



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

June 2024

Issue 470

2024

NETHER HEYFORD
VILLAGE HALL

SUMMER
FETE

A black and white illustration of a summer fete scene. In the center is a large tent. To the left are two trees. To the right are two people, one playing a drum and the other playing a trumpet. There are also some musical notes floating around.

SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2-5PM

FEATURING: A Gymnastic Extravaganza
* Dog Display * Grand Raffle * Rose King & Queen
* Vintage Vehicles * Stalls & Amusements
* Ice Cream * Refreshments * Brass Band
* Round the Village Race * Tombolas
* Companion Dog show & lots more!

Afternoon teas in Village hall
email: nhvhevents@gmail.com
for further details

A small black and white illustration of a house with a chimney and a garden.

Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
Parties, Weddings, Business
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Bookings: nhvhbookings@gmail.com

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167



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Community Lounge (CL). The Lounge will be open from 2.00 to 4.30pm each Wednesday until October when it will re-open all day.

Programme for June 2024

5 th June	Cake and Chat.	2.00 – 4.30
12 th June	Art Appreciation. Guy Ravine	2.30
19 th June	Councillor Surgery	2.00 – 4.30
26 th June	Wendy Green – Drawing for pleasure	2.30
3 rd July	Cake and Chat and short trivia Quiz	Quiz at 2.30

Charles Kiloh - Chairman's Annual Report 2024.

I'd like to start this report with a tribute to Mr Neil Haynes. Neil served on the Parish Council for over 40 years as a Councillor and Chairman. He shared his Parish Council etiquette with me, and was very patient with me. His death is a sad loss to Nether Heyford.

This has been a busy year with a lot happening. I'll attempt to cover everything, if I miss anything, or anyone please accept my apologies.

Successfully achieving our Neighbourhood Plan is a tribute to the efforts of a determined and dedicated team of volunteers, Cllr Tony Williams, Mr Tom Dodd, and Mr Tony Clewett. Smoothing over difficulties and the two-year delay of COVID. Gentlemen I thank you. The debt owed to the late Mrs Sue Corner, who was the originator of the Neighbourhood Plan challenge can never be forgotten.

The ongoing success of the Nether Heyford Allotments and Community area is a tribute to another dedicated team.

The Community area is a much-utilised asset and was the scene of a very successful but damp wassailing event.

The Allotments success was rewarded with a gold award, and some very happy allotment holders.

The idea for a Community Lounge came from Cllr Lesley Dilkes and Mr Guy Ravine and provides a safe space for residents to meet, chat, and reinvent a sense of community. Financial support came from One Stop, Nether Heyford, The Arnold Trust, Parochial Church Council, West Northants Council, and private individuals. Held in the Youth Club premises the project is building, and all are welcome.

In line with this initiative the Parish Council have begun to focus on and develop wellbeing issues. This team consisting of Cllrs Kim Woodbridge-Dodd, Colin Thomas, and Dave Musson, are working hard for Nether Heyford.

The implementation of a successful Traffic Management system after some teething troubles, supported by Northants Police and our PCSO, Chris Dudley and nursed by Cllr Ian Paris we are tackling the anti-social issue of speeding.

Plans are also in hand to provide further Traffic calming in Furnace Lane

We have a new grass cutting team doing a really good job. The Green look good.

A wildlife team has been established working to preserve, and protect the Green by renewing and replacing dying trees. This is for the benefit of future generations.

The team also maintain a wildlife area within the allotments.

The common denominator for all of this is volunteers. From Parish Council, Youth Club, Playing Fields Association, Bowls Club to the almost invisible and dedicated volunteers keeping the Cemetery tidy. Nothing would get done without volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to all.

It all helps make Nether Heyford an impressive place to live in.

The April Meeting of the Parish Council took place on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30pm at the Baptist Church Rooms, The Green, Nether Heyford. As with all Parish Council meetings it was open to the public and press.

To confirm and sign minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2024. KWD on reading the minutes circulated at meeting was unable to confirm them as a true account.

KWD did not think some of the West Northamptonshire Local Plan minutes were accurate. The Clerk had asked KWD to proofread the original minutes, and she had expressed reservations about the minuting. The Clerk had therefore asked TW to help with an accurate representation, which she did not agree with either. However, no changes were proposed.

NC said that minutes should not be released prior to their acceptance by Council at the subsequent meeting. The Clerk clarified that the Parish Council Notes in the

Prattler were an edited version of the most recent minutes, and had been for many years.

The Clerk was instructed not to put anything in the Prattler until it had been approved by Council. The Clerk felt that this went against best practice as directed by NCALC, which was to make draft minutes available as soon as reasonably possible. Resolved. Meetings to be reported in the Prattler one month in arrears. Draft minutes could be displayed on the noticeboard – but not online.

Website - to consider the situation. The present website hosts have had to cease operations and their activities have been taken over by Parish Online. It was felt that the website had become dull and dated and that the opportunity to change should be taken. LH presented various alternatives, and one would be chosen prior to the end of the current contract.

Reports

Green - Tree assessment Quote for £690 considered. It was felt other quotes should be found.

Remedial work to the Memorial green Oak had not yet been done.

Clerk to send tree maps to LD to be printed A3 size.

AW will be standing down from the PFA shortly. CK asked to be kept informed of the access numbers to the Playing Field gate so that he could access the defibrillator.

Wellbeing - KWD had distributed a report and hoped for feedback from Councillors. KWD had volunteered to attend a meeting for Welcoming Rooms. KWD mentioned the recent information received from WNC that drop in sessions would be held at Towcester library, KWD thought that for people who might want to attend from the village it would difficult if they did not have their own transport. NC referred to a community bus service, which he said would send a speaker.

Infrastructure - IP reported that Council was on the list for a chicane to be inserted, as it had committed to £25,000 match funding. He had met representatives from Cummings of Daventry who may be willing to commit to resurfacing the canal path. Disabled access to the canal was discussed and not felt to be feasible. It was felt that a sign pointing to the disabled access at a bridge near Flore could be erected.

It was felt that drivers on the Weedon Road approaching the shop area tended to ignore the white lines and go straight on. IP and NC felt we needed to establish the criteria for a stop sign to be placed there.

Community - LE reported a successful community day at the Allotments; the best so far.

LD reported that land behind the fence at the Youth Club had been cleared.

A bench on the Green needed some wood replacing. This could perhaps be offered as an opportunity to create a memorial bench.

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 June 3rd & July 1st at the Baptist Church rooms.

Clerk. Guy Ravine, Tel:07935 931787.
E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@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

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 June 2024

Sunday 2 nd	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Service of Prayer and Praise at Heyford
Saturday 8 th	2:00 pm	Pop up Messy Church at Heyford Village Fete
Sunday 9 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 16 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Ante Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 23 rd	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Brockhall
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford
	6:30 pm	Flower Festival Thanksgiving Service at Flore Church
Sunday 30 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Flore Church

Midweek Services

Thursday 10:00 am Morning Prayer at Flore Church (Not Thursday 20th)

Friday, Morning Prayer, 9:00AM via Zoom – please contact the churchwardens for an invitation

The Streets we shall be praying for during June are: Middle Street, Manor Park and Parsons Close in Nether Heyford; Brockhall Road and The Crescent in Flore, the Main Street in Church Stowe and in Brockhall, The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage.

A letter from the laity

It will be World Environment Day on Wednesday 5th June. Our First Sunday Flore Christian Partnership services this year have taken an environmental theme, and we will be celebrating World Environment Day in Flore Church on Sunday 2nd June.

Sustainability and bio-diversity are pillars of sound environmental principles. Interestingly both these themes are presented right at the beginning of the Bible in the first chapter of the first book – Genesis – where we learn that God wants his creation was to be successful:

“Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” (Genesis 1:20)

“God blessed them and said: “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth””. (Genesis 1:28)

In Genesis 9:9-10, God makes a primal covenant between Him, us, and every living creature:

“I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth.”

The point being made here is that every living creature matters, whether perceived to be useful to us or not; not just the cuddly fluffy ones, but all creatures, even if they bite, or sting, or consume what we think are “our” crops. In many ways this is a principle that came quite late to modern thinking, and in earlier decades great efforts were made to eradicate certain “troublesome” species, often with unforeseen adverse consequences arising as a result. Pesticides that harm bees are still being licensed and used in the UK, very contrary to what many consider good modern environmental practice, as well as the original teaching: “every living creature that was with you” matters.

Genesis was written nearly 4000 years ago, but it started with what we now consider to be leading environmental considerations. I find that very Interesting.

I wonder what else we might find out if we go on to read more of the Bible...

Yours in Christ

Paul

St Peter and St Paul Church,
Nether Heyford



Handbell Concert
By Weldon
Handbell Ringers

Thursday 11th July

7.30pm

In Church

Admission £10 for adults, £5 children 16 and under
(includes a glass of wine or fruit juice and nibbles)

Tickets from Jane Rands 01327 340678

janerands@gmail.com

Proceeds towards the church's charitable giving



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for June

June 2 nd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
June 9 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Bruce Furness
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
June 16 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Allan Pope (with coffee after the service)
June 23 rd	10:30 am	Morning service with Communion led by Ted Hales
June 30 th	10:30 am	Morning service with communion led by Martin Buckby

Events

Tues June 18th 10 am

Prayer and bible study

All welcome

Pauline Thackray

Pauline Thackray was a church member for 50 years. She served her Lord faithfully not only through her contribution to this church but also the local Community and will be sadly missed.

Condolences go to Tim, Helen and all her family and friends.

Recently my wife Sue and I spent a weeks holiday not far from Padstow in Cornwall. Cornwall is a special place to us with lots of memories. We enjoy walking but the manageable distance has greatly reduced. Whilst there we walked from where we were staying towards the next bay, high up on the cliff path. At one point the footpath was less well defined and two paths were available to us. It was a crossroads moment and a decision was necessary so we took the path we thought was ok and the right one. We eventually realised that the path we had taken was the wrong path, not only wrong but dangerous and potentially seriously dangerous. We realised that we were walking closer and closer to the cliff edge - a slip would certainly have been fatal and over the fence we could see the right path, the path which we should have been taking. The only way out of our dangerous situation was to retrace our steps and return to the beginning of the junction and then take the right path. So we carefully and thankfully took the path back and realised just how close we could have been to such an awful situation. We took the right path and looking over the fence saw how close we had been to potential harm, and had we slipped, to our certain death! For us on our walk that day there was a right way and a wrong way and there was a safe and unsafe path to take.

There are many verses in The Bible which speak and remind us of the "the right path and the right way to take through life" – for example

Proverbs 3:6: "Watch the path of your feet and all your ways will be established."

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

Jeremiah 6:16: "In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."

Psalms 25:10: "All the paths of the Lord are loving-kindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies."

Psalms 27:11: "Teach me Your way, O Lord, And lead me in a level path."

For us all as we travel through life there is a right way and a wrong way and there is a safe and unsafe path to take. I am reminded of an old song or chorus (yes, old words and perhaps not so popular and palatable these days) but the message is so clear

I met Jesus at the crossroads,
Where the two ways meet,
Satan too was standing there,
And he said, "Come this way,
Lots and lots of pleasures,
I will give to you today."
But I said, "No, there's Jesus here;
See what he offers me,
Down here my sins are forgiven
Up there a home in heaven."
Praise God! That's the way for me.

The path of life is never easy for any of us for all of the time – no-one promised it would be.

We were so glad that we found the right path because the right path enabled us to appreciate so much as we walked and talked – the path still had some difficult and challenging aspects – but that was the path we followed.

I am so glad that I, many years ago, took the path of faith, with all of its uncertainties, difficulties and challenges, with my failures and frailty – but God is a God of forgiveness and I recall this lovely old saying, “She or he who has never known the place of failure has never known the peace from forgiveness”

Details regarding chapel services are detailed elsewhere and a warm welcome awaits you.

Thank you

Martin Buckley
on behalf of the fellowship from The Chapel on the green.

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.



Nether Heyford Classic & Vintage Vehicle Show

Saturday 8th June 2024 – 2pm



Classic Cars, Bikes and Trucks, Vintage Vehicles.

Bring along your classic vehicle and park up on our **village green** surrounding our **village hall fete**.

Fete opens at 2pm – Set up starts from 11:00am with last vehicles parked at 1:30pm

Following on from a successful 2 years in partnership with our local classic car club **Long Buckby (and surrounding villages) Vintage and Classic Vehicle Meet**, we continue again for another meet up for the Nether Heyford Village Hall Fete this year.

One of the largest village greens in England makes for the perfect display and day out

Slots are limited but only by the size of our village green. It's the only time we allow any vehicles on our village green.

We hope you join us for a great day out.

If you have any questions or to book a slot then please contact:

Jez Wilson of Nether Heyford or Harry Beacall of Long Buckby (and surrounding villages) Vintage and Classic Vehicle Meet



Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

If you love plants and flowers you are sure to enjoy a special meeting of our club on Monday 24th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

National Demonstrator Katherine Kear presents Florabundance. Tickets available from Maria Owen on 01327 341783. Members £5. Visitors £10.

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

Flore Arts Events

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.

Keep up to date with our plans on our website at www.floreartsevents.com and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page.

Heyfords Wildlife Association 'Meet & Greet'

Meet us at the Fete on the 8th of June and learn more of our work with local organisations on developing spaces for nature around our superb village. Work on the Nature Reserve is ongoing, and we are open to ideas for making it a resource for villagers young and old.

- Can “No mow May” be simply improved on?
- Simple changes to your garden to attract and support nature.
- We are open to questions and keen to hear of your ideas.
- We are keen to work with other groups and individuals throughout the village

Village Hall News

View from the Chair

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall took place on 29 April in the Village Hall and I can now introduce myself to you as the Chair of your Village Hall Trustees. The committee of volunteer trustees take on responsibility and give time free of charge and for the benefit of the whole village. I am sure that everyone will join me in thanking our outgoing Chair, Joan Kirkbride for her work during her time with the committee and particularly as Chair.

The vitality of the hall and that of the traditional village fete depends on the hard work of so very few people and therefore I am again asking for residents or users to join our "friends of the village hall" group for occasional help with specific events or projects. If you can pull some weeds, help with maintenance, bake a cake or mend a curtain we would love to be able to call on you. If you are prepared to share your trade or skill that would be amazing too. Simply message the village hall Facebook page with your name, contact details and what you could offer or pop the information in our post box. Alternatively you can email me direct at the email below which is specifically for village hall business. On that note, the trustees and several villagers came together on 3 May for a spring clean and audit of the hall. They collectively worked extremely hard and I would like to particularly thank Rosemary Blood, Barry Clements, Elizabeth Davison and Steve Collins, villagers who turned out to helped us.

Planning is in full swing for our fete this year on 8 June. We hope that we will see our usual amazing turn out. It represents our village coming together in the best of ways. If you see me come and say "hello". Keep an eye on social media for what is going on.

We would be grateful to anyone who could provide a cake for our traditional village hall teas on the day or even help with the washing up! Donations can be dropped off at the hall during the morning. Raffle tickets are on sale through our various clubs and societies, in Heyford Meats and will be for sale on the day of the fete. Wonderful prizes as usual.

Carol Tuckley
Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com

In Memoriam

Gerald Reed

My lovely Dad, Gerald Reed, passed away peacefully, after a short illness on 27th April 2024, at Danetre Hospital, at the age of 97.

Dad moved to Nether Heyford in 1988, and loved living in the village, he was extremely happy here. He will be much missed.

Sue and Roy Williams

Pauline Thackray

29th November 1937 – 3rd May 2024

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of our Mum, Grandma and Great Grandma Pauline. She was born in Bradford where she met David, her husband of 55 years before he sadly passed away in 2017. We moved to Nether Heyford in 1973 and Mum soon became part of the pantomimes that we put on each year, run then by the Monday Club. She worked for Fisher Price for a time and also at a shop called Water Gypsies which was on the canal by the Narrowboat pub. After moving to Derby for 3 years in the early 80's we came back! That's when Mum started working at Bliss Charity Primary School where she was a secretary for 19 years; going on the yearly school trips to Kingswood and the Viking Village in York.

She was involved with the Bowls Club, Heyford Singers and a lifetime member of the Baptist Chapel. She was also a member of the British Red Cross.

Pauline will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Thank you for the well wishes and condolences received.

Helen, Tim, Kim, Sheryl, Ashley, Nicole, Olivia and Lily

Astronomy on the Green

So, what gives with the Sun?

As we will have all seen the Sun is being very active now and the large flares it is producing light up our skies with Aurora. But why now?

It is an effect of the Solar Cycle; this was first noticed in 1755 and we have been counting the cycles since then, this one is number 25. Heinrich Schwabe during his observations of the sun between 1826 and 1843 established the timing of the cycle, Schwabe noticed that sunspot activity changed over approximately 11 years. Currently we are approaching the maxima of this cycle (it will peak later in 2024).

The solar cycle is driven by the sun's magnetic fields, every 11 years or so, the sun's magnetic field flips so north becomes south and south becomes north. Changes in the sun's magnetic field affect the amount of activity on the solar surface. The sun's polar magnetic fields weaken, go to zero and then emerge again with the opposite polarity. This is a regular part of the solar cycle.

Most of us will be familiar with sunspots, the number of spots increase as we approach the cycle maxima, and they move to a more central band on the sun's surface. The spots also have the tendency to join forming larger structures. Eventually the magnetic field that produces the spots breaks down producing flares out of the surface. The flare that produced Aurora visible in the UK produced a Coronal mass ejection and came from a sunspot 17 times the size of the Earth. Coronal mass ejections beam out an enormously powerful stream of particles, and during the maxima they can be directed toward our planet. Planets without a protective magnetosphere such as Venus feel the full impact. In 2006 the sun ejected a small coronal mass ejection (CME) the release of plasma and magnetic field which hit Venus and stripped the planet's atmosphere of vast amounts of oxygen.

Happily, we are protected by the Earth's magnetosphere, when the energetic particles from the sun slam into and interact with Earth's upper atmosphere, dazzling light shows illuminate the sky. The colour of the aurora depends on what chemicals in Earth's atmosphere the particles hit. Red hues are produced from collisions with nitrogen molecules and green is produced by oxygen molecules. There can be wider implications for radio and long distance and satellite communications, and potential blackouts (as seen in Canada and North America in 2003). As terrestrial humans we are safe, but there are implications for astronauts (as on the ISS). The Sun is our life giver, but it does get moody at times.

Clear skies

Tony Boulle



In Nether Heyford

Thanks, on the behalf of Nether Heyford W.I., to all those people who supported the Coffee Morning that we ran on April 20th. The village hall was full of chatter and people relaxing, not to mention the several stall holders who came to show how much Nether Heyford has to offer. We are so lucky to have all the shops and services that we need, not to mention the number of groups who provide fellowship and interest. I hope that one or two ladies will try some of our evenings as the year goes by - you will be more than welcome and there is always laughter and good refreshments at the end of the evening.

Our May 2nd meeting started with a discussion about the W.I. resolutions. The one chosen by 95,000 members and which will be discussed at the AGM was 'Dental Health Matters'. We then had an interesting talk from Shirley Waterhouse about 'The work of Christian Aid'. I have grown up knowing that there were people in the world who have less than we in the West and who need help but I think that, at the moment, there is more need than has been for some time. Shirley showed us how diverse that need is and, as I write this, we are having our chance to help locally. It was a really interesting talk, if a little uncomfortable.

We have no meeting in the village hall in June as we usually have an outing instead. This year we are going to look at some local history at Sulgrave Manor. I have a personal story of a visit in the 1970's with my Aunt, her four children and my three. When we got to the door we were told there was no admission until Mr Wayne had finished looking round. After a while the door re-opened and there stood John Wayne himself!! He was so lovely to the children, signing autographs and carrying one of my boys over to show them all his white Rolls Royce convertible! I wonder who could be there this time? Could I be lucky twice?

We will be on parade at the Fete with cakes and other bits and pieces. Do come and find us - we look forward to seeing you.

Our next meeting in the village hall will be on July 4th at 7.30pm when Jess Nash will be telling us 'Tales from the Driver's Seat - A Lady London Bus Driver's Life'. There will be refreshments and a very warm welcome for a charge of £5.

Mary Rice Heyford Lodge
01327 340101

100% NO SALE NO FEE

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- No Withdrawal Fee
- Local and Experienced
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Chris Gibson
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PERSONAL • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

Heyford Allotments

Looking Good

I think that everyone agrees there is something so uplifting about this time of year.

The sun has eventually decided to make an appearance, plants are growing at a rate that never ceases to amaze, the air is full of birdsong, bees and butterflies are again regular visitors to our gardens and the leaves on our trees have that unique “greenness” that sings of new life. And of course, as we are so lucky to live surrounded by beautiful countryside, we cannot avoid seeing so much new livestock in the fields around Heyford.

Our allotments, not to be left out of this seasonal celebration, are flourishing in a way I have not seen before. The whole site looks in wonderful condition and plot holders have worked harder and with more dedication than I can recall. The trees in the orchard are looking well established and have worn a coat of blossom that we’ve not seen before. Bill Corner has worked tirelessly cutting the grass and keeping those few pathways that are untended, accessible. The wildlife patch is teeming with life and crops are flourishing on almost every allotment. To be able to sit in our community area on a sunny evening (in between carrying cans of water) and take in the view, is a great privilege – and I recommend you all give it a try. It really is good for the soul!

Good Neighbours

If all the above were not enough, we have been blessed of late with so many acts of kindness on the allotment. We have often referred to our community of growers and it has been wonderful to see so many allotmentees helping each other out, whether it be rotavating a plot for someone, strimming the grass for a neighbour, helping cover the ground with landscape fabric, moving equipment or sharing plants and tools. Long may that continue.

Community Flower Patch

A lot of weeding has taken place in the last month and as the spring bulbs begin to die back, we are planting up with annuals and replacing some of the dahlias that died during the winter. Many thanks to those good people who have, without prompting, put a can of water on the new plants. There should always be a couple of full watering cans on that plot, ready to be emptied appropriately. If you are able to help, please do so and just refill the can when you are finished. Hopefully we’ll have enough cut flowers for allotmentees to help themselves to later in the summer.

Gardeners World Live

I am sure the whole village will want to wish Leanne Wood, one of our allotmentees, all the very best when she exhibits her first solo show garden at the NEC this year. It is a great achievement and testament to her skill and enthusiasm

as a gardener. I think this may also be “a first” for someone from our allotments to have a garden on display at a national garden show. If you get a chance to visit the NEC between 13th and 16th June do go & see Leanne’s garden and give her some support.

Always keen to further the cause of sustainability, Leanne has not only tried to ensure that her garden is made of reclaimed items and locally sourced plants, but will donate the garden, once the show is over, to local schools.

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. 07879777802 email: langrish_heyford@hotmail.com

Mike Langrish



Cancer Support Group - Weedon



A new Cancer Support Group has started 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. 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 is 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. 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.

The next meetings are on Wednesday 12th & 26th June, 10th & 24th July.

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.



www.heyfordsingers.org

*Music does bring people together
It allows us to experience the same emotions.
People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit.
No matter what language we speak,
What colour we are, the form of our politics
or the expression of our love and our faith,
music proves: we are the same.*

John Denver

Another year of singing has suddenly gone culminating in our Spring Concert which was a great success – we sold out on both nights. The hall looked very Spring-like (themed yellow) thanks to the hard work of some of the Choir members and we sang a lovely variety of songs so the Choir could show off their various talents from our Welsh duo singing Calon Lan in Welsh, originally written as a hymn in the early 1890s, to 'All That Jazz' with its upbeat tempo. The famous Calon Lan song translated means 'I am not asking for a luxurious life, the gold of the world or its fine pearls; I ask for a happy heart; An honest heart, a clean heart; A pure heart full of goodness'. Not a dry eye in the house after the duet consisting of Heyford's Moira Blogg and Towcester's Royston King was sung, and our old favourite 'You Raise me Up' was another tear-jerker. We saw quite a few of the audience getting their hankies out... So a huge 'thank you' to all of you who supported us by buying tickets both for the Concert and the Raffle.

And then there was our Premier performance of 'The Witches of Macbeth' on Friday night – the second only performance being Saturday. This music was composed by Graham Kinnerly our Pianist (as mentioned in the previous Prattler) and was an original take on the famous Shakespearean lines 'Bubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble' which was sung in as menacing a voice as we could manage! The cackle at the end said it all. I think Graham was very pleased with the way we interpreted it – the words are really gruesome when you examine the piece closely and Graham had to edit some of them out...

And another 'thank you' to all of you who joined in with our Chairman, Geoff Allen, whilst he cajoled the whole audience into singing four part harmony to 'The Saints Go Marching In'. Not an easy task at the beginning of the second half although the empty bottles of wine seemed to help somewhat with the singing. The Village Hall roof was surely raised. Geoff also did his old rugby rendition of 'Side by Side' and Sue Townsend (our previous Chair person) did a very creditable 'Joyce the Librarian'. Our new, younger member Angela Sawyer did a solo in 'Hushabye Mountain' and sung well especially as she was supposed to be one of three singing this but due to unavoidable absences, she had to do this on her own. But her love of singing overcame her very natural fear of her first solo performance.

Bearing in mind this was early May, in Geoff's opening speech he had asked the question "What is the difference between the new Co-op arena in Manchester and our Village Hall?" To which the reply was "The Heyford Singers are actually performing in our venue..."

And now, after the last earworm has gone, we all settle down to our summer break. We wish all of you a very happy summer and in the next issue of 'The Prattler' we will have a date for our Open Evening where we invite anyone that wishes to join us to come along and see what we are about. As usual we are short of men. Very. Only four basses made that lovely accompaniment to our songs at the Concert and only seven tenors. We need more... Will you help us out?

And as a member of the Choir remarked to me after the Concert "Aren't we lucky to be part of something so special?"

JRA



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Flood Watch

What a change in the weather as May records highest temperature on record of 27 degrees centigrade. After months of excessive rainfall May has only recorded 25% of a normal May. The longer term forecast for the remainder of May predicts a mix of sunshine and showers with temperatures falling back to 17 to 18 degrees.

Sunset times continue to increase reaching 21.28 by the 20th of June with a day length of 16.42, the longest day of the year and the official start of summer. The start of July will see a decrease in sunset time and daylight hours.

As the weather has improved the risk of flooding has receded.

Still no news from the Environment Agency over culvert maintenance.

The West Northampton Strategic Planning Committee have finally announced a date of 21st May 2024 to consider Sand and Gravel extraction at Upper Heyford.

J. Arnold.

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View from the Wildlife Patch

I can't really begin without commenting on the continuing shortage of insects in our Parish. At the time of writing, there are very few flying insects around our area. At ground level there seem to be quite a few Ants but very few Beetles or Earwigs etc. to be found under stones or rotting wood. It is apparent this is the case over much of the UK and is a situation that is causing much concern on many levels of society right now. What would a future without insects look like? I copied the following unattributed quotation which says it all.

"They sustain birds, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and aquatic life; they are pollinators and pest-controllers; they break down decaying organic matter and recycle nutrients back to the soil. Without insects there would be devastating food shortages and we'd be up to our necks in some very unpleasant things!"

Any internet search will find similar writings and video presentations verifying and reflecting the sentiments in the above

Back to The Wildlife Patch.

I always think it is a shame that more people do not visit the Wildlife Patch to see what is going on. It is a village asset, available to all. There are two benches for visitors to sit and enjoy the ambiance. Sun shining, birds singing, flowers out, insects (depleted but still there) buzzing, all go together to make it a lovely place to sit.

Our hay meadow beds are still developing. Cowslips are increasing year on year whilst other broad-leaved plants are also increasing in number year on year. In a week or two these will be at their best.

However there is still work to do. When planting and managing a "Hay Meadow" the ideal ratio is 70/80% grasses and 20% broad leaved plants. When we planned the project, we chose a proprietary flowering meadow mixture from an established seed merchant. It includes one particular wildflower- "Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*)".- which is a parasite of grasses. It is included in the mix to keep fast growing grasses in check whilst the other plants are establishing. It seems our Yellow Rattle has been too successful and there is now much Yellow Rattle and not much grass. In Autumn we need to scarify the ground and sow with an all grass meadow mix. Hopefully that will rectify the situation.

Insects have been slowly appearing in the pond. After some concerns, they are now present in small numbers. Yesterday there was a male "Broad Bodied Chaser" Dragonfly - I love these English names. It has an abdomen that looks a bit like it has been flattened horizontally and is a lovely powder blue in colour. The Female also has a flat abdomen (no comment) but this is a plain yellow/brown. Both sexes of Blue Damselflies were also around in small numbers. All Dragonfly and Damselfly species are carnivorous in all stages. We can only hope they find enough underwater life to feed their progeny this year.

I have obtained some large roof tiles. These will be numbered and placed around the patch where they will provide shelter for miscellaneous ground dwellers, such as Ants, Beetles and Millipedes, maybe Earwigs as well as small mammals. Maybe even reptiles. These will be visited 4 to 6 weekly in Summer to provide a record of life at ground level.

Dave Musson

World Tai Chi Day: Saturday April 27 2024

All over the world China, Europe, Africa, Asia people gathered on this day.

The intention is to move slowly, gently and with the shared aspiration to move for health and well-being.

Teachers all over the world shared tai chi practices - offering them to their communities. Both to those new to tai chi and those with previous experience.

And so it was in a small corner of Nether Heyford that a band of enthusiastic warriors gathered and came together on this Saturday morning in the Baptist Church Schoolroom for a morning of Tai Chi practice.

New to the village, Tamara (from the Dragon Academy - find the Dragon Warriors group on Facebook) and Trudi guided the group through several traditional tai chi and qi gong practices. These included Wudang 13 Principles, Yang 24 step form, and Body in Mind Training (Mindfulness in Motion). They also demonstrated a number of "empty hand" and weapons forms (Kung Fu Fan, Yang 24 Step and 32 Yang Sword). All of this was sprinkled with talks about movement, well being and the many benefits of moving together and having a shared experience. All in all it was a joyful morning, we met new people and all offered something of themselves in this process.

Our next event in the village will be July 13th and 14th. A "Sword Sisters" practice retreat offering women a chance to explore feminine power through basic static and moving swordplay, mindfulness practices and being in community together as women (information at www.mindbodymot.com/sword-sisters)



Heyford Bowls Club

The outdoor season is now in full swing with the club having played their first matches throughout May. We also held our big Open Weekend over the May bank holiday in line with the national Big Bowls Weekend run by Bowls England.

Early June will see the Bowls Club have a table at the Village Fete on Saturday 8th June. This year it will be a Spin The Wheel game with various prizes. We hope you will come along and have a go.

June see us away on our Bowls Tour to Eastbourne on the south coast. We have matches scheduled in Hastings, Eastbourne and Peacehaven. We have a team of over 30 players who will play in at least two of the matches but allowing them to take the opportunity of visiting local sights on their free day.

Once we return from the tour our club's Friday Night League will start. We have six teams that will play each week for 10 weeks. Friday night is also our club's open night, which includes the fabulous Meat Raffle comprising of meat from our local butcher. 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.

The indoor short-mat continues to thrive both in afternoon and evening. Last month saw the mixed singles club match. This had an excellent turnout with nineteen members enjoying a really good afternoon of bowling. The matches were closely fought. The final was between Liz Davison, an afternoon bowler and Bob Bates from our evening section. Bob was our eventual winner with an outstanding performance.

The Indoor competitions now have a rest from matches until September, but sessions continue on Wednesdays as usual. We can now enjoy the summer watching the outdoor section at the playing fields.

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



Heyford Football Club

The 1st team played the Les Underwood County Junior Cup final v Moulton Football Club at Wellingborough's Dog and Duck ground.

With many players missing it was always going to be difficult against a team who missed out on promotion again and would be looking to win something else to go with their league cup win as consolation.

With players having to play unfamiliar positions, big shout to Lewis Reynolds who was asked to play as the main striker, it was always going to be a tall ask but we knew the players would give their all.

It took us a while to get going and we were 3-0 down quickly, Young CB Adebola Ademidun powered in a bullet header, but a mix up with Dan Healy gifted Moulton their 4th.

HT 4-1

The 2nd half was strange, Dan Healy was, deservedly, sent off, but we started playing better with 10. Jamal Said had a great game and thundered in a long range shot.

All in all Moulton were worthy winners they were the better team on the day, and I have to add were extremely gracious in their win, staff. I want to give special mention to our skipper Bien Kayij, who was outstanding and to Reace Hill, who played 90 minutes the night before for his Sunday team in a cup final. He was totally finished at the final whistle but did not stop. All the players that got us there and played Saturday we are all very proud of you all.

FT 4-2

It was a huge honour for Heyford to play in this game, knocking out 3 step 6 teams and Roade on the road to the final. We had too many players missing on the day which leaves us wondering how it would have gone with the team we demolished Sileby with in the semi final, but with all the plans in place for next season we will be back you can count on that.

Again well done to Moulton and we wish them the best of luck next season.

Ian Martin

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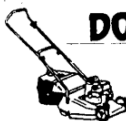
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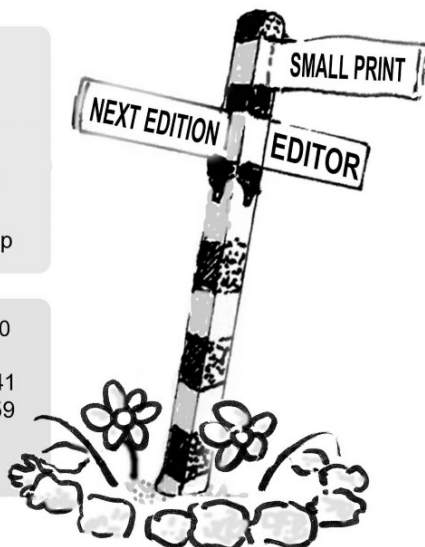
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