



# **THE PRATTLER**

**The Heyford Village Newspaper**

**March 2024**

**Issue 467**



**Mick Parker**

## Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings  
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**Website:** [www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com](http://www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com)

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

### **Planning Issues**

TW reported that WNC was getting close to dealing with its backlog of planning decisions. WNC had previously accepted that things were not going well. New permanent staff had been taken on and were nearing the end of their training/induction period.

Gravel extraction. WNC.22. 00035.MINFUL. No further information.

Concerns about landfill at the top of Furnace Lane continue to be expressed to Planning.

### **Community Lounge (CL)**

The initiation of a programme of events in the afternoons had caused the attendance to increase. It had been planned to continue with the CL until March/April - depending on the weather, and then close until October. However, there is now debate as to whether the project could be kept going through Spring/Summer if it just opened on Wednesday afternoons during that period. This could be practical if sufficient volunteers could be found. There is a national movement towards Welcoming Spaces which is endorsed by WNC, and some funding possibly available. Such projects are felt to help with isolation, especially in rural and semi – rural areas.

### **West Northants Councillor Report**

Cllr Adam Brown reported that the draft budget would go to cabinet next week with 95 pages of public consultation. Higher fines for fly tipping would be introduced, as would measures against the sale of vapes to minors. There would be a new special needs school at Tiffield and a new night shelter in Northampton. WNC are adjusting their estate to save money, which includes moving Northampton Town council from the Guildhall to Angel Square.

### **Public Participation**

It was asked whether the SID (Speed indicating device) could be used on Weedon or Bugbrooke Rd. A license was necessary to move the SID and had been applied for.

## **Reports**

### **Green**

A map showing the new trees had been produced. Clerk to print and laminate. AW would ask for ideas on further planting. Work had been done on the wildlife area at the allotments, and DM felt that wildlife “patches” could be introduced to parts of the Green and in the Churchyard. DM reported that one of the Holly trees planted on Hillside Rd had been “barked.”

Concern was expressed about the state of tall trees at the pumping station on Furnace Lane, which is the responsibility of Anglian Water. One had already fallen during a recent storm.

### **Wellbeing**

KWD had distributed a definition of wellbeing; and had applied to Bugbrooke surgery to join the Patient Participation Group. She had received and distributed figures and data regarding wellbeing from WNC. It seems that the population is generally healthier, but older than the national average. KWD would seek to gather information anecdotally to add to a picture of the village.

Regarding the Community Lounge it was felt that having a programme of events was positive, and that the project had potential for helping with isolation. It was also felt that other events could be held there, and that signs were needed.

### **Infrastructure**

IP was reassured that the downloaded SID data was of interest. The highest speeds recorded were 60mph coming in, and 64mph going out.

The canal trust had no money to spend on the towpath; and IP wondered if Council were prepared to pay for improvements to it. It was not felt that this was desirable.

DNH to be instructed to install a dog waste bin at the previous site. Resolved. To replace the Furnace Lane dog bin with a larger model.

TW asked about match funding for a chicane in Furnace Lane. Clerk to follow up. Cllr AB would also follow up.

### **Heritage**

Meeting on Feb 28th.

### **Community**

LD waiting for the weather to improve to start working towards a new Play Area. Northampton sports had been contacted.

More than half the allotments rents had been collected following the rent night.

### **Tree Strategy Workshops**

DM would attend if able.

## **Lighting**

Light in Furnace Lane damaged. Resolved Light no 46 Rolfe Crescent. Lights at Junction of Hillside/Furnace Lane, and the 2 fibreglass columns on Hillside Crescent to be replaced with LEDs

## **Website**

Our website to be shut down; to decide on a replacement.

It had been learned that 2Commune sites would be taken over by Cuttlefish and no action was necessary until the renewal date. LH had been in touch with Hugo Fox – and would look into their offers, so that a decision could be made by the renewal date.

Parish Council meetings in 2024 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 March 6th & April 8th.

**Reporting Highway and Footpath Issues.** The Clerk will report issues that Council is made aware of, but Council would encourage residents to use the Fixmystreet service to report issues themselves as there will then be no time lag; and first-hand reports are almost always better than 2nd or 3rd hand reports. The service can be found here:

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

It is easy to use; you can have your own account and can check up on any issues you have reported.

Streetlights within the village can be reported to the Clerk, who will report them to the maintenance company. Please do not report to Balfour Beatty as they deal only with major Highway lights – i.e., motorway, A5 and A45.

Roadworks locally & nationally can be seen on this site:

<http://streetworks.org.uk/live-traffic-works-map/>

*Clerk to the Parish Council: Guy Ravine Tel: 07935 931787*

*E-mail: [netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com)*

Next Meeting Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Baptist Church rooms

<b>Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.</b>	
Nick Chatt. 69 Furnace Lane. Nether Heyford. NN7 3JX e-mail n.chatt@live.co.uk	Councillor
Charles Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 07779 900860	Chair, Planning. Arnold Trust Rep.
Mrs L. Dilkes. 17 Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3JF e-mail thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967 753216	Vice Chair, Finance, Youth Club
Mrs L. Eales – 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 01327 341707 e-mail lyndaeales@aol.com	Allotments, Youth Club
Linda Hall, 8 Western Ave, Nether Heyford linda.hall.netherheyford@outlook.com	Website, Finance
D. Musson. 16 Rolfe Crescent, Nether Heyford NN7 3NG Tel: 01327 344461 davemusson073@gmail.com	Footpaths. Tree Warden
Cllr Ian Parris, 1 Winston Close, NN7 3JX 07909 514916 ianparris@ianparris.com	Councillor
Colin Thomas, 17 The Green, Tel: 07776 180187 C.thomas327@btinternet.com	Councillor
A. Wallace. 5, Western Avenue, Nether Heyford. NN7 3NQ. andrew.wallace8765@gmail.com	Council rep to Village Hall. Playing Field Rep.
A. Williams 26 Church St, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LH anthony.k.williams@talk21.com	Chair of Planning, Finance, Council rep to School Trustees
K Woodbridge-Dodd, 15 Bliss Close, Nether Heyford, NN7 3ND khedgehog@msn.com	Finance, Burial Board
Cllr Adam Brown - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD Tel: 07714 255077 Adam.Brown@westnorthants.gov.uk	Deputy Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture & Leisure
Cllr Karen Cooper - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD Karen.cooper@westnorthants.gov.uk Tel: 07753 638180	Conservative Councillor for Bugbrooke Ward – Lead Member for Nether Heyford, Blisworth & Gayton



## Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

### Services for March 2024

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Chapel
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Brockhall Church
	10:00 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Mothering Sunday Coffee Church at Flore Chapel
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford (followed by APCM)
	10:00 am	Partnership Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2:00 pm	Messy Church Easter at Flore Church
		<b>Holy Week</b>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	United Palm Sunday Service at Flore Church
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Holy Communion & Meditation for Holy Week Upper Stowe
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Compline at Brockhall Church
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	Compline at Church Stowe
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:30 pm	United Maundy Thursday Service at Heyford Church
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm	Hour at the Cross at Flore Church
	4:00 pm	United Good Friday Service at Heyford Baptist Church
	7:00 pm	United Good Friday Service at Flore Chapel
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
Easter Day	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	11:15 am	Holy Communion at Brockhall Church

Dear Friends,

*“...a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’ At once the Spirit sent Jesus out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.”*  
(Mark 1:11-13)

‘Hello. Who are you?’ I wonder how you answer such a question. What about related questions; ‘Where do you come from?’, ‘What do you do?’. Your answer may depend on who’s asking, and in what context. But our answers to such questions don’t define us; we are much more than what we do, or where we come from.

So, who are you? What makes you the wonderful and unique person that you are? And do you realise how special you are?

In the first chapter of St Mark’s Gospel, we find Jesus wrestling with his identity. Baptised by John in the River Jordan, Jesus hears God’s words of love and affirmation as he rises up out of the water; ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’ Mark tells us that the Holy Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. There he spent forty days and forty nights, exploring what it might mean to be the Son of God. Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark makes no mention of the three temptations Jesus faced at the end of those forty days. Instead, he simply tells us that Jesus was tempted during his time in the wilderness, where angels also attended him, which is another way of saying that God was with him.

I believe that God loves every one of us the way he loves Jesus. We are all much-loved and valued daughters and sons of God. Whoever we are. Wherever we come from. Whatever we’ve done. Whatever challenges we might face in life, whatever wildernesses we might travel through, God loves us, and God is with us.

I pray that as we make our way through Lent this month, we will all find time and space to explore what it means to be a much-loved child of God.

With every blessing

*Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)*

**Midweek Services:**

Wednesday 9:30am Morning Prayer via ‘Why Pay’ conference call.

Please contact the Rector for the numbers to use. (Not 27<sup>th</sup>)

Thursday 10:00am Holy Communion at Flore Church (**not 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>**)

Friday 9:00am Morning Prayer via Zoom.

Contact the Rector by email: [s\\_p\\_burrow@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk) to get an invitation that will enable you to connect.





## Nether Heyford Baptist Church

### Services for March

March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Tony Brown
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Les Britten
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Nathan Toseland from the Central Baptist Association (coffee after the service)
March 24 <sup>th</sup>		Palm Sunday service led by John Perkins
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Good Friday service led by Rev'd Stephen Burrow
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	Easter day service with Communion led by Martin Buckby

### Events

March 9 <sup>th</sup>	10 am to 12 pm	Coffee morning with usual stalls in aid of Blood Bikes. ( meet biker to tell you what they do)
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Prayer and bible study

**All welcome**

**COFFEE MORNING**  
**on**  
**Saturday**  
**9<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**10am - 12noon**

**Nether Heyford Baptist Church**

**£1.50 includes drink and biscuits**

**Bring & Buy**

**Books**

**Bric a Brac**

**Cakes ect**

**A WARM  
WELCOME  
AWAITS  
YOU**

**Thank you for  
your support**



**Proceeds to**  
**Blood Bikes the charity that**  
**transports**  
**blood to where it's needed**  
**by volunteers**



## **Nether Heyford Branch, Royal British Legion**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February marks a significant day for the Nether Heyford Branch, Royal British Legion and the Nether Heyford Women's Section, Royal British Legion. As, during the Holy Communion Service at The Parish Church of St. Peter & St. Paul, Rev. Stephen laid up the Women's Section standard and dedicated the Nether Heyford Branch standard.

What does this actually mean??

To continue to have a Royal British Legion presence in Nether Heyford, due to lowering membership numbers, the Women's section had to become a 'main branch'. With the formation of the main branch, a new standard (the flag that is carried during official parades and ceremonies) had to be purchased and as reported last month in The Prattler, this would not have been possible without the very generous donations and fundraising events within the village. To enable the new standard to be paraded by the Branch Standard Bearer, Charles Kiloh, it must be officially dedicated.

As the Women's Section has now become a main branch, the Women's Section standard had to be retired (laid up). The Standard was handed over to Rev. Stephen by Kath Pancoust to be laid up and remain in the church.



*Left: Charles Kiloh, Nether Heyford  
Branch standard bearer*

*Right: Phil Blanchard, County Vice  
Chairman*

As always, we 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, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm and anyone is more than welcome to come along and meet us before committing to a membership. Should you wish to contact us please email: [Netherheyford.Chairman@rbl.community](mailto:Netherheyford.Chairman@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"*

**Jon Hornagold, Chair, Nether Heyford**

## **Heyford Garden Club**

Heyford Garden Club will be holding their Annual General Meeting at 7.30.pm 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.

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 stalwarts of these 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”.

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.

## **Food Bank**

Don't go hungry – if you are in need of help, please contact Towcester Food Bank 07724 832043 (24 hours). [www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk) Leave a message and they will phone you back. They can issue vouchers for food as well as a delivery or collection service.

Alternatively if you wish to help, please leave donations for the food 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.

## **Post Office Opening Times**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9-5

Wednesday 1-5

Saturday 9-1

Sunday / Bank Holidays - closed

**HEYFORD PICTUREDROME**

**NEXT FILM**

**WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING**

**A 2022 Mystery/Thriller based on the international best-seller**

**Starring Daisy Edgar-Jones**

**NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2024**

**7.15 for 7.45pm**

**ADMISSION: £6.00**

**This is the story of Kya, an abandoned child, who nurtured herself to maturity in North Carolina's treacherous marshland.**

**Rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' have plagued Barkley Cove for years...**

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

**TEA, COFFEE, BAR**

## Astronomy on the Green

Star gazing is a hobby enjoyed by many; one does not have to be an astronomer to enjoy a dark sky full of twinkling stars. Unfortunately, in our crowded Isle this is possible for fewer and fewer people. The CPRE has been running star counts over recent years and the results for 2023 are now in. Only 5% of us enjoy truly dark skies, and 75% of us suffer from obscured views of the night sky.

I have taken part in the star counts (based on the number of stars visible in the main body of the constellation Orion) during February. This year the CPRE have ceased the star count to free up resources for an education campaign. My count of stars has taken part in the centre of the Green; the last few years were 2021, 23; 2022, 21, 2023, 19.

Emma Marrington, CPRE's landscape enhancement lead, said: 'It's great that so many people took part in Star Count this year (2023). What is clear is that light pollution continues to affect people's experience of the night sky. Action is needed now!

Local councils need a strong approach to manage light pollution. They should ensure local planning and street lighting policies protect dark skies and intrinsically dark landscapes in their areas. We're also calling for the introduction of minimum standards nationally, to manage external lighting and help cut light pollution.'

'This would be a hugely important step towards strengthened planning to ensure we get well-designed lighting that is only used when and where it is needed. This would protect our existing dark skies for the benefit of current and future generations.'

It is a little inconvenient that the new lighting by the Baptist Chapel and the Village Hall, while illuminating the roadway and paths well also illuminates halfway across the main part of the Green. Effectively, this prevents any meaningful star watching except between midnight and five am.

I have raised the issue of shielding the lamps (with the Parish Council) to prevent the light pollution, but apparently nothing can be done, such is life.

Clear, dark skies all!

*Tony Boutle*

# Village Hall News

## AN EARLY REMINDER FOR YOUR DIARY

The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall will be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall at 7.00pm. The meeting is open to all residents of Upper and Nether Heyford. Everyone is welcome to come along to hear what is happening to your hall and the plans we have for the future.

It is also the occasion when officers of the management committee are elected for the coming year.

The management committee consists of 4 elected officers, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, up to 12 representatives of members of organisations including Nether Heyford Parish Council and Upper Heyford Parish Meeting and 2 co-opted parishioners.

Please put the date in your diary we would love to see you there.

*Joan Kirkbride - Village Hall Chairman*  
Tel 01327 340370 Email [jknhvhlchairman@gmail.com](mailto:jknhvhlchairman@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 with use of numerous outdoor facilities

'Rising 5' sessions for those starting school in September

Tax Free Childcare payments accepted



### Before & After School Club

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

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

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

Transition sessions available for Bliss School reception class.

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

[info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk)  
[www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk](http://www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk)



## In Nether Heyford

When we look back at the days of silent movies we have a vision of glamorous film stars, wealth and being 'happy ever after'. However, at our February meeting we heard how that isn't always the case.

Andrew Tennet told us of the life of American, Virginia Bradford, of her childhood, how she became a glamorous silent movie actress and, on leaving the silver screen, moved to England. Once here, she had numerous brushes with the law, several husbands and ended her stay here living in a caravan just outside Tiffield near Towcester! She returned to America and eventually died in Indiana at the grand old age of 94. Who would have believed that a film star who had a brief relationship with Charlie Chaplin would have lived in a caravan in local Northamptonshire?!

Our March meeting will be completely different! Nether Heyford W.I. will be holding our A.G.M. on Thursday March 7th at 7.30pm at the Village Hall and we would be pleased to see as many members as possible to discuss the W.I. Resolutions for the next year. It will be a fairly short business meeting which will be followed by entertainment performed for us by '3 In Accord'.

'3 In Accord' are a group consisting of a pianist and two vocalists who will keep our toes tapping with music from 'Elvis to Beatles', 'Adele to Abba' and from the 1930's to 2000 and beyond. What more could we want?

Non-members are very welcome and the charge for the evening will be £5 with refreshments and warm welcome included! It would be good to see you.

*Mary Rice Heyford Lodge*  
*01327 340101*

## Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

**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](mailto:simone@the-squires.co.uk)



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

*'My triumph is attained  
From now I can speak from the heart'*

*Beethoven's response to the audience approval  
after his Ninth Symphony which incorporates  
the now famous 'Ode to Joy'*

Two hundred years ago The Ninth Symphony was performed with a huge breach of tradition – it was on a Friday in 1824 when the ruling classes went to their country houses for the weekend and it was thought no-one would attend. But Beethoven cut the ticket prices and broke dress code, wearing a green jacket because he did not own a black frock coat and thus opened the doors to the ordinary section of the community; the real people, not just the elite. 'The audience was entranced – some aristocrats stayed in town; one old count was stretchered in from his deathbed and seatless students clung to the side rails. The tension cranked up over 50 minutes. Six minutes into the finale a bass singer declared "Friends, not these notes – let's try something nicer, more cheerful" The orchestra gave him one bar to catch his breath before the bass bellowed out "freude!" or "joy". The chorus rose, invoking revolution with the words "all people will be brothers." And now Beethoven had given crowd power to Friedrich Schiller's Ode to Joy of 1785. Schiller's poem had been wishful, utopian; Beethoven made it seem practical, inevitable.' (*Taken from The Sunday Times Culture section on An Ode to Joy*).

And so choirs in (most) countries all over the world now have the freedom to express themselves in song. Which is what The Heyford Singers do every week on a Thursday or Friday. Apparently Tom Jones at 82 can still hit a top 'A' having a perfect operatic Tenor voice. Well some of our sopranos can do just that when exercising their voices, but fortunately most of our music requires only a top 'G'. (The first note above the staff). One such song is 'I Hear Music in Me' by David Sprunger which is a beautiful melody with its second line of lyrics 'And I cannot be silent'. And to add to the variety we are rehearsing 'And All That Jazz' from the musical Chicago. We were all a little confused by the Soprano line 'I'm gonna rouge my knees and roll my stockings down' but it turns out in the twenties, flapper girls would apply blush to their knee caps to draw attention to this part of the body (which was frowned upon to reveal at the time!) Then they rolled their stockings down to draw focus to the exposed leg above. Times change don't they?...

We were congratulating ourselves on the numbers attending Choir rehearsals – when our wonderful pianist, Graham Kinnersly fell and broke his arm. We are fortunate in having an excellent stand-in pianist (a Chorister and a Church Organist) who is adapting well to our strange ways. And as Alan is on his second week with us, we can't be that bad to accompany.... We all miss Graham and wish him a very speedy recovery.

The John Rutter books are one of our favourites, as they are easy to sight read. Not so easy to put in the feeling that the Rutter lyrics demand. 'Look At the world' is

a beautiful anthem and was written in celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England set up in 1926. 'Look at the world and marvel every day; so many joys and wonders, so many miracles along our way'. One of the many songs we will be singing at our Concert in May and by then we will have mastered the 'light and shade' required in this lovely piece. And in contrast there is 'The Best of Bond' consisting of a number of the opening songs you will be familiar with. The timing in these is very difficult and we don't have Shirley Bassey (Goldfinger), Nancy Sinatra (You only Live Twice) nor Paul McCartney and Wings (Live and Let Die). But what we do have is the ability to sing in four part harmony and plenty of enthusiasm. Getting out on a wet, winter evening is not the easiest thing to do but when we sit in the Village Hall, open our music books and start to sing, a transformation happens because for those two hours you think of nothing except following the music and trying to make a decent sound.

*JRA*

## **Flore Arts Events**

The box office is now open for our next event:

**Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup>, Flore Millennium Hall: The Ben Holder Trio.** If you came to one 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.

The Ben Holder Trio is a stellar line-up of incredible musicians, blending an energetic mix of traditional jazz and gypsy swing with Ben's own infectious original tunes. Harking back to the fun and swing of the 1920's and 1930's, Ben's virtuoso playing is supported by phenomenal musicians on guitar and double bass. Time to "get your feet tapping and your jaw dropping at the speed of his fingers. Top quality musicianship and utter entertainment." Jazz violin as you've never seen it before!

Tickets: £15 (Under 18s £5). Call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm).

As for our later activities here's a reminder of our two firm diary dates for the second half of the year:

Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>: Jazz in the Garden: Rock Springs, Sutton St, Flore.

Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>: Budapest Café Orchestra: All Saints Church, Flore.

Please keep watching this space for details - or keep up to date with our plans on our website at [www.floreartsevents.com](http://www.floreartsevents.com) and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page.

We hope to see you soon.

# Heyford Allotments

## Wassail

Despite the driving rain and less than perfect conditions underfoot, the long awaited Heyford Wassail took place in the Community Orchard on the evening of Saturday 17th February. It was almost a month later than the traditional Wassail Day, but then we have had some challenging weather to cope with since the turn of the year.

About a hundred hardy souls turned out to watch the Rose and Castle Morris Men dance and lead the ancient custom of blessing the apple trees to ensure a good harvest in the coming season, as well as banish all the evil spirits that might threaten our crop. Thanks to the generosity of Mike and Faye at the Foresters Arms, cider was plentiful and there was even enough to pour over the roots of a chosen tree!

“Old apple tree we wassail thee

And hoping thou wilt bear.

For the Lord doth know where we must be till apples another year.

For to bloom well and to bear well,

So merry let us be,

Let everyone take up a cup, and drink to the old apple tree.”

The large crowd (and some very soggy Morris Dancers) then decamped to the pub to dry out, have a warming drink and enjoy the BBQ that had been laid on especially for the event.

If you'd tried to describe the evening to a friend or visitor to our village, they would be dumbfounded. It was just ... wonderfully bonkers; a great example of what a community that comes together, can achieve. If you have access to the Village Facebook page, do take a look at the wonderful photographs and video clips posted by Darren Willers.

Huge thanks goes to the Foresters Arms, The Rose and Castle Morris Men and the Nether Heyford Allotment Committee. Without their combined effort and enthusiasm, Heyford's Wassail would not have happened. We now look forward to next year's event.

Money raised from the BBQ and raffle will be donated to The Bliss Charity School and Heyford Allotments.

Meanwhile ...

Work on the allotments is gathering pace, with more and more allotmenters regularly appearing and beginning work on their plots. It is so good to see people preparing for the growing season, even if the ground is more than a little damp.

A special welcome to all new plot holders. It is good to have to with us and know that you are keen to help make our allotments a vibrant and productive space in the village.

If you ever have any queries, concerns or ideas about the site, or wish to borrow equipment, don't hesitate to contact us on one the numbers below.

### **Holes in the Ground!**

Several weeks ago, several holes appeared in the orchard and alongside the community shed. Our first reaction was that an animal had found something buried and was keen to explore further. Then we found a spade nearby and signs that turf had been carefully removed. It's all a bit UFO isn't it? Or maybe a rogue detectorist?

If anyone in the village knows anything about this, do let us know. Better still, if you know who the perpetrator is, please ask them to stop. If they like digging, they could even add their name to our allotment waiting list. I am sure a plot will become available soon.

### **Vacancies**

If you are keen to start allotmenting, contact Lynda Eales on 01327 341707 or by email at [lyndaeales@aol.com](mailto:lyndaeales@aol.com)

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](mailto:lyndaeales@aol.com)

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

*Mike Langrish*

## Flood Watch

Its official! 1.5 degrees centigrade has been exceeded as climate change continues to create irregular weather patterns. The jet stream continues to bring storm conditions whilst warm air is drawn up from Europe. As a result we have reached letter J (Joselyn), number 10 in the storm names for 2023-2024 with the next storm Kathleen equalling the all time record for one season. Unfortunately warm air in winter means rain bearing clouds resulting in three local flooding events already in 2024. This follows three years without any flooding events. February temperatures of 17 degrees centigrade has created a new record for a winter month. The forecast for the remainder of February is a return to normal temperatures in single figures with reducing rainfall.

February has been exceptionally wet with over 90 mm recorded in 3 weeks, 200% of normal. This compares with 9mm in 2023 which was an exceptionally dry month. As we approach March, daylight hours continue to lengthen by 3 to 4 minutes per day. The 20<sup>th</sup> of March will mark the end of winter and with the clock going forward by 1 hour on 31<sup>st</sup> March, sunset will be at 19.37 and daylight hours will increase to 13 hours.

During the recent flooding events I inspected the status of Heyford Brooke where it enters the E-W culvert only to find large logs up to 12" in diameter, plastic bottles and a plastic bucket. Unfortunately the force of the water allowed material to enter the culvert. Torrents of water laden with such material will enhance damage to a culvert already suffering from lack of maintenance and will eventually block the outflow into Horestone Brooke.

It is vital to ensure such debris is not allowed to enter the Brooke by ensuring the banks upstream of the culvert are kept free of any form of debris at least up to flood levels. Remember the E-W culvert forms the only protection to the Village centre which has suffered in the past.

*J.Arnold.*

### 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

## View from the Wildlife Patch

2024 is proving to be a remarkable year. I write this in the middle of February that is forecast to be the warmest since records began. Blackthorn is in flower, Bees and Butterflies are on the wing and we have had frogs “croaking” in Pauline's garden ponds for several nights.

There are now several species of frog in the UK. However, all wild frogs in Heyford are likely to be British Common Frogs (*Rana temporaria*). Males of this species are always the first to arrive. They announce their arrival with short “croaks”. This croaking advertises their presence to other frogs Male and Female alike. After croaking thus for a few days, they then shift to a sort of synchronised croaking - almost a loud purr. This “purring” stops and starts, rises and falls, throughout the night hours and is occasionally heard during daylight hours throughout the whole spawning period. Our garden Frogs started “purring” last night and will continue for a two or three weeks.

I know that many readers have their own garden ponds and will be enjoying their own frogs. If this is you, your own frogs purring and spawning could well be over by the time you read this. The resulting tadpoles will provide food for Newts, Dragonfly and Damselfly Nymphs, as well as Water Beetle adults and larvae. And more. These Tadpoles develop to become froglets which leave the water in their hundreds to provide food for birds, hedgehogs and many insects. Scientists who measure these things have discovered less than 5% of these will go on to reach their second year.

I was watching for frogs in the wildlife patch pond recently. Sadly there does not seem to be any frog activity there yet. However this may have changed by the time you read this.

Regular readers will remember this pond liner mysteriously developed a horizontal cut. This is now repaired and the pond is holding water as planned. We have great hopes of amphibians breeding in the pond again now the pond is serviceable.

Readers with cats may have discovered that Frogs do have an “alarm call”. When we had cats they would often bring frogs into our kitchen. Often such frogs were in what can only be described as a “flat, disc shaped, rigid paralysis”. When these “discs” were touched, they would utter a sort of “screech” and suddenly “jerk”. Those who have seen this will agree. This is VERY startling and unfroglie.

On to the rest of the Wildlife Patch. The Wildflower Meadow areas have now been mown to 3 inches. This will let the light in to allow the broad leaved plants to grow. This would usually be a job for March but we seem to be 3 weeks earlier this year so it has been mown accordingly. Hopefully the flowers will look even better than they did in Summer 2023.

We expect to be scattering a few pieces of slate etc. around the patch when I can obtain some. These will provide shelter for various invertebrates (Woodlice, Centipedes, Molluscs etc.) providing a mature, wildlife rich habitat. We already have woodpiles, Nettle-beds etc. but the advantage of these "flat habitats" is they can easily be lifted to view the life underneath without unduly damaging the habitat. Like us these creatures like to live in peace without inquisitive folk smashing up their houses.

*Dave Musson*



## **Heyford Bowls Club**

March hopefully sees the start of Spring and the new growth around the green. Lots of beautiful daffodils around the car park and our lovely lavender hedges are starting to show their new shoots. We have had the yew hedge around the bowls club cut ready for the new season and the maintenance work is underway to ensure the green and surroundings are looking their best. A big "thank you" goes out to our team of volunteers who work every Wednesday to ensure all the jobs are completed.

March also sees our enrolment evening where new and existing members can sign up for the new season, check out the fixtures schedule and catch up with friends. If you are interested in taking up bowls then we would love to see you join us on Monday 25th March at 7.00pm down at the Bowls Club. There will be many members there to talk you through the game, what happens during the season and the many social events held throughout the year. We look forward to seeing you there.

The indoor bowls section held a very successful match of triples for the President's Cup in February. We had eight teams playing and all matches were closely fought. The final was played between Bob Bates, John Dunkley Eileen Everard against Lorraine Foulks, Peter McClean and Sue Alder with Bob's team the eventual winners.

In March the Short Mat Ladies Pairs competition will take place on Saturday the 25th. We always welcome spectators on these occasions. Why not come along and see how it is done. Our weekly sessions are held on Wednesdays 2pm or 7pm. Why not join us and have a try. We welcome new bowlers, you only need flat shoes or slippers and we can provide the bowls.

*Lorraine Streeter*  
*Club Captain*



## U3A

Monthly meetings take place in Bugbrooke Sports & Community Centre, Camp Close, Bugbrooke NN7 3RW.

They are usually on the **third Monday afternoon of the month**, starting at 2 pm.

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – LET'S TALK ABOUT TOILETS** by Bob Reed

In 2020 around 3.5 BILLION people around the world didn't have a safely managed toilet, and 0.5 billion had no toilet at all. Why should we care? What can be done about it? Come along to hear Bob's serious, yet entertaining talk to find out.

Guests welcome at the monthly meetings – to learn more visit our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene)



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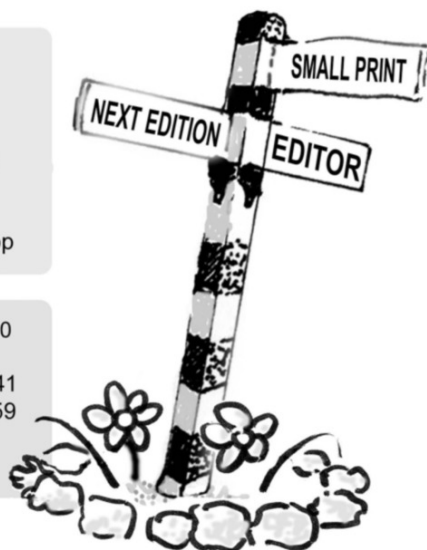
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