



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

October 2024

Issue 473



SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2024

10:AM TO 2:00PM

HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

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& decorations



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PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

There was no Parish Council Meeting in August. The September meeting will be reported in the November edition of the Prattler.

Nick Chatt has been elected as chair, following the resignation of Charles Kiloh. Lesley Dilkes will continue as Vice Chair.

Wet area on the Green. Anglian Water. The unsatisfactory situation regarding the leak on the Green continues – with concerns as to damage to tree roots. Council is prevailing upon Anglian Water to sort out this problem as soon as possible.

Anglian Water has sorted out another problem. One of their vehicles demolished a section of fence at the allotments – but this has been dealt with.

Vandalism at the Playing Fields. Parish Councillors were appalled at the recent vandalism and destruction of equipment on the Playing Fields. It has been resolved to contribute towards the cost of security related equipment in an effort to ensure that this sort of thing does not happen again.

Community Lounge (CL). The Lounge will be open from 2.00 to 4.30pm each Wednesday until the end of October when it will re-open all day on Wednesdays. The Lounge is to become part of the National Chatty Café network aimed at combatting isolation and loneliness and promoting wellbeing.

The CL is dependent on volunteers to keep it running, and many thanks to Lynda and Karen for all their efforts. If you do have a free afternoon, you are always welcome as a visitor or a helper.

Programme for October

2 nd October	Art Appreciation. Guy Ravine	2.30
9 th October	Cake and Chat and short trivia Quiz	Quiz at 2.30
16 th October	Wendy Green – Drawing for pleasure	2.30
23 rd October	Councillor Surgery	2 - 4 pm
30 th October	Trees of the world. Native and Exotic. Guy Ravine	2.30

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/>

 <h1>Pilates By Lola</h1> <p>NEW SPACES AVAILABLE!!</p> <p>MONDAYS NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL 9.45AM - 10.45AM 11.15AM - 12.15PM</p> <p>TUESDAYS 8AM-9AM VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Every body is welcome</p> <p>FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CALL: 07812031780 OR EMAIL: PILATESBYLOLA@GMAIL.COM</p> 	 <h1>Pilates by Lola</h1> <p>Pilates is a gentle exercise method that emphasizes the connection between the body and mind. By focusing on concentration, control, and precise movements, it targets deep postural muscles, enhancing strength from within and aiding in strength, flexibility, mobility and balance improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilates is inclusive, welcoming clients of all fitness levels. The exercises can be adapted to accommodate all levels and any physical limitations.• Whether you are a beginner, returning participant, recovering from an injury, or seeking a fresh challenge, I am dedicated to helping you achieve your fitness goals.• Join our enjoyable and supportive small group classes to move better and feel great in your body. <p>Come along for a taster session at the Village Hall on Mondays</p> <p>Spaces limited so please call or email to book!</p> 
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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	Chair. Playing Field Representative.
Mrs L. Dilkes. 17 Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3JF e-mail thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967 753216	Vice Chair, Finance, Youth Club
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Cllr Ian Parris, 1 Winston Close, NN7 3JX 07909 514916 ianparris@ianparris.com	Councillor
Karen Rivett. 12 Watery Lane, Nether Heyford. NN7 3LN yartahk@gmail.com 07711 312069	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 Oct 7th at the Baptist Church rooms.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for October 2024

Sunday 6 th	8:00 am	BCP Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Holy Communion and Harvest at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Harvest Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Sunday 13 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	3:00 pm	Service of Thanksgiving for a Life at Heyford Church
Sunday 20 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 27 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford Church Rooms

Midweek Services

Thursday 10:00am Holy Communion at Flore Church
 2:30pm – 3:30pm Flore Church open for private prayer

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

During October we shall be praying for people living in The Green in Nether Heyford, for the Bliss Charity Primary School, for the shops, and for all the activities in the Village Hall and the Baptist Church Rooms. In Flore, we pray for people living on Hillside Road and Flore Hill. We pray for the Main Street and School Rooms in Church Stowe, and for Manor Farm, the Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

In his book 'All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten', the American author and minister, Robert Fulghum, suggests that there are some things you learned by the age of five that are still relevant and important whatever our age; *'Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Say you're sorry when you hurt someone. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life...draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands and stick together. Be aware of wonder.'*

I wonder what pearls of wisdom you learnt as a child, that still influence your life to this day. Looking at the world these days, it seems to me that we need wisdom more than ever. Choosing wisdom is not easy: in our media-connected society there are more pressures than ever for all ages to conform, to follow a trend, to adopt a cause. Increasingly, we need wise discernment to make sense of what we see and hear.

The Bible has much to say about wisdom. Wisdom is the one thing King Solomon asked of God, to help him rule the Kingdom of Israel (2 Chron 1:10, NIV), such that *'All the kings of the earth sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart'* (2 Chron 9:23). Unsurprisingly, the Book of Proverbs has much to say on wisdom; *'The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding'* (4:7), *'for wisdom is more precious than rubies'* (8:11), *'The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways... wisdom is found in those who take advice'* (14:8, 13:10), *How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver!* (16:16). *'Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse'* (2:12), *'To be wise you must first have reverence for the Lord. If you know the Holy One, you have understanding'* (9:10, GNT).

Writing to the early church, James, the brother of Jesus, encourages us to seek Godly wisdom, which is pure, peace-loving, patient, considerate and ready to help others, rather than worldly wisdom, which is full of envy, selfishness, disorder and wickedness (James 3:14-17). If wisdom comes from knowing God, then the mark of God's wisdom is the focus on others, which requires us to set aside our own needs and resist the selfishness of the world. We see this in Jesus' life and example - the wise way, the godly way, is the way of humility and service.

With prayers and blessings,

Stephen



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for October

October 6 th	10:30 am	Harvest service led by Les Britten (Food items for Hope Centre and Monies for Operation Agri to support Sri Lanka)
October 13 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Allan Pope
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
October 20 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Nathan Toseland from the Central Baptist Association (Coffee after the Service)
October 27 th	10:30 am	Morning service with communion led by Bruce Furness

Events

Tues October 15th 10:00 am Prayer and bible study

Wed October 23rd 2:00 pm “Edgar Mobbs”
The Life and Death of a Northamptonshire Sporting Hero” – a talk by Graham McKechine (with tea and biscuits)

All welcome

Recently during this year's celebration of Harvest I took a Sunday service at Duston United Reformed Chapel, the chapel where I first attended for afternoon Sunday School from about the age of four. I later attended Boys Brigade there and it is my privilege now to visit them to support Sunday and other services. I just love returning to the chapel I remember so well from my early days and recall the influence it had on my life.

Whilst there recently and looking at the harvest display my mind returned to some very early life memories when I would, along with many others, take my small harvest contribution and at some point in the service lay it at the front of the church. The display of perishable and non-perishable food items was on display as a "thank you" for our daily supply of food. It made me think, "really how thankful are we to have so much each day and every day?"

I learnt that the donated display of food would be distributed by the food bank which operates from the chapel each week - providing essential food items to those in need. Much of the food on display and for distribution were examples of different fruits, either fresh or canned, and those items will be welcomed by those who receive them to enrich and help their lives.

The theme for the service was that of fruit - not physical and edible fruit but fruit which the Bible refers to as "The fruit of the spirit" or "spiritual fruit" which we can welcome into our lives and then from us to enrich the lives of others through our living, loving, giving and forgiving.

On display in the chapel were many different types of fruits - fruits being plural. The fruit which St Paul refers to in The New Testament in Galatians 5 is singular "The fruit" suggesting that they are one and of equal importance to each other. St Paul firstly lists the "potential natural fruit of our lives" which can occur and be seen in the way we behave or respond and is a natural part of our humanness and then he describes the fruit which can be seen in our lives as an expression of God's spirit living in and from our lives.

So, St Paul writes in Galatians 5, "the acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

So the singular fruit which can be expressly witnessed in and working from our lives are that of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

A useful and important question which I ask myself, "what fruit is growing on the tree of my life?"

Service times and chapel activities are found elsewhere in The Prattler, and a warm welcome awaits you.

Thank you

Martin

On behalf of the fellowship at the Chapel on The Green

Rosemary Haddon

Rosemary was a member of various clubs and institutions in the Village. She also ran or helped run many of these. The attendance at her funeral was testament to how many people knew her and appreciated what she did for the village and people in general.

I would like to thank Mary Rice for organising the Choir at short notice and Reverend Stephen Burrow for guiding us through the day. Also my family for organising everything with great skill and determination.

Ray Haddon

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.

Astronomy on the Green

Observation has always been key to understanding more about our universe. Originally this observation was simply by eye (back in the days prior to interfering light pollution). Most of this ancient observation was either looking for portends of doom or predicting the future for Kings and Emperors.

At this point astronomy was inexorably linked to astrology and this carries over to our night sky, along the ecliptic (the path of the sun through the sky) you will find the signs of the zodiac. A quick pointer, if you want to find your zodiacal sign in the night sky it will be there around 6 months after your birthday, as it is linked to the sun going through the constellation.

As most will know Galileo Galilei is associated with the first telescopes (it's a bit inaccurate as others were there before him) but he was the first significant observer and recorder of night sky objects through an optical device. Given the restrictions of his early apparatus his drawings are incredible, and well worth search for online. His original instrument was a refractor (eyepiece one end and objective lens the other) but this arrangement has drawbacks; lenses are a bit like prisms, they split white light and focus it at different points producing coloured halo's around bright objects. To gather more light and see fainter objects the lens size needs to increase, the glass used in lenses means it becomes impractical due to weight and focal length.

Reflector telescopes were developed and became the scientific standard (they also have drawbacks, but have the advantage of focusing well at the prime focus). A typical layout is a large mirror at one end, that focuses light back up to a secondary mirror (suspended on what is known as a spider – this produces the characteristic four point stars) that directs the light out through the side of a telescope to the eyepiece. Mirrors are more lightweight than lenses and can be produced at large diameters in a more compact design.

Originally all observations were made by eye and a talent in drawing was a necessity for recording 'images'. Photography was developed in the 19th Century; at this time photographic plates were made manually and positioned in the dark (a very tricky process) into the telescopes light path. In early reflectors this also required the astronomer to sit in a cage at the prime focus (in potentially a very cold environment high above the observatory floor to manually guide the scope).

I'm happy to say that modern electronics came to the rescue and detectors replaced plates and conventional cameras making observation and recording simpler (and less dangerous for professional and amateur astronomers alike).

Clear skies.

Tony Boutle

Football Returns to the Village Green

Youth football returned to Heyford Village Green on Sunday the 15th of August, the first competitive game held since 1988. With the cricket season still ongoing, Heyford Athletic U12's were on the hunt for a pitch for their County Cup game against a high level Peterborough Lions team.

After numerous frantic calls to other local youth teams in an attempt to borrow their pitch for the day coming to nothing, the expense of hiring Campions facilities and a reluctance to host the game on a town park pitch, the coaching team came up with a Eureka moment...! What if we could host on the Village Green and keep the team local and play the game in the heart of the village?

From the moment contact was made with the Parish Council the idea was met with positivity and support, however, the committee had to agree, and the team had to wait nervously for an answer.

The call came, we could use the Village Green for a one-off game... what amazing news! Now to make it happen!!

With the help of Paul Currier, the pitch was marked out and the goals were transported up on the sunny Sunday morning and the pitch looked at home. Thank you to the village hall for kindly opening up for us to use their facilities.

The game was always going to be a challenge and Peterborough Lions First Team arrived boasting a squad that included a Tottenham trialist. Heyford Under 12's battled well and held them to 4-0 at half time but their quality overcame us in the second half with the game eventually ending in a 12-1 defeat, however, the biggest cheer came from our supporters when we scored a well deserved consolation goal!

After the game, the opposition coaches commented on how well Heyford had played and how nice the pitch was, especially the location.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this one off game happen, and the fantastic support we received during the game. The boys, even though defeated, thoroughly enjoyed playing on their village green and the cheers of support was an uplifting experience for them.

With the comments from many who came to watch, hopefully this can be the start of youth football in the centre of the village for all to enjoy and not the last game on the Green.

Ben Forrester
Heyford Athletic Under 12's Coach.



Heyford Athletic Under 12's

* Permission has been granted for publication of this photo

Crafty Club

Do you enjoy crafts of any kind?

Would you like to learn something new or maybe just be able to refresh a craft skill from times gone by? Whatever craft you are interested in, why not come along and join in our friendly Crafty Club.

Meetings are held in the Village Hall every Monday from 13:00 to 15:00 Annual Membership fee is £6;(due in March) with a weekly charge of £2.50 to cover tea/coffee/biscuits and hall hire.

Throughout the year we will be having Craft Workshops which can include the following:

Examples are:

Quilling, Zentangle, Decoupage Card Making, Spirelli, Iris Folding
Prick 'n' Stitch cards, Bracelet making, Shells & Clocks
Christmas Acorns, Christmas Puds, Diamond Painting, Silk Painting

The aim of the club is to help you to try a new skill, or to help with an old one – or just bring along anything you have “on the go”.

Just come along any Monday or ring Chris Phillipps on 07445483605.

Edgar Mobbs

"The Life & Death of a Northamptonshire Sporting Hero"

The Saints Captain Who fought in the First World War.

A talk by Graham Mckechnie at Nether Heyford Baptist rooms on
Wednesday 23rd October at 2.00 pm

Everyone welcome

No charge, but optional donations in aid of the Nether Heyford branch of

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Bugbrooke & District Flower Society

On 28th October we celebrate our Golden Anniversary with a dinner and entertainment. Members only.

50 years of friendship and flowers.

We look forward to welcoming members and visitors to our November meeting and into 2025.

The Prattler

The Prattler is run by an active voluntary committee comprising of Sue Boutle, Vicki Hamblin, Mary Rice, Jez Wilson and Mick Watts. If you would like to submit articles or have any suggestions for future issues, please get in touch with us by email or messages left in Heyford Meats or the One Stop shop.

The Newspaper is supported by donations from the Parish Council, the Parish Church, the Baptist Church, Heyford W.I., Heyford Garden Club, Heyford Singers, the Bowls Club, the Village Hall and Heyford Picturedrome as well as the advertisers.

Thanks are also due to the volunteers who distribute it every month. It is all very much appreciated.



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Village Hall News

View from the Chair

It has been a busy time for the village hall during the summer holidays. All of our electrics have been upgraded and plans have been forged to smarten us up a little.

Firstly a very big "Thank You", to all who participated in the garage sale or came to the hall for a bacon roll, a book or a map. The funds raised have certainly helped towards our ongoing refurbishments.

Another "Thank You", goes to the village Scouts who weeded and strimmed the area around the hall. It looks markedly better for your efforts.

My next "Thank You", goes to the Parish Council who have refurbished the parish notice board on the front of the hall. This all contributes to making the hall look well kept and inviting.

Our next event is the Heyford Feast on 26th October. This is not a fund raising event, it is run at cost to keep a village tradition alive and give an opportunity for the villagers to have a get together. Check out the posters around the village or on the web site.

And finally, don't forget that as residents you can book the hall for parties or events at a preferential rate. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Carol Tuckley
Chair of Trustees

Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

NEXT FILM

ONE LIFE

Drama

Cast includes Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter,
Johnny Flynn and Jonathan Pryce

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 17th October 2024

7.15 for 7.45pm
ADMISSION: £6.00

This 2023 award-winning film is based on the true story of Sir Nicholas "Nicky" Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued Jewish children from the Nazis.

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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. Expect a stunning “sparkling and accomplished concert... a superb evening’s entertainment”.

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 21st October – When the land-ships came to town

by Helen Frost

The incredible story of the “Tank Banks” which aimed to raise as much money as possible for the WW1 war effort through investments in War Bonds and War Savings Certificates.

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



HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB

We are looking for someone to work part time with our Green Maintenance team. The role will entail mowing the green three times per week during the outdoor season in line with our match schedule which runs from April through to October and then as required during the rest of the year. Full training will be given.

For further information please contact:

Mike Davison, mobile number: 07799 115900



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In Nether Heyford

I can remember my parents commenting on the fact that the weeks and months roll round so quickly. I would look skyward, not understanding this at all, as waiting for much anticipated events seemed to be endless. Would Friday night, 'going out night' ever arrive? Would pay day just hurry along a bit.....please. Well, now that I have undertaken the role of WI correspondent my parent's wise words have come home to roost.

After a somewhat soggy weekend at the Goodwood Revival Festival watching iconic racing cars, we decided to call in on a National Trust property on our way home. The mixture of discovering something interesting and a good lunch is always enticing. The weather and scenery were lovely and we picked somewhere off the map. Greys Court, near Henley on Thames has been a family home stretching back over 900 years. The house and gardens were gifted to the National Trust by the Brunner family in 1969. To my surprise the last resident Lady Elizabeth Brunner, was elected to the WI's national federation serving as its chairman in the 50's. She was also founder chairman of the Keep Britain Tidy which was originally set up by a conference of 26 organisations in 1955. The conference was initiated by the British Women's Institute after a resolution was passed at its 1954 AGM to start a national anti-litter campaign. Well, she must be turning in her grave to see a sofa dumped in a gateway near our lovely village.

September was upon us before you could say 'Summer Holidays'. We all remember the back to school feeling and we were looking forward to listening intently to September's speaker telling us about all the pitfalls of trusting fraudsters. Some of us may have even taken notes (you do at the beginning of term). Anyway, stand down everybody, on the day before the meeting the police had to cancel their appointment with us, due to re-organisation issues. Improvisation was required, so we had a quiz evening. After the summer break there was much scratching of heads, tip of the tongue moments and big sighs. We were all highly relieved to have a welcome cuppa and a piece of cake as reward for our efforts.

And now for something completely different... on October 3rd we welcome Dalziel Ellis who, is by her own description 'A poet but not as you know it'. The list of her attributes is extensive; Performance Poet, Story Teller, Singer/songwriter, Motorbiker, Adventurer, Motivational Speaker. She says that her talk will be humorous, thought provoking and philosophical. What more could you want? As with every WI meeting, you always learn something. Come along, you will be made very welcome.

Jane Wareing.
01327 340875

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Heyford Allotments

Each Season Different and Every Season New

A wise colleague once told me that one of the greatest skills to acquire is learning to cope with change. That piece of sage advice could not be more appropriate for gardeners and allotment holders alike. Park the scary issue of a Climate Emergency for a moment and just think about the more immediate vagaries of the British weather in 2024, as well as the different pests and diseases that visit us every year. Predicting what is going to happen is not a good idea. Just as my colleague advised - learn to cope with change. I'd go as far as say embrace it.

Crops and flowers that thrived last year have not performed as well this summer - what happened to our gooseberries? Others however, have taken off and we've been amazed by what has grown – onions, raspberries and blackberries by the bucketload!

Just what the longer-term effect of that bigger climate issue is going to be no one really knows, although we're getting an increasingly large crop of grapes and figs and I noticed the seed and plant catalogues are now promoting the sale of pomegranates. Some changes and challenges will be bigger than ever.

Looking forward to the next growing season is one of the great joys of autumn and winter. It is a chance to protect and prepare the soil, carry out a range of maintenance jobs and think about ordering seed (and maybe replacing those gooseberry bushes that failed us this year).

Wood Chippings and Manure

One of the initiatives that we have been able to introduce over the last few years has been the regular delivery of free wood chippings from local tree surgeons. We generally advise plot holders to use this with some caution as we cannot determine the type of tree being chipped. It is excellent as a material for paths or as a mulch over landscape fabric, but would suggest that it is best left to breakdown before incorporation in the soil. We have also been able to acquire an annual load of well-rotted farmyard manure. We have to pay for this, but can offer it to allotment holders at a discounted price (£2.50 a barrowload). We are hoping to be able to do this again in October and allotment holders should keep an eye open for updates.

Open Committee Meeting

We held another open committee meeting at the beginning of September. We had again planned for this take place in the community area of the allotments - anticipating a glorious summer evening in a bucolic setting. Sadly, we had to revert to Plan B and use the village youth club when the weather intervened. Yet another "change". We would encourage all allotment holders to come and join us at these meetings. The next one will take place in the Spring.

Harvest Festival

By the time you read this article the church harvest festival, held again on our allotments, should have already have taken place. We are so pleased to be able host this event for our friends and neighbours from St Peter and St Paul Church, and celebrate the bounty that we are blessed with. Regardless of whether we attend church, or even believe in a god, we cannot be oblivious to the beauty and richness of our surroundings. I think that is always something worth celebrating and never taking for granted.

Hedge Trimming

The hedges around the allotments have been pruned, making it easier for tenants to cultivate in the coming seasons and for villagers to safely use the pathway from Watery Lane to the playing field entrance.

Boundaries

As many of you will be aware, the fence by the playing field road was demolished by an Anglian Water contractor in August. The company carried out a partial repair several weeks later but we are still waiting for the old (and rather splendid) metal gate by the notice board to be re-hung. Although our allotment site is open to passers-by and we have never had tall fences and locked gates, we do encourage everyone who uses the site to close gates behind them. We welcome visitors but expect the allotments to be treated with respect. Much hard work and dedication goes into the plots and that should be acknowledged and protected.

If allotmenters (or villagers) have green waste they wish to dispose of then this is best composted on their own plot, or taken to the civic waste tips at Sixfields, Daventry or Towcester. Sadly, since the fence was damaged, several piles of waste have been deposited on a nearby plot. We've no idea who was responsible, but would urge all allotmenters and passers-by to be vigilant and mindful of their responsibilities.

Contacts

If you'd like to know more about the village allotments or you'd like a plot to cultivate contact either Lynda Eales: lyndaeales@aol.com or on 01327 341707 or Mike Langrish: langrish_heyford@hotmail.com or on 01327 341390

We have several vacant plots, of different sizes, and will endeavour to strim and cover them in preparation for the coming year.

Mike Langrish

View from the Wildlife Patch

I am writing this in mid September which has been a damp and dismal month but right now there is a forecast of dry, sunny weather with temperatures reaching 20 c for a few days to come. Maybe this will herald a warm, dry spell that will enable any late butterflies to take advantage of any late flowers of 2024. It has just been announced on TV that our UK butterfly populations have had the worst ever year and populations are very much down on 2023. In our garden there are lovely butterflies on the last blossoms of 2024. These are Large Whites. Their progeny would normally over-winter as Pupae. Unfortunately they are unlikely to have time to reach that stage before cold weather kills them. I also saw just one Peacock and one Comma butterfly whilst I was working on the wildlife patch earlier in the week.

On the patch, vegetation on the meadow areas has been cut and put in heaps. These will provide food and shelter for small creatures for the months and years to come. From the beginning we have bought wildflower seed mixtures from the nationally respected, speciality seed house of "Emorsgate Seeds". And our aim has been to replicate the the ancient hay meadows that covered much of our farmland prior to the two great wars. I am old enough to remember some of these "ancient meadows". I have even mown and made hay from the plants. These meadows were VERY species rich in both plants and and insects.

In Heyford we are now recognising that we can never replicate the pattern of haymaking and grazing that was prominent for the centuries before the advent of modern farming. Almost certainly we will need to discourage some species of wild plant whilst encouraging other species. It could be the best plan will be to sow and encourage more species of wild grasses. Surprisingly, it is proving difficult to maintain a good number of the wild grass species that are so important to many of our meadow insect species. Could it be the need to accommodate "Pollinators" has been overstated. This to the detriment of providing food and shelter for adults and larvae of a whole host of wildlife with pollinators being just one of that group? All wild grass seeds mixtures are readily available and I have learned that it is possible to just scatter seed among the growing plants for most of these seeds to germinate.

The newest of our wildflower beds has now had its first and only year of the Cornfield annuals that provided an absolutely stunning display for a number of weeks in Summer. This plot will soon be ready for sowing with a permanent, wildflower meadow seed mixture.

Regular readers will know the remainder of the patch is left to "Rough Grass" and will also know it as a very valuable habitat. Originally I was expecting the "Rough" to be encroaching on the meadow areas. It seems that just the opposite is happening and we are losing rough as it is replaced by meadow. This was not part of "The Plan" yet it's encouraging to see nature asserting herself and demonstrating the we don't have all of the answers.

Dave Musson



www.heyfordsingers.org

*Music as all time
And no time at all:
In the split-second gap between sound being made
And sound being heard eternity hangs.
Audience, you are the instrument,
You are the tune: a moment's pause
After the final note
Then all your hands are suddenly playing the music
We call applause.*

From Simon Armitage's Poem The Proms

Musical Dates for Your Diary

Anna RydeR

Friday 25th October
Village Hall
7.30 pm

Carols on The Green

Friday 20th December
6.30 pm

Christmas Concert

Friday 13th December
Saturday 14th December
7.30 pm

For those of you who saw the Last Night of the Proms you will have been moved not only by the music, the wonderful Choirs, the Organist and the Orchestra but by the above poem which goes on to describe the whole experience at The Royal Albert Hall. Now we have our dates above for our contribution to music in the Village Hall. Not as grand but just as heartfelt. As in the September issue of The Prattler where I wrote about annA rydeR's many talents, tickets are going well, so please see the details for booking in the advertisement of this issue. The Carols on the Green need no introduction and we hope to see as many of you as possible this year singing in Christmas...

We are now well into rehearsing for our Christmas Concerts. Our Open Evening introduced a few of you to what we do but we desperately need Bass singers. A Choir that follows four-part music must be well balanced and so we keep searching for men... Our varied programme is beginning to take shape as we learn new songs and try and get the feeling into them. This takes time. We are at the stage where it is a relief just to sing some of the right notes and get through to the end. 'Long Ago on A Winter's Morning' is a lovely piece by Mary Donnelly, arranged by George Strid, and on the face of it looked easy to sing. But like so many of the tunes the music doesn't go exactly where you think it might and the last 'In excelsis Deo Gloria' tested our top sopranos. And with these high notes you have to hit them square in the middle. After the summer break the breathing exercises have been forgotten so it is back to the beginning for our warm-up activities. But we will get there – we always do. We have the wizard of the internet to help us and we have practice tracks which can be obtained on our web-site with the four different parts. This is a valuable tool for a lot of us who struggle in the short time of rehearsing to come to grips with the intricacies of the music.

The Ukrainian Folk Tune 'Sleigh Bells' is taxing our ladies who sing this very cheerfully but are having to master the skill of timing as we 'jing jing jing-jing-jingle through this lovely little piece. But the more you sing, the greater the result. By the

Concert in December we will know these pieces well but will also be able to inject the right amount of light, shade and feeling.

And talking of feeling it was a great privilege to be able to sing 'Ave Verum Corpus' and 'You raise me Up' at Rosemary Haddon's funeral last month. She had been a long standing member of Heyford Singers and we hope we helped to give the family a fitting tribute to her. I am sure she was smiling down at us in the Choir pews.

JRA

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Heyford Bowls Club

September sees the end of the outdoor season and the plans are now in place for putting the green to bed for the winter on Saturday 5th October. Volunteers to help are always welcomed. We will be down the club from 9.00am.

The first weekend in September saw the culmination of our inter club competitions with our Finals Weekend. We witnessed some great bowling and were delighted to see visitors who came to cheer on their family/fellow players. We congratulate all those who won their competitions and look forward to our Presentation Evening in early November.

The outdoor season came to an end on Sunday 8th September with our Gala Day. This is always a fun afternoon where players and visitors are encouraged to dress up in fancy dress. As per usual everyone took on the challenge and we were treated to a wonderful array of characters including a couple of dinosaurs, a few "cross dressers" who always amuse, Gladys Pugh from Hi-Di-Hi! and even a mole (very apt this season) to name but a few. When you realise that they then have to bowl in these costumes some can prove interesting, especially the couple who came as matching toilet rolls who certainly deserved the winning prize. The bowls game was then followed by a lovely Pig Roast and raffle. This was our most successful Gala Day to date with nearly 100 people enjoying a wonderful afternoon of fun and helping the Chairman and his wife celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

With the outdoor green closed for the winter the emphasis will now be on the indoor Short Mat whose sessions will continue every Wednesday in the village hall. Afternoon sessions 2.00 – 4.00pm and evenings 7.00 – 9.30pm. Sessions fees are now £2.50 and new members are always welcome.

There will be various social events held over the winter months so do follow our website for the latest information.

Lorraine Streeter - Club Captain

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



Cancer Support Group - Weedon



The Cancer Support Group in Weedon welcomes 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 and be part of the cancer support network. 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. We have a selection of leaflets and information which may be useful.

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. Come along and join us on 9th & 23rd October; 13th & 17th November.

Speakers have been arranged for the following dates:

23rd October - Sue Jobbins Social Prescriber with Age UK. Social Prescribing is a non-clinical intervention to help with physical and mental wellbeing for adults, it can help us individually by referring on to social groups, therapies, clubs and other services in our area.

13th November - Sian Gaskins on Tai Chi - the benefits of the gentle exercise mind and body, which is fun to learn and can help to promote physical and emotional wellbeing.

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 be part of the group, would like more information, who has time to help out with refreshments or chatting with people please contact Libby Hart on 01327 341816 or e-mail: csgweedon@btinternet.com.



Badgers classic and sports car group

Our meetings held at the Wharf public house have been well attended over the past few months. Due to the good weather we have managed to get some of our classic cars and bikes to the Wharf. This allowed time for viewing by members along with general conversation and exchanging knowledge. Some of the group members have attended several shows during recent times. It has been mainly individuals going to the likes of the Rushden 1940's event, Twinwood, a second world war RAF base near Biggleswade, plus a new event at Kelmarsh Hall organised by classic insurance company Footman James.

All these events were discussed at our last meeting and we hope to have more support for similar shows next year as the show season is drawing to a close. The feed back was positive. I would recommend a visit to Twinwood as the ex RAF airfield has a number of museums in the original second world war buildings still standing and is well worth a visit. This is the airfield where American band leader Glenn Miller flew out from heading towards France only to be never seen again as the plane was lost. Paul Simpson went to the Rushden show and reported the event was well attended as in previous years where he had an enjoyable day with lots of classics and music. Along with my partner I attended the show at Kelmarsh Hall which was on the same day as Rushden, there were around eighty plus classic and performance cars on show with cars from different decades going through the arena and owners being interviewed about them. The gardens and grounds alone are well worth a visit and the hall cafe made good beverages and served quality cakes .

We also are working on visits out and are in talks with several people from various organisations to make this happen. Watch this space as we are planning a Saturday afternoon event at the Bakers Arms yet to be fully confirmed at the time of going to press, the provisional date being Saturday 26th October from 12 noon onward's. We would welcome villagers to come along on the day to view our classic cars and motor bikes. These will be parked in and around the pub car park and show support for the local village pub. Our members should be available to answer any questions related to the classics .

This welcome also includes coming along to the Wharf during our regular meetings even if you do not own a classic car or bike all you need is a like minded interest .

Tony Inwood

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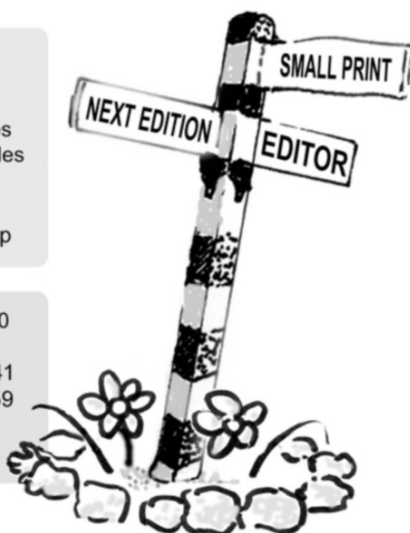
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