



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

September 2024

Issue 472

St Peter and St Paul Church, Nether Heyford



Church Fete

Saturday 7th September

2-4pm

In The Rectory Garden

(in the church and church rooms if wet)

***Cake Stall, Tombola, Teas, Games,
Bits and Bobs Stall, Children's Activities***

Heyford Wildlife Association Stall

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Charles Kiloh has resigned as chair of the Parish Council and also as a Councillor. Charles first joined Council in June 2011 and, apart from a few months, has been a councillor ever since. He has been Chairman for much of that time. Charles quietly took on many of the duties carried out by Council and will be a hard act to follow. Both the councillors and clerk would like to thank Charles for all his work on behalf of the village. The Vice Chair has taken on the role until the next meeting on Sept 2nd.

Colin Thomas has also resigned. Colin has served two terms as a Councillor and councillors and clerk all thank him for his efforts.

Wet area on the Green - A number of residents and Councillors have reported a wet area on The Green, between the Lime trees on the North side of the Green. This has been reported to Anglian Water, who sent an engineer. He reported that there are no pipes in the immediate vicinity. It is assumed that it is caused by a spring starting up due to the wet weather this year. Subsequently it seems that there is in fact pipe-work in the vicinity and Anglian have dug up a section of the green to try and sort out the issue.

Mosaic - Many residents will remember the "Spirit of the Valley" mosaic that used to stand next to the bridge. It had deteriorated and been vandalised. Having been recovered from the river it has been restored and re-framed.

Initially it was intended to put it on the Memorial Green, but this was decided against because of possible tree damage and incongruity. The next site suggested was on the large grass triangle at the junction of Bugbrooke Rd and Watery Lane, but underground pipe-work is felt to be a problem here. The sites currently being considered are its original place near the river, or on the Green opposite the school.

The Parish Council would welcome thoughts regarding these places and any suggestions for others. Please send your suggestions to the clerk at netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

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 September 2024

4 th September	Cake and Chat and short trivia Quiz	Quiz at 2.30
11 th September	Wendy Green – Drawing for pleasure	2.30
18 th September	St Peter's Church and the Old Black Lion, Northampton.	2.30
25 th September	Councillor Surgery	2 - 4 pm
2 nd October	Art Appreciation. Guy Ravine	2.30

Report From West Northants Council. From Councillor Adam Brown.

Gravel Extraction planning application was not successful, at the moment there is no sign of an appeal.

WNC looking at capital investment to the tune of around £10m, this will include major roads resurfacing including the J16 roundabout and the A4500. Investment will also be made in pavement improvements and drainage across the villages. Local plan is coming to end of consultation.

Presentation re Ability Bus Lynn Hinch - Presentation made. Ability is a not for profit making company set up in 2018, it has grown from 1 bus to now 10 buses running regular shopping trips to the surrounding towns of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester on a weekly basis. They also offer day trip to places around the county and further afield. It is run on a membership basis, with not age restrictions. The driver will help deliver you up-to your front door. Some buses have wheelchair access. Posters are available and was requested we share on local Facebook groups, community groups etc. Annual report showed that in 2018 they made 800 journeys compared to 2023 where they made over 30,000 journeys.

Speed Cam. IP had circulated the latest report. It is planned to move the camera to Bugbrooke Road in the coming weeks. Clerk to chase the progress on the post as council felt this had now gone on far too long and WNC needed to confirm dates etc.

Reports.

Natural Environment. The Green itself was felt to be in good shape with the new grass cutters maintaining a good job. Plans were in place for the usual cutting of the green before the School Sports Day and the Village Hall Fete. It was felt the jitties still needed attention.

Wellbeing. Presentation made by Ability Bus.

Infrastructure. Footpaths not in a good state. LE to ask Dominic Cawley about the cutting of hedges and to include the Church hedge.

Heritage. Recent meeting held, looking to produce a leaflet on the history of the village, this will be used to promote the village to the wider areas. Also looking to produce a map of the village which can be used on the website etc.

Community. Terms and Conditions amendments were proposed for the allotments, all agreed to the changes.

TW to ask Deaf Connect about visiting the Community Lounge to promote what they are about and how they can help and support people in the village.

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.

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/>

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:

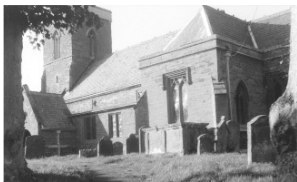
Charles Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 07779 900860

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
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
A. Wallace. 5, Western Avenue, Nether Heyford. NN7 3NQ. andrew.wallace8765@gmail.com	Council rep to Village Hall.
A. Williams 26 Church St, Nether Heyford, NN7 3LH anthony.k.williams@talk21.com	Chair of Planning, Finance, Council rep to School Trustees
Cllr Adam Brown - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD Tel: 07714 255077 Adam.Brown@westnorthants.gov.uk	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

Clerk. Guy Ravine, Tel:07935 931787.

E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

Next Meeting Monday Sept 2nd at the Baptist Church rooms.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for September 2024

Sunday 1 st	8:00 am	Prayer Book Communion Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 8 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Heyford
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 15 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	18:00:00	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 22 nd	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Worship at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	16:00:00	Café Church Harvest Service at Heyford Allotments
Sunday 29 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion and Harvest at Brockhall
	6:00 pm	BCP Evening Prayer at Church Stowe

Midweek Services

Thursday 10:00am Holy Communion at Flore Church
 2:30pm – 3:30pm Flore Church open for private prayer (not 12th)

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

During **September** we shall be praying for people living in Furnace Lane in Heyford, the High Street, including the shops and the Millennium Hall in Flore, The Old Dairy Farm in Upper Stowe and the outlying farms around Stowe and the Mews Houses in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

It's good to be back! Deborah and I had a restful, refreshing and inspiring time away during our sabbatical, visiting many places associated with the life and death of St Cuthbert, the seventh century monk, hermit and bishop, and unofficial patron saint of the North of England. In this, my first letter back after several months, I find myself reflecting on the tragic events that took place in Southport at the end of July, and on the unrest that erupted across our towns and cities as that event was hijacked by others with violent and unwholesome agendas. Watching and reading the news of the Southport attack and its aftermath was hard. Indeed, watching the news in recent years has become increasingly challenging, perhaps making us question where God is when such terrible things happen. I'm indebted to the Archdeacon of Northampton for pointing me to a poem which helps to answer that question. 'Meet me in the stairwell' was written by Stacey Randall as a memorial to the events of 9/11. In it, the poet gives voice to Jesus' responses to that question, 'Where were you God'? Here are just a few lines of his reply:

I was on the 110th floor in a smoke-filled room with a man who called his wife to say goodbye...

I was at the base of the building with the Priest ministering to the injured and devastated souls...

I was on all four of those planes, in every seat, with every prayer.

I was standing next to you when you heard the terrible news.

Jesus continues in the poem:

Some met Me for the first time on the 86th floor...

Some sought Me with their last breath...

Some chose... to ignore Me. But I was there.

We continue to pray for those who lost children in appalling and incomprehensible circumstances, and for those injured and traumatised in that event and the subsequent unrest. And we give thanks that for every act of evil, God is there in countless acts of courage, compassion, solidarity and reconciliation. We pray for all who seek peace, cooperation, understanding and harmony in our communities, remembering that Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.' (Matthew 5:9).

And I pray that the God who is with those responding to the events in Southport, the God who is with those working for peace and reconciliation in our communities, the God who – in the poet's words - is standing next to you now, whether you know him or not, will give you contagious peace.

Yours in Christ

Stephen

St Peter and St Paul Church, Heyford
Invite you to
A Harvest Festival Service
Followed by refreshments.

At The Community Area of
Nether Heyford Allotments
4pm
Sunday 22nd September
Everybody welcome

*We will be collecting donations of non-perishable items (for example tinned or packaged food, pet food, toiletries, toilet rolls). for **Daventry Food Bank**.*

Thank you

Rob 'Rambo'

On behalf of our whole family I would just like to say thank you to all who have shown such love and support to our family following the passing of my dad, Rob the Roofer 'Rambo'. We all felt the enormous positive impact of such kind words, memories and hugs and really wanted to share how much that love and support has helped us in holding it all together

Nether Heyford and the community is so important to us all especially Dad and we are so very lucky to have such a wonderful place to call home .

Thank you Rev Stephen Burrows for enabling us to celebrate dad's life in such a wonderful unique and inclusive way. The flyboys for the guard of honour and BBQ, Big Mike, Jo and Skinny, Scott and Karen and Mike and Faye for your outpouring of love and support.

In tough times there are some real angels.

We miss him so very much.

Everlong Dad Everlong ♥

Marg, Sarah, Pete, Connor, Joe, Sean, Libby and O ♥



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for September

September 1 st	10:30 am	Morning service led by Bruce Furness
September 8 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by John Perkins
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
September 15 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Lee Hillyard (coffee after the service)
September 22 nd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
September 29 th	10:30 am	Morning service with communion led by Martin Buckby

Events

Monday 8th September Church Meeting

Wednesday 25th September 2:00 pm “Life in Antarctica”
by Jon Ager (with tea and biscuits)

All welcome

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME – ON THE LOOKOUT

It is now 13 years since our monthly film evenings started in the village hall. During that time they have been organised and run by a small active team who have done a splendid job of providing entertainment for people in our village and the surrounding areas.

However, as it's also 13 years on for our members, we are now looking to recruit some youngsters to our committee. By 'youngsters' we mean people in their 50s and 60s – although folk in their 40s would also be very welcome.

If you would like to know more, our chairman Alwyne Wilson will be delighted to talk to you, so give her a call on 01327 340 803 or email her at alwyne76@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can speak to her at our first film evening on 19th September.

Astronomy on the Green

The most spectacular entity in the Cosmos is unseen, but fundamental to the beginning, sculpturing and potentially the end of this cosmos. Unseen, except in their effects; these oddities are Black Holes. It is thought that the early short lived (a few million years) stars were fated (due to their intensity) to spawn black holes as they died in supernova. These primordial black holes would have been small but have gravitational pull to allow them to grow by 'eating' gas clouds, stars and most importantly other black holes. This process leads to the formation of spinning galaxies where the pull is enough to attract stars and gases, but not strong enough to consume them.

In Black hole terms a micro black hole has equivalent mass to say the moon, typical small (stellar) holes weigh in at 2 to 150 solar masses. Getting larger, intermediate holes 150 to 100,000 suns and supermassive black holes (such as Sagittarius A* the SMBH at the centre of the Milky way) push the scale at 1,000,000 to billions of M (M being the mass of the sun).

Although the mass of the black holes are incredible, the size is surprisingly small, our SMBH [above] has around 4.15 M (million suns) however its diameter fits easily inside the solar system at a mere 16 million miles (from earth to sun is 93 million miles). So, we are talking about being only halfway from the sun to Mercury! The combination of enormous mass in a small volume produces massive amounts of gravitational pull; this results in stars and their planetary systems that stray too close to the SMBH spiralling to their eventual demise at the event horizon (the point at which they fall into the hole and disappear). On the way in, several things happen, massive amounts of light are generated (known as the accretion disc), the speed of rotation of the disc eventually exceeds the speed of light. As we are in a space time continuum the increased gravitational speed slows time. Finally at the event horizon time stops and conventional physics ends.

We once thought this was the end of everything, but we now know (thanks to Stephen Hawkins) that Black holes have a temperature and are radiators. The effect is that over trillion of years Black holes will dissipate. It is thought that at around half their original mass wormholes form to other areas of the Cosmos. Eventually like the stars and galaxies all Black holes dissipate.

You could wonder if the death of these oddities seeds the next Big Bang. Then again none of us anywhere will be able to confirm this. As always theoretical physics can (as with Hawkins) eventually be proved but there are limits.

Clear skies.

Tony Boutle

NETHER HEYFORD

GARAGE SALE

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024

10am-4pm



**Maps available on the day in
Nether Heyford Village Hall - £1.00**

Tea, coffee & bacon rolls also available at Village Hall



ABILITY are pleased to announce a new Friday service in the Nether Heyford area.

The service is available for anyone requiring transport to Northampton and is available from July.

Offering three levels of membership Gold, Silver and Bronze. The Gold Service enables you to be picked up from home, Silver and Bronze are Bus Stop pick ups.

ABILITY provide three services;

Shopper Service – taking you into Northampton Town Centre, Supermarkets, and Retail Parks.

Days Out – enjoy a day out and local tourist attractions, Towns further afield, pub lunches, garden centres and major retail parks such as Milton Keynes.

Group Travel – hire one of our minibuses with driver to go to a destination of your choice.

Join today and receive your list of trips, many are free with a concessionary bus pass.

Fares are payable by, Cash, Card, or by Concessionary Bus Passes.

The service is open to all.

Join today, membership forms available from your village shop or on our website or simply give us a call on **01327 604123**

www.abilitycic.org.uk

Douce Mowers

Douce Mowers is closing for good in mid-September and I would like to thank all the people that have supported us over many years

Best wishes,

George Rands



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

Village Hall News

View from the Chair

Whilst the committee of trustees does not meet in August everything still goes on behind the scenes. Much of the money that was raised by the fete is being used to upgrade our electrics in the hall. The program of repairs, maintenance and improvements seems endless. The Committee would like to extend our thanks to Tom Dodd for the great montage of the fete which is hanging in the main hall. It is certainly worth a look.

Our ever efficient booking secretary Simone is still taking bookings for events, interest groups and parties and although we have some availability it is great to see the hall used by local groups and societies.

Please consider supporting our garage sale event on 8 September which sees the hall open during the day for bacon rolls and drinks, plus the sale of maps. It's only £7.50!

As always we are on the look out for residents who are prepared to give us their time and energy keeping the hall maintained. Just drop me an email if you think that you might be able to help.

Looking forward now to our Harvest Supper on 26th October which is held at cost (£21 per head this year), as an opportunity to bring the village together. Our menu is 3 courses, Antipasti with Charcuterie to start, Chicken and mushroom pie for main (veggie option) and Cheese board platter to finish. There is a cash only bar. If you are interested telephone Pat Patterson on 07802 210440 or email nhvhevents@gmail.com

I'm sure everyone will agree that our hall is an amazing asset that we should all be very proud of.

Carol Tuckley
Chair of Trustees
Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

NEXT FILM

BOYS IN THE BOAT

Produced and Directed by George Clooney

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

7.15 for 7.45pm

ADMISSION: £6.00

This 2023 film is based on a true story of a nine-man team from the University of Washington that, despite long odds, made it all the way to the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES

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Flore Arts Events

Budapest Café Orchestra: Sat October 19th, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). All Saints Church, Flore. A return visit from a group who have previously thrilled us with varied and lively music inspired by the Eastern European gypsy tradition. Tickets: £20 (£10 for under 18s). Call Rosemary Read (between 9am and 6pm) on 01327 341026.

Folk Fiddle evening: Saturday November 16th, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). All Saints Church, Flore. Another return visit from a highly accomplished duo: Jenny Newman (fiddle) and Andy Glass (guitar). They will be supported by the massed ranks of The Big Fiddle Band. Expect “traditional fiddling at its best...never less than stunning”, while under her direction the exciting Big Fiddle Band will bring us rousing ensemble performances of fiddle tunes from the British Isles and beyond. Tickets: £10 (£5 for under 18s). Call Rosemary Read (between 9am and 6pm) on 01327 341026.

Our next **“Poetry Please”** session will have a “Lords and Ladies” theme, focusing on days of chivalry and romance. As usual feel free to bring along any poem you would like to share, not necessarily related to the theme. Or just come and listen. Meet at The White Hart in Flore, Sunday October 13th, 6.30pm – 8pm.

You can 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.

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 16th September – AMAZING STORIES FROM THE SCHOOL CLASSROOM by John Perkins – A series of amusing anecdotes from John’s time in the classroom, both as a student and as a teacher.

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

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.



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In Nether Heyford

Over the last month I'm sure many of us have experienced various different emotions and thoughts. There have been so many devastating and truly upsetting events across the world and nearer to home which are brought to us in great detail every hour of the night and day. Some images will stay with us for the rest of our days. It is heart breaking to see the grief that some families have to endure. It is frightening to see wars taking place and mob rule attempting to take over in some of our own towns and cities. All very depressing.

However, during these dark times it is so heartening to see the flicker of humanity and common decency which can ignite communities to pull together and face these adversities. There is something about 'belonging' to a community which helps the human spirit. Just walking through our lovely village and passing the time of day with others makes us realise how very lucky we all are to live in peaceful community. Thank goodness we had the Olympics to cheer us up seeing fantastic young sports people completing amazing feats.

In its small way, WI fosters a sense of community. In July, we joined together to listen to Jess Nash's story of becoming the first woman bus driver in London, that achievement being celebrated in the Transport Museum. She has certainly seen life and had some both shocking and amusing stories to tell. She is retired now, but volunteers now still to drive, but this time a community mini bus.

After all the glorious hot weather we have had, it was somewhat unlucky that the one night we had chosen for a social evening in August turned out to be a bit showery. We were welcomed down to the community garden in the allotments. Being Brits, we didn't allow a bit of rain and the threat of soggy sandwiches dampen our spirits. No, we would fasten the cagoules, hang on to the umbrellas and talk for England. A perfect Summer's evening.

Feeling that sense of community is very strong down on the allotments. So much hard work is done to maintain such an asset for the village. The gardens are amazing and you get the feeling of everyone working alongside each other but coming together for a quick chat or a helping hand.

Our next meeting on September 5th, funnily enough, has a community feel to it. Our local PCSO will be coming to talk to us about Fraud Prevention both online and at home. I think there will be plenty to talk about after that, and lessons to be learnt. If you are wondering what you could be doing on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30 come along to WI. You will be most welcome.

Jane Wareing.
01327 340875

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Heyford Allotments

Parish Council Inspection

Heyford Parish Council carried out their annual inspection of the allotments in July and again, the general standard of plot maintenance was very good. The good people of Heyford and nearby villages who rent an allotment have much to be proud of; crops are growing well and plots look both productive and very attractive. It has been a feature of recent developments that more flowers are being grown alongside fruit and vegetables.

Where plots were identified as needing attention, work has already begun. In some cases, tenants have decided that perhaps their plots are either too big or that circumstances are such that they can no longer maintain their allotment and have reluctantly offered to give up their plot at the end of the growing season. The Parish Council wishes to thank those people for their hard work in the past and for their decision to offer their plot to another villager who wants to “grow their own”.

Some plots will therefore be available for rent later in the year. If you are interested in taking on an allotment, please contact us at the addresses included at the end of the article. Plot sizes vary. There will be some fairly small starter type allotments and one or two larger plots. Either way, rental costs will not be excessive – some as cheap as £5 and the most expensive only about £20 per year. That is remarkable value. On our small plot, we have, this year, harvested enough soft fruit alone to cover that cost twice or perhaps three times over!

Good Neighbours

A big thank you to the many allotmenters who have been in touch following the Parish Council's decision to introduce a zero-tolerance policy regarding bad and threatening behaviour. There are countless examples of understanding and kindness on the allotments and we are anxious to ensure that this is maintained and developed, for the benefit of all.

Protecting Your Crops AND Increasing Biodiversity

The National Allotment Society celebrated biodiversity in its annual Allotments Week in August. They highlighted how allotments can be a haven for wildlife, play a role in boosting local biodiversity and in turn how this can help protect crops.

Open Meeting

We will again be holding one of our open meetings for all allotment holders at 6.30. pm on Tuesday 3rd September. We will meet in the Community Area, unless the weather is inclement, in which case the youth club will be our venue. Please keep an eye on your email account for weather updates and changes. It is really valuable to give allotmenters a chance to air their views about the allotments and how we might continue to develop this wonderful space. All tenants are very welcome.

Fence

I am sure that anyone using the access road to the allotments cannot have failed to see the awful damage to the allotment fence by the entrance gate to the playing fields. Fortunately, neither plot nor crops by the fence were affected

All sorts of rumours began to circulate as to the cause of the damage; from speeding cars turning into the playing field road, an escaped cow and, the latest theory, a large lorry belonging to Anglian Water trying to complete a reversing manoeuvre. If any readers can shed light on this incident do let us know, using the contact details below.

A big thank you to Mike and Faye at the Foresters Arms for loaning us some temporary metal barriers to secure the area until we can repair the fence and gates.

Community Area

The allotments welcomed members of the Nether Heyford W.I. for their summer social evening in August. Despite a wet evening, the event was well attended. These women are made of tough stuff and as the rain fell, they simply unfurled brollies, tucked into their buffet and poured themselves another glass of wine. We are so glad they enjoyed themselves and took the opportunity to learn a little more about the refurbishment of the allotments. It is still surprising how many people know so little, if anything, about this wonderful village space.

Getting in Touch

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

View from the Wildlife Patch

We have just returned from a trip to The Scottish Highlands in the shadow of Ben Nevis (our third this year). Hence, I have not visited "The Patch" for over a week. I must say "The Patch" was looking really good when I was last there. No doubt a lot will have changed since then.

In the Highlands, Autumn is already beginning to show her colours. Leaves are beginning to change colour, Wild Geese can be heard throughout the night passing through on their journey from more northern lands to their wintering grounds in the UK and there is definitely an "Autumnal" feel to the air. We were struck by the shortage of other birds in the Highlands just as is here in Heyford. There are a few around but one can look at the sky for a while without seeing a single flying bird. This is a far cry from the 1990's, when we lived in South Warwickshire. I have always noticed birds, and marvelled at how we could look at the sky at any time in daylight hours. We could always see birds flying up there on their own business. It is estimated that we have lost over 82% of our birds since that time.

Another thing we noticed in Highland is the lack of Midges. Yes, Its true. North Scotland, hardly any midges? Incredible. Our daughter who lives there said that the lack of midges is big news. The universal fall in biodiversity is recognised by governments worldwide. Who "officially" blame climate change, habitat loss and overuse of agricultural chemicals for the situation. Climate change is the only one of these factors which affects Highland to any extent yet to my unscientific, untrained eye, the area seems to be just as badly affected as Nether Heyford which is surrounded by intense agriculture, warehouses and motorways.

As I said, "The Patch" was looking really good when I last saw it. Lots of jobs to do now - to clear the pathways again. There is also the annual flower patch which will need to be cleared and resown with a perennial meadow mixture. This has still to be chosen. The already sown patches need to be cut to 75mm and the cut vegetation cleared off to allow for new growth next year. As always there are brambles to be dug up and disposed of. If the patch was larger we would keep some brambles but as things stand there is no room for them other than in the roadside Hedge.

There are important areas which we leave without mowing. These have the potential to be the most bio diverse areas on the whole project. Insects such as Ground Beetles ("Blackbats to some") Centipedes, Millipedes, Yellow Meadow Ants with their anthills all need a stable environment that is not stripped of nice warm grass every winter. Mammals - Shrews, Voles and Mice also need this.

We may decide to add a "tussock wildflower mixture" to the grass. These mixtures are available commercially. If we do go down that route, we will just scatter the seed into the dead grass and allow it to grow as time goes by. Using a good quality seed from a good supplier, just scattered, will gradually turn a grass patch into a bio diverse and attractive piece of ground over time, as the various seeds germinate according to a time schedule only known to them.

Dave Musson



www.heyfordsingers.org

*Hey, say that you remember
dancin' in September
Never was a cloudy day
Hey, say that you remember
Dancin' in September
Golden dreams were shiny days*

*Earth, Wind & Fire
Taylor Swift*

Time has sped on yet again and we find ourselves heading towards the Autumn months. I am sure everyone made the best of our hot days which were a little patchy but at least on duller days there was plenty of warmth. And fortunately for the Choir the last Sunday in July was lovely. It was our annual Garden Party held at The Old Rectory in Heyford and Mary and Jeremy Rice were, as usual, our lovely hosts. There were over thirty of us which was a splendid turnout and the last time we sang together was back in May so everyone was pleased to be able to have the opportunity of catching up and enjoying the buffet that everyone had contributed to. The community of singers is very strong and there was much laughter and a general consensus that something had been missing during the summer months on a Thursday and Friday night. After all, there was nothing on the television....

Our music for the Christmas season is again very varied and our first rehearsal on the 6th September will be a strange experience. As I have mentioned before singing 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' is quite hard when the summer days are still with us, but once we are in the swing of it December looms very quickly. Not many rehearsals get everything right for our Christmas Concert which will be on Friday 13th December and Saturday 14th December. We hope therefore to get into 'The Christmas Spirit' - a lovely little song for the whole Choir - as quickly as possible. And we shall be dipping into The Faber Carol Book (an exciting volume of Christmas Carols and songs with an original, modern twist) along with the wonderful John Rutter book. I say 'wonderful' because Sir John Milford Rutter CBE has, as an English composer, conductor, editor, arranger and record producer, produced some wonderful tunes and what is more - they are easy to sing.

We are very fortunate that annA rydeR has very kindly agreed to do a fundraising concert for the Choir at 7.30 pm on 25th October – see our advertisement in the Prattler for details. AnnA is a very accomplished singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist (keyboard, guitar, banjo, trumpet and bicycle pump!!) She will be performing a number of well-known songs as well as her own compositions. She performs regularly with Fairport Convention and we are very pleased to welcome her to Nether Heyford Village Hall.

And if any of you reading this feel that you would like to join us (tea and biscuits every rehearsal) we are having an 'Open Evening' on Thursday, 12th September. Come along to the Village Hall at 7.15 pm and you will be made most welcome. No auditions and any voice part. Of course our usual cry is for men – tenors and bases. The latter are becoming very diminished in number.

However we welcome any Sopranos, Altos or Tenors, and any age. Our age range at present is thirty to ninety. So no excuses – you will fit in nicely...

JRA

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PHOTOS BY JOHN WRIGHT + MARTIN WACKENIER



Heyford Bowls Club

Whilst the Prattler has been on its summer break our Ladies and Mixed friendly matches against other clubs have continued with only 4 more matches to go before the end of the outdoor season. Of the matches played to date we have won 7, lost 10 and drawn 1. Our club also takes part in the local Men's Monday Night Triples League which will also be completed early September.

Many of our players have continued with their involvement in the County Competitions with varying success. Our Ladies Pairs and senior Pairs have made their way through to the Area Finals, so congratulations go to Liz Davison and Jill Welch. The Men got through to the Area Finals in the Men's Fours, so congratulations go to Merv Boyson, Neil Rees, David Roberts and Darrell Welch. In the Mixed Triples the team of Merv Boyson, Jill Welch and Darrell Welch again got to the Area Finals.

The Manfield Cup took place on the last day of June and we again submitted a joint entry of four teams with Bugbrooke Bowls Club. Pooling the two clubs resources seems the best alliance and I can see our joint entry continuing for the foreseeable future and works well for both the clubs

On that same Saturday we held our Ladies Day at the club, an annual open event where we invite ladies from other local clubs to join us for an afternoon of fun and activities. This was another successful event with many returning ladies from other clubs and some new ones. The weather was lovely and the afternoon started off with a glass of Pimms on arrival, a round robin games of bowls and finished off with a lovely Cream Tea, fresh strawberries and some more Pimms.

Our Friday night club league will be completed by the end of August but we will still open up the club every Friday up to and including 13th September. If you are interested in having a go then why not come down and join us. We are open from 6pm and there will be plenty of opportunity to have a roll up with our members.

Throughout the summer members have been taking part in the knock out rounds of the various inter club competitions. The Finals weekend of these competitions takes place on the 31st August and 1st September. Spectators are always welcome.

The Short Mat bowls section runs through the year in the Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. The afternoon session runs between 2.00 – 4.00pm and the evening one between 7.00 – 9.30pm. The next Short Mat competition is the Men's Pairs on Saturday 16th September. New members are always welcome at the Short Mat section of the club at either session. If you are looking for something to get you out why not pop along to the hall and have a go.

Lorraine Streeter - Club Captain

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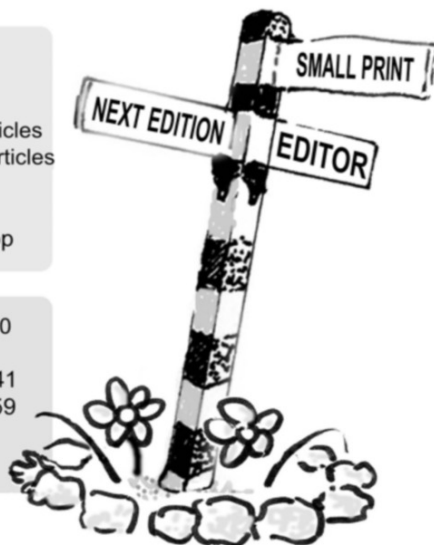
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Editorial:	Sue Boutle	07415 352550
Proofreading:	Tony Boutle	
Distribution:	Mick Watts	01327 340041
Adverts & Payments:	Vicki Hamblin	01327 341059
Design:	Nick Essex	
Website:	Jez Wilson	



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