enlarged Electoral ward will be called Campion rather than Bugbrooke.

**Public Participation** A resident complained about the state of the Churchyard, and the northern wall and about difficulties encountered with vegetation encroaching on his garden. He felt that if the northern wall area was to be used to encourage wildflowers, then it should be cleared first. Chair explained that although the Parish Council paid for the maintenance of grass and trees, the Parochial Church Council was in overall charge of the churchyard and that he would need to approach them.

A resident asked about the Neighbourhood Plan vote and was told that the result would be decided by a simple majority. It was also explained that Councillors could not canvas support for the plan, although there was nothing to stop residents encouraging others to vote.

Mr Essex intended to deal with the signpost shortly and wondered about uses for the phone box.

## Reports

**Lights** 2 Residents had asked that light columns be removed from in front of their houses. Clerk had asked for a quotation for their disconnection and removal. The Clerk warned that this would probably cost in excess of £1000 per light. It was decided to await the quotes before deciding on any action. Light no 8 in Bliss Close, and light in Manor Walk reported out. Reported to the contractors.

26 lights have subsequently been replaced by LEDs and most of them fitted with timers. This has all been done with a view to saving money on electricity and maintenance in the future.

**Roads and pavement** Road signs in Hillside Rd and Close Rd are still down despite having been reported frequently.

**The Green /Play Area** Grass cutting was not felt to be consistent. Hags had still not refurbished the Play Area, Wickstead had effected repairs on the swings. CK and LD would look at funding opportunities for play areas.

LD, NC, and AW to look at the specification for grass cutting contracts, Clerk to distribute.

**Playing Fields** AW reported that the PFA would be applying for charitable status, which should bring financial benefits.

**Trees** AW showed plans to plant 4 more trees on the Green and asked Councillors to consider this for the next meeting.

**Gravel extraction** Council's advisor is on hand to check details when the application does come to WNC planning committee.

**Neighbourhood Plan (NP)** – referendum took place on Thursday 7th Sept and was adopted with a substantial majority. Congratulations to Tom Dodd, Tony Clewett, Tony Williams, and the late Sue Corner for all their hard work on this project.

**EGM** 14th Aug report. It had been resolved not to propose amalgamation with Upper Heyford Parish. Some councillors felt that this had been a missed opportunity.

**Speed Cams** IP reported the installation of the new SID on Furnace Lane. It is felt to be working satisfactorily, although NC reported driving up to it and seeing no response. IP felt that there would always be drivers who chose to ignore any restrictions but that for most a SID would act as an effective reminder to watch one's speed.

**Community Lounge/Warm Room** Resolved to open from October 25th.

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 October 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](mailto:netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)*

## **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.

## **Roy King**

It is with heavy hearts that Joan King and family announce the passing of our beloved Roy. He will be terribly missed, loved and remembered always.

The funeral will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> October - 2.45 at Northampton Crematorium, followed by a wake at Bugbrooke rugby club from 3.30.

<b>Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.</b>	
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 October 2023

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 am	BCP Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Harvest & Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	10:00 am	United First Sunday Harvest Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Evening Worship at Upper Stowe
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2:00 pm	Messy Church at Heyford Church Rooms
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Harvest & Holy Communion at Brockhall Church
	6:00 pm	BCP Evening Prayer at Church Stowe

### Midweek Services:

Wednesday 9:30am Morning Prayer via 'Why Pay' conference call.  
Please contact the Rector for the numbers to use.  
(Not 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>)

Thursday 10:00am Holy Communion at Flore Church (Not 19<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>)  
2:30pm – 3:30pm Flore Church open for private prayer

Friday 9:00am Morning Prayer via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for an invitation

During October we shall be praying for people living in The Green in Nether Heyford, for the Bliss Charity Primary School, for the shops, and for all the activities in the Village Hall and the Baptist Church Rooms. In Flore, we pray for people living on Hillside Road and Flore Hill. We pray for the Main Street and School Rooms in Church Stowe, and for Manor Farm, the Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

In recent weeks, the scale of the tragedy of natural disasters has been hard to comprehend. The death toll from the Libyan floods is expected to be in the tens of thousands, whilst nearby Morocco has been devastated by earthquakes. And across the globe, floods and wildfires have affected Greece, China and Canada amongst others. Many scientists agree that the extreme weather conditions causing the floods and wildfires are made worse by climate change, for which we all hold some collective responsibility. Significantly, young people are leading the way in holding world leaders responsible for failing to act to protect the environment.

In the churches of the benefice, we've been looking at St Paul's Letter to the Romans, and in Chapter 8 – the highpoint of the letter - the apostle writes about the interrelationship between humanity and the natural world. Writing on the Letter to the Romans, author Andrew Ollerton reminds us that when Adam and Eve rebelled against God, the whole of creation fell under a curse (Gen 3:17), and he doesn't pull his punches, adding; *"From floods to drought, global warming to plastic waste, according to the Bible, humans are responsible for the plight of the world"*.

In Chapter 8 of Romans, St Paul encourages us to be hopeful, looking forward to a new humanity, rescued by God's grace. And the redemption of humanity includes the promise of a renewed natural world, in which "creation itself will be liberated" (8:21). So, if God is going to save the planet, can we sit back and continue to exploit it? Paul's answer to that would be an emphatic "No!" God's grace can never be an excuse. Rather, it should be a motivation to break with destructive patterns and seek to live righteously. It should encourage us to steward planet earth to the glory of God, and for the benefit of future generations. In the past, Christian reformers have tackled terrible evils such as slavery and child poverty. Now one of the great needs of this moment – not just for Christians, but for all of us – is the care of creation. I pray that we might all find small ways in which we can rise to this challenge.

With prayers and blessings,

*Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)*





## Nether Heyford Baptist Church

### Services for October 2023

October 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	Harvest service led by Les Britten
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Service led by Nathan Toseland from the CBA
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Ted Hales (coffee after the service)
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Bruce Furness
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

### Events

October 6 <sup>th</sup>	2:30 to 4:30	Afternoon tea and cakes. (Donations to church funds)
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	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](http://www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk)

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

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

Thank you.



**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

**2-4pm**

**Heyford Church Rooms**

***The Lost Coin***



**Come along and enjoy Art and Crafts, refreshments, and lots more!**

**Everyone is welcome**

## **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](mailto:janerands@gmail.com)**

**or 01327 340678**

## Astronomy on the Green

We are now in October and on the other side of the Autumnal equinox (23<sup>rd</sup> September at 06:50) when day and night were equal. Slowly we head towards the shortest day, as Australia approaches its summer and its longest day.

The orientation of the Sun, Moon and Earth are critical to the evolution of life on our planet. 4.6 billion years ago the Earth hosted no water, no atmosphere and consequently no life. On the other hand, the potential for life was there, our planet sits in what astronomers refer to as the “Goldilocks” zone far enough from the Sun to be temperate (once it cooled down), containing a molten metal core (that would protect the atmosphere – (when it developed) from being stripped from the planet by the Solar wind)).

Across the ages water was either deposited on the Earth or was produced by geothermal events. Whatever the exact process was the potential for life began when the water cycle finally kicked in (after several billion years). Organic predecessor chemicals are found throughout the Cosmos and self-replicating chemical processes eventually lit the fuse to life. This may have begun in geothermal vents with extremophiles, but this is only one theory. How life began is still a matter of much debate, but it did.

Life also survived at least two mass extinctions, when almost all life on Earth was extinguished. The world we have now (and us) is the product of a very chaotic process and was certainly not predestined. As we learn more about our Cosmos the mystery gets deeper, things are far more complex than we expected or predicted. However, the most amazing thing is that we evolved, together with intelligence to appreciate our surroundings, and more importantly to unravel the Universe.

On the next clear night just go outside (in as dark an environment as you can) and just wonder at the Universe that surrounds us. Then realise how lucky you are to be here to consider all that exists. That is the truest emotion that all astronomers feed on; we go out in the cold to look at things that are far away from us, and the everyday experience we have.

Simply look and – wow! Just understand what we are a part of, and maybe, just maybe we are the only species anywhere to have this opportunity.

Clear skies,

*Tony Boutle*



**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**  
**10:AM TO 2:00PM**  
**HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL**



Various stalls – come along and see the various gifts etc for sale

**TOMBOLA**



**CAKE STALL**



*(Tombola & Cake Stall provided by  
Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul)*

**HANDMADE GIFTS** – Jewellery, Bags, Knitting, Quilling  
Christmas Gifts, Cards, Wooden Gifts  
& much more



Why not enjoy a delicious  
**BACON ROLL**, with a **TEA or COFFEE**  
**provided by Heyford W.I.**





## **HEYFORD PICTUREDROME**

**NEXT FILM**

### **A MAN CALLED OTTO**

**Starring Tom Hanks**

**NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**

**7.15pm for 7.45pm**

**ADMISSION: £6.00**

Comic drama. Based on the humorous and moving bestseller, Otto is a grumpy widower whose only joy comes from criticizing his exasperated neighbours. When a lively young family moves in next door, he meets his match.

**FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES**

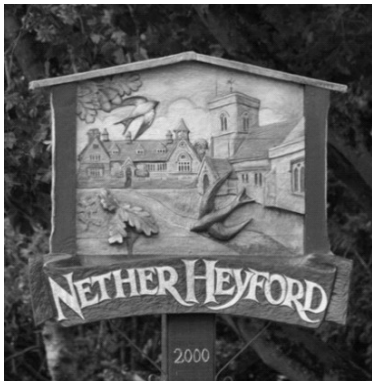
**TEA, COFFEE, BAR**

# 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](mailto: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.

## **Village Hall News**

We were very pleased to be joined by our two new committee members Lyn Adey and Sian Slater at our September meeting.

Tickets are still available for our Harvest Supper so if you haven't ordered them already please contact Simone Squire Telephone 01327 342167, email [nhvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:nhvhbookings@gmail.com). The cost is the same as last year £20.00 for starter, main course and cheese board platter per table. This is a very traditional Heyford event so please join us for a very pleasant evening.

For your future diary and for something a little different, the Village Hall Committee will be holding a little competition this year for children to make at home a tree decoration to bring to the hall during the Christmas Fayre on 25<sup>th</sup> November to hang on our tree. Prizes will be awarded for the best decoration made by an under 6 year old and an over 6 year old. Our Pantomime tickets will also be on sale at the hall on that day. The tree will be on display at the Panto and the prize winners will be announced then.

I do hope you can support the Panto. It is a relatively inexpensive trip out for the whole family to enjoy and was wonderfully entertaining last year.

*Joan Kirkbride - Village Hall Chairman*

*Tel 01327 340370*

*Email [jknhvhchairman@gmail.com](mailto:jknhvhchairman@gmail.com)*

## **Bugbrooke and District Flower Society**

A change from our usual demonstration. October marks the anniversary of the very first meeting of our club in 1974 so in 2024 we celebrate 50 years. On 23rd October there will be a social evening - President's party in the Village Hall at the usual time 7.45pm.

# 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](mailto:info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk)  
[www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> October 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

How lovely it was to see so many people sitting, chatting and laughing at the WI 'Coffee Morning with a difference' in early September. Lovely, too, seeing the stalls and tables of local groups talking to people who may not have known how many ways there are to spend time creating things, being artistic, pampering and relaxing in this great village of ours. We enjoyed it so much that we may well do it again - so, keep looking for the posters!!

Our September meeting was a peep behind the scenes at 'The Repair Shop', by courtesy of Christine Farmer, herself a member of the Preston Capes WI group. The evening was a journey back to the time when the table which Christine brought to the Repair Shop was a much loved treasure of one of her Mother's neighbours. As a child, Christine spent a lot of time visiting her and being given tea (Do you remember those days?) and when the lady died she left the table to her. Sadly, as the years had gone by the table began to lose its lustre but much to her delight it was beautifully repaired by her favourite carpenter, Will Kirk, and restored to its former glory. It was a highly entertaining and interesting evening.

We will be welcoming Geoff Haverhill, who is a Trustee of CPRE, as the speaker at our next Meeting. I have to admit that I had to investigate to see what the initials stood for - and I was so glad I did because it opened my eyes to something which is going on only a few miles away from us in Nether Heyford!

"The Campaign to Protect Rural England is a national charity founded in 1926 and sets out to influence policy nationwide on issues affecting the English countryside. There are some 40 county branches sharing the values and aims of the national charity but concentrating more on local issues" It is non-political, receives no government funding and relies entirely on volunteers to support their work of protecting and promoting the county's countryside, from humble hedgerows to planning for Market towns such as my native town of Towcester. We have seen developments near to our own lovely village but those near Towcester are life changing. Four individual applications, plus one nearer to Whittlebury, with the height of some of the warehouses being up to 80 feet must surely affect the A5 traffic enormously. This is the opposite end of the CPRE's work and should mean a really interesting meeting!

The date will be October 5th, the place the Village Hall, the time 7.30 pm and the cost £5, which will include the WI's famous refreshments! The laughter and welcome are free!!!

*Mary Rice Heyford Lodge*  
*01327 340101*

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Chris Gibson  
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[www.heyfordsingers.org](http://www.heyfordsingers.org)

*From the dew-soaked hedge creeps a crawly caterpillar  
When the dawn begins to crack  
It's all part of my Autumn almanac*

*Breeze blows leaves of a musty-coloured yellow  
So I sweep them in my sack  
Yes, yes, yes, it's my Autumn almanac.  
The Kinks*

I am writing this for the October edition after the wonderful 'Last Night of the Proms'. No-one could fail to be moved by the enthusiasm of the flag waving crowd (of many nations) who were in full voice. Nor with the virtuoso performance of the statuesque Norwegian Lise Davidsen who thrilled everyone with her performances including Heia, heia in den Bergen (Hey, in the mountains) – journalists reporting that you could probably hear her voice in Notting Hill. And then there was the exquisite cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason who won the 2016 Young Musician award and is now only 24. He was the first black musician to win the competition since its launch in 1978 and played at the wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle. These two eminent musicians played a very moving duet together, Sheku saying that he wanted his cello to sound as near as possible to the human voice. And then there was the truly Viking performance of 'Rule Britannia' with Lise Davidsen larger than life singing in a magnificent red ball gown and the audience – and I am sure millions of viewers as well – giving their all to this ancient song. And all conducted by a woman. Marin Alsop was the first woman to conduct this magnificent event ten years ago and was obviously delighted by the crowd ordering several impromptu encores.

And the Heyford Singers are also giving their all in rehearsals for the Christmas Concert which this year will be on Friday and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. Week in, week out, they turn up to the Village Hall regardless of extreme heat or cold, to practise. We are singing 'The Living Light' in the first half, by Ruth Elaine Schram telling the story of Christmas as thoughts of the people who participated in that very first Christmas. And in the second half there will be a variety of Christmas songs amongst which will be an old favourite 'On with the Snow' and a fun-filled piece entitled 'Various Themes on Fa-La-La'. And of course no Heyford Singers Concert would be complete without our pianist's own composition – this year entitled 'Noel, Noel'. Talking of which don't forget November 10<sup>th</sup> is Graham's very own afternoon Concert which will be called 'Dolly Goes to Art Class'. Look out for the posters in the village.

We are delighted to have new, younger members including a Bass singer, a Tenor and a Soprano - and are hoping that our September Open Evening will have produced even more. It always seems so difficult when we first start off on the journey to Christmas. No-one really wants to get 'Christmassy' so early and the pieces always seem incredibly difficult. But as we go on we fall into the rhythm both physically and mentally of this joyous occasion and this year will be helped by Kath Whiting, our Treasurer from Weedon who, on Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> is giving up her evening in order to give a free lesson to those who do not read music or who need a refresher course. This will be at the usual rehearsal time of 7.15 at the Village Hall

and will be a huge benefit to many of us.

As I write this the weather is notably changing. The flowers are looking past their best, the leaves are scattered everywhere and there is a decided chill in the air. Autumn has arrived.

*JRA*



## **Are the Playing Fields meeting the needs of the Community?**

Heyford playing fields offer lots of opportunities for sports and activities and we're always looking to the future. We've managed to attract some new members for our committee, however we would welcome hearing from anyone else who might be interested in getting involved. We are particularly interested in 'recruiting' people into our vacant 'Parishioner' roles. These people would primarily attend committee meetings as representatives of the community, to ensure we are meeting the needs of the community and thereby thinking ahead.

If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch.

Chris Andrews on 07880 996511 - Email: [heyfordsportsclubs@gmail.com](mailto:heyfordsportsclubs@gmail.com)

Jeff Buck on 07808 705767 - Email: [jeff.buck22@btinternet.com](mailto:jeff.buck22@btinternet.com)

### **Welcome Packs**

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

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

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

# **Heyford Allotments and Garden Club**

## **Season of Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness**

How appropriate are those words by the poet John Keats (well, the fruitful bit) when we consider how good the crops have been on Heyford Allotments this year, especially as summer turns into autumn. The wet weather of July and August meant that plants grew rapidly and then, on cue, as the children returned to school, September saw record levels of sunshine. Crops like tomatoes and grapes ripened before our eyes.

It has been encouraging to see so many tenants making the most of their allotments this year and we look forward to seeing an even more bountiful harvest next year.

## **Open Committee Meeting**

We held another open committee meeting at the end of August. Originally we had planned for this to take place in the community area of the allotments - anticipating a glorious summer evening in a bucolic setting. How wise we were to see this as a dream too far. Several days before said meeting we reverted to our usual venue, the village youth club. Needless to say the heavens opened and it was cold!

These meetings are a great opportunity to discuss the development of the allotments, allow tenants (and villagers who don't have allotments), to have their say and consider ideas for the coming year. It would be good to see a few more people attend, but we appreciate that many folk have other, more pressing, commitments. If you couldn't attend this time, we'd love to see you the next time we meet in the Spring of '24. More details later.

One of the more immediate issues discussed was the provision of manure and wood chippings. Many allotmenters took advantage of our last deliveries and we wanted to be sure that the uptake would be as good next time round. A decision was made to organise this for the autumn (a better time for spreading on the soil) and more details of when/where this can be accessed, will follow in our next allotment newsletter.

## **Harvest Festival**

By the time you read the article the church harvest festival, held again on our allotments, should have already have taken place. We are so pleased to be able host this event for our friends and neighbours from St Peter and St Paul and celebrate the bounty that we are blessed with. Regardless of whether we attend church, or even believe in a god, we cannot be oblivious to the beauty and richness of our surroundings. I think that is always something worth celebrating and never taking for granted.

## **Hedge Trimming**

We are hopeful that the hedges around the allotments will be pruned this autumn, making it easier for tenants to cultivate in the coming seasons and for villagers to safely use the pathway from Watery Lane to the playing field entrance.

## **A Good Read**

During the summer I had the good fortune to read "Ravenous", a wonderful new book by Henry Dimbleby and Jemima Lewis. Amongst other things, it explores the scandal that is "junk food". We are what we eat, the authors report. More importantly they go out of their way to stress that if we don't address this issue very soon there will unimaginable problems for us all - even if you've got an allotment! It is not a dry tome and it's not preachy. It is very readable and, if you care about food and growing, it is well worth reading.

## **Heyford Garden Club**

The next meeting of Heyford Garden Club will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 9th October when Karen Gimson gardening expert from BBC Radio Leicester and Garden News, will be talking about colour in the garden - for all 365 days of the year! Everyone welcome.

## **Contacts**

If you'd like to know more about the village allotments or you'd like a plot to cultivate contact either

Mrs Lynda Eales, 3 Church Lane, NH  
tel. 01327 341707      email: [lyndaeales@aol.com](mailto:lyndaeales@aol.com)

Mr. Mike Langrish, 28 Manor Park, NH  
tel. 01327 341390      email: [langrish\\_heyford@hotmail.com](mailto:langrish_heyford@hotmail.com)

## **Post Office Opening Times**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

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Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed

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## **Flood Watch**

Chaos is the only way to describe current events with climate change transforming our weather patterns, altering our traditional seasons and causing unprecedented events around the World. Across Central Europe major flooding has occurred, the latest being in Spain, Turkey and Greece with outbursts of volcanic activity. Closer to home September saw record temperatures in excess of 30 Degrees Celsius for 7 consecutive days compensating in part for a disappointing August. August rainfall total was 90% of normal whilst September has so far recorded only 30% of normal, largely due to an exceptionally wet day on the 19<sup>th</sup> when 15mm rainfall fell in one day. The yearly total to date is 90% of normal.

Locally river levels have remained exceptionally low.

The darker evenings have become all too apparent with sunset now at 7pm, reducing by 2 minutes per day. Summer will officially end at the autumn equinox on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and as we enter October the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month will see the clocks go back 1 hour resulting in sunset times of 4.40 pm.

The Government are again proposing relaxation of Planning Regulations which will effect brownfield sites whilst still continuing to allow building on river floodplains. The Environment Agency seem to have lost control over planning as well as the enforcement of pollution of our rivers.

Still no news on ownership of our culverts although discussions are continuing in the background.

*J. Arnold.*

## **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](mailto:heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk)



# **ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH, HEYFORD**

## **NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

On 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December, in the church.

12 noon to 4pm both days finishing with a thanksgiving service at 4pm on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>.

There will be refreshments and a raffle.  
No admission charge but donations welcome



### **Christmas Trees**

We will supply the, artificial, trees.

Would you like to decorate a tree to advertise your group or business or just to make the church look lovely?

There is no charge to decorate the trees but donations towards church funds will be very welcome.

We will also need help with stewarding the event.



### **Nativities**

Do you have a nativity set you would like to loan for the festival?

It would be great if you could also give some information about its history and/or why it is special to you.

If you would like to decorate a tree, loan a nativity, or help in any other way please contact Jane Rands on [janerands@gmail.com](mailto:janerands@gmail.com) thank you.

## **A5 Fatalities - Time for Change**

A campaign group has been set up to highlight the problem of the A5 turning by the Narrow Boat.

The changes made so far include cones which have been set up outside the Narrow Boat front entrance to stop parking & increase visibility. This also includes delivery vehicles to the pub which the new landlady has now insisted are made via the car park. No Parking signs have been made and placed on the bridge and also the Narrow Boat fencing.

They are also looking for local residents who have experienced near misses anywhere along the campaign route (the Bridge north of the Narrow Boat to the right hand turn to Church Stowe at the top of the dual overtaking lane) willing to be interviewed by the BBC who are following our campaign.

They can be contacted on facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1016189119570642>



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## Flore Arts Events

Last call for **IBAIA STRING QUARTET, Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 3pm. All Saints Church, Flore.** We're really looking forward to welcoming this talented group of musicians from Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. 'Cellist Morgan Key - born and raised locally - is joined by violinists Josie Chapman (like Morgan, a graduate of the fabulous Northants Music Service) and Jess Dugard, plus 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 varied range of beautiful string music with something for everyone. Their programme will include music from Mendelssohn and Haydn, and perhaps some surprises too.

Tickets: £12.50 (£5 Under 18s) to include tea and cake. Please call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm). Tickets also available on the door (cash please).

**POETRY PLEASE:** what's your favourite poem? Here's another opportunity to join a completely informal evening where you can read your chosen poem (or two) or just sit and listen to others. Funny, sad, evocative, romantic, historic, modern, ancient... the choice is yours. **Meet in the White Hart in Flore on Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>, 6.30pm.**

**Singer NEIL RICHARDSON entertains, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 7.30pm. Flore Millennium Hall.** A relaxed wine and cheese evening with a Christmas twist. Neil is an experienced entertainer who covers a wide range of standards from the Pop, Soul & Motown, Swing, and West End-Broadway Musical Theatre repertoire. And yes, there will be Christmas favourites!

We think this will be a great way to get your Christmas season off to a festive start in a convivial bistro-style setting. We're including your first drink and a selection of cheese with your ticket. Box office now open: tickets £12.50. Call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm).

Don't forget that you can keep up to date with our plans on our website at [www.floreartsevents.com](http://www.floreartsevents.com) and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page. We hope to see you soon!



## View from the Wildlife Patch

I have recently returned from an extended time in North Scotland. There, coastal communities are building up sea defences to deal with predicted rising sea levels caused by Global Climate Change. Our seas are warming up several times faster than the land and these communities are first to feel the real effects of this man made phenomenon. In the early 1970's we were aware of the dangers from a man made "Greenhouse Effect". No one acted to change then and now the reality is upon us, still, no-one in the world is really giving the task of tackling climate change the priority that is needed if we are to survive as a species..

On the Wildlife Patch we need to accept that plans made based on scientific research and our own experience may not be valid in today's changing climate. For instance we no longer expect frosts in Autumn and precious few in Winter. This may be the reason for the increase in Parasite wasps and flies that are devastating some of our butterfly populations and there is no doubt it is the reason that the Asian Hornets (*vespa velutina*) are taking hold here. I will write about these in later articles. Regardless of this, we do need to make plans. In fact we have already made these plans which I have written about in previous "Views".

The pond is now mended and hopefully will fill completely over Winter. We agreed maintaining the water level is a responsible use of that resource. However getting the water to the pond could prove difficult.

The roadside hedge is in part an ancient hedgerow and a valuable village resource. It began as a field boundary with a stream running alongside. It seems that most of the Elms in that hedge have now succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease and Elders are struggling. My Grandfather - I come from a family of farmers - warned me that "Elders kill the hedge around them" He believed these trees always created holes in a hedge. He came from generations of farmers who depended on hedges for security and I have never questioned his wisdom.

We have also lost some hedge at the Sports Field Drive end of the hedge and expect to replace this with mixed hedging plants with a post and rail fence to ensure security whilst this is growing. Given the importance of the hedge, it may be time to consider developing a hedge maintenance/care plan/policy.

By the time you read this the meadow areas should have been mown and the mowings removed. In March 2024, we would expect to be mowing the grass down to 50 mm. However, grass seems to be growing earlier each year so this will be under review. We have some areas to be sown with Annuals as outlined in previous articles. These will flower during 2024, then be replaced by a purpose designed mix of perennial meadow plants.

In 2024 we do need to prioritise recording the wildlife on the patch including the pond and in the hedge. This is a time consuming but enjoyable job that can be done by almost anyone. We will welcome volunteers for this task. Watch this space.

*Dave Musson*



## Heyford Bowls Club

September sees the end of the outdoor season and the plans are now in place for putting the green to bed on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October for the winter. Volunteers to help are always welcome.

Out of the 17 mixed friendlies played this season we have won eleven and lost six. Five matches were cancelled due to various reasons. The Ladies played four matches, we won three and lost one. Added to these we also won the Outdoor vs Short Mat match. So we should be really happy with our season overall.

The Friday Night League was another huge success with all teams wanting the coveted winning team slot. The handicap scheme makes for an interesting competition. This season has been quite difficult for some teams with player injuries, holidays, involvement in County Competitions and lack of players in some teams due to other commitments.

This season Friday night was also our "Open Evening" where visitors were encouraged to pop along and try out bowls in a friendly environment. Following two local club bowls introductory events several new visitors have taken this opportunity so has been a huge success and one we will continue in the 2024 season.

The club competitions have gone reasonably well this year with members playing in a timely manner. Finals weekend which was spread over three days again this year, was a huge success with some excellent games and we had good spectator support over the three days. It is great to see some new names go on the trophies this year.

At the time of writing we are getting ready for our final event of the season, our Fancy Dress Gala. This fun afternoon is already sold out with most members taking part in the fun bowls games and additional family and friends joining us for the bbq.

With the outdoor green closed for the winter the emphasis will now be on the indoor Short Mat whose sessions will continue every Wednesday in the village hall. Afternoon sessions 2.00 – 4.00pm and evenings 7.00 – 9.30pm. Sessions fees are now £2.50 and new members are always welcome.

There will be various social events held over the winter months so do follow both our Facebook page for the latest information.

*Lorraine Streeter*  
*Club Captain*

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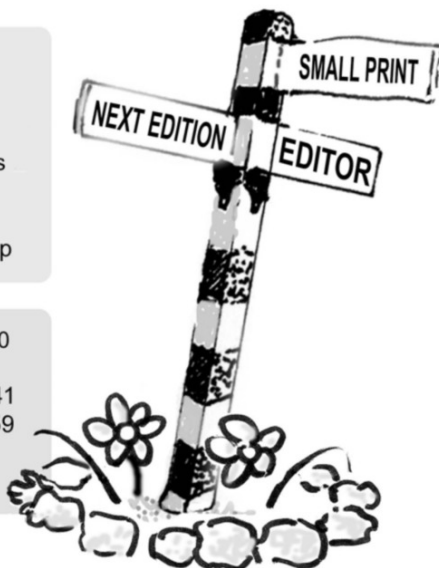
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