



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

April 2024

Issue 468



Nether Heyford Village Hall



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

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Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

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

Dog Mess - We are getting increased numbers of complaints about dog mess not being cleaned at all or insufficiently. If you have dogs please keep an eye on them when in the village. It has also been noticed that a lot of bags of dog mess are being put into the ordinary litter bins around the Green. This is neither necessary or acceptable as there are 4 bins on the Green itself. Please don't do this.

Litter Picking - Many thanks to all those involved in the Annual Spring Clean litter picking and also to those of you that do this routinely throughout the year, it is much appreciated and a fantastic example of public spiritedness. It is so sad that there are some who wantonly spread litter and debris with no thought for others.

Public Participation - A resident reported that the small Oak tree on the green by the Pound needs attention. He complained about parking at a large Village Hall event overflowing and impinging on residents around the Green. He was advised to contact the Village Hall Committee and the Police, as the Parish Council had no powers as regards parking. He also complained about parking on the Green and another resident leaving building materials on the Green. That resident had been given permission to use the Green temporarily. He also complained about parking around the school at peak times, and parking on the zig zag lines. This issue has long been a problem and it is hoped it will be assuaged by additional double yellow lines.

A resident asked whether the SID could be moved onto Bugbrooke or Weedon Rd yet. The process of obtaining a licence was ongoing.

PCSO - Chris Dudley reported visits to the school and to the parking problems there. He hoped to persuade more parents to walk rather than drive. He confirmed that the police would accept photographs of vehicles parked on double yellow lines.

Lighting - Council has begun the task of replacing the village lights with LEDs which are far more energy efficient and cheaper to run. This is seen as important due to the massive rise in energy costs for unmetered street lighting. It is however, extremely expensive and is having to be done in tranches, or when individual lights fail. This means that some lights may be off for some time. It also means we will not be able to give undertakings as to when a light will be replaced, an issue which is

also subject to delays due to the contractors' work schedule and the availability of parts. It might be pointed out that some communities have responded to this problem by switching off lights, as a Council is not under an obligation to provide streetlights. Some communities have never had them, and many Highways lights have been switched off or removed in recent times, including a number not far from us.

Revising the Agenda - to decide on composition/order. TW felt that the old-style list of reports was unnecessary and that the Neighbourhood Plan commitments were important. The Clerk stressed that an agenda should contain items that needed decisions rather than just headings. It was felt that an action log should be kept separately from the minutes.

Community Lounge - Resolved to continue through the spring/summer with reduced hours. From 3rd April it will open from 2 – 4.30pm every Wednesday. A programme of events is being produced.

Clerk had applied for a grant from WNC., which would keep the project going for 2 years at current levels of expenditure. If unsuccessful The Youth Club still held grant money that could be used.

Resolved - to purchase a fireproof cabinet to store documents etc for easy access in case of emergency.

Planning Issues

Gravel extraction - Still no news.

Landfill on Furnace Lane - Concerns were expressed that the landfill is not necessary for the access road – but is more to do with creating hard standing for lorries.

Anglian Water have agreed to do some work on the overgrown trees at the pumping station between the canal and railway bridges.

TW referred to the previous situation regarding planning when we came under SNC, and that WNC is trying to create an integrated system for the whole district, and get it in place by 2005. There would be an Hierarchy. Northampton would be 1. Towcester, Brackley and Daventry would be 2. The rest would be 3a or 3b. Heyford is 3b. If Heyford aspires to attain a higher level, it might be possible to get additional services. The downside could be having to open up for more development. Aspirations can be expressed in the consultation.

The appeal against the enforcement of original planning conditions at Denford has been successful, which has left Councillors concerned at the weakness of the planning process.

Reports

Green - AW had put out information about wildlife, but there had been no responses.

Wellbeing - KWD had circulated a report and asked for comments. She had not heard anything from Bugbrooke surgery about their PPG group, so she asked permission to approach the Weedon surgery PPG. This was felt to be a good idea.

Infrastructure - IP attended a workshop at Delapre regarding cycling and walkways, but felt that Heyford was so far from Northampton that it was effectively excluded. IP is concerned about the condition of the canal towpath and had heard that Cummings (in Daventry) were willing to pay for works if there was a charity involvement. The School and Village Hall are both charities. IP will try and advance the project. Chicanes can only be installed by Keir/Highways, who would also determine the exact location. IP and NC were concerned that a "Throat" style fixture would not work.

Heritage - TW reported that the village has a set of assets that needed to be reported to WNC, which would then offer a degree of protection. There will be a call for materials, especially photographs, which could perhaps be used to create an archive that could put on to the website.

Community - It was not felt that the Play Area would get any funding this year.

TW and CK disagreed as to whether a report on the Joint Burial Board should be given at Parish Council meetings.

LE reported a very successful Wassailing event had taken place at the allotments with 80 – 100 attendees.

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 April 8th and Monday May 13th.

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 Meetings Monday April 8th & May 13th at the Baptist Church rooms

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

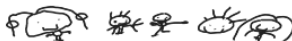
Highly qualified and experienced staff

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
www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk

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 April 2024

Sunday 7 th	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Chapel
Sunday 14 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 21 st	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	Partnership Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Ante-Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 28 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Brockhall Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford Church

Midweek Services

Friday, Morning Prayer, 9:00AM via Zoom – please contact the churchwardens for details of how to join this service.

Flore Church is temporarily closed for building works. Services due to be held in the church are being held in Flore Chapel or Brockhall Church. Wednesday morning services are cancelled during the Rector's absence. Thursday morning services are cancelled for the duration of the building works.

The Streets we shall be praying for during April are: Bugbrooke Rd and Wakefield Way in Heyford, Bliss Lane and the Nursery, Meadow Farm Close and Brington Rd in Flore, Main St in Church Stowe and Manor Farm, The Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall

Dear Friends,

Deborah and I will be away on sabbatical for the next three months, an extended period of rest and refreshment. We'll still be at home for some of this time, but there will be time away on retreat, and trips to the North East, visiting places associated with St Cuthbert. St Cuthbert's story has fascinated me since I studied at Durham University in the early eighties. Most days, I was awe-struck by the magnificent cathedral, which houses Cuthbert's tomb and relics. St Cuthbert - the unofficial patron saint of the North of England - lived in the Seventh Century, first entering the monastery at Melrose in the year 651. He rose to become the prior of Melrose, and later Lindisfarne. In between, he briefly served as master of hospitality at the monastery in Ripon. In 676, he withdrew from his position of prior of Lindisfarne to spend time in silence and solitude on the island of Inner Farne, where in reading, prayer and reflection, he brought the people of Northumbria and England before God in prayer. He became Bishop of Lindisfarne in 685 but held that post for only two years before his death in 687. Cuthbert was a great preacher, teacher, and healer, with an affinity for wildlife and creation.

Cuthbert's story didn't end with his death. Following Viking raids which destroyed the abbey on Lindisfarne in 875, the brothers of the community carried the saint's uncorrupted body and relics away. They then travelled around the North seeking a safe home for them. After staying briefly in various places over the years, Cuthbert's remains reached their permanent home in Durham in 995. A Saxon church was built over the saint's shrine, and in 1104, his remains were moved to the new Norman Cathedral.

I hope that in addition to rest and refreshment, I will find fresh inspiration in following the story of St Cuthbert's life and travels, in the Celtic liturgies of Lindisfarne, in cathedral worship, and in prayer, reading and reflection, that will equip me for the next few years of ministry. And on retreat, in the holy places we visit, and in quiet times of reflection, I will continue to pray for the communities of this benefice and beyond.

If you need the church for any reason during my absence, please contact the churchwardens, or for baptisms, weddings or funerals, contact Jane Bloomfield in the benefice office on 01604 830373 (open 9:00AM-11:30AM, Mon – Thu).

With prayers and blessings,

Rev Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for April

April 7 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
April 14 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Alwyne Wilson
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
April 21 st	10:30 am	Morning service led by Ted Hales (with coffee after the service)
April 28 th	10:30 am	Morning service with Communion led by Martin Buckby

Events

Tues Apr 30th 10 am

Prayer and bible study

All welcome



Thank you to all the people who supported our coffee morning in aid of the Blood Bikes.

We raised £350.00 to help this fantastic organisation with its vital work in our community.

The rider accepting the cheque is one of their volunteers giving their time to help others.

Nether Heyford Playground Horse – Rescue, Repair and Restore 2024

The Nether Heyford playground was created on the village green sometime in the 1950's. The M1 motorway opened in 1959 and during construction of the motorway and junction 16 some of the earth extracted was brought down to the village to landscape a section of the village green to create an area for a playground.

By the 1970's at least, Nether Heyford had a fully equipped playground consisting entirely of play equipment supplied locally from Wicksteed in Kettering. Two Wicksteed benches still remain along the edge of the village green.

The Wicksteed Rocking Horse See Saw was once part of the Nether Heyford Playground on the village green from the 1960's to the 1980's. It was invented and built by a local British engineer, businessman, and entrepreneur. He is best known as a manufacturer of playground equipment and as the founder of Wicksteed Park. Charles Wicksteed was the pioneer of the playground, the inventor of children's play, created the first ever free play park for the people in 1921 with the biggest of public playgrounds. Wicksteed Park in Kettering, Northamptonshire. He sold his playground equipment all over the world, invented the water chute (now log flume) and made sure every playground had a proper good slide.

Nether Heyford Wicksteed Playground Horse

Once broken it was decommissioned from the green and ended up in the garden at The Olde Sun pub on middle street – half buried and used as a children's seat for decades. Sadly The Olde Sun came to a close late 2023 and an auction was announced to sell off the contents. It was then that a group of village residents who remembered the rocking horse all those years ago, decided to rescue it.

Follow the story updates on our website:

<https://heyfordprattler.org/2024/01/23/wicksteedhorse/>

All comments, suggestions, ideas, offers, help and donations are very welcome and much appreciated, no matter how small.

Please Share with your friends.

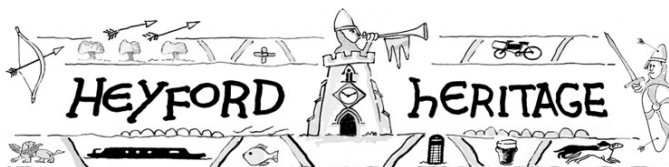
To donate online please visit:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/netherheyfordplaygroundhorse>

To donate cash or discuss Sponsor opportunities please contact me direct.

Happy Days

Jez Wilson 07761 672376



Heyford Heritage - Something New!

Now that we have a neighbourhood plan in place the Parish Council have set up a number of Special Interest Groups (SiGs) to progress actions from the plan that are separate from planning and land use.

One of these groups will be focusing on protecting and making more of the many heritage assets within the parish and its first action is to formally register those assets with West Northants Council. This is in addition to all the historic buildings in the village that are already protected through listing.

The group would also like to start creating a digital archive of relevant materials about the parish (documents, photographs, videos) for public access and future use. This could include anything recent, such as photographs of the village and surrounds as well as anything historic.

If you have any such materials, could you please let the parish clerk know (netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com) with a brief description of what you have and your contact details. Please put 'Heritage' in the title. Someone from the group will then be in touch. The objective is to digitalise everything, so your originals will not be affected.

There are a number of things that parishioners have requested in the plan that will take time to develop and deliver so we will keep you updated through articles in The Prattler. Also, if you have a particular interest in heritage or have expertise in this area, we would love to hear from you (again please contact the Parish Clerk).

Linda Hall, Tony Williams, Tom Dodd, Nick Essex

Welcome Packs

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

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

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

Heyford Scout Group - we need your help!

Since our article in the February Prattler the Scout Group has some new challenges to deal with. As a registered Charity the UK Scout Association is required to meet the governance requirements of the Charity Commission and in line with all other UK charities, we are now required to set up Trustee Boards, right down to Group level.

This change needs to be in place from our annual AGM, which will take place this June. Board meetings will take place three to four times per year plus an AGM. The primary role of the Board is to oversee the working of the group, ensure all Scout association policies are being followed and ensure the Groups remains financially solvent.

At present we have three people ready to become Trustees at the AGM, but as a minimum we need five, so we have vacancies for at least two Trustees.

And given the growth of the Group we have vacancies in the uniformed sections for a Group Lead Volunteer (what was Group Scout Leader) and an additional Scout Leader and given the changes in Governance we also need an admin / support person. We are a thriving Scout Group, but to provide our young people with a full programme of great activities and learning experiences we really do need to fill these roles.

For further information regarding the Board of Trustees please contact Tony Williams, and for the Leader roles and admin/support role please contact Steve Rayner.

anthony.k.williams@talk21.com, stephen.rayner1313@gmail.com



**Summer is on its way - The Nether
Heyford Village Fete a date for your
diaries - June 8th 2024**

Village Hall News

Now we are nearing the end of our financial year it is a good time to review our year.

Our private bookings continue to flourish and the four regular Village Hall events were very successful. We held our Garage Sale in May which has proved so popular that instead of being a biannual event we will be holding another sale on 8th September which gives us plenty of time to sort out items we no longer use and are happy to sell on.

Our village hall fete which is our main fund raising event was also very successful. Last year we celebrated our Harvest Supper for the second time. This is not a fund raising event but a chance for village residents to meet together for a very nice supper at a very reasonable cost. This was very well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Our pantomime in December rounded off our year and was a sell out. Plans are already in place to repeat these events in 2024. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Just a reminder our AGM is on 29th April in the village Hall at 7.00pm

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

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.

Doreen Faulkner

With great sadness our Mum and Grandma passed away on 30th January 2024. Mum loved the village and lived in the same house in Hillside Crescent for more than 70 years. We thank all neighbours and friends for their kind thoughts and condolences. Now re-united with her husband Ralph.

Roy, Sally, Paul and Donna Faulkner

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

NEXT FILM

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

A 2022 Comedy/Romance

**Cast includes Lily James, Shazard Latif
and Emma Thompson**

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2024

**7.15 for 7.45pm
ADMISSION: £6.00**

Zoe is a documentary film-maker who uses a dating app that only delivers an endless stream of Mr Wrongs.

For Zoe's childhood friend and neighbour, Kaz, the answer is to follow his parents' example and opt for an arranged marriage to a bright and beautiful bride from Pakistan.

As Zoe films his hopeful journey to marry a stranger, she begins to wonder...

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

TEA, COFFEE, BAR

Astronomy on the Green

We are Stardust (apologies to Joni Mitchell)...

Back in 1970 Joni was spot on - as all the non-synthetic elements in the periodic table come from Stars and interstellar events. In other words, everything around you as you sit in Nether Heyford, including you, and your pets originate from the stars. Surely not? Well, it goes like this.

In the first moments after the Big Bang, the universe was extremely hot and dense. As the universe cooled, conditions became just right to give rise to the building blocks of matter – the quarks and electrons of which we are all made. A few millionths of a second later, quarks aggregated to produce protons and neutrons. Within minutes, these protons and neutrons combined into nuclei.

As the universe continued to expand and cool, things began to happen more slowly. It took 380,000 years for electrons to be trapped in orbits around nuclei, forming the first atoms. These were mainly helium and hydrogen, which are still by far the most abundant elements in the universe. Present observations suggest that the first stars formed from clouds of gas around 150–200 million years after the Big Bang. Heavier atoms such as carbon, oxygen and iron, have since been continuously produced in the hearts of stars and catapulted throughout the universe in spectacular stellar explosions called supernovae.

The energy created by supernovae and even more intense astronomical events (at enormously high temperatures and pressures) produce the heavier species. Elements up to mass 90 are formed in Stars; Supernovae account for considerable amounts of intermediate elements from Oxygen up to Rubidium; Neutron star collisions produce heavy metals beyond iron.

Stepping up the energy ladder the accretion discs (gravitational) surrounding Black holes fuse nuclei and nucleons together forming elements. Cosmic rays interact with the interstellar medium, the process produces light elements such as ${}^3\text{He}$, Li, Be, B, and also contributes to carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen. So, a variety of astronomical events produces all that we see (and are) and the very earth we stand on.

Technetium and elements from atomic number 95 (Americium) to 118 (Ununocium) are synthesised in labs. [Note stars do produce technetium and heavier radioactive elements, but they had decayed well before the planets formed].

Food for thought.

Clear skies

Tony Boutle

THE Heyford SINGERS

Spring



Concert

Nether Heyford Village Hall

Friday May 10th & Saturday May 11th

At 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £10

Children under 14 £5

Wine & Soft Drinks included!

From Keith Rands-Allen

01327 340741 or 07971 786912

kvra44@gmail.com

www.heyfordsingers.org



In Nether Heyford

Our Meeting in February started with our AGM, which was well attended, and where we looked back on the functions of the previous twelve months' meetings. Thank you for the support that the people of Nether Heyford have given the WI fundraising - we enjoyed the Coffee Morning and making the bacon butties at the Craft Fayre!

When the 'Business' side of the evening was over we were entertained by "3 In Accord", a group consisting of 2 vocalists and an accompanist playing a keyboard. The programme was varied and entertaining and we were encouraged to sing along occasionally - songs from the Everly Brothers era, Oklahoma to Razzle Dazzle plus a couple that even someone who has been singing as long as I have didn't know! Singing is a good way to relax and the evening ended with everyone sitting round chatting, eating and drinking. What more could you ask?

Our next Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, April 4th at 7.30pm. and this is relaxing in a completely different way. Those who who regularly practice yoga in Nether Heyford will already know Viv Duggan, who is our speaker for the evening. Viv is registered as one of the senior level teachers with Yoga Alliance Professionals and has 20 years teaching experience. She is coming to talk to us about Chair Yoga. Although I have never practiced yoga I know several people who do and have witnessed how it can help. I think it is probably a necessary tool in modern living. We hope you will join us and see if I am right, The charge for the evening is £5 which includes refreshments - we look forward to seeing you.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

On 22nd April Michael Monticello will entertain us with his demonstration 'Inspirations'.

If you love flowers do come along to our friendly club where you can be sure of a warm welcome and a relaxing evening. You may be lucky enough to win a beautiful arrangement in the raffle. Meetings start at 7.45pm.

For more information please ring Simone on 01327 342167 or Dianne on 01604 830063.

100% NO SALE NO FEE

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- 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

*I'm Singin' in the rain
Just singin' in the rain
What a glorious feeling,
I'm happy again*

Spring Concert
Friday May 10th
Saturday May 11th

Gene Kelly possessed a unique tenor voice and delving back some of us remember the above sequence in which he dances and sings the title song while spinning an umbrella – the weather being very close to the past two months of rain-filled days. What we didn't know was that whilst Kelly was splashing through puddles and getting soaked with the rain, he was apparently sick with a 39 degree fever and the water used in the scene caused Kelly's wool suit to shrink during filming. And it all looked so effortless. And rehearsing for our Concert with a very good stand-in pianist, Alan Cufau de whilst our regular pianist Graham Kinnersly nurses a broken arm has not been an easy journey. We are hoping to make it seem effortless but I can assure you there has been a lot of concentration, head scratching and frustration while we try and achieve this. And unlike the above film, we have to do this in 'one take'.

I have mentioned in previous Prattlers some of the songs we shall be singing and we have just been given more – fortunately 'Both Sides Now' (Joni Mitchell) and 'The Way we Were' (from the film of the same name) are very familiar and should come fairly easily to us. And talking of songs that go way back, some of you will remember 'All By Myself' which was a lovely song, released in 1975 and based on the second movement of Sergei Rachmaninoff's 1900 – 1901 Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor, Opus 18 (and who knew that?) and sung by its composer Eric Carmen. He sadly passed away last month at the age of 74, but of course his many solo hits are a lasting legacy. And currently we see that Ed Sheeran has just 'wowed' the Asian population as he sung a duet with the Indian artist Diljit Dosanjh; a rendition of the latter's hit track 'Lover' in Punjabi. Sheeran delighted Mumbai and members of the audience said his language was faultless. Who would have thought a child born in Halifax, Yorkshire and raised in Framlingham, Suffolk and writing songs from eleven years old would end up on the Indian stage, singing in their language?

And apart from our Concert to look forward to there is the release of the all-star charity single 'Going Home' (theme from Local Hero) with Mark Knopfler as the Dire Straits front man to benefit the Teenage Cancer Trust and Teen Cancer America. It features over 60 big-name musicians including Jeff Beck (in the final recording he made before he died last year) and Roger Daltrey, Pete Townshend, Ringo Starr (with his son), Joan Armatrading, Eric Clapton, Hank Marvin, Brian May, Sting, Guns N' Roses and many more. What a tremendous combination. I mention this

because the track features an unprecedented line-up of some of the greatest guitarists of all time and is a landmark in rock music history. We haven't seen anything like this since 1985 and 'Live Aid'.

And don't forget to get your tickets for our Spring concert so you too can share in our somewhat humbler version of musical greats. See separate advertisement for full details.

JRA

Community Lounge Events for April

3rd April Quiz. 2.30 – 3.30pm

10th April Wendy Green – Drawing for pleasure. 2.30 – 3.30pm

17th April Mediaeval Northampton. Guy Ravine. Talk.. 2.30 – 3.30pm

24th April Councillor Surgery. 2 - 4 pm.

Pilates by Lola

**NEW SPACES
AVAILABLE!!**

**MONDAYS
NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE
HALL
9.45AM - 10.45AM
11.15AM - 12.15PM**

**TUESDAYS
8AM-9AM VIA ZOOM**

Every body is welcome

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK

CALL: 07812031780

OR EMAIL:

PILATESBYLOLA@GMAIL.COM



Pilates by Lola

Pilates is a gentle exercise method that emphasizes the connection between the body and mind. By focusing on concentration, control, and precise movements, it targets deep postural muscles, enhancing strength from within and aiding in strength, flexibility, mobility and balance improvement.

- Pilates is inclusive, welcoming clients of all fitness levels. The exercises can be adapted to accommodate all levels and any physical limitations.
- Whether you are a beginner, returning participant, recovering from an injury, or seeking a fresh challenge, I am dedicated to helping you achieve your fitness goals.
- Join our enjoyable and supportive small group classes to move better and feel great in your body.

**Come along for a taster session at the
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book!**



Flore Arts Events

There are now two events in our Spring calendar.

We have been able to arrange another **Poetry Please** session. As we're (allegedly) emerging from a long damp winter we thought we'd adopt a "Breath of Spring" theme this time. 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 seasonal would be nice! Meet in the **White Hart in Flore on Sunday May 12th, 6.30pm.**

Saturday May 18th, 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 1920s and 1930s, Ben's virtuoso playing is supported by phenomenal musicians Jez Cook on guitar and Paul Jefferies on 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 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 details - 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

Security

Theft from our allotments is something of a rarity but a problem that does occur from time to time on all allotment sites. Sadly, one of our allotmenters had several pieces of machinery stolen from his tool store in March.

The matter has been reported to the police and we would ask all allotment holders to be extra vigilant and ensure that all valuable equipment is either taken home or well secured in locked sheds.

If you, or any other playing field users are aware that the gates to the playing field have been left open, please contact someone from your organisation who has the lock codes so that we can ensure both the playing field facilities and allotments are not open to suspicious vehicles.

Your help, as villagers, is always appreciated by letting one of us know if you see or hear anything on the site that appears to be suspicious. The community has a vital role to play in helping keep our village as safe and crime free as possible.

Somebody said to me recently that they thought allotments were not just about growing plants but growing the community. The camaraderie and support that we see going on across the site is evidence of that.

Wet, Wet, Wet!

It won't have escaped people's notice that it has rained a lot in the last few months. That has had an impact on the amount of growing that allotmenters have been able to do so far this year. Trying to sow into cold, waterlogged ground is a sure way to see crops fail.

We are, however, lucky on the Heyford Allotment site that we have soil that drains well and warms quickly. As a result, it usually cultivates easily and allows for a slightly earlier start. Pity the poor gardeners who have to work on heavy clay.

It is good to see that broad bean plants are at last being planted out (unless they were sown in the autumn and are already growing away). Similarly, shallots and even onion sets can be planted out, along with beetroot, spinach and some brassica plugs. A little bit of protective fleece won't go amiss until the weather improves and has the added advantage of stopping marauding birds from pulling seedlings or sets from the ground in their search for worms.

If you can't get growing just yet or you feel less sure about how well seeds and plants will fair, don't panic, things sown or planted a little later have a wonderful way of catching up.

Community Day

We will be organising another Allotment Community Morning on Saturday 6th April. We usually aim to start at 10.00.am and finish by midday. If you can help (and you don't have to be an allotment holder) we would be delighted to see you. We have a range of jobs, from painting picnic benches and restoring bug hotels to weeding and planting up community areas. There is a job for everyone and your help is really appreciated.

Vacancies

If you are keen to start allotmenting, contact Lynda Eales on 01327 341707 or by email at 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

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

Mike Langrish

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 15th April – FRED AND DOLLY by Graham Kinnersly

The welcome return of Graham, with another Fred and Dolly story, illustrated with appropriate music.

Guests welcome at the monthly meetings – to learn more visit our website www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene

Flood Watch

As we approach the end of winter its time to reflect as climate change continues to impact on our seasonal weather patterns. The past three months has seen record breaking high temperatures, excess rainfall, floods and official storm records at an all time high. The energised jet stream has caused wild fluctuations in the weather either pulling cold air down from the Arctic or warm air from Europe creating a distinct divide between north and south of UK. Year on year comparison shows erratic patterns with February 23 the driest whilst February 24 was the wettest. Locally February ended up at over 300% of normal with 3 flooding events in three months. Following such a wet month even light rainfall events of 10mm caused potential flooding events as a result of saturated ground conditions.

The 13th of March was typical with an Environment Agency flood warning for low lying ground in Upper Nene Valley and whilst the river rose over 1m in response to the previous days 12mm rainfall the river coped well and there was no flooding event. The flood warning prompted an immediate use of the laptop to observe river levels in real time allowing appropriate action to be taken with personal flood defences.

For those not already registered a call to FLOODLINE on 0345 988 1188 will provide access to phone messages and/or on line alerts.

Following the major flooding in Northampton in 1998 and the impact on the village prompted me to provide my own defences by ring fencing the property consisting of brick walls and a flood barrier constructed of wood, plastic and foam. Over the years this has served well but the years had taken its toll and a replacement was needed. The solution was a 9" double cavity wall. Such a defence provides not only protection but peace of mind.

March rainfall has returned to near normal levels and there has been a feeling of Spring in the air as temperatures rose to double figures. Officially Spring starts on 20th of March and continues until 20th of June 2024 followed by the clocks going forward 1 hour on 31st of March. Sunset will then occur at 19.37 continuing to increase at 4 minutes per day to reach 20.26 by the end of April.

Four months have passed and still no news on discussions with Anglian Water over culvert maintenance.

J. Arnold.

View from the Wildlife Patch

By the time you read this the first quarter of 2024 will have gone and we will be well into spring. All of the frogs in Pauline's garden ponds have now finished spawning and by April our tadpoles will be swimming about. For some reason they only spawned in one of the three ponds. I believe spawning frogs are drawn to a pond by the smell of algae. If this is the case we only have one pond with the right species of algae. We also have a good population of Smooth Newts which are heavy predators of tadpoles. I wonder if those frogs somehow know the pond they spawned in is a pond with no newts.

I have not been to see the pond on the Wildlife Patch for a few days. The last time I was there, I could see no sign of frog spawn. This pond was holed in Autumn 2022. As a result it had a low water level for all of last year. The membrane has now been mended by members of the association. So now we just wait for our local wildlife to rediscover the pond. It was doing very well till it was sabotaged.

Our next job on the Patch will be removing the plastic sheet from what will be the next wildlife meadow area in preparation for sowing with wildflower annuals. Usually a grassy patch will develop a fertile soil when we cover that grass with plastic sheeting, the grass dies leaving a soil richer than was there previously. This type of soil encourages very fast growing grass species which could soon smother the planned meadow flora community of plants which is the species rich area we are aiming for. To counteract this, we plant a mixture of cornfield annual wildflowers. These flowers germinate very quickly to flower and seed one year, whilst providing a spectacular flora which feeds a whole host of insects. At the same time using up a good deal of the unneeded nitrates in that soil. This process leaves the soil ready for the permanent meadow mixture we will sow next which will produce a meadow plant community that should be there for many years to come.

Since the beginning of the Patch a few of us have been keeping records of some of the species there. Now the patch is established and areas are now developing, we need to be recording the species as and when we see them and sending these records to our local wildlife records office.

What is wildlife recording?

If you "Google in" any UK wildlife species. You will find much information about that species, including its distribution (where that species can be found) and how common or otherwise that species is in different places. This essential information is mostly provided by volunteer naturalists who find, identify and document this species. They then send the record of its existence to any one of a number of places which all communicate with each other. This is the only way anyone knows which species lives where and when.

There are already people in this parish who regularly and diligently record the Moths, Bees etc. as they find and identify them. We need more wildlife recorders. If you are interested in becoming one - however experienced or not you are, please

contact me. If enough people come forward, the HWA will organise an introduction to wildlife recording session and we can help with training etc. to enable you to document wildlife in this parish and elsewhere.

Just contact me and I will be happy to chat about wildlife recording with you.
07357931568 or davemusson073@gmail.com.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

Late April/early May sees the start of the outdoor season for bowls. Over the winter our maintenance team made up of volunteers have continued to work on both the bowls green and the clubhouse making it ready for the coming season. A work party will be busy early April moving all the benches, tables, chairs and ditch mats back out around the green. Volunteers to help are always welcome.

Dependant on the green condition and weather permitting the bowls green is usually opened middle to late April and our members will then be able to practice on the green in readiness for our first friendly match on Tuesday 30th April away at Kislingbury.

Friday night is our club and open night, if you would like to give lawn bowls a try why not come down and have a few free taster sessions. We open around 6.30 pm and have spare bowls for you to use, all we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes to protect the green surface.

Short Mat continues in the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoon and evenings. Competitions are still continuing with the next one, the Mixed Single, taking place on Saturday 27th April starting at 1.00pm.

Enrolment for the Short Mat will be held on Wednesday 3rd April at both 2.00pm and 7.00pm. New members are always welcome so why not come along and give it a go.

Our social calendar for the year has now been confirmed and all the 2024 events are listed on our website, www.heyfordbowlsclub.co.uk in the Events section. We always welcome visitors to the club on our home matches, so check out the 2024 Fixtures section and select Club Friendlies to find out the relevant dates.

Why not make 2024 the year to take up a new sport, we would love to see you join us down at Heyford Bowls Club.

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 every evening from 30th April to 4th May, with a matinee on the Saturday.

You may also spot two members of the Heyford Singers on stage.

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 the Northampton Gilbert and Sullivan Group.



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Badgers Classic and Sports Car Group

We seem to be moving along at some pace with many suggestions for future events coming forward. We now have members from Flore who have recently joined adding for those of us with long memories cars such as a Rover 3500S same body shape as the Rover 2000 from the 1960's -1970's and an MG Midget plus a Hillman Imp.

Plans for the Rotary club charity event Cars at the Spa in Leamington on June 16th are going well, we now have enough cars going along to be able to form a group display in an allocated area. As stated previously this show is open to members of the public you are welcome to attend, there will musical items on all day such as the Rock choir along with a few groups plus a silver band. For those interested in the classic cars and bikes there will be a question and answer session on the live stage. We have been asked to take part if any of our members are brave enough to talk about their car or classic motor bike on the stage? Any takers let me know.

I have had a meeting recently with a town councillor from Daventry. There is a classic car event being held there on 11th May we have been invited to attend at a discounted group rate of three pounds per entry by using our group name. We have also received a quote for merchandise such as baseball caps, key rings and polo shirts sporting the Badgers logo this is under consideration, watch this space.

Under discussion at our next meeting is to plan an event in Bugbrooke, hopefully this year during the summer. It may come around a bit to soon but we will work towards sorting something out. If there are any people out there interested in joining our group please email tonyin@mail.com You do not need to have a classic car or motor bike just an interest in them. Any offer to help out with group or village events where we are involved would be welcome.

Tony

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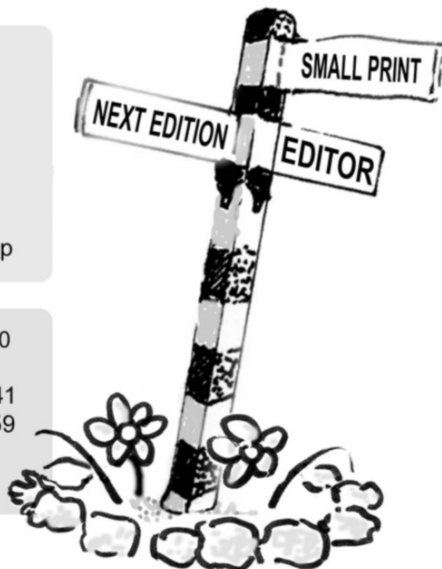
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