



THE PRATTLE

The Heyford Village Newspaper

February 2024

Issue 466

THE MIRACLE CLUB

Starring Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2024

7.15 for 7.45pm

ADMISSION: £6.00

Comedy/Drama set in 1967 – a heart-warming film that follows the story of three generations of close friends in a hard-knocks community in Dublin, who have a tantalising dream.

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

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Update from Nether Heyford Parish Council – the annual 'precept'.

Dear Parishioners

As you may be aware the Parish Council raise funds for locally delivered services through something called the 'precept'. This is collected through the Council Tax that you pay to West Northants Council and is noted on your statement as 'parish precept'. The 'precept' is set annually, and the amount proposed for the 2024/25 financial year was approved at the January Parish Council meeting.

The reason for sharing this is that in recent years the 'precept' has been kept at a consistent level, but this has only been achievable through subsidising the precept from reserves, which is not a sustainable approach. This approach has also placed major constraints on the ability to invest in and improve our village. In addition, and in line with clear requirements stated by parishioners through the Neighborhood Planning process, the Parish Council now looks to raise some modest additional funds to address matters such as traffic calming, where funding is simply not available from other sources.

So, what does this mean in terms of an annual increase per household in the parish? On average it equates to an additional £ (pound) per week per household. Average approximates to a Band D property. Bands above or below this will pay slightly more or slightly less.

This decision has not been taken lightly, particularly in the context of the cost-of-living challenges for everyone, but by taking this step it places the parish in a position to properly address traffic calming in the village, continue with the rolling programme of upgrading street lighting, replenish reserves, and protect the day-to-day services such as the maintenance of our green spaces. For future years it also opens the opportunity for other projects, such as upgrading the play area.

Funding for such important projects is sadly just not available through our local authority, central government, or other sources so to improve our village we have to look to ourselves to make that investment.

Please do be aware however that certain desired improvements, such as resurfacing our appalling roads, lie outside of the remit of the parish council and we will continue to depend on our local authority to remediate these issues.

The Parish Council's budget and precept setting process is well documented and there are publicly available accounts that are independently audited, so if anyone would like to see any of these details, please do contact the parish clerk. Any questions arising may also be addressed to the parish clerk.

Following the recent precept meeting (meeting to set the budget and spend for the year), the Parish Council wanted to share our plans for the coming year and provide a clear, open and honest view of where we intend to invest in for the coming year.

Over the last few years we have been reluctant to add money to the precept and instead have used the Council's reserves to fund works around the village. This includes items such as starting the upgrade of our street lights, the speed monitor for Furnace Lane among many other items. We have now come to a place where we can no longer allow the reserves to run any lower and have therefore made the difficult decision for the year 2024/25 to add to our precept to allow us to continue to make investments into the village for the good of the village and it's residents. These investments/upgrades are taken from the Neighbourhood Plan along with listening to residents within our village.

This will mean that the precept will increase and as such there will be a small increase to each households Council Tax. Please understand that this is not something we have taken lightly, but we have recognized that we still need to make significant changes/improvements around the village, by not taking this action, we will leave ourselves in a position where services could end up suffering or disappearing altogether.

For the coming year, we have agreed with WNC to fund share the costs of traffic calming measures in Furnace Lane, which we know is a major concern to a lot of our residents, along with continuing to invest in the upgrading of our lighting system. We have also engaged new contractors to look after our green spaces, as again we have listened to the village and recognized that the current state of these was not acceptable to any of us.

We hope that people will understand our decisions based on the information above.

Thank you.

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



The January 8th Parish Council Meeting was held in the Baptist Church Rooms.

NEIL HAYNES

A minute's silence was held in respect of former Councillor and Parish Council Chairman Neil Haynes, (who died on Jan 5th), at the start of the meeting. Neil had been chair on several occasions, and had served as a Councillor for 40 years, only resigning due to poor health. Neil had always been heavily involved in village life, and will be very much missed.

Gravel Extraction WNC.22.00035.MINFUL. No further information.

Concerns about landfill at the top of Furnace Lane had been expressed to Planning – but the response had been that this was in line with the permission granted. TW had then expressed concern about the nature of the material used (given that watercourse was involved) – but the planning dept had suggested he monitor this. TW felt that this was the duty of the planning authority.

Reports.

Green. AW reported that there had been a meeting of the wildlife association in December and expressed concerns about flooding, which has made a return, but was felt not to be as bad as in the past.

The PCC has been contacted regarding conservation measures for the churchyard.

AW reported the intention to plant 4 additional trees. 2 on the triangle between Bugbrooke Rd and Watery Lane; and 2 on the West end of the green to replace lost trees.

LE reported that Allotments rent night would be held on Jan 23rd. and anticipated full take up of plots.

Wellbeing. KWD reported that a meeting had taken place with Rachel Burn from WNC; a very enthusiastic officer. Information was exchanged. RB will send data on Heyford which KWD feels will be useful. The question of isolation in rural areas is high on the agenda. There are concerns that the Community Lounge is not listed as a welcoming space.

Resolved. KWD to approach Bugbrooke Practice Patient Group with a view to representing Council.

Infrastructure

IP reported poor access to the canal from Furnace Lane, and that the Canal and River Trust were unwilling to do anything. He also expressed concern about parking practices on Furnace Lane. 4 drivers had been caught speeding by the PCSO. IP reported having to charge SID battery every 5 days as the solar charging appears not work in current conditions. Manufacturers to be approached.

The Council has asked to be included in the list for match funding for a chicane.

Lighting

AW had calculated Council has 112 lights, 39 of which are now LEDS, which should already have reduced energy consumption by 20%.

Lighting priorities should be.

- 1) Remove Fibreglass columns on Hillside Cresc.
- 2) To replace failing lights with LEDs (apart from Bliss Close). Situation to be monitored at half year, & adjusted to circumstances.

Councillors were asked to consider a policy with 2 main points. 1) Rolling refurbishment dependent on finance. 2) Lights to be switched off between midnight and 05.00. This was felt to be a good thing for biodiversity and wildlife.

Heritage

Some residents had expressed a desire to help out. TW wondered whether the Olde Sun pub could be registered as a community asset.

Community

CK aware of isolation issues through delivering prescriptions for Bugbrooke Surgery.

Restoration of, and siting of, vintage Rocking Horse in Play Area.

A vintage rocking horse, (formerly in the Play Area) had been retrieved from the grounds of the "Olde Sun". This would be restored by volunteers. When restored Council would check that it would be safe for re-installation on the Green as a static (i.e. non – rocking) feature.

To consider what the council can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the area. NCALC Directive.

DM responded that Council already had a biodiversity policy.

To set a Precept for 2024 -25. Resolved. To set a precept of £139,477.

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 Feb 5th at the Baptist Church rooms

Post Office Opening Times

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed

Heyford Singers

Many thanks to the Heyford Singers for their generous donation to the Prattler last month. It is much appreciated.

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 February 2024

Sunday 4 th	8:00 am	Prayer Book Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Saturday 10 th	2:00 pm	Messy Church at the Church Rooms in Nether Heyford
Sunday 11 th	10:00 am	Benefice Communion Service at Church Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Wednesday 14 th	7:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with Imposition of ashes
Sunday 18 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Heyford
	10:00 am	Partnership Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 25 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Brockhall (please note change of venue)
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	10:00 am	Family Service and Gift Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Nether Heyford

Midweek Services:

Wednesday 9:30am Morning Prayer via 'Why Pay' conference call.
Please contact the Rector for the numbers to use. (Not 21st Feb)

Thursday 10:00am Holy Communion at Flore Church (Not 1st, 8th or 22nd Feb)

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

During February we shall be praying for people living in Hillside Rd and Hillside Crescent here in Heyford, Sutton St, Yew Tree Gardens and Sutton Acre in Flore, The Manor in Church Stowe and the Gate House and the Old Dairy in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

In the month of February, we move quickly through the seasons of the Church. We begin in the last few days of Epiphany, celebrating Candlemas and the presentation of Jesus in the temple. Then, from the highs of Christmas and Epiphany, we have a couple of Sundays of what the Church calls ordinary time, before we enter the season of Lent. These days, Christians observe Lent in different ways. It can be a time for reflection and meditation, self-examination and penitence, abstinence and acts of charity, as we make our way to the foot of the cross and celebrate Holy Week and Easter at the end of March. Traditionally Lent begins with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday, followed by forty fast days and six Sundays. The forty days remind us of the forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness, being tested by the devil.

As we journey through the Church calendar, we also travel through the seasons of the natural world, as Winter moves into Spring. The seeds and bulbs which have lain dormant beneath the cold, hard earth of winter will sprout into new life with the warmer temperatures and the spring rains. As shoots make their way through the soil, and flowers blossom and grow, we again see God at work in the beauty and diversity of the created world, and we see the promise of resurrection re-enacted in the local environment.

The environment will be the subject of our Lent Course this year. We'll be thinking about our food, and how it impacts on different aspects of our life and our world. Please see the 'advert' below for more details.

I pray that as we move through February, we will be alert to the wonders and miracles of God at work in the changing seasons.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)

Lent Course 2024 – Beyond Consumerism – Feasting and Fasting

Our Lent course for this year will begin on Saturday 17th February. Subsequently, we'll get together on Saturday 24th Feb, 2nd, 16th, and 23rd March. We'll meet at The Rectory, Church Lane, Nether Heyford for breakfast at 8:30AM, before tackling the material about 9:00AM-ish. The material we'll be using will take about an hour, and has been prepared by the Arthur Rank Centre, who are great supporters of rural ministry. Using this resource 'we will be asking questions like: How can Christians make their diet sustainable and ethical? What do we learn from Jesus' teaching about food? How does our grocery basket help, or harm, God's creation?' There will be plenty of 'food for thought'! If you'd like to come along, please let the Rector know.



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for February

February 4 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
February 11 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Wally Mular
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
February 18 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Bruce Furness (coffee after the service)
February 25 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

Events

February 20 th	10 am	Prayer and bible study
February 26 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 bank in the box outside the door of 15 Middle Street or the One Stop Shop where they are delivered to the bank once a week.

Thank you.

Heyford Garden Club

We live in a beautiful village full of many well-kept gardens and thriving allotments. Quite clearly the people of Heyford know how to grow things and are rightly proud of their achievements.

What a pity then that Heyford Garden Club has had difficulty getting people through the doors at its monthly meetings. Oddly, membership is still buoyant and there are around fifty people who signed up and paid their annual subscription last January.

Growing stuff isn't just for "oldies", look at the new faces on TV's Gardeners World and Beechgrove. It's the new cool. The age profile of allotmenters has dropped dramatically, and good thing too.

The quality of the speakers invited to join the garden club last year was generally very good and the range of activities offered were varied. The ever-popular plant tombola at the Village Hall Fete was a great success and lots of people again visited the stall. The club took almost £400 in sales.

The hard-working people who run the club need your help. Costs have spiralled over the past two years and where once the club could obtain the services of a speaker for under £100, that is now closer to £200, often plus expenses! Add on to that the cost of hiring the village hall and you can see that fifteen or twenty people through the door on a club night does not make financial sense.

If we want a garden club in Heyford, a club that reflects the passion that so many people in the village seem to put into their gardening and allotmenting, then it has to be supported by more people. The committee are very keen to reflect the views of the community and to tailor the things that can be offered to what that community would like to see from their local garden club.

We know that many village organisations have struggled with membership since Covid and that many old stalwarts of these village clubs would like (or have already taken) the opportunity to step back in favour of some new and perhaps, younger blood. Without this constant sort of "refreshment" we could be left with very few village organisations and what a tragedy that would be for our special corner of the country! There is much truth in the old adage "use it or lose it".

Heyford Garden Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting at 7.30.p.m. in the Village Youth Club on Ridgeway Furlong on Monday 25th March. This change of venue has come about because the village hall, the usual place the club meets, is unavailable on that night.

AGM's have a reputation for being a bit tedious. We can guarantee this will not be like that as there is a lot at stake and your support – members past, present and prospective newbies is important. Your views will be highly valued. Let's see this as a new way forward.



Nether Heyford Branch, Royal British Legion

In December, as a veteran who served 24 years in The Royal Engineers, I was honoured to be elected by the Branch members as the Chair of Nether Heyford Branch, Royal British Legion. As the Chair, I want to keep the community updated with activities associated with the Branch.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone that kindly donated to the 2023 Poppy Appeal and to announce you raised £2,510.39. I would also like to thank the local businesses, schools and the volunteers who, without their support, this amazing total could not have been achieved.

Secondly, I want to thank you all for donating and supporting the fundraising activities to enable the Branch to purchase a new standard (flag). As the Branch has transitioned from a Women's Section to being a Main Branch of the RBL, the purchase of a new standard (£922.20) was a key requirement to a Branch remaining in the village. Without your donations and support it is highly unlikely that a Branch would now be present within the village. The new standard is required to be 'dedicated' within a church and the dedication will be conducted by Rev Stephen on 18th February in the Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. The standard of the Women's section will then be on permanent display in the church following the dedication.

The focus of the Branch is to raise funds for the RBL and to support our local Armed Forces veterans and their families. The Nether Heyford Branch is held in high regard, by the County Branch due to the donations we raise as a Branch and community. Again, I thank you all.

Our Branch membership has grown but we always would like to see more names on our membership list and members at our meetings but, by becoming a member, you are under no obligation to attend the meetings, we would just like to see you!!! The next Branch meeting will be held in the Baptist Church Rooms, 15th April, 7pm and anyone is more than welcome to come along and meet us before committing to a membership.

At our April meeting we will be confirming the fund-raising activities for the remainder of the year but, we will definitely see you at the Nether Heyford Village fete to encourage some coins out of your pockets and into our collection tins.

I was fortunate enough at the end of 2023 to visit Scotland's Bravest Manufacturing Company <https://scotlandsbravest.org.uk> to witness how Royal British Legion Industries are supporting veterans with employment and welfare. The Royal British

Legion Industries are not as well-known as the RBL but it is another way you can support our veterans as they have a shop on their website <https://rbl.co.uk> (in the about menu) and I can personally vouch for the Solar Garden Tommy as I have a couple glowing in my garden!!!!

Should you wish to contact the Branch please email:

netherheyford.memsecretary@rbl.community

If you would like to become a member (£18 per year) this can be completed at: <https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/addmember/details> or calling 0800 3077 773 and selecting Nether Heyford (number 4044) as your branch.

"We will remember them"

Yours,

Jon Hornagold

Chair, Nether Heyford Branch - Royal British Legion

Heyford Scout Group

Firstly, the scout group would like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the village who supported our annual Christmas card collection and delivery service, including those who kindly hosted our post boxes. It was yet again a very successful year and as you may know it is our one significant annual fund-raising activity which helps keep the group solvent; so, thank you.

Secondly, we are delighted to report that after all the challenges of the pandemic the group is flourishing again. We now have some forty or so young people across our three sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We are also delighted to welcome an addition to our section leaders' team, who many of you may already know, so welcome Steve Olney.

Thirdly, with the group flourishing we have decided, as a trial, to open up a new section for older Scouts (14+), meeting fortnightly, with the first meeting on the 29th January. The group is initially providing support for this trial from the existing leadership team but given a successful trial we will need to expand the leadership team again to ensure appropriate adult presence.

If you are interested in working with young people or know someone who might be interested, please contact Steve Rayner on 07525 104534.

Calling all ex Scouts!!

Lastly, we would love to hear from any ex-Scouts who still live in the area, to share their experiences in Scouting on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/heyfordscouts>

Thank you again from the Leadership team and the Committee for all your support.

Astronomy on the Green

Back in 1874 a young Max Planck was advised not to study theoretical physics as there “was not much there left to do”.

In 1924 it was thought that there was only one Galaxy, ours the Milky Way. We now count them in the billions just 100 years later.

Surely now we know everything. Well, the more you find out the less certain you are ~ this is true of all sciences, and why the phrase ‘our current understanding’ is frequently used. So, what is still mysterious in Astronomy?

Well gravity, we all know about that thanks to Newton, do we not? Turns out not, Einstein with his Theory of General Relativity ignored Gravity. Odd? Well, he had realised that an object in free fall on the Earth had no forces acting on it (just as if it were in Space) if the object never hit the ground, it would fall forever. This realisation excludes Gravity as a force.

Yet when Brian Cox was asked for the most mysterious thing in the Universe his answer was “Gravity”. So, from Newton in 1687 (his laws are still universally used to calculate motions in space and subsequently space travel accurately) to now we are still to define something that was a ‘known’ 436 years ago.

We now begin to understand the formation of Black holes and their relationship with Star death and Supernovae. But we still cannot define Black holes – as the laws of physics do not apply there. Due to this we speculate, there could be Wormholes (imagine the Black hole as a tornado spiralling away from known space). Now, if that happens at the end of the Wormhole is there a White hole – where the contents of the Black hole spill out? Would that be in this Universe (or another)?

Does this uncertainty matter here and now in Nether Heyford, well no, but in the future it may. NASA already has plans for a Star Trek style Warp engine – this would open space exploration massively. But you say reasonably, surely that’s just Science fiction, well yes. But, many of the things we have now, Computers, mobile phones, instantaneous communications around the world, were at some point just Science fiction!

In the future there may well be another Nether Heyford on another planet (we do like renaming places after ones that exist). If the occupants are unlucky enough there could also be another Tony Boutle.

Clear Skies.

Tony Boutle



Nether Heyford Netball Club



Nether Heyford Netball Club was formed in 2020 after the completion of the brand new netball court at the playing fields. The late Geoff Thorneycroft was a key creator of the court and roped me into setting up a netball club after I happened to mention that I used to play netball at school! We got our heads together and decided a plan of action. Sadly covid then hit and we were unable to use the court. As soon as possible though it was action stations!

I advertised for players and set up a Facebook page and our first training session attracted around 30 ladies. Since then we have come on in leaps and bounds. We were joined by 2 netball professionals, Andy and Tracy, who have been our mentors and coaches at our weekly training sessions ever since, along with Sara and Katie our Captain and Vice Captain.

We have a dedicated league team, Heyford Swifts, who have now played in 2 local leagues and were recently crowned Division 2 winners in The Northampton Netball League!

We are now listed on the England Netball website and hope to be receiving further advice and support from them for the future development of the club and players.

We are actively recruiting new players, whether it be to join our league team or just train and play for fun at our weekly training sessions. Please see our training advert in this edition of The Prattler for more details. And look out for our next article with team news and player interviews.

Faye





Come join our friendly netball team!

Training starts 22nd January indoors at Champion Sports Hall in Bugbrooke, and back outside at the Nether Heyford netball court from March.

Every Monday 7-8pm. First session free, thereafter £3 per week.

Bring a friend, meet new people, get some exercise and have fun!

Ages 16+

All abilities welcome.

Please call Faye 07827707599 with any queries

See you there!

Village Hall News

Our village pantomime Aladdin performed by the theatre company Laugh Out Loud was a sell out and much enjoyed by everyone especially the children. We have booked them again for 28th December this year. Many thanks to the committee members especially Pat Paterson and Carol Tuckley for all their hard work to make this such a successful event.

After many years of tireless service our treasurer Philip Letts will be retiring at the AGM in April. Philip has done a sterling job keeping our finances on track. We are very lucky to have one of our new committee members, Lynn Adey who has agreed to step into his shoes and ensure a smooth transition to this very important role.

Preparations for the fete on June 8th are already underway, another date for your diaries.

Our village hall continues to be an important asset to our village life. It is an ideal venue for celebrating that special occasion. Our booking secretary Simone Squire will be happy to take any queries.

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

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



In Nether Heyford

What a long time it seems since the last edition of The Prattler. Christmas, including our delicious WI lunch at Greenacres, is just a memory and a new year, complete with suggestions of snow, has started!

The Saturday morning in the Village Hall kitchen making bacon sandwiches for the Crafty Club Christmas Sale was busy, as usual, and everyone both sides of the counter seemed to be having a good time.

The speaker at our first meeting of 2024 helped us to remain in the “party spirit” as she told us about her family’s Northamptonshire vineyard and, at the end of its history, we were all given a taster of the two sparkling white wines which they produce. This was well received and got our year off to a good start!

We continue into 2024 with a return visit from Andrew Tennet, an ex- policeman, who first came to Nether Heyford WI in the February of 2022 to tell us of his Father’s journey through WW2. Two years later he will tell us the fascinating story of Virginia Bradford, an American silent movie actress, who led an amazingly colourful life. He takes us through her early childhood, her rise to fame and her decision to leave the film industry. Once her film career came to an end she moved to England where she had many more adventures, husbands and numerous brushes with the law before her story comes to a somewhat tragic end.

Our Meeting will be in the Village Hall at 7.30 on February 1st, where we will learn more about Virginia. The cost for non-members will be £5 and will include refreshments, tea and a warm welcome - even if it snows!

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

The first demonstration of our Golden Anniversary year will be by Andrew Lloyd. His title is ‘At the Turn of the Year’. 26th February at 7.30pm.

A date for your diary

SOS Charity Fashion Show - Friday 15th March - 7pm for 7.30pm

£7 to include a glass wine at Nether Heyford Village Hall

Tickets available from Simone Squire 01327 342167 - simone@the-squires.co.uk

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

*Bending from Heaven, in azure mirth
it kissed the forehead of the Earth
And smiled upon the silent sea
And bade the frozen streams be free
And waked to music all their fountains
And breathed upon the frozen mountains*

'February' Percy Bysshe Shelley

This winter has seen some sad losses for the Choir. Isabel Billingham was a founder member as was John Maleham (the latter from Towcester) and most recently Neil Haynes who did so much for this village. His wife Alison said that Neil 'enjoyed the Choir but thought the singing may have come second as he liked to chat and enjoyed the social side of Heyford Singers. Many happy memories'... We miss them all.

The December Concert (which seems a long time ago) was a sell out on both nights and we struggled to fit everyone in which was a lovely problem to have. We all felt it went very well; our new members loved it. So thank you each and every one of you who were there and supported our gift of music to you. We raised £620 split between Cynthia Spencer Hospice and Helen & Douglas House Children's Hospice via our raffles. And we raised enough money to buy more music for our May Concert. A week later we had a splendid turnout for Carols on the Green – or rather car park due to soggy weather conditions – at which our bucket collection raised £270 split between the Parish Church and the Choir. At a rough count 150 of you joyfully sang the carols and was a lovely start to the beginning of Christmastide. Our thanks to everyone who made this possible and to Geoff Allen our compere for the night.

We resumed our weekly singing in early January and quickly fell back into our routine. May seems a long way off but the months pass rapidly so rehearsals began in earnest. Our Musical Director, Mary Rice, has chosen a very varied programme and after the initial warm-ups which are always preceded by groans, we started on some old favourites. One of these is 'The Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel' which some of us have sung before. But like so many tunes we know well, we launch into a rendition of it as we perceive it should be and then, on following the music, realise we are way off beam. If that is a musical term. So we have to re-learn it. 'Ave Verum Corpus' is a beautiful piece of music written by Mozart and fitting the latin words into this haunting piece is not easy. I just hope we haven't put off our newcomers. I remember this was one of the first pieces I did when I joined the Choir some eight years ago – and I nearly left. I thought it was an impossible piece to get the hang of. Still do... But together we manage to make a lovely sound. To get a taster, google it and you will get the King's College Cambridge Choir singing this in all its glory.

Aged 100 Glynis Johns passed away in Los Angeles on January 4th. Some of you will remember her in Mary Poppins and she was renowned for the breathy quality of

her husky voice. She sang songs written specifically for her both on screen and stage and she was the first to sing the now famous Sondheim's 'Send in The Clowns' which was written with her in mind. Over 500 versions of this followed, including hits by Frank Sinatra and Judy Collins, Barbara Streisand and Judi Dench; this song is one of the most frequently recorded of all time. Sondheim wrote this song for his play 'A Little Night Music' in 1973. And so the music lives on.

JRA

Flore Arts Events

With much-needed work planned for All Saints Church we are a little limited in what we can offer this Spring, however we are delighted to announce that we have secured a return visit from one of our favourite performers. See below. But first things first...

We have been able to arrange another **Poetry Please** session. It's just after Valentine's Day so we thought we'd run it with a "Romance" theme. What's your favourite romantic poem? Here's an 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, historic, modern, ancient... the choice is yours... but something appropriate for the date would be nice! Meet in the White Hart in Flore on Sunday February 18th, 6.30pm.

Saturday May 18th, Flore Millennium Hall: our next event will feature the fabulous **Ben Holder Trio**. If you came to either of the trio's previous electrifying Flore shows you'll know what to expect: dazzling virtuoso violin playing with an innate sense of swing rhythm, breathtaking technical ability and true showmanship on stage.

More details on this will be available when box office opens for the event in March. As for our later activities here's a reminder of our two firm diary dates for the second half of the year:

Sunday July 14th: Jazz in the Garden: Rock Springs, Sutton St, Flore.
Saturday October 19th: Budapest Café Orchestra: All Saints Church, Flore.

Please keep watching this space for our Spring events - or 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.

Heyford Allotments

Rents

By the time readers of the Prattler receive this month's copy of our excellent village magazine, Heyford Allotments will have held its annual Rent Night. As we have commented on a number of occasions, the rent for an allotment plot in Heyford is remarkably good value. From recent communications and online posts this would not appear to be the case across the whole country. Some councils charge as much as £250 for a 25 square metre plot, plus an additional sum for water! The picture across the UK is really varied so we, in Heyford, should be very grateful for what we have and treasure it dearly.

As if high rents were not enough, the waiting lists for allotments in some areas is staggering. Nottingham City Council apparently has the longest waiting list in the country and as of 2021, 6,845 citizens of that city were still waiting for their little patch of green! Fortunately, we only have two or three people on our list and no one has to wait much longer than a few months. Spare a thought for the would-be allotmenters of Camden in North London who have the dubious record of the longest wait in recent times; 18 years and three months.

Allotment rents in Heyford are based on a charge of 20p per square metre. This meets the cost of the annual hedge cutting, the fuel and maintenance for mowers, strimmers and other machinery and incidentals such as posts and wire for fruit trees as well as the occasional roll of landscape fabric. Without the volunteers who keep the paths and community areas in good order and carry out basic maintenance tasks, these costs would be considerably greater. It is unlikely the Parish Council could (or should) pay for this amount of labour. To even contemplate that would mean drastically increasing rents or simply letting the allotments deteriorate into the state they were five or six years ago.

I hope readers can now see why it is so important we enlist as much help as possible on our two "community mornings", held in March and October. Your support is vital and so welcome – you don't even have to be an allotment holder to give up an hour or two twice a year.

We are hopeful that all tenants will have paid their rent on time, or if they no longer feel able to look after their plot, they let us know. That way we can accommodate new tenants quickly and before the growing season begins.

A big thank you to those good folk who have already contacted us to let us know they are giving up their allotment this year. That is much appreciated and helps us plan for the future.

Good for You (and your pocket)

We've often written about the health benefits of having an allotment and how it acts as a "green gym". It is now an accepted fact that the NHS sees having an allotment as a form of social prescribing.

In 2018 the UK Government produced a 25 Year Environment Plan, which acknowledges that connecting people to their environment will improve their health and well-being. A study in the Netherlands showed that every 10 per cent increase in exposure to green space translated into an improvement in health, equivalent to being five years younger, with similar benefits found by studies in Canada and Japan.

The National Allotment Society estimates that if, over the course of one year, you spent £247 cultivating a 25m x 10m plot you could produce around £2,000 of food. Like many of our fellow allotmenters we don't spend anything like that sort of money, yet I can guarantee that we get that sort of return ... from a much smaller plot.

And I haven't even begun to discuss the health benefits of knowing what you've grown has not been subjected to all sorts of chemical sprays. That's a topic for another time.

If nothing else, allotmenters are remarkably good at making good use of materials that might otherwise be thrown away and of propagating and sharing plants and seedlings. These are the things that bring down costs dramatically and often give allotments their unique appearance.

Vacancies

If you are keen to start allotmenting, contact Lynda Eales on 01327 341707 or by email at lyndaeales@aol.com

As soon as plots become available Lynda will be in touch.

Don't hesitate to contact either Lynda or me on any other 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

Mike Langrish

Flood Watch

Rain, rain and more rain was the daily pattern for December with the months total rainfall at 250% of normal whilst the years total was 137% of normal. The month ended with gale force winds from storm Gerrit and the highest recorded river levels since 2020 causing local flooding. No sooner had the flood waters receded when storm Henk struck resulting in more severe flooding both locally and across the Country. Over 2000 homes were flooded with Billing Aquadrome again being a victim on the low land to the east of Northampton. This ended the longest flood free period recorded locally, namely 3 years. In spite of road closure and flood signs motorists continued to ignore the risk of driving through flood waters.

The impact of flooding on such a scale caused the Government to question the performance of the Environment Agency. The Agency CEO Phillip Duffy insisted the Agency funding was at an all time high which belies the announced cuts in funding by 40% and cuts to new flood defences with reduction of personnel. This results in a reduction in the number of homes the Agency planned to protect from 336,000 to 200,000 by 2027. With climate change more than 6 million homes are at risk of flooding. At the same time building on the floodplain continues which MPs described as unforgivable..

Robust flood resilience must be a priority whilst smaller projects at rural levels should be given the same rights to protection as others. The number of properties at risk of flooding because of deteriorating defences eclipsed those benefiting from new defences. This is enigmatic of the Agency and Government failure to strike the right balance between maintenance and construction.

Although the weather has been drier following the recent series of storms the forecast remains unsettled with continuing freezing conditions and the potential risk from storm Isha caused by increasing speed of the jet stream resulting from extreme Arctic conditions in the USA.

The weather is now so unpredictable that the current freezing conditions may change to rising temperatures into the mid teens. In passing December recorded the highest temperature in 20 years of 15.5 degrees.

The later sunset times are already apparent increasing one hour by the end of January and a further one hour by the end of February to 17.42 hours.

Finally the Environment Agency has been accused of signing off pollution records from the Water Companies without investigating the circumstances in 90% of spillage cases. Clearly funding and manpower issues are having a noticeable impact. Let us hope that the recent flooding events are not forgotten as has historically been the case and that the Government takes action.

J. Arnold.

View from the Wildlife Patch

On this first month of 2024 I find myself looking forward to the New Year with some trepidation. If Global Climate Change is affecting the lives of us human beings in the way of severe flooding, intense heat, severe gales, rising tides and more. The effect on our wildlife is much greater. Our plants and animals have spent thousands of years evolving and adapting to thrive with a relatively stable weather pattern, these changes must be putting enormous stress. Just to survive and maintain many species can only be getting more difficult year on year.

Where I live, at the top of Rolfe Crescent, some of our hedgehogs have not gone into hibernation this year. We are still feeding calyx worms and at least one hedgehog is feeding on them every night. Even when the temperature fell to -4 -6C we saw a hedgehog feeding there, I'll put out a "Trail Cam" to see just how many hedgehogs are still active. Hedgehogs feed mainly on Insects and molluscs. Both of these groups have been in steep decline in recent years. It could be there were not enough of these for hedgehogs to put on the amount of fat needed to keep them going over the winter. The Hedgehog species is now in steep decline. Many environmentalists predict that if this decline continues we will be looking at a near UK Hedgehog extinction, not too many years from now.

Most Heyford residents will have seen the majestic Red Kites that have appeared over our gardens in recent years. There is a common belief these birds are mainly scavengers. Whilst is true they will take food from BBQs etc, in the main Red Kites are predators who will take large birds. The RSPB bird book says they will take birds up to the size of gulls. I have watched a kite hunting Carrion Crows by Mantles Heath Wood. A study in Wales found 25% of their diet consisted of Magpies and less than 2% came from food scavenged from humans. You may remember a TV "Spring Watch" programme which watched a pair of Kites bringing young jackdaws to feed their nestlings

You may also have noticed that there seem to be less Kites and Buzzards in our skies than there were 2 years ago. I have read that in some coastal regions, predatory and scavenging birds have been found to be vulnerable to Bird Flu as their feeding habits depend on them taking out the weaker birds. In this case it would be the aquatic life that prefers shallow water. Experience has shown that our shallow water prey are affected by Bird flu making predators and scavengers more at risk than other species. Could this be a factor in our area?

On the patch, our pond is still full of water proving that repairs to the membrane are a success. The pond is designed to have large shallow area as a lot of aquatic life lives in shallow water. However shallow water heats rapidly in sunny weather leading to rapid excessive evaporation. The volumes of water needed in constantly refilling needed to maintain the level is not acceptable in modern society. The HWA is now considering options to remedy this situation.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

Heyford Bowls Club would like to wish a Happy New Year to all our members, friends and supporters hoping that 2024 brings good health and happy memories.

We ended the year with our usual Christmas party which was combined with a members 80th birthday celebration. Our members were joined by several family members and the evening was full of fun, games, cake and the usual sing song at the end with all family members getting truly involved in all aspects. It was a brilliant night and ended 2023 with a bang.

December was a busy month of social events and we are now gearing up for many more this year. Our social events throughout the year, organised by Shirley and Mick Collins supported by their merry team of helpers is vital to help raise funds to pay for the annual maintenance costs and other expenses, but also to try and keep our membership fees as low as possible. We would like to thank all of you who support these events and your generosity is much appreciated.

The 2024 outdoor season starts early May and we have already secured the fixtures schedule for our friendly matches against other local clubs. Many of our members have already submitted their entries into the County competitions and we wish them all the best of luck in their forthcoming matches. The club will also enter a team into the two National competitions we normally enter together with the Manfield Cup run by the County which takes place in July.

2024 also sees the club out on a Bowls Tour in early June. This time we are going to Eastbourne on the south coast with matches organised to be played in Eastbourne, Hastings and Peacehaven. The club has also taken the opportunity to change their strip for the new season. Initially with a newly designed shirt and hopefully a change of trousers/shorts. We will certainly look the business when our team of 24/32 players arrive at the three clubs on tour.

The competition schedule for the Short Mat held in the Village Hall has been planned with their first competition, the Presidents Cup, taking place on Saturday 3rd February. Short Mat sessions are held throughout the year on Wednesday afternoon and evenings in the Village Hall so why not come along and give it a go.

Lorraine Streeter
Club Captain

Northampton Gilbert and Sullivan Group

are celebrating their 70th anniversary in 2024. To mark this special occasion they will be performing *The Mikado*, probably the most popular and well-known work of Gilbert and Sullivan, and which was also their first production in 1955.

This will be a non-traditional production – not set in Japan, but in a Japanese-themed cafe, which were very popular in Edwardian Britain. The beautiful music of Sir Arthur Sullivan and the clever lyrics of W.S. Gilbert will, however, not be changed.

The Group will be on stage at The Old Savoy theatre in Abington Square, Northampton from 30th April to 4th May, and you may recognise two members of Heyford Singers in the cast.

Tickets are from £16.50 (although some reduced-price tickets are available for Concessions) and can be booked on the website:

www.theoldsavoy.co.uk

Please come and support local talent in what is a very special year for Northampton Gilbert and Sullivan Group.



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Badgers classic and Sports car group

We have formed a new group in Bugbrooke for people interested in classic cars and motor bikes. Things have developed well and new members to the group have been added from surrounding areas as well as Bugbrooke. We would like to open this up to Nether Heyford and would welcome any members from the village wishing to join in. Just to emphasise we would welcome people to our group who have an interest not only with classic cars on four wheels but also classic motor bikes on two wheels. Indeed we have members on two wheels who have already joined the group. You do not even have to own a classic car or motor cycle to take part you just have an interest in them. We would be pleased to see you at any of our meeting's or events taking place during this year.

One of our first official event shows will be at Leamington Spa on 16th June This is open as a free of charge event for the public and held in the main public park, Jephson gardens in Leamington. There is a charge for exhibiting cars of around ten pounds to be confirmed which includes passengers. This is a great day out for the public with live musical entertainment on all day from 10pm until 3pm .

Last year there were two hundred and eighty cars classic cars on show. I have managed to secure spaces for around six to ten of our cars at the event and should have more information in January. The organizers are looking forward to hosting our group for the first time. As this is a free of charge event for the public it would be good to see people from our area turning up to support the event. The show is organised by the Rotary club which raised over five thousand pounds for charity last year. Fingers crossed we get good weather on the day this year, I have attended twice before and been lucky.

Dates for your diary

Stoneleigh Park MG and Triumph spares day Sunday 11th February

Stony Stratford Classic car meet street parking Sunday 2nd June individual cars cost £5

Turvey House Bedfordshire Sunday 9th June Classic and Retro show 10am - 4pm cars set up 8am -9.30am

Leamington Cars at the Spa Sunday 16th June 10am - 4pm all cars set up by 9.30am Badgers group event cost to be confirmed

Kimbolton Country fair and classic car show Sunday 14th July more details to follow

We are looking forward to a really good first year as part of the Bugbrooke and surrounding area's community. If you would like further details about us please email tonyin@mail.com also visit our facebook page Badger automotive classics .

Regards

Tony Inwood

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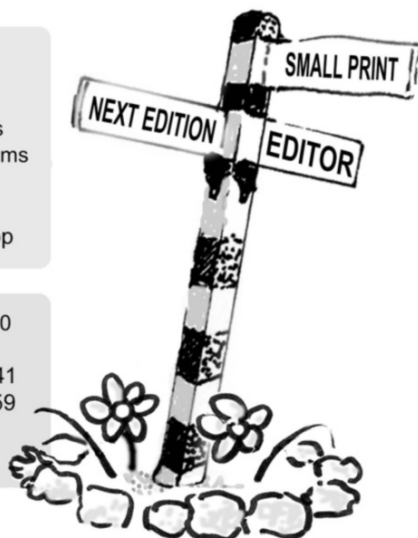
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