



# **THE PRATTLER**

**The Heyford Village Newspaper**

**November 2024**

**Issue 474**

***Make me smile***



***Heyfords Wildlife Association***

## Upper Heyford Parish Meeting

To be held at Hipwells

On Wednesday 13th November 2024

At 7:30 pm.

**Any items for discussion please email me, Mrs Sian Slater, ahead of the meeting @ Uhparish@gmail.com**

  
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## Cover Picture

The design is the new logo of Heyfords Wildlife Association which was created from the winning drawing from Claire Byrne's Class 4C at Bliss Charity School.

Pupils from the class were asked to draw a picture which reflected the aims of the association and helping wildlife.

The pupils did a great job with over 20 logos submitted (and the standard was really high!). Eventually we whittled the field down to three that we felt best represented our aims. We all ended up smiling on the one submission that was duly selected. The aim to support nature and ensure all our flora and fauna will be able to smile once again.

The winning and highly commended logos will receive W.H. Smith gift cards from us. We thank all the artists for their work and effort which were created at the end of the last academic year.



Our winning submission



Highly commended



Highly commended



Dear Parishioner

## **Housing Needs Survey of Nether Heyford Parish**

Northamptonshire ACRE (NACRE), West Northants Council and your Parish Council would like your help to understand more about the type of housing that **may** be needed by local people, to influence the type and size of homes built in the future.

To help us with this important research, every household in the parish will receive a housing need survey questionnaire at the beginning of November. It is important that as many households as possible complete and return it so the housing needs of the parish can be fully assessed. There will also be the option to complete the survey online.

The survey is being conducted on behalf of NACRE and your Parish Council by Midlands Rural Housing, an independent organisation with expertise in this field.

### **Why is this survey happening?**

The Parish Council allocated sites in Nether Heyford's Neighbourhood Plan that could be used to deliver a small number of new homes for people with a connection to the parish. We hope to be able to utilise those sites to meet the housing needs of local people. The survey will help understand the current housing needs that affect people living in, or with a connection to Nether Heyford, whether these needs are to buy on the open market, part rent and part buy (shared ownership), or rent a home (either privately or through a social landlord such as an affordable housing registered provider).

### **What is the survey for?**

The information from this kind of survey is used to ensure that any new homes built reflect what is needed by existing residents who have a connection to the parish.

### **Why is it important to fill in the survey?**

Rural areas are facing many challenges now. Major threats to shops, pubs, transport, services, and local facilities. There is an ageing population, jobs are limited, and there can be a loss of 'community feel' in a parish. Also, the costs of living and housing are causing problems for many. These pressures exist in villages nationwide.

Places like Nether Heyford need to have the right balance of housing to help provide a foundation for a vibrant community. Any new housing should be planned carefully to meet local needs if it is to have a positive impact on the area. By identifying the full range of housing needs for local people, future decisions and proactive action can be properly informed.

A housing needs survey was conducted as a required part of the Neighbourhood Plan, but this is an opportunity to refresh and update that information.

### **What if the survey finds that there is a housing need?**

Midlands Rural Housing and NACRE will work with your Parish Council and West Northants Council, to determine the best way to meet the housing need identified through this survey. The local community will be consulted throughout the process.

### **How can I get help with the survey or request a form for someone I know who is in housing need?**

If you have any queries or concerns, or need any help completing the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Midlands Rural Housing on 0300 1234 009 or by emailing [enquiries@midlandsrural.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@midlandsrural.org.uk)

Similarly, if you know of someone who has moved away from the parish and would like to return, please ask them to contact Midlands Rural Housing and request a survey form.

Thank you in advance for your help with this survey. You will receive it at the beginning of November and can complete it online or by returning it to Midlands Rural Housing in the pre-paid envelope provided by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

All returns will be entered into a draw, with a £100 prize for the winner.

**Philippa Mckenna**

Project Delivery Manager

Midlands Rural Housing



**The September meeting took place on the 2nd September at the Baptist Church Rooms**

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

Vacancies. There are currently 2 vacancies on the parish Council as a result of resignations. Applicants should contact the clerk for an application form. Successful applicants would serve on the Council until May 2025 when everyone has to stand for election.

Community Lounge (CL). The Lounge will be open from 10.00 to 4.30pm each Wednesday from Nov 6th until the end of March. The Lounge is to become part of the National Chatty Café network aimed at combatting isolation and loneliness and promoting wellbeing. The volunteers are debating what sort of afternoon programme there should be. Suggestions are welcomed.

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.

West Northants Councillor report. Cllr Adam Brown reported frustration that the Local Plan had been delayed by the new Government, who are changing the national Planning Framework. The number of expected new houses had been increased by 5%, and it was felt that more planning applications would go to the Secretary of State, thereby decreasing the influence of WNC on planning decisions.

There are also moves towards greater cooperation between local authorities, which is giving cause for concern. The most important consideration is access to money/investment and partnership with Bucks/Oxon may be the best way forward. Regional Mayors were not favoured.

There may be pressure to raise rates and remove the Council tax cap. AB would prefer to stay with current levels.

WNC will endeavour to help those adversely affected by the withdrawal of the winter heating subsidy, particularly those pensioners just missing out on pension credit.

**SID Post** - Clerk reported that he, TW and LE had met with Highways and a resident. It was agreed that the SID post should be moved as it appeared to have been put on private land and would be put further up the Weedon Rd on land between the road and pavement that was definitely under the control of Highways. Clerk had written to the nearest residents.

**Buses** - Clerk to object to the withdrawal of late buses by stagecoach on the local transport consultation. It was not felt that the Ability buses could replace late buses, but Council welcomed the introduction of the Friday shopping bus and would try and publicise it.

**To consider an additional memorial bench** - Resolved. The Rawlins family to be told that they could endow a new (or replacement) bench, on the green; the position to be decided. This would cost approx. £600 for the bench and £2-£300 for installation. LD to contact the family.

**Arnold Trust** - Resolved. TW would become Council representative.

Clerk would inform Arnold charity clerk.

**PCSO** - Resolved. Clerk to take over as liaison officer for the time being. The new PCSO is Emma Teagles, the previous PCSO is becoming a police officer.

**Green Infrastructure Plan** - The Parish Council supported the adoption of the 5 year plan, which was mostly a communication exercise promoting awareness of green issues. It was suggested that a photo shopped image of the Green without trees would perhaps alert some residents to the consequences of not planting trees for the future. TW suggested the inclusion of maintenance in the plan.

**To consider a donation** towards the replacement of destroyed equipment at the Playing Fields. Council had received a bequest from the late Bob Smith, and it was suggested that part of this go towards a donation towards cameras and security. Resolved. £2000 to be donated.

**Planning** - TW reported that no appeal had been entered by Mick George regarding gravel extraction at J16 but expressed concern that the new Government may make such mineral extraction plans strategic and force them through.

**Reports** - Natural Environment. AW reported that the Green Infrastructure Plan would be shown to the school. DM had a sapling grown from an acorn from the centuries old Holm Oak in Watery Lane, and wondered where it might be planted. NC wondered about saplings grown from the Memorial Green Oak.

**Wellbeing** - "Chatty Café" initiative. Resolved. Clerk to apply to national scheme.

**Infrastructure** - NC would produce an excel check sheet and hoped that more Councillors would get involved in checking the site. Play Area quotes were felt to be excessive and there was reluctance to spend large amounts when it was hoped to completely revamp the Play Area.

IP has met with Cummings Ltd, and they have agreed to create an improved path on the Canal side from Furnace Lane towards Flore. A barge with a grab will be used to bring the necessary materials. He felt that the project would almost certainly take place, and probably during Spring 2025.

**Heritage** - TW had met former members of the historical society and had been lent an extensive folder of historical information – which was being digitised. A heritage map and list of assets is being worked on.

**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 Canal Issues.** can be done by phoning 0303 040 4040 during normal office hours.

**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/>



<b>Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.</b>	
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
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
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 Nov 4<sup>th</sup> at the Baptist Church rooms.**



## Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

### Services for November 2024

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:15 am	Service for Remembrance Sunday at Heyford Church
	10:50 am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Heyford
	10:55 am	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Church Stowe
	2:15 pm	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in Flore
	2:30 pm	Remembrance Sunday Service in the Millennium Hall
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Heyford Church
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion and Gift Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service and Gift Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church and Gift Service at Heyford Church

### 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 November we shall be praying for people living in Church Street and Manor Walk in Heyford, Kings Lane and The Orchard in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Hall Apartments in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

In November, we enter the Season of Remembrance and in the midst of this season, Remembrance Sunday falls on 10<sup>th</sup> November this year. Asked about Remembrance Sunday on a radio programme, one person said, 'It's boring'. That seems to be the easiest way of making a criticism without really thinking, and it can be applied to everything. Yet the most important part of Remembrance Sunday consists of the two minutes of complete silence. Flags are lowered, hands and feet are still, nothing happens. It would be easy to think that was boring. Yet the fact that we gather at our village war memorials year-in-year-out, is proof that Remembrance Sunday is something of tremendous importance and real significance. Often, we gather and remember with people who have experienced war. With people who have learned the hard way that being bored isn't the last word. They know that some things are so important that you do them no matter how tedious they seem. These people are probably wearing medals, the medals that recognise their devotion to duty in war. And those who know about these things say that, for most people, war is 95% boredom and 5% the most terrifying thing you will ever experience in your whole life. Yet the parts we might consider boring – the training, the drill, and so on – are vital in preparing for battle.

As we gather on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>, we remember. And that's difficult, because, when we remember those who died in war, we are faced with the most horrible evil. The deaths of service personnel and civilians are part of the terrible cost of war. And we haven't learned to avoid it yet. War still goes on - look at current events in Ukraine and the Middle East. Part of remembering is saying sorry to God for conflicts that have brought about so many deaths. And part is committing ourselves to doing all we can to work for peace, in our communities, our nation and our world. If you find it difficult to concentrate during the silence, and you'd like just one thought to help you remember in the right way, say this one line from the Lord's Prayer each time you remember, or think of something about war, and those who lost their lives - 'Deliver us from evil.'

Say these words knowing that God is not blaming us or wanting to punish us. God sent his Son, Jesus to forgive. This is not just to take away the painful memories and pretend that they didn't happen. To forgive is to heal, to restore, and to bring us back to a loving relationship with God and with one another. To do this, we remember that Jesus, like so many who died in war, gave his life, when he died for us on the cross to give the proof that we are loved and forgiven by our Father. So as we remember in the silence on Remembrance Sunday, we might pray, 'Deliver us from evil'.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev'd Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)*

At the end of November, we have a series of **Gift Services** in aid of **Restore Northampton**, the compassion ministry of the Vineyard Church, desiring to see lives transformed in and around Northampton.

The charity would particularly like gifts of board reading books for small children, cuddly toys, colouring books and colouring pencils, and Christmas selection boxes.

These and similar gifts can be brought to one of the three parish gift services on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

Thank you in advance for your generosity

## St Peter and St Paul Church, Heyford

The Café Church team invite you to a

# Christmassy Afternoon in Church

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
From 3-5pm

There will be Christmassy refreshments, music  
and activities with plenty of time for a cuppa  
and chat

No charge (donations always welcome)

More details nearer the time



## Nether Heyford Baptist Church

### Services for November

November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Nathan Toseland from the Central Baptist Association.
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Remembrance service led by Les Britten
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise service led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by John Perkins. (Coffee after the Service)
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service with communion led by Martin Buckby

### Events

Sat November 9<sup>th</sup> 10am to 12md Coffee morning in aid of Cynthia Spencer

Tues November 19<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Prayer and bible study

**All welcome**

### 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](http://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  
Baptist Church**

# Coffee Morning

10.00am - 12noon



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November**



**Only £1.50 per person**

***Drink & Biscuits included***

**Stalls include: –**

***Book, Cards, Cakes, Bric a Brac***

***All money raised for  
Cynthia Spencer***



**SATURDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

**10:AM TO 2:00PM  
HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**CRAFT STALLS – including Christmas Cards  
& decorations**



**HANDMADE GIFTS – Jewellery, Bags & much more**

**HEYFORD PARISH CHURCH CAKE STALL**

And why not enjoy a delicious  
**BACON ROLL**, with a **TEA or COFFEE**  
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To book a table please e-mail: [burrow.deborah@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:burrow.deborah@yahoo.co.uk)

## Astronomy on the Green

Some of us are inspired by nursery rhymes “The man in the Moon” for example. But for me it was the Man on the Moon that was my inspiration (20<sup>th</sup> July 1969) and the immortal words “The Eagle has landed!” led to a life-long interest in astronomy.

So surely, some 55 years later we must know all there is to know about the Moon? Well, no, as is true with most sciences, the more we find out, the more questions arise. At one time it would have been simple to know how the Moon originated, it was from an ancient collision between the earth and an unknown planet (labelled by us as Theia [no one was around to ask its name!]). This ejected materials from both planets that eventually coalesced into our orbiting satellite.

However, recent NASA simulations suggest that this was a much faster process. The Mars sized planet that struck the Earth produced a flare that formed two objects. One (the smallest) proto moon was pushed away by the larger object into a stable orbit some distance away. The remaining large object was recaptured by the Earth’s gravitational pull and most of it reformed with the molten planet. All of this occurred in the violent early phases of the solar systems formation around one million years after the system emerged from the Sun’s formation (around 4.6 billion years ago). The speed at which the Moon formed is suggested to be only a few hours after the cataclysmic event (incredible in astronomical terms). This also could change our understanding of our own planet, as Theia may be hiding in Earth’s core.

China has become active in Lunar missions and the rover (Yutu-2 [that could be an intended pun...]) has captured excellent images of the far side of the Moon. The mission was thought to be very risky, due to the difficulty of communications on the far side. The risk and success are an indication of how vital the mining of the Moon will become as we explore the solar system further (and look to ship rare materials back to Earth).

There are now confirmed reports that large quantities of frozen water are near the poles of our Moon and this is important for the development of moon-bases. Our humble Moon will (funding allowing) be developed into a mining and launch site for spaceships (gravity being only one sixth of Earth’s greatly reduces the escape velocity and fuel load needed).

I have some concerns that the Moon of ages is about to become a political football, but I live in the hope that joint scientific endeavour will be above this. So, our silent, old companion will see more changes, and we should uncover new questions to confound us.

Clear skies.

*Tony Boutle*

## Sword Sisters Winter Retreat Weekend:

One sunny weekend in July on the quiet Nether Heyford Village Green passers-by may have been shocked and slightly taken back to see several women adorned in lavish robes, leaping around and brandishing swords (with much delight) in our Summer Sword Sisters Retreat.

This seasonal retreat was a great success for all. A joyful, powerful and expansive time of shared learning and experience. Inviting the adventurous women who were brave enough to take a leap into the unknown to join this creative weekend of Meditation, Qigong, Tai Chi and Sword Practice.

As we slowly ease into Autumn and approach the dark winter months we are now planning our Sword Sisters Winter Practice Retreat. Once again we invite women, sisters, mothers, daughters and grandmothers to gather with us and pick up the sword. To draw upon the seasonal energies to gather, preserve and store what they need to survive and be well during the winter months. This event is suitable for women of all ages and no sword experience is necessary.

### What our Sword Sisters say

*Sword Sisters has been a powerful experience for me every time, with each retreat I feel myself become more connected to the sword and more connected to myself and my sisters. I have been on many retreats, and Sword Sisters is my absolute favourite, there is so much to learn and every time I walk away with a happy heart. Thank you Tamara and Trudi, you have created something truly special.*

Kat Chu, Entrepreneur

*I came away with a massive sense of well-being and patted myself on the back for having the courage to get up in front of strangers to show the form. I am going to be grading in forms in my martial art soon, and doing a Tai Chi Qigong instructor course, so I need to quell the stage fright I've developed in later years. I also channelled my inner warrior, which made me buzz all weekend.*

Sue, Lecturer and Martial Artist

### **SWORD SISTERS WINTER RETREAT:**

**Saturday 14th December 2024.**

**Nether Heyford Village Hall 10am - 5pm**

**Return students: £100**

**New students: £125**

To make an enquiry or book your place on this retreat contact:

**Tamara.Russell@mindbodymot.com**

or visit <https://thedragonacademy.co.uk/sword-sisters/>



## **Heyford Scouts Christmas Card Delivery Service**

Heyford Scout Group are pleased to announce that we will be again running our Christmas Card delivery service this year. Donations are still 20p per card, for collection and delivery in Heyford.

We will do a single house to house collection and have postboxes again too.

More information will follow in the December Prattler.



## **Bugbrooke & District Flower Society**

On Monday 25th November Beverley Short will present 'A Christmas Wish'. This is sure to be a lovely evening so if you love flowers come along to the Village Hall for 7.30pm start. You will be made very welcome.

## **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 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.

## **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

# THE Heyford SINGERS



*In the Christmas Spirit*  
*Join Our Celebration of Christmas*

## Nether Heyford Village Hall

Friday 13th & Saturday 14th December

At 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £10 Children (U 14) £5

From  
Keith Rands-Allen  
01327 340741 07971 786912  
kvra44@gmail.com

**[www.heyfordsingers.org](http://www.heyfordsingers.org)**



## Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

[www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org](http://www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org) [nhvhevents@gmail.com](mailto:nhvhevents@gmail.com)

### Village Hall News

#### View from the Chair

The village hall has been very busy of late with our regular users and private parties. We have also been undergoing some refurbishments.

In the run up to Christmas there is a lot going on so please follow and like our Facebook page to keep up to date with events.

We have just finalised our pantomime details which this year is Beauty and the Beast and will again be a matinee performance on Saturday 28th December at 2pm. We have managed to keep ticket prices very competitive at £10 for adults and £4 for children 2 to 12. This represents excellent value for a family outing during that quiet period between Christmas and New Year. Last year was extremely well attended and great fun was had by adults and children alike. Tickets will be on sale shortly from Committee members and as usual your best opportunity is to buy them at the Christmas Craft Fayre in the hall on 23 November between 10 am and 2pm. Please do support this fabulous tradition.

We are currently looking for someone to carry out some weeding, laying of weed suppressant and put down some bark chippings at the rear of the hall. If you think you may be able to help and would like to quote for the work please email me at [carolnhvhchair@gmail.com](mailto:carolnhvhchair@gmail.com)

And finally, it has been a delight to see the children playing football on the green on a Sunday morning recently in front of the hall and open up for them to use our facilities. What a lovely village we live in!

*Carol Tuckley*  
*Chair of Trustees*  
**[Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com](mailto:Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com)**

# HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

## THE HOLDOVERS

Comedy / Drama

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024**

**7.15 for 7.45pm**

**ADMISSION: £6.00**

**A curmudgeonly instructor at a New England school remains on campus during Christmas break.**

**He soon forms an unlikely bond with a brainy but damaged troublemaker, and with the school's cook.**

**An unlikely Christmas family...**

**FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES**

**TEA, COFFEE, BAR**



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[amy.hillyard@mytc.com](mailto:amy.hillyard@mytc.com)



## Flore Arts Events

**Folk Fiddle evening:** Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). All Saints Church. A 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.

Tickets: £10 (£5 for under 18s). Call Rosemary Read (between 9am and 6pm) on 01327 341026.

### Next year's Diary dates:

**Poetry Please:** Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup>, White Hart, Flore. 6.30pm. The theme will be "You're having a laugh".

**Ensemble Renard:** fantastic and virtuosic wind quintet. Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>. All Saints Church, Flore.

**Jazz in the Garden:** Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup>. Rock Springs, Sutton St, Flore.

**Track Dogs:** a smorgasbord of folk, rumba, jazz and blues. Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup>. All Saints Church, Flore.

**Neil Richardson entertains:** The West End comes to Flore, Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Millennium Hall, Flore.

You can keep up to date with our plans on our website at [www.floreartsevents.com](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> November – The price of vanity** - by Jo Golby

A look at the products used to improve the "appearance and deportment" of men and women throughout history. Concoctions made in house using herbs and plants grown in walled garden and the wider estate were used not only to treat medical conditions but also misused in an attempt to attain the "fashionable look of the day".

Guests welcome at the monthly meetings – to learn more visit our website [www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene)

## News from The Heyford Picturedrome

Our 'community cinema' has now been showing films in our village hall to people from this village and others for over 13 years – and is still going strong. Perhaps the free teas and coffees, and the excellent wines enjoyed during our intervals, may be contributing to our popularity. As an example, we had almost 'full house' for our October film: 'One Life' starring Anthony Hopkins and Helena Bonham Carter.

Looking ahead, tickets are now being sold for our Christmas film and supper evening on 19<sup>th</sup> December. This is going to be a 1982 comedy: 'The Missionary' starring Michael Palin and Maggie Smith, supported by an amazing cast. An evening to look forward to.

If you'd like tickets, they can be bought at our next film evening on 21 November or by contacting Rosemary Dunkley on 01327 342 588.

Also, following our invitation at our September film night, we're pleased to say that two people have agreed to help set up chairs and tables before the film – when they are available – but we'd still like one or two more to join our organising team. If you want to know more without committing yourself, my telephone number is 01327 340 803 and you're welcome to contact me – without obligation.

*Alwyne Wilson*



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## In Nether Heyford

This year seems to be running away with itself at a rate of knots. Hmm that is a mixed metaphor if ever I have written one. I am sure we all feel the same, that the impending darkness is just around the corner as the days get shorter.

However, at October's WI meeting we could ignore all of that gloom as we were treated to an evening of delight. Dalziel Ellis took us through a journey of her life expressed in poetry. Don't get me wrong, she had experienced some very dark times in her life, where she had to face difficult situations and decisions but she found her inner strength to face them down. From her childhood days she had always been able to express her feelings in poetry. It certainly resonated with us, we felt her pain, and yet the next minute were laughing with her when she described life's absurdities. A real tonic.

This month on November 7<sup>th</sup>, we are doing something quite practical. You may have heard a rumour the Christmas season will soon be upon us. By the way the shops are stocked with Christmas 'stuff' you would think it is next week. Well, no it's not, we still have time to make a decoration for the tree or to hang in the window. A lot of the materials will be recycled buttons, bows and thread. It will be easy enough for the non- crafter but for those with a bit of flair and nimble fingers a work of art can be created.

After we have created our masterpieces, we will become our own version of the Good Housekeeping Institute, tasting and rating Christmas goodies in blind tests. Who will win out, Waitrose or Aldi? I am sure that the big supermarkets will be desperate to know of our decisions. It could alter the whole of their Christmas advertising campaign.

Once again, the WI will be providing Bacon rolls, teas and coffees at the Annual Craft Fair. This year, it will be held on Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Village Hall. The event is always varied and there will be lovely things to buy. Come along, have a cuppa and say hello.

*Jane Wareing.*  
01327 340875

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# Heyford Allotments

## Heyford Gets Growing

Over the past ten years there has been a resurgence of interest in allotmenting, not just in Heyford, but across the whole country. People have realised that growing their own fruit, vegetables and flowers is not only healthier and more cost effective, but that the impact of being outside and interacting with the natural world has many benefits. It teaches us to think with the heart and respond with the head.

The success of the allotments in Heyford has been very obvious by the way in which plot holders have grown and cropped plants this year. The site has been a hive of activity and despite the often, inclement weather there has, for many, been a bumper harvest of produce.

I spoke to some allotment holders just recently about their bumper pumpkin harvest. Their grandson had bought a £1 pack of seed and, as if by magic, they'd grown for him twelve big pumpkins. Now that is how you get young people enthusiastic about growing things!

Commiserations to those allotmenters whose crops did not meet expectations – as farmers will often tell us, growing is not an exact science and for whatever reason, sometimes things just don't thrive. The good news is that there is always next year!

## Vacancies

Nationally, there is a shortage of allotments, with some towns and cities compiling huge waiting lists.

Thank goodness we are not in that situation, although the few vacancies that do occur are quickly filled. We have new allotmenters ready to take on the few vacant plots that have (or are) becoming available.

As rent night approaches in the New Year, there may be other opportunities for prospective growers to acquire a plot. If you are interested in taking on an allotment, contact us directly on the numbers at the end of this article.

## Cut Flower Patch

The Community Cut Flower Patch has looked good this year and plants have thrived, particularly the Lavatera and Nicotiana (tobacco plant). Like the pumpkin growers I spoke of earlier, they were grown from two small packs of seed – purchased at a discount!

Our dahlias have again been a joy to behold and it has been encouraging to see allotmenters and villagers take some as cut flowers. It is worth noting that they have remained sustainable because you, as villagers, have picked “only just enough” and left the rest for others to enjoy too. Many thanks to those good souls who found time in those rare dry spells we had this Summer, to put a can of water on our flowers.

An old Finnish proverb tells us that : “Happiness is a place between too little and too much”. That is a message that we could all do with reflecting on.

The cut flower border has now been put to bed. Perennials thinned, naturally occurring seeds scattered and tender plants covered in thick, warm mulch. We look forward to next Spring when the many bulbs we have planted begin to emerge and the year comes round again.

### **Winter Jobs**

As we have said in these columns before, gardening tasks do not stop when British Summertime ends. In fact, the work done during Winter can pay huge dividends in the next growing season.

- Sort out your compost heap or start a new one. Compost is the fuel that drives the allotment engine and it is free.
- Paint and help preserve sheds or raised beds.
- If the soil is warm enough it is not too late to plant winter onion sets and garlic. Both are as tough as old boots (but don't like waterlogging) and will grow on throughout the winter. You can harvest them in late June or July. We have only just finished eating the winter onions that we planted last year.
- Replace any fruit bushes that have consistently given up fruiting for a couple of years – they are probably past it!
- Prune fruit bushes, trees and raspberry canes.
- Sort out old seed packets and replace ones that have passed their sell-by date. Crops that fail are often the result of seed that is no longer viable.
- Plan what you want to grow next year and make a note of where you want it to go.

The list is endless, there is so much to do ...

### **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](mailto:lyndaeales@aol.com) or on 01327 341707

or Mike Langrish: [langrish\\_heyford@hotmail.com](mailto:langrish_heyford@hotmail.com) or on 01327 341390

*Mike Langrish*

## View from the Wildlife Patch

There is a new "State of Nature Report" by HMRC. I will not quote from it here for lack of space but I would encourage anyone with any interest in the environment at all to access it online. It makes for very worrying reading especially if you are young yourself or have children who will inherit the world we are creating right now.

On the wildlife patch, we seek to encourage wildlife by creating ideal habitat for as many species of native plants and animals as is appropriate for the area and the situation that we have. For this reason I was really pleased when in moving a stone for use as a weight, I discovered a flourishing nest of Yellow meadow ants (the ants that make ant hills) along with a good population of Ant woodlice. This is a tiny, white woodlouse species that only live in ants nests. Along with these were two omnivorous woodlouse species and two species of predatory Centipede. These were the Common shiny centipede and the Variegated centipede. The last is a new one for the species list on site. I put the stone back where it was and found another stone for the job I needed it for.

It is a measure of the success of the wildlife patch that we are now finding this number of species when, across much of the UK, species such as these are reducing or dying out at an alarming rate. Of course the Ants will have provided food, shelter and warmth for the tiny ant woodlice. This species is adapted to live within the confines of ant colonies and nowhere else. The predatory centipedes will have lived very happily with a larder full of ants and woodlice on their doorstep. The Ants feed on honeydew produced by underground root aphids which these ants farm and manage in their nests. The ants rarely need to leave their nests and as a result only need tiny eyes when compared with other ant species. So just under this one stone we had a complete, self contained ecosystem.

I decided to write on this subject as I see projects similar to our wildlife patch which concentrate purely on providing sustenance for "pollinators" with scant regard for the majority of other species that do not feed on pollen or only need this for a single stage of their life. Of course we do cater for the pollen dependent animals in our "Hay Meadows" whilst the remaining "non pollen dependant" creatures are enabled to conduct their business in and out of sight, across many places on the patch.

A wild plant species that we encourage for this reason is the almost ubiquitous Oat Grass (*Arrhenatherum helatius*) - why I still prefer English names - that forms tussocks over about 50% of the patch. This grass produces quantities of miniature oat grains in abundance. These seeds are eaten by a whole host of animals. field voles, bank voles, wood mice, as well as many insect and other invertebrate species and even some slugs and snails. These in turn provide food for predatory animal species, whilst all droppings provide fertilizer for more grass to grow. Of course there are a lot of insects who feed on pollen as adults that require grass as food for their larvae and/or need it for shelter as pupal or in egg stages.

There is very much more I could write on this subject but space does not allow.

*Dave Musson*



*Some of the days in November carry the whole memory of summer  
as a fire opal carries the colour of moonrise.*

Gladys Bagg Taber  
Author

[www.heyfordsingers.org](http://www.heyfordsingers.org)

And like the above quotation we at The Singers are practising our songs that carry the memory of Christmas in all its forms - faith and festivities. From 'Tidings of Comfort and Joy' (traditional English Carol arranged, with additional words, by Becki Slagle Mayo) and 'Love Came Down at Christmas' (from the John Rutter Carol book and words by Christina Rossetti) to 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' by Frank Loesser and 'White Van Santa' by our very own Graham Kinnerly. We will perform the premier of this modern version of the jolly father-like figure we know as Santa Claus. None of our Concerts would be complete without the input of our talented pianist and this will give us an opportunity to relax into the modern, fun side of this special season.

Last month as you will have read or seen on the news, we lost a talented singer, Liam Payne. So young and so mixed up after his great success at a very young age starting with The X Factor. But his quote on singing with 'One Direction' "When I was little, I always said that I wanted a brother, and now it's like having four of them" put me in mind of our Choir. In our case we have forty three in the family, all singing in harmony, all getting the same enjoyment out of music and all looking out for each other. With an age range from late thirties to middle nineties, this is some achievement, especially with only two people keeping us in order – our Musical Director Mary Rice and our Pianist Graham. But such is the need to sing and take away some of the cares of the world (which, sadly are plenty) we are pretty well totally focused for the two hours we practice every week. Music does that – makes one disappear into another world dominated by voice, chord, and instrument and strangely gives a flavour of a better world. Very few things can do that.

**Our Concerts on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> will be seated in the cabaret style and do get booked up very quickly, so please see the advertisement in this Prattler for details. There will be a raffle as usual – in aid of a charity and the Choir – and a bottle of wine/fruit juice on the table and will get your Christmas off to a cracking start.**

We have been invited as a Choir (yes, head-hunted!) to sing Carols in The Sun Inn, Kislingbury on **Wednesday 18 December at 7.30 pm** so this should be a lovely event with members of the village and pub regulars attending. This will get us into good voice for our annual **Carols on the Green Friday 20 December at 6.30 pm** which last year was attended by over one hundred of you. This is a joint venture between the Choir and the Parish Church and will be presided over by Geoff Allen, Chairman of The Heyford Singers, and The Reverend Stephen Burrow. Do come and join in and raise your voice to Christmas.

*JRA*



## Heyford Bowls Club

The bowls green was put to bed on Saturday 5th October and we would like to thank all those that came down to the club to help out. Although the green is now out of action that does not mean that the maintenance stops. During the winter many of the jobs we are unable to do during the season will now become a priority. We welcome anyone wishing to help out on Wednesday mornings from 9.00am onwards.

The Short Mat competitions are coming to a close for this year with a final one on November 16th. This is between the ladies against the men, quite a fun afternoon and always closely fought. If you have thought that you would like to see what short mat bowls is all about why not come along to watch, we always welcome spectators. We start at 1.00 pm and provide tea/coffee and cakes for all.

If you are unable to join us on that day then we always welcome new members either on a Wednesday at 2.00pm or 7.00pm. The first three sessions are free then there is a £2.50 fee payable per session. We can provide bowls so you only need soft soled shoes. Why not pop in for more information.

*Lorraine Streeter - Club Captain*

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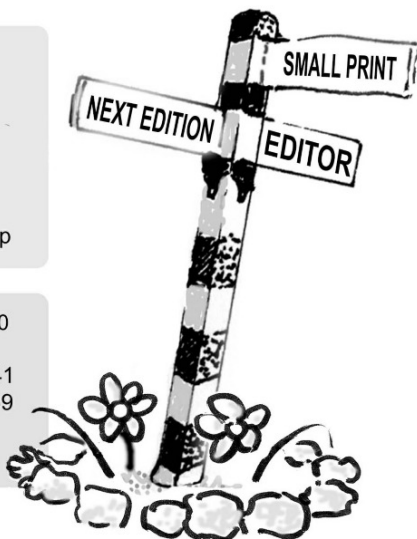
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