



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

May 2024

Issue 469



Heyford Allotments - Mick Parker

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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The April 2024 meeting of the Parish Council will not be reported until the June issue of the Prattler. This is due to an Administrative issue that is being addressed.

Community Lounge (CL). The initiation of a programme of events in the afternoons had caused the attendance to increase. The Lounge will be open from 2.00 to 4.30pm each Wednesday until October when it will re-open all day.

Programme for May 2024

1 st May	Cake & Chat	2:00 pm onwards
8 th May	Talk. Eleanor Crosses. Guy Ravine	2:30 pm
15 th May	Cake, Chat and short trivia Quiz	Quiz at 2.30 pm
22 nd May	Councillor Surgery	2 - 4 pm
29 th May	Wendy Green – Drawing for pleasure. - provisionally	14:30:00

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/>

Next Meetings: Monday May 13th & June 5th at the Baptist Church rooms at 19.30.

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

Neighbourhood Plan - Green

As part of the Councils now adopted Neighbourhood Plan which looks at the themes of Green, Wellbeing, Heritage, Infrastructure and Community, the Parish Council wanted to ask residents if they had any suggestions to develop 'Green' aspects throughout the Parish. These can be divided into Place – what the Parish Council can do, People - what the village people can do and general communication of ideas.

Place

e.g. tree planting areas or small areas of meadow flowers (the church and nature reserve are currently doing this).

People

There may be other activities people can think about e.g. not using pesticides, increasing their own garden opportunities for garden wildlife, insects and garden wild patches.

Planting wildflower seeds

Not mowing a small section 2 - 4 sq metres of their garden and leaving it over the summer

Self composting and avoiding the £58 bill for the green bin

Installing bird or bat boxes for nesting

Creating log piles

Hedgehog friendly gardens

Planting bee friendly plants

Planting butterfly friendly plants

If any members of the public want to have some wild seeds, to be planted end of April / May / June then please contact heyfordswa@outlook.com. The Heyford Wildlife Association will donate wildflower seeds. Preparation of the ground is minimal. The ground needs to be free of grass and raked

Also, if anybody is considering not mowing a small section 2 - 4 sq metres of their garden and leaving it for over the summer, say until September then contact the Parish Council, we are trying to assess take up and would like to record the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan outcomes.

Communication

Are there any other groups who wish to do (or are already doing) their own Green projects in the village – School, Football Club, Bowls, Cricket, Tennis Clubs
The ideas can be bought together to give the village a 3 – 5 year plan.

If you have any suggestions, please email the Parish Clerk
netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com with the email titled 'Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan – Green'



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for May 2024

Sunday 5 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford
Sunday 12 th	10:00 am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Brockhall
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 19 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Pentecost	10:00 am	United Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Ante-Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 26 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford

Midweek Services

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

The Streets we shall be praying for during May are: Brookside Place, Watery Lane and the playing fields in Heyford, Bricketts Lane and Springfield in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Hall apartments in Brockhall.

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.

A letter from the laity

A walk around Flore and Nether Heyford reveals our rich agricultural heritage: fields growing grain; the old mill in Heyford, and numerous houses in Flore called “The Old Bakery”. This part of the Nene valley was very much the bread basket of Northampton: wheat grown, milled and baked into bread here fed the burgeoning industrial town.

It is right that we should celebrate our farming culture, and perhaps we should do so more often than just Harvest Festival. Plough Sunday, which represents the start of the agricultural year in January, is creeping back onto the calendar, and Rogation Sunday is coming up on 5th May.

Rogation is all about asking: the word comes from the Latin ‘to ask’. Traditionally Rogation walks and Rogation prayers were to ask for God’s blessing on the crops to ensure a good harvest. The practice goes back to very early in the Christian era, taking over a Roman spring festival of walking through the fields to pray that the crops be spared from mildew and blight.

But Rogation is not just about asking, it is also about generosity, because we are not simply asking for ourselves but for others too, especially those on whom we depend for our food and wellbeing. Rogation reminds us that God longs to bless us and to bless the world through us.

Yours in Christ,

Paul.

UPPER HEYFORD PARISH MEETING

AGM

Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7:30pm

Hipwells (along from Totebox), Upper Heyford

Agenda to include; Election of Chair and Committee. Review of minutes from 2023 AGM, Review of 2023 Accounts, Chair Statement. AOB, next meeting,

All Upper Heyford Residents welcome

Items for AOB please email me:

Mrs Sian Slater (Chair)

UHparish@gmail.com



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for May

May 5 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Les Britten
May 12 th	10:30 am	Church anniversary weekend Morning service led by Tony Brown
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
May 19 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by John Perkins (with coffee after the service)
May 26 th	10:30 am	Morning service with Communion led by Martin Buckby

Events

Sat May 11 th	10 am to 12 md	Church anniversary Coffee morning with proceeds shared between Alzheimer's society and the church. Floral displays in the church.
Tues May 14 th	10 am	Prayer and bible study

All welcome

Nether Heyford
Baptist Church

Coffee Morning

10.00am - 12noon



Saturday 11th May



Only £1.50 per person
Drink & Biscuits included

*Stalls include: -
Books - Cakes - Plants - Sundries*

*All money raised will be shared between
the Alzheimers Society and the Church*



Support our Local Team in the County Junior Cup Final!

Moulton F.C v Heyford Athletic F.C

at

Wellingborough Town F.C.



Saturday 11th May 2024

KO 3pm

Village Hall News

After a significant birthday last year I decided it was time to be a lady of leisure and stand down from the various charities I am involved with. So this is my last report for the Prattler as Chairman of the Village Hall. I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their unwavering support during my term as Chairman. We have a very hard working committee whose only reward is the satisfaction of seeing the continued success of our Village Hall.

As ever in this amazing village we live in we have willing volunteers to step into the roles needed to keep the Hall running smoothly.

My Vice chairman Carol Tuckley has agreed to stand as Chairman and was voted in unanimously at our April meeting. Carol can be contacted at carolnhvh@gmail.com. Veneeta Rayner was voted in as Vice Chairman and Lynn Adey as Treasurer to replace Philip Letts who expressed a wish to stand down after many years service. I am pleased to say that Judith Cattermole has agreed to continue as Secretary and Simone Squire will remain as our Booking Secretary.

I am sorry to say that Ray Haddon has decided to stand down. Ray has been tireless in his support of the Village Hall over many years and will be missed.

Our new committee comprises members with many years experience in the running of the hall and new members with a wide variety of skills which will ensure our Village Hall continues to be the asset it is to village life.

I wish them every success in the future.

Joan Kirkbride
Chairman Nether Heyford Village Hall
Tel 01327 340370
Email jkfvvhchairman@gmail.com

Welcome Packs

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

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

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

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NEXT FILM

Save the Cinema

Comedy/Drama

**Stars Samantha Morton, Jonathan Pryce
and Tom Felton**

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 16th MAY 2024

**7.15 for 7.45pm
ADMISSION: £6.00**

Liz Evans has a mission: to stop The Lyric Cinema, at the heart of her Welsh town, being demolished.

After a long campaign, she resorts to writing to one of Hollywood's elite to ask for a special treat for Carmarthen – but does this help save the cinema?

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

TEA, COFFEE, BAR

Astronomy on the Green

You may have noticed that there has been a great deal of interest in the latest Total Eclipse. Not too surprising when we realise that this eclipse streaked its totality over the USA. There were some classic journalistic bits of hyperbole, however I am pleased to say that the BBC topped the lot with this wonderful bit of misinformation “The eclipse; an event that has been occurring since the start of the Universe”. At bit of thought (or research) and they would have found out that the Universe started 13.8 billion years ago (current estimate) and the Earth formed around 4.6 billion years ago (also true for the moon).

Still, on from the silliness to the totality.

The most striking thing about the current total eclipses is the moon exactly obscures the face of the sun allowing us the spectacle of observing the Corona (a superheated plasma normally invisible due to the brightness of the sun). The surface of the sun sits at a balmy 5,600 °C compared to the core temperature of 15 million °C. A surprising fact is that the corona sits at 150 to 450 times the surface temperature average of 1 to 3 million °C. How so? Well, it is now thought to be due to magnetic energy, drawn out by the solar wind. The hypothesis is part of a complex series of events that occur above the surface and extend out around 2 million miles from the surface.

Total eclipses give researchers the opportunity to make observations without having to mechanically block out the core. As the moon moves gradually away from us by about 1.5 inches per year eventually totality will be relegated to a past event.

Even now we are still striving to understand the processes in our nearest life-giving star. Eclipses have given us confirmation of some of the most fundamental theories. One of these was Einstein’s postulation that gravity could bend light. Just over 100 years ago (1919) Sir Arthur Eddington travelled to the remote West African Island of Principe to photograph the position of stars during the total eclipse as compared to their known position. This proved conclusively that the light coming from the stars was bent by the gravity of the solar body. The result was confirmed during the 1922 total eclipse and Einstein hypothesis was confirmed as a theory.

Once again, the BBC hit the nail on the head saying this was a “Once in a lifetime event!”. Well, not if you are willing to travel, and as we saw – a lot of people still are, and with much greater ease than a century ago. Yes, I nitpick, but I pay for the BBC like the rest of us, get it right people!

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

WNC Biodiversity

As we enter the spring and summer months, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is looking at ways it can help promote environmental awareness for the natural environment and gain further understanding on how people locally support national campaigns to enhance biodiversity.

Last year, WNC supported the national campaign run by Plantlife, No Mow May. The Council will again be supporting the campaign this year in May and will be enabling some of the green spaces it looks after to grow wildly for May, where safe and reasonable to do so.

People across West Northamptonshire are being asked to share their views on the national campaign and let the Council know if they take part in these, so that it can gain a better understanding of how West Northamptonshire residents positively impacted biodiversity. The six-week online engagement will take place from Monday 8 April to Sunday 19 May, and people can have their say here: <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/no-mow-may>

Cllr Phil Larratt, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste at WNC, said: "Creating areas for our wildlife is important, the best time to do this is in late spring although we encourage this all-year round. Birds, bats, beetles, butterflies and other wildlife are pollinators, this means that they are needed for flowers and crops to reproduce or produce food. Without pollinators we would not have an agricultural economy, which means we would not have a food supply, it would also greatly change the natural environment and surrounding landscapes. "We allow verges to grow where this doesn't cause an obstruction, however, we take account of pedestrians and traffic by cutting the necessary amount of grass verge to make it safe.

"I would encourage anyone who has supported these national campaigns or is interested in finding out how they can support biodiversity in their area to fill out the online form and help shape the future of wildlife in West Northants."

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

No meeting in May as it is a Bank Holiday.

A date for your diary - our meeting on June 24th is an open meeting. National demonstrator Katherine Kear presents 'Abundance'. Tickets are available from Maria Owen 01327 341783. Members £5: Visitors £10.

Katherine is very talented so it is certain to be a lovely evening with an abundance of beautiful flowers.

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



In Nether Heyford

On April 4th, yoga teacher Viv Duggan, came to give a demonstration of how Chair Yoga works. Unfortunately I was not too well and unable to be there but have heard, from those that were, just how enjoyable the evening was and how you didn't have to be too fit to enjoy the experience. It really does help to keep you moving.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday May 2nd in the Village Hall at 7:30 where we will be hearing about the work of a charity which touches our hearts and which our village supports every year. Christian Aid Week is between May 12th and May 18th, when money is donated to people in countries who desperately need help. Shirley Waterhouse, whom many of you will know, is coming to talk to us about "The Work of Christian Aid". A great many people raise funds by running marathons, cycling, walking and, slight less energetic but certainly colder, carol singing. You would be very welcome to come along to hear how your donations are put to good use. There will be refreshments and a warm WI welcome.

There will be no meeting in the Village Hall in June as we will be going to Sulgrave Manor for our annual outing but in July we will meet again for what looks to be an interesting evening as Jess Nash talks to us on 'Tales from the Driver's Seat - A Lady London Bus Drivers' Life.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

New Carers Group

A carers group will be launched on May 2nd at the Sunday School rooms, Church Rd, Bugbrooke NN7 3PB.

It will be a 'drop in' from 1pm until 4pm. Carers can come alone or accompanied by the person they care for.

They aim to run the group on the first Thursday of the month. There is no need to book.

There will be a chance to chat, have tea and cake and intend to have a programme of talks, activities and demonstrations.

It is open to carers outside Bugbrooke.

"So drop in for some TLC. Tea, Cake and Love"

It is being funded by Bugbrooke Community Lottery.

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Nether Heyford Netball Club



The Nether Heyford Netball club continues to go from strength to strength. Training from October to March has been inside at Campion School sports hall on a Monday, which has allowed us to escape slippery courts outside and frozen fingers (never good when trying to catch a ball). We have had lots of new members join over the last few months who have seamlessly slotted into our training; they have been a great addition. We have been really pushing fitness on a Monday night, to ensure we have the stamina for tougher games. Likewise our experienced coaches and umpires, Andy and Tracey, have been integral in developing our skills, particularly looking at areas such as defence in the opposition's shooting area and advising our own attackers on how to feed the ball into our shooters.

Following our success in winning division 2 in the Northampton Netball league, we decided last year to move our team, Heyford Swifts, to the Totally Netball league on a Wednesday at Northampton High School due to it being easier to travel to. Our second season of the Totally Netball league started off well outdoors on 28th February. We won our first match against Panthers White 24 - 18 with our defensive player, Sam, securing player of the match. This was one we had to win as we had beaten them at the end of last season, with our shooter Violet as player of the match, and knew we could beat them again to secure a higher place in the league.

Our next game on the 6th March was against Norpol Netters, who were a team we had struggled to beat previously. However we had a fantastic game against them, winning 25 - 7, with every member of the team playing amazingly well. Kath, our GK, secured player of the match in her first competitive game for us. The second half of the game was particularly excellent with the mid court of Lizzie, Sara, Amanda and Karen, bringing the ball down to our shooters, Violet and Annabel, who were very good at moving and working the space in the D, finishing off with their precision shooting. This success was followed with another great win by the same team of 23 - 9, against Wootton Warriors on 13th March.

The game on 20th March against Jets Orange was slightly less enjoyable due to it being quite tough and sadly we lost 25-13. Nevertheless we still got a losing point as we achieved more than half their goals. Kath achieved another player of the match.

Our final game before the Easter break was against Towcester White, a team that had come down from division 1 the previous season, so we knew this would be a challenging one. Despite the rain and distracting double rainbows across the court, we still had an enjoyable match, losing 15 - 9. But we again secured that losing point and it was great to have our vice captain, Katie, back on court, receiving player of the match.

As I write, we are currently second in the division, 2 points behind Jets Yellow, who we are yet to play.

As the clocks have changed (and fingers crossed the weather), training sessions will now recommence outside at our court at Nether Heyford playing fields at 7pm. As summer approaches, we hope to arrange some friendly matches with local teams and more fundraising events to support some members of the club in completing England Netball affiliated coaching courses.

All women over 16 of any ability are welcome to come on a Monday. We are a friendly, welcoming and fun group who are very passionate about the sport. If you

have been thinking about it previously, now is the time to join. As the evenings get lighter and warmer, I can definitely recommend it!

Sara Godfrey

GET FIT, HAVE FUN,
MEET NEW PEOPLE



ALL ABILITIES
WELCOME

TRAINING MONDAYS AT 7PM - 8PM
FIRST WEEK FREE
THEN £3 PER WEEK



www.heyfordsingers.org

*I think music is about our internal life
It's part of the way people touch each other.
That's very precious to me.*

*There is no way that you can ever
really repeat something. I have this great
belief that the magic of the moment can
never be recaptured.*

Sir Brian May - Lead Guitar Queen

**Spring Concert Friday May 10th and Saturday May 11th – See enclosed advert
for details**

We may not be spectacular guitarists, nor part of a celebrity group, but the Heyford Community Choir hope our Spring Concert will reach out to you, the audience, in the hope of you capturing a little bit of magic.

This Easter Gareth Malone took eight untrained singers from all walks of life – one of whom was a jazz musician – and staged them in Bach's St John Passion on the 300th anniversary of its first performance. Broadcast on the BBC with the National Orchestra of Wales and the BBC Singers this was a spectacular performance. (Available still on BBC iplayer). Who would have thought a young singer from Port Talbot who found his voice through a drag act or a flute-playing amateur footballer from Cardiff could take part on a classical stage with Bach's musical interpretation of the Easter story. Gareth hoped – and has now achieved – that he could bring Bach's Easter story to a wider audience and give his hitherto novice singers the chance to sing one of our great choral masterpieces.

In the same way we are bringing a selection of different music to you in Heyford. 'The Water is Wide' is a lovely American Folk Song arranged by Jay Althouse. Then sung as a lullaby 'Hushabye Mountain' is a little song that proves quite a test to our Singers – keeping a song gentle and quiet and flowing is difficult – forte for us is far easier than pianissimo!

But no Concert of ours would be complete without our Pianist, Graham Kinnersly's famous input. His unfortunate accident with a bucket resulting in a broken arm is now behind him and he has full control of our piano again. During Covid he wrote 'Witches of Macbeth' which is a catchy tune with many of the Shakespearian menacing words. It is a delight to sing - as all his music is - and the old, familiar 'Fire Burn and Cauldron Bubble' quotation will never sound quite the same again as you will be humming along to it after seeing this premier performance.

Beyonce has now gone 'country'. The American singer-songwriter and actress first 'dipped her toe' into the Country and Western genre eight years ago but now has released a whole album. 'Cowboy Carter' has been a huge hit and Dolly Parton has congratulated her on her version of 'Jolene'. Not bad for a student of St Mary's Elementary School in Fredericksburg, Texas. Her talent in singing was discovered

when her dance instructor began humming a song – and she finished it, hitting the high-pitched notes...

So please come and join us in the Village Hall and sip a glass of wine whilst enjoying a varied programme of songs old and new, some of which will stir memories and others will lead you to unexplored territory.

JRA



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Flore Arts Events

Our two Spring events are nearly here...

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).

Meanwhile our next **Poetry Please** session has a "Breath of Spring" theme. 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.**

As for our later activities here's a reminder of our 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.

Saturday November 16th: Folk Fiddle evening featuring accomplished fiddle player Jenny Newman, guitarist Andy Glass and the Big Fiddle Band. 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.

Flood Watch

Storm Kathleen, the eleventh in the storm year September 2023-2024, equalling the all time record, brought more flooding across the UK whilst a storm named Pierrick by the French Met Office simultaneously hit the South coast causing extensive flooding.

The Southern hemisphere has been experiencing extreme weather conditions as a result of climate change increasing sea temperatures, changing the course of El Nino and increasing flash flooding. Rising temperatures are seeing countries experience temperatures in excess of 50 degrees Centigrade. These changes impact the UK weather resulting in a warmer than average winter, increased rainfall and an increase in flooding events.

Locally 5 flooding events have occurred this year as March rainfall eventually totalled 190% of normal continuing to saturate the ground. The Environment Agency continued to issue flood warnings for the Upper Nene and whilst the river rose in response to the rainfall not all warnings resulted in flooding.

April, typically a wet month, has already reached its normal level resulting in the years total to date being 175% of normal. It is anticipated that the continuing unsettled weather will result in a new storm record as a result of storms Lilian and Minnie, the next in the series.

The return to summertime hours is evident with the lighter evenings and spring time sunsets will continue to change by 2 minutes per day to reach 20.26 by the end of April. By the end of May sunset will reach 21.15.

J. Arnold.



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View from the Wildlife Patch

We are well into Spring and I am not seeing many insects at all. There are a reasonable number of species but fewer individual insects in these species than I usually see.

Yesterday, I was watching the insect life that has returned to our wildlife pond. There are Pond Skaters who are members of the Heteroptera (True bug) family. Pond Skaters feet are adapted to enable the insect to run on top of the water 'skin' whilst looking underwater for prey which consists of small animals. These are then 'speared' through the water surface by the bugs beak or 'Rostrum' to use the correct term. The rostrum also serves as a straw through which the skater 'sucks' the unfortunate creatures body fluids. The presence of Skaters in numbers indicates there must be an abundance of underwater prey to maintain this population.

There are also Whirligig Beetles which are little black beetles which also swim on the water surface. However, these swim rapidly and mainly in circles. Hence their common name. They can dive very well if necessary, especially if alarmed. Their eggs are laid underwater fastened to plant stems. Their strange looking larvae are fierce little predators. It has been discovered their spinning behaviour has a significance which is far beyond the scope of this small article but is easily accessible online.

I also saw a Peacock Butterfly. This appeared to be in pristine condition meaning it was newly hatched, adding weight to my hope that many insects are still awaiting some warm weather to induce them to 'hatch'. I could not tell it's gender but males usually hatch first. Peacock Butterfly larvae depend on nettles for food. The butterfly I saw was resting on a nettle leaf which is encouraging.

On the establishing 'Wildlife Meadow' patches, Cowslips are now in full flower but could finish by early May. Our wildflower population including Cowslips is increasing yearly and it is encouraging to watch the flora of these wildflower patches developing as time goes by.

I wrote in April's article that I was hoping to have the plastic removed and seed sown in our newest patch. All went according to plan. Plastic was removed and Cornfield Annual seed was sown. Yesterday I returned to the patch to see how our seed is germinating. I was dismayed to see that Ground Elder (*Aegopodium podagraria*) is far from dead. There are patches appearing in several areas. It is a very invasive plant with very little conservation value and will take over completely if not checked immediately. Otherwise the wildflower seeds look to be germinating very well. If we can get the ground elder sorted all will be fine.

The hedge that separates the allotments and wildlife patch from Watery Lane is looking quite sick in places. This is mainly due to Elms which form a part of the hedge succumbing to Dutch Elm Disease. These have now died leaving gaps in

their places. Replacing these will be a job for next winter. We have already replaced around 20 metres of hedge on the end closest to the river.

Dave Musson



Cancer Support Group - Weedon



A new Cancer Support Group is starting up in Weedon. The group is for adults affected by any type of cancer, whether you are a patient, relative, carer or friend. Its aim is to provide a safe and supporting space to talk, listen, share information & experiences and make new friends.

There are around 200 different types of cancer, each requiring its own treatment plan and combination of drugs for the individual patient. The initial diagnosis can be a scary and confusing time, from coming to terms with the news, understanding the medical terminology, attending appointments for different scans and tests through to being given the final result. After that, going through the treatment plan with the Oncology team, which may involve surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, discussing what to expect and how you will manage. There are some who are cured after treatment and others who live with cancer which is managed. It is all so individual.

This is why it is good to talk and having a support group is a good place to start. We welcome all people affected by cancer living in Weedon and the surrounding area – whether you are newly diagnosed, going through or have finished treatment, living with and managing cancer or part of the valuable support network of carers, relatives & friends. You are all able to share information, stories and anecdotes which will help others. The group is a place to come and chat over tea & cake, talk about whatever you want and have some time to relax with others.

The Cancer Support Group will be held in the Chapter House at the rear of St Peter & St Paul Church, Weedon, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, 2.00 – 4.00 pm, starting on the 8th & 22nd May. Access to the room is flat with no steps, parking is either under the railway arches at the side of the church or in Church Street. If you don't want to come alone, bring a friend.

For anyone who would like to come along and join the group, who has time to help out with refreshments or chatting with people, make a cake for everyone to enjoy, or would like more information please contact Libby Hart on **01327 341816** or Email: **csgweedon@btinternet.com**.



Heyford Bowls Club

Following a really wet February/March and April we have had to delay the opening of the bowls green as it is still too wet and soft. However May will see the start of the outdoor season and we look forward to the forthcoming friendly matches against other local bowls clubs. The local men's Monday Night Triples League also starts this month and they are hoping for a successful season.

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.

May sees our big Open Weekend in line with the national Big Bowls Weekend run by Bowls England. This will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th May. There will be various fun bowls activities for you to try together with food and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

Short Mat bowls continues to be very successful in the village hall and we held our Ladies Pairs competition with an excellent turnout. Fourteen ladies took part and the final was between Sandy Davis and Jean Culling against Val Smith and Chris Phillipps who were the winners. We hold sessions every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm or in the evening at 7pm. We welcome new members any week, why not come along and have a go. The first three times are free so this gives you the time to learn the basics. We have all sizes of bowls for you to borrow, all you need are flat soled shoes or slippers. We look forward to seeing you at one of the sessions soon.

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

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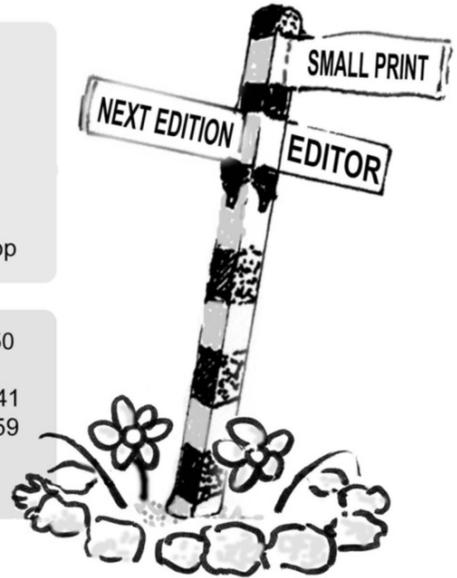
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Editorial:	Sue Boutle	07415 352550
Proofreading:	Tony Boutle	
Distribution:	Mick Watts	01327 340041
Adverts & Payments:	Vicki Hamblin	01327 341059
Design:	Nick Essex	
Website:	Jez Wilson	

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