



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

November 2023

Issue 464



SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2023
10:AM TO 2:00PM
HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL



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

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



CAKE STALL (provided by Crafty Club)

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



Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
Parties, Weddings, Business
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Disabled access friendly

Bookings: nhvhbookings@gmail.com

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167

Norman Edmunds

8-1-1929 - 14-10-2023

Sadly, our lovely Dad and treasured Pappy passed away peacefully on Saturday 14th October.

In his own words, he had a long, rewarding and happy life, with no regrets. He was a very proud man and was often referred to as 'the smartest dressed man in the village!'

We will always be very proud of him. Reunited with our beautiful Mum and Nanny, Drusilla ♥

We will love and miss you always.

Frances, Helen and Family x



The October 2nd Parish Council Meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms.

Public Participation.

During the public session 2 residents complained about the forthcoming plan to plant 4 more trees on the Green. There were also complaints that there weren't any plans to plant any trees anywhere else, and that the plans had not been made public. It was stated that the planting of an Oak tree near the Play Area had stopped children playing football safely.

The plan had been discussed at the September meeting of the Parish Council and was reported in the Prattler. A councillor suggested the production of a map that could be displayed in the phone box. It was also mentioned that there were other parts of the green on which children could safely play football.

The Chair explained that planting was being done for the future, to replace trees on the Green that were approaching their maximum age, and which would soon begin to decline. Council supported the responsible planting of trees on the Green and elsewhere in the village and feel that the majority of residents would agree with this policy. Tree planting encourages bird and insect life, both of which are under great stress in these times, and a council has a duty to consider biodiversity in its actions. (Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006,)

It was stated that there was an historic covenant preventing the planting of trees on the Green. This has been brought up before, but no evidence has yet been produced as to verify its existence. If anybody does have any evidence, please make it known so that we can try and understand. It seems likely that any reference to not touching the Green with a spade would be to do with building, or with planting crops, rather than anything to do with trees.

The rather obvious evidence against there being an historic covenant preventing the planting of trees on the Green – is that there are dozens of trees on the Green. The “covenant” didn't appear to prevent the planting of Robinias and Hawthorns in Coronation Avenue in 1953, nor 25 Silver Birches for the 1977 silver jubilee, nor the Cherries in front of the school in the 60s, nor the 18 Limes either side of the Main Green in the 1920's.

Reports

PCSO - Council had resolved to continue to pay one third of the cost of a shared PCSO with Bugbrooke PC, who had now informed that they were willing to maintain the present set up as regards employing and paying the PCSO.

Lights - Residents in Rolfe Crescent asked that the light at no 41 be repaired; this light had been plagued with faults for years. Resolved. To replace the light with an LED.

2 other lights were awaiting replacement. The light in the jitty between the Memorial Green and Church St, and the light in Manor Close. Both of these are on poles that need replacing and the contractor has approached National Grid to replace the poles (it being their responsibility) - when this is done the lights will be replaced.

Roads and pavements - A Motorcyclist had been killed on the A5 near the Narrowboat. Many feel that the junction is very dangerous anyway, and that parked vehicles and cones exacerbate the situation. Clerk to express Council's concern to Cllr Adam Brown. Council have also reported the faded white lines on the road around both the school and the One Stop shop. It is felt this has led to a number of near misses. The area has been inspected and work scheduled to take place within 26 weeks. This was felt to be far too long for a potentially dangerous situation, so the Clerk contacted Cllr brown who has taken it up with Highways.

Playing Fields - AW reported that the PFA were preparing for the resignation of the present chair; and reported further vandalism at the site.

Allotments - LE reported that the Allotments are in good shape. 40 people had attended the Harvest Festival.

Canal - Dog Bins. Resolved. Clerk to contact DNH and ask that a bin be installed as close to the Furnace Lane Bridge as possible. DM to advise on location.

Speed cams - IP had distributed data to interested Councillors. IP felt that a change of location on Furnace Lane might prove to have more deterrent effect. Resolved. To move the camera temporarily to the next lamppost on Furnace Lane. NC volunteered to help IP with the movement of the camera.

Community Lounge/Warm Room - To open from October 25th.

Planning - Gravel extraction. WNC.22.00035.MINFUL. The WNC meeting to consider this proposal had been put back again. Highways and the developer were in discussion. Upper Heyford would like to "call in" the application as they have little confidence in WNC. It is hoped that prospective changes in legislation might preclude this application proceeding. The main concern with this application from a residents' point of view is silicosis, (from the dust generated), and the close proximity to dwellings and the Playing Field. Nether Heyford PC have also decided

to “call in” the application for the Secretary of State to consider and, hopefully, to reject.

Traveller site - On the A5 is causing irritation as it is not conforming to planning conditions, and WNC are not enforcing said conditions.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) - TW reported that 1/3rd of residents voted; 89% of whom voted Yes. The Chair thanked TW for all his work on the NP. TW would conduct a briefing as to the implication of adopting the Neighbourhood Plan.

Grasscutting tenders - It was felt that the Green should be cut on a weekly basis rather than fortnightly. The memorial green should be cut and collect. Verges and Churchyard to be cut fortnightly. Clerk to prepare a schedule and send to interested contractors, and to put to tender by publicising on Facebook.

To accept the External Auditor’s report -The External Auditor had actually made no comments – but it was still necessary to accept the External auditors report.

Parish Council meetings in 2023/24 will normally be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30. The next ones are on Monday Nov 6th and Monday Dec 4th.

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

Next Meeting Monday Nov 6th at the Baptist Church rooms

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 November 2023

Sunday 5 th	8:00 am	BCP Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Sunday 12 th	10:15 am	Service for Remembrance Sunday at Heyford Church
	10:55 am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Heyford
	10:55 am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Church Stowe
	2:15 pm	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Flore
	2:30 pm	Remembrance Sunday Service in the Millennium Hall
Sunday 19 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Heyford Church
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 26 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion and Gift Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service and Gift Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church and Gift Service at Heyford Church

Midweek Services:

Wednesday 9:30am Morning Prayer via 'Why Pay' conference call.
Please contact the Rector for the numbers to use.

Thursday 10:00am Holy Communion at Flore Church (Not 9th Nov)
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 November we shall be praying for people living in Church Street and Manor Walk in Heyford, Kings Lane and The Orchard in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Hall Apartments in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

November is a time of remembrance. At the beginning of the month, with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, we remember loved ones no longer with us. Later in the month, on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday we remember those who gave their lives for peace and freedom in the wars of last century and this. And at the end of the month, on the Sunday before Advent, we remember Christ the King, who, knowing that all humanity makes mistakes, chose to bear the consequences in our place, by letting humankind nail him to the cross.

Sadly, as I write this, the world is once again shaken by war, as bitter conflict has erupted between Israel and Gaza. When situations like this arise, attention and resources are inevitably diverted from other urgent needs: the ongoing war in Ukraine, the earthquakes in Morocco and Afghanistan, the floods in Libya, and the ongoing worldwide challenges of global warming. The situation between Israel and Palestine is long-standing and difficult to understand. The issues are complex, the suffering terrible, and that raises difficult questions for governments and individuals alike. Maybe we feel as though we can't do anything in the face of such overwhelming events. Yet we can all do something; donate to aid agencies striving to bring relief to troubled places, offer a word or prayer of hope that peace will be restored in Israel and Palestine, in Ukraine, in troubled places around the world, strive for peace wherever we find ourselves.

In the face of war and violence, two of the Bible readings set for this coming Sunday (15th October) remind us of God's desire for humanity and creation to dwell in peace (see Psalm 23). In his Letter to the Philippians, St Paul offers us these words of hope and peace: *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Phil 4:6-7). Confronted yet again by challenging situations and complex issues, let's try to understand what's going on, let's ask God for an end to war and violence, let's pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and forgiveness for those who are resorting to the path of violence. Let's also give ourselves time to deal with our own feelings faced with the pain and suffering people are inflicting on each other. And let's remember that God is with us, and with all who call on him for help.

With my prayers and blessings in challenging times,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)

At the end of November, we have a series of **Gift Services** in aid of **EVE**, a Northampton based charity working with the survivors of domestic violence. New books and toys for children, ladies' toiletry sets and/or cosmetics, small personal gifts, or chocolate selection boxes and Christmas food items that can be passed on to the families in the refuge can be brought to one of the three parish gift services on Sunday 26th November. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for November 2023

November 5 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by John Perkins
November 12 th	10:30 am	Remembrance service led by Les Britten
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
November 19 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leahey (coffee after the service)
November 26 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Martin Buckby

Events

November 4 th	10am to 12md	Coffee Morning in aid of Cynthia Spencer Hospice - Admission £1 (includes drink and biscuits)
November 10 th	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Afternoon tea and cakes. (Donations to church funds)
November 14 th	10 am	Prayer and bible study meeting
November 20 th	10 am	Church 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 or the One Stop Shop where they are delivered to the banks twice a week.

Thank you.

ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH, HEYFORD

NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

On 9th and 10th December, in the church.

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

There will be refreshments and a raffle.

No admission charge but donations welcome



Christmas Trees

We will supply the artificial trees which are 4ft high and include battery operated lights.

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 thank you.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday
4th November 2023
10.00 am = 12.00 noon

Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Many-
Books
Toiletries,
Preloved,
Cards
& Cakes
*A WARM
WELCOME
AWAITS
YOU*



Proceeds to
Cynthia Spencer
Hospice
Thank you for
your support

£1 includes
Drink & biscuits



Nether Heyford has a Neighbourhood Plan

Following the referendum in September 2023, the returning officer declared more than half of the votes were in favour of our Neighbourhood Plan. The plan will now be used by West Northants Council to guide decisions about any planning applications in our parish. More than half voted in favour – almost 89% of the 429 votes cast. No ballot papers were rejected or made void. The turnout of over 34% is above average for Neighbourhood Plans¹, and about the same as for District and County Councils².

What happens next? Now the Plan is in force, West Northants Planning team must make their decisions in accordance with the policies in our Plan. These are the policies that villagers wanted to see in the document. The 'made' Plan will be available via the Parish Council website after we retire the Neighbourhood Plan website (which is there to show anyone how we developed the Plan and recorded the wishes of people in the village).

The Plan must be monitored, and the Parish Council will be responsible for this. The Plan may need updating if there are changes, for example to national policy, however any substantive changes would have to go through a formal change process, engaging villagers as required. As the plan runs to 2029, consideration will also need to be given to refreshing the plan beyond that point.

Also, our Neighbourhood Plan is not just about housing development and land use. As a result of the extensive consultation with villagers it contains a number of 'actions', for example making display boards reflecting history and heritage at sites throughout the Parish, working cooperatively on health and care initiatives that boost our wellbeing, and looking for parking solutions throughout the village. The responsibility for delivering those actions will lie with the Parish Council, working with villagers and other agencies as required.

Once again, we are grateful for your support and the worthy turnout to ensuring that we protect, enhance, and develop our parish through having a legally enforceable Neighbourhood Plan.

Tony Clewett, Tom Dodd, Tony Williams and the NHNPG Group

¹ <https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1406239/analysis-finds-average-neighbourhood-plan-turnout-324>

² <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8060/>

Astronomy on the Green

The above is a bit of a misnomer, as this year has been a poor one for the astronomer. It has been even worse for the astrophotographer (my hobby) as near perfect conditions are needed to get worthwhile photographs. Even a holiday to Italy (Sorrento) was not blessed with clear nights as our sojourn in May was stymied by the worst weather seen in Italy for 100 years. So what is needed to get the best observations of the sky at night? Well clearly the lack of clouds is one thing, but there are different forms of cloud cover. The most annoying one is high cloud; this fools us to think it's a good night when in fact it is useless for observation – it is the equivalent of trying to see details through a fog.

Low and medium height clouds are likely to obscure only part of the sky, but as they will, they move. This is an issue as astrophotography uses many shortish exposures over a long period of time. To do this we track the object as it moves through the sky due to the Earth's rotation. This needs a separate tracking telescope that follows the stars, if the star it follows is covered by cloud the star is lost and the tracking fails.

Light pollution is an increasing problem, and astrophotographers buy expensive filters to reduce this, but bleeding of light into the night sky is forever increasing. On a clear night in ideal conditions the human eye can see over 5,000 stars. In a major city (Birmingham or London for example) this is reduced to one or two at best. Lighting should always be directed downwards (or shielded) if we want to be able to see the splendour above.

Oddly one of the major sources of light pollution is in the sky, namely the moon. A full moon will obliterate the sky as the reflected brightness is almost of searchlight proportions. Observing or photographing a full moon is pretty pointless as the detail on the lunar surface is washed out. A moon in its phases is much more interesting as the terminator reveals detail on along the edge of darkness, and the angular illumination picks out the surface irregularities.

So why pursue this hobby in our temperate climate? Well moving is out of the question for most of us so we wait for the rare chance to view what we can. In a perverse way this makes the cold dark winter nights and the occasional ability to image dim things a long way away become exciting due to rarity.

Now if any of you find such a hobby appealing (very few I expect) it is a great time to buy. There are a lot of good deals around currently as people who bought scopes, cameras etc. at the turn of the year are now selling them. For the more resilient we wait on for that rare night. On that basis I now have both a smart telescope and my main scope that can be used on the Green. I will post to the AOTG Facebook page and WhatsApp when I'm about – feel free to join me.

Clear Skies.

Tony Boutle

THE Heyford SINGERS

PRESENTS

AN AFTERNOON OF COMEDY, MUSIC & SONG

BY OUR ACCOMPLISHED ACCOMPANIST

GRAHAM KINNERSLY

Dolly Goes to Art Class

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10TH

2.30PM

TICKETS £8.00

INCLUDING

TEA & CAKES!!



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BOOK EARLY ONLY 50 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

NEXT FILM : COMEDY/DRAMA

THE UNLIKELY PILGRIMAGE OF HAROLD FRY

Starring Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2023

7.15pm for 7.45pm

ADMISSION: £6.00

Harold, a seemingly unremarkable man in his sixties, one day learns that his old friend Queenie is dying. He embarks on a walk, only to keep going for 724 kms.

Tickets for the December film and supper night will be on sale during the November film evening or from Rosemary Dunkley 01327 342 588

FILMS WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES



Christmas Tide Ring Out The Bells!

*Join us for our
Celebration
of Christmas
Songs and
Music*



Friday December 15th & Saturday December 16th

Nether Heyford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £10, Children (under 14) £5

From: 01327 340741 or 07971 786912 or

kvra44@gmail.com

www.heyfordsingers.org

Village Hall News

Christmas seems to arrive earlier every year but a visit to the pantomime is a seasonal treat not to be missed.

Our village pantomime, Aladdin is on 29th December at 2.30 and is an event that children of all ages can enjoy. We have kept the prices the same as last year £9.00 for adults and £3.00 for children. There will be a seasonal raffle with prizes for all ages so please bring your children and grandchildren for an afternoon of fun. Tickets are available from committee members and at the Christmas Fayre in the village hall on 25th November.

Don't forget the children's competition for a Christmas Decoration to be brought to the Christmas Fayre on the 25th. Prizes will be awarded for the best decoration by a 6 year old under and an over 6.

Joan Kirkbride - Village Hall Chairman

Tel 01327 340370

Email jknhvvhchairman@gmail.com

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

The year has flown by and we come to our final meeting of 2023.

On Monday 23rd November we welcome National Demonstrator Tony Brown who will present 'Christmas Delights'. This is sure to be a very enjoyable evening so if you love flowers come along to the Village Hall for a 7.30 pm start. We are a friendly club and you will be made very welcome and might be lucky enough to win a beautiful arrangement in the raffle.

Post Office Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed

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 2nd November 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

Our October meeting just goes to show that you should never be surprised if things don't go to plan! Sadly, our speaker was unable to come - which we didn't find out until the last minute. Speaking personally I cannot ever remember that happening before but, our President Jane Wareing, led us in discussing amongst ourselves how we felt about the countryside around Nether Heyford, the way it is being developed and the returned threat of gravel extraction. We were pleased to have two visitors for the evening and hope that they will come again to see what a normal evening is like!

Our next speaker will be Nella Gilbert and she will be introducing us to 'Mindfulness & Meditation', with an explanation of their benefits. She will show us how to implement mindfulness in daily life and follow this with a guided relaxation. How lovely to really relax and get rid of the bustle of everyday living - a truly comforting thought for the busy lives that so many of us lead. The meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, November 2nd at 7.30 p.m. & the cost for visitors will be £5, including refreshments. If you would like to join us for the evening you will be most welcome.

We are looking forward to our last meeting of the year, which will be our WI Members' Christmas Lunch on December 7th, when we will be dining in style at the same venue as last year - Greenacres at Staverton.

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

Check out our
reviews on Facebook



Chris Gibson
- Horts Property Consultant



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PERSONAL • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE



www.heyfordsingers.org

*The wind that makes music in November corn
is in a hurry. The stalks hum, the loose husks
whisk skyward in half-playing swirls, and the
wind hurries on... A tree tries to argue, bare
limbs waving, but there is no detaining the wind.*

Aldo Leopold

And as we ourselves are hurrying at an alarming rate towards Christmas and the deadline of our concert (please see the advertisement inside this Prattler for details of **Christmas Tide - Ring Out the Bells**) we are busy with our practice tracks and trying to keep our voices free from coughs and colds. Never easy at this time of year. And singing the Christmas story through 'The Living Light' will be very prevalent this year especially with the appalling war in the Middle East. Regardless of faith, if any, one has, the music brings the message of peace and goodwill which the world sadly needs.

Despite our pianist Graham having had Covid, rehearsals are going well. Singing the other week. was adapted around a CD player – Covid gives no notice and our reserve pianists were therefore fully booked. And of course we are all looking forward to Graham's concert – again please see the advert inside this issue entitled '**Dolly Goes to Art Class**'. This will give you an afternoon's talented entertainment along with tea and cake.

'We Wish You' arranged by Andy Beck – words and music by Ruth Morris Gray – is full of traps. Because we think we know how this goes (and who doesn't know 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'?) we trip up at the slightest deviation, singing the base lines in error as a Soprano or ignoring the intricate timing. So it all has to be learned again and heads are buried in the music whilst also trying to watch the Conductor... Four part harmony is a joy but sometimes can be a hindrance when all the Sopranos want to do is to belt out the melody. And this is why a lot of the time we have to be held back to get the right 'light and shade' and bring out, not only the music, but the lovely words as well. By December we will have it cracked.

A week ago as I am writing this – and as I mentioned in the October Prattler – our Treasurer Kath held a musical theory night. This was for anyone who couldn't read music or, like me, hadn't studied music since school. Kath had put a lot of work into this, giving us all a very useful leaflet containing all the basics. She worked her way through the mysteries of the musical signs and symbols so that we could all have a better understanding of what the composers actually wanted. And, most importantly, the special signs which indicate a return to specific bars and lyrics, thus ensuring we shall never get lost again – and all arrive at the end together. A big 'thank you' to Kath Whiting.

There is a wonderful, professional Choir called 'Liberty' and I would suggest you check their 'America The Beautiful' on YouTube. They sing a cappella and the very last note is unbelievably high. Something to aspire to... And I have just watched a

wonderful little programme on Cleo Laine who is still with us at 95 and who even wrote a short article recently urging people to be behind the Black Lives Matter campaign. Before this she never openly spoke about racism but instead strived to be one of the world's most well known singers where people loved her voice and never noticed her colour. Some achievement!

JRA


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Autumn Concert

Raising Money for Bloom India

with

Heart and Music

Musical Director - Malcolm Crane

A varied programme of music and
songs, from folk to pop, show-tunes
to original compositions

Saturday 18th November 2023,
2:30pm

at Kislingbury & Upton Baptist
Church,

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Heyford Allotments and Garden Club

Vacancies

We currently have two small starter plots available to rent, each measuring approximately 9m x 2.5m. The rent is only £5 per year and represents excellent value for someone interested in trying out an allotment. The plots are covered in landscape fabric, which means that anyone wishing to begin cultivating can slowly roll back the fabric as they go, thus protecting the soil and keeping the weeds at bay.

If you are interested in trying out an allotment in the coming year, don't hesitate to contact Lynda Eales on 01327 341707 or by email at lyndaeales@aol.com

Covering the Soil

Using a landscape fabric to protect bare soil is a wonderful way of not only preventing weeds from taking hold, but stops carbon from escaping from the soil and into the atmosphere. The idea of a beautifully dug patch (or a ploughed field) laying uncultivated (or covered) has been found to be not only wasteful but damaging to the environment.

15-20 per cent of the CO₂ in the world's atmosphere comes from digging and ploughing. In addition, this sort of activity destroys soil health by depleting the micro-organisms which enrich the soil.

An even better alternative to covering soil is to heavily mulch with compost or manure or grow over wintering crops such as parsnips, leeks, brussels sprouts or a crop of green manure. This can be sown in the autumn and will rapidly germinate and cover the soil. The crop can then be dug into the soil in the Spring, thus enriching the soil.

The Orchard

We shall be re-staking a number of fruit trees during the winter, particularly those that have not put on the growth of others and still have weaker trunks. It has been fascinating to watch how some trees have thrived and others have struggled. In addition, we shall be feeding these trees to encourage sturdier growth in 2024.

The Wildlife Area

We are pleased to report that the leak in the wildlife pond has been repaired and following the recent heavy rain, is starting to refill.

Community Days

Many thanks to all those good folk who joined us for our autumn tidying and maintenance day on Saturday 28th October. A range of tasks were completed and the allotment community areas are looking good. Everyone's help is greatly valued.

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

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

Heyford Garden Club

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Autumn show last month. The winners were as follows:

Section 1 Fruit and Vegetables

Class 1: 3 root vegetables (assorted)
1st Leanne Woods

Class 2: 5 runner or French beans (of the same variety)
1st Leanne Woods
2nd Irene Reeves
3rd Tom Dodd

Class 3: 5 salad vegetables (assorted)
1st Leanne Woods
2nd Tom Dodd

Class 4: A basket of mixed vegetables
1st Leanne Woods and Margaret Ridgewell
2nd Sue Brown
3rd Tom Dodd

Class 5: A plate of 5 to 7 soft fruit (of the same variety)
1st Irene Reeves and Margaret Ridgewell
2nd Tom Dodd
3rd Audrey Mason

Class 6: 3 Tree fruit (of the same variety)
1st Leanne Woods
2nd Audrey Mason

Section 2 Flowers

Class 7: A vase of dahlias

1st Margaret Ridgewell and Leanne Woods

2nd Tom Dodd

3rd Anne Haynes

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

1st Anne Haynes and Leanne Woods

2nd Margaret Ridgewell

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

1st Anne Haynes

2nd Audrey Mason

3rd Tom Dodd and Leanne Woods

Class 10: A flowering pot plant

1st Tom Dodd

2nd Audrey Mason

Class 11: A foliage pot plant

1st Anne Haynes and Tom Dodd

2nd Sue Brown

Section 3 Baking and Preserves

Class 12: Homegrown produce cake

1st Audrey Mason

Class 13: Homegrown produce preserve (one jar)

1st Margaret Ridgewell and Audrey Mason

2nd Sue Brown

Overall 2023 show winner Leanne Woods

with Tom Dodd coming 2nd and Margaret Ridgewell 3rd

Next Meeting

The next speaker at Heyford Garden Club will be Maria Greenhill, Gardener Designer. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm pm on Monday 13th November.

The club will also be holding their Art, Craft and Photography show. If you are interested in entering, please contact Linda Hall at linda.hall@open.ac.uk

Mike Langrish

Flood Watch

October has seen a radical change in the weather with temperatures dropping 10 degrees and a distinctive nip in the air. Rainfall in September and October has been 90% of normal whilst the yearly total to date is 115% of normal. This may change radically as the second storm of the season Babet hits the UK and potential flooding could occur. The evenings are drawing in rapidly and with the clocks going back on 28th of October and sunset reducing to 4.40 pm.

It's that time of the year to reassess your personal flood risk. The Environment Agency flood risk maps give an indication of flood risk expressed as a probability of say 1 in 30 years but local knowledge is always preferable. If new to the Village talk to the neighbours. The Village is divided into two main flood threats, one from the River Nene, the other from Heyford Brook. Although the latter feeds in the E-W culvert there is always a risk of limited capacity in the culvert resulting in overspill in the Village centre. The work carried out in Horestone Brooke outflow should have improved the situation both here and at Watery Lane/Bugbrooke Road junction. Weather forecasts give a general guide to potential problems but the use of tools such as Shoothill Gauge Map give river levels and rainfall in real time. In addition by signing up with the Environment Agency early warning system you can receive personal phone calls advising of any potential threat of flooding.

Inspect your property to assess potential areas where water could gain assess both from river, brook and run off of surface water from the road at times of heavy rainfall. Walls and raised steps provide a degree of protection and any gated entrance can be protected with a simple wooden barrier edged with rubber or high density foam to prevent major leakage. A simple low cost submersible pump can provide further protection. If your garden fronts the river, tiered ground with strategically placed barriers backed up with a pump will provide adequate protection.

I have still not received an update from the E/A on the progress of the discussions with Anglian Water.

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

Flore Arts Events

Last two events of the year coming up...

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 26th, 6.30pm.**

Singer NEIL RICHARDSON entertains, Saturday 2nd 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 and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page. We hope to see you soon!



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View from the Wildlife Patch

I am writing this on the 19th of October at a time when the weather man has predicted “A possibility of unprecedented precipitation” (quite a mouthful). There can be no doubt our weather is changing at what feels like an ever increasing rate of change. A very long way from the November of the poet Thomas Hood and his poem “No” which seems to describe a November full of foggy days. (He did live in London). Surely the year of 2023 will go down as a record breaking year for rainfall. “It is a shame we can’t store the rain to use in Summer” is something we often say. And indeed that is true.

In fact nature does have a means of doing just that. Rain falls on the earth and soaks down through geological layers to form Aquifers. “An aquifer is a body of porous rock or sediment saturated with groundwater. Groundwater enters an aquifer as precipitation seeps through the soil. It can move through the aquifer and resurface through springs and wells.” (Google 2023). These “springs and wells “ flow together to form brooks which flow into rivers and rivers transport this water to the sea. As in so many cases modern man has messed this system up.

Our drive to cover the land with buildings and roads means we need to get rid of rainwater quickly. This is usually piped directly into the nearest river. This deprives aquifers of that water. Another factor is modern agriculture. Within my own memory farmland was a pattern of small (by modern standards) fields surrounded by hedges and ditches. There was a mixture of crops grown in rotation of grass and arable crops. At home we used a 5 year rotation and had some permanent pasture. Rain fell on this land, seeped through the soil to be channelled to ditches then to brooks and rivers. This was effective for the time but very inefficient compared to today's agricultural drainage which is designed to drain fields of hundreds - even thousands - of acres. The result is this rain runs off the ground very quickly into brooks which flood, then into rivers which also flood. Meaning that much less water reaches the aquifers to provide moisture for summer months.

Did you know our own River Nene is the tenth longest in the UK? It travels directly to the sea without joining any larger river. Apparently it is unique in having three sources. Our other significant brook is the Horestone Brook. Someone will remind me of the local name. (Is it Arun?) Three years ago my Grandson brought a fish which he had caught in the Bugbrooke part of this for me to identify. I was in no doubt it was a brook Lamprey. The first I had seen in life. They are apparently prehistoric creatures who require specific conditions in order to survive.

I have only just looked at the UK distribution of these. Some sources say they are relatively common but a distribution map of actual records indicate the if this map is right, our Brook is the only place they live in the area.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

Now with the outdoor season closed we will now focus on our social events during the winter in an effort to top up the funds ready for the next seasons bills. At the time of writing we are preparing for our AGM on October 24th where decisions about next season will take place. We are planning a bowls tour in June where we are off to Eastbourne in East Sussex. Matches are already booked for Eastbourne, Hastings and Peacehaven. This bi-annual event is always well supported by our members.

November 11th sees our annual Presentation Evening celebrating the winners and runners up of the individual and team inter club competitions. Trophies and prizes will be handed out after our Fish and Chip supper supplied by local Frankly Fish and Chips Ltd that come to the village every Saturday.

We will have several other events over the coming months so keep an eye on Facebook.

Although the outdoor season is closed the indoor Short Mat still continues in the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons and evenings (2.00pm and 7.00pm). New members are always welcome so why not come along and give a try.

Lorraine Streeter
Club Captain

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.

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

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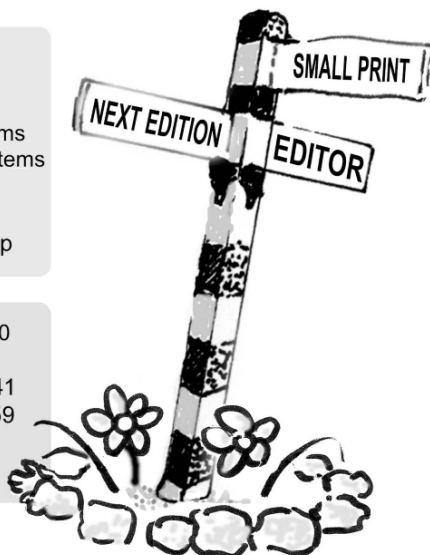
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