



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

December 2024/January 2025

Issue 475

Beauty
and the **Beast**

A Tale as Old as Pantomime...

**SATURDAY 28TH
DECEMBER 2024 AT 2PM**
NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS: ADULT £10 CHILD £4 UNDER 2'S FREE
CALL PAT: 07802210440 OR CAROL: 07718988143

Laugh Out Loud
-THEATRE COMPANY-

Community Lounge Vouchers

The Community Lounge will again this year be funding supermarket vouchers for those people from the village of Nether and Upper Heyford who find it difficult in the lead up to Christmas.

If you are struggling or know someone who is, then please send the details through to netherheyforyouthclub@hotmail.com by 5th December.

All requests are treated in the strictest confidence and we will look to distribute the vouchers at the beginning of December. When requesting it would be really helpful if you could mention which supermarket you would prefer your vouchers for and we will do our best to provide.

Bugbrooke & District Flower Society

Wishing all our members a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

We will meet again at the AGM on 27th January 2025 at 7.30 pm.


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The October meeting took place on the 7th October at the Baptist Church Rooms

Housing Needs survey report from Samantha Bosworth from WNC.

A Housing Needs Survey had been carried out during the preparation for the Neighbourhood Plan. However, the new government wishes to build more housing (especially affordable housing) and has made money available for new surveys. Ms Bosworth works with communities to try and find suitable locations for small developments i.e. 8 – 10 houses. A questionnaire is nearly ready, and Councillors expressed willingness to distribute it. It was also agreed to put all responses into a prize draw, as an incentive. The survey could be filled in online or on paper. It was hoped to get it done before Christmas.

West Northants Councillor report.

Cllr Phil Bignell reported that a new crematorium was proposed for the district reflecting the increased population. The WNC draft tree strategy is close to completion.

Public Participation.

A resident complained that many of the village pavements were in poor condition for wheelchair users, especially near the school where the situation was exacerbated by vehicles parked partially or wholly on the pavement. Councillors would check pavements which could be reported on Fix my Street or to Highways. The PCSO would also report on his behalf. He had also been told by another resident that he could not take a powered wheelchair on to the Green. He was assured that this was not the case.

Another resident complained that the footpath from Watery Lane towards Bugbrooke was badly affected by brambles. She asked that these be entirely removed to unblock the proper course of the footpath and that all debris be removed to avoid dogs treading on the barbs. Footpaths should be reported on Fix my Street. Quotes would be sought for possible removal.

To decide on whether to maintain the agreement with Bugbrooke PC regarding the PCSO.

Clerk had contacted Bugbrooke PC. Cllr PB reported that Bugbrooke should be continuing with the present arrangement, and would contact the clerk when this was confirmed.

Resolved. To continue with the arrangement if Bugbrooke maintained the same arrangement.

SID post on Weedon Rd - Clerk reported that householders at 22 and 24 Weedon Rd had been contacted and no objections had been voiced to siting the post between them. However, IP felt that there should be a solar powered option on this post which would require a 3.5m tall post. This would mean that he would not have to regularly change batteries. Clerk to contact Highways and request this. Clerk cautioned that there would certainly be an additional charge for this change. NC felt that the Furnace Lane site would become irrelevant after the installation of a chicane. A quote for £3746 had been received for an additional data receiving SID.

Mosaic - There had been no response to the appeal for opinions as to where to site the Mosaic.

Resolved. Mosaic to be sited on the Green opposite the school and across Coronation Way from the sign there.

Election May 2025 - NCALC is keen that all Councils do their best to publicise the 2025 election. Clerk and councillors to consider what could usefully be done to achieve a contested election.

Light Column on Winston Close - Clerk had contacted Mick George Ltd regarding the incident; they had been made aware by the driver. Clerk to forward quote for restoring the column.

Reports

Environment - The question as to whether additional dog bins were required was posed. Clerk to enquire as to the feasibility of putting two additional bins on the same posts as existing bins on the Green. If this is unfeasible, to ask for quote for 2 additional single bins.

5 trees were proposed. 2 on Hillside Rd to replace lost trees. One near the bus stop on Hillside Rd, one to replace a damaged sapling on the green and one on Furnace Lane to replace a recently lost tree. The latter would be a memorial to Bob Smith.

Infrastructure - Resolved. Lights identified in Rolfe Crescent and Close Rd, Pole no 20 in Church St, were to be replaced with LEDS. Light no 5 in Bliss Close needed lamp changing. Light at Junction with Winston Close to be moved. As the clerk had had no success so far in securing a rebate from YU for the changes from sodium to LED lighting Councillors recommended approaching the Ombudsman.

Heritage - TW reported that work on a heritage leaflet was ongoing. The purchase of archiving software was being considered.

Community - NC and LD had visited the play area. NC had produced a spreadsheet for volunteers to use in inspections of the site.

Charles Kiloh had volunteered to keep monitoring the defibrillators, and to remain a member of the Joint Burial Board. Councillors thanked Charles.

LE reported that Anglian Water would be repairing the gate shortly. She reported that 2 more gates and posts needed to be replaced. Quotes to be sought.

A quote for approx. £90 p/m to mow the allotment paths had been received. Further quotes to be sought. It was felt that Allotment rents would need to be raised.

Community Lounge (CL) - The Lounge will be open from 10.30 to 4.30pm each Wednesday from Nov 6th until the end of March. The Lounge is now 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.

Parish Council meetings in 2024/25 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/>

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
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 2nd December at the Baptist Church rooms.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for December 2024

Sunday 1 st	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Deanery Advent Carol Service at Braunston Church
Sunday 8 th	10:00 am	United Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	3:00 pm	Christmas Get-together at Heyford Church
Saturday 14 th	2:00 pm	United Messy Church & Christingle at Flore Church – all welcome!
Sunday 15 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	Instant Nativity Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Friday 20 th	6:00 pm	Carols on the Green in Nether Heyford
Sunday 22 nd	10:00 am	Partnership Service of Holy Communion at Flore Church
	3:00 pm	Crib Service at Upper Stowe
	6:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight at Heyford Church
	6:00 pm	Carol Service at Flore Chapel
Tuesday 24 th	6:00 pm	Village Carol Service at Flore Church
Christmas Eve	8:30 pm	Christmas Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
Wednesday 25 th	10:00 am	Christmas Holy Communion Service at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	Christmas Day Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Partnership Service for Christmas Morning at Flore Chapel
	11:15 am	Christmas Holy Communion Service at Brockhall Church
Sunday 29 th	10:00 am	Service of Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Service of Lessons and Carols at Upper Stowe

Services for January 2025

Sunday 1 st	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 12 th	10:00 am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Sunday 19 th	10:00 am	Service of Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Service of Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 26 th	10:00 am	Service of Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford Church

Midweek Services:

Holy Communion at 10:00AM every Thursday at Flore Church (Not 26th Dec).

Flore Church is open for private prayer on Thursday 19th December between 2:30PM and 3:30PM and in January is open for private prayer every Thursday between 2:30PM and 3:30PM.

Morning Prayer on Zoom every Friday morning at 9:00AM (not 27th Dec). Please contact the Rector for details - All welcome.

During December we shall be praying for people living in Winston Close, Roberts Field and Ridgeway Furlong in Heyford, Nether Lane and Thornton Close in Flore, The Green in Church Stowe and The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage in Brockhall.

During January we shall be praying for people living in Church Lane and Weedon Rd in Heyford, Spring Lane and Russell Rise in Flore, Francis Row in Upper Stowe and the Stables and Coach House in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

We now enter the season of Advent, a season of expectation and preparation, as we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth, and look ahead to his final return as judge at the end of time. Traditionally during Advent, the Church has looked at the four 'last things', Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell. More recently, it has generally moved away from such themes to think of hope, peace, joy and love. But whatever our focus, Advent is a time of waiting.

Advent begins in the dark. We might do all we can to fend off the dark, switching on our Christmas lights at the end of November perhaps, or festooning our homes with sparkling tinsel and baubles. Regardless, Advent begins in the dark. It is a season of reflecting on the reality of the world and waiting with expectation for something better – which for Christians means celebrating Jesus' birth and anticipating his triumphant return in glory. Yet, in reflecting on the reality of the world, we are going to confront serious darkness. We don't have to look far to see it, war, poverty, abuse and exploitation. Sadly, it seems as though darkness is often the reality in which we live.

In Advent, the Church journeys from darkness to light. We consider the world around us; we look back to Jesus' birth as a baby – and we find ourselves longing for Jesus, the 'light of the world' to step in again. We wait with confidence, knowing that Jesus will show up, for 'the people walking in darkness have seen a great light' (Isaiah 9:2) and that 'light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it' (John 1:5)

Advent is about waiting. Advent begins in the dark. It points us towards something greater, and acknowledges that faced with darkness, we long for light, for hope, for peace and for joy. Advent promises that greater thing is on its way.

With prayers and blessings for Advent and Christmas, Rev'd Stephen

Following the publication of the independent review by Keith Makin into the Church of England's handling of allegations of serious abuse by the late John Smyth, and the subsequent resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Bishop of Peterborough, Bishop Debbie has made a statement, which can be found here: <https://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/news/resignation-of-the-archbishop-of-canterbury--bishops-statement.php>.

I echo Bishop Debbie's sentiments and recognise that recent events demonstrate the fundamental importance of making our churches safe places. The churches of this benefice and I stand in solidarity with all victims of abuse and express our profound sorrow at what has happened. We are committed to following the diocesan safeguarding policy, and to delivering a welcoming, safe church for all. We are working towards a culture of safeguarding in all our churches, recognising that we all have a part to play in ensuring our church communities are safe spaces. Clearly, there is more to be done, and we will continue to implement, improve and monitor our safeguarding practices to ensure that all who take part in the life of our churches can do so in safety.

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Stephen (Tel:01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for December

December 1 st	10:30 am	Morning service led by Tony Brown
December 8 th	10:30 am	Christmas gift service led by Lee Hillyard
	4:00 pm	Carols by candlelight led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
December 15 th	10:30 am	Lessons and Carols led by Les Britten.(coffee after the service)
December 22 nd	10:30 am	Christmas carol service led by Les Britten
December 29 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Clive Leahey

Services for January

January 5 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Les Britten
January 12 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Lee Hillyard
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
January 19 th	10:30 am	Morning service with Pastor pre-record
January 26 th	10:30 am	Communion service led by Martin Buckby

Events

Tues January 21st 10:00 am Prayer and bible study

All welcome

New Beginnings

We are excited to welcome our new pastor to the local Baptist church, a significant milestone for our congregation. With a deep commitment to faith and community, Lee brings a wealth of experience and a passion for guiding us in our spiritual journeys.

The pastor's vision for our church is to foster fellowship, inspire growth, and serve those in the community. As we embark on this journey together, let us open our hearts and minds to the teachings that will be shared and support our pastor in their sacred work. Together, we can strengthen our community and deepen our faith, creating a welcoming space for all ages and backgrounds.

Message from Pastor Lee:

I thank you for the warm welcome I have already had from the Nether Heyford community, and I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months.

As the soft glow of Christmas lights twinkled against the night sky, a sense of hope and renewal filled the air. Families gathered around their tables, sharing laughter and stories, all while reflecting on the significance of the season. This time of year, we celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but also the boundless potential that each new beginning brings. The nativity scene reminds us that even in humble settings, extraordinary journeys can unfold. Just as Mary and Joseph embraced the challenges ahead, we too are invited to welcome fresh starts and new opportunities with open hearts. Each ornament hung on the tree serves as a reminder of past joys, while the promise of tomorrow shines brightly ahead. In the spirit of Christmas, we find comfort in the idea that every ending can pave the way for a beautiful beginning, igniting a renewed sense of purpose and faith in the hearts of many.

I pray you have a Blessed Christmas, and I hope you will be able to join us at our services.

Blessings, **Lee**

Food Bank

Don't go hungry – if you are in need of help, please contact Towcester Food Bank 07724 832043 (24 hours). www.towcester.foodbank.org.uk Leave a message and they will phone you back. They can issue vouchers for food as well as a delivery or collection service.

Alternatively if you wish to help, please leave donations for the food bank in the box outside the door of 15 Middle Street or the One Stop Shop where they are delivered to the bank once a week. Thank you.

NETHER

HEYFORD

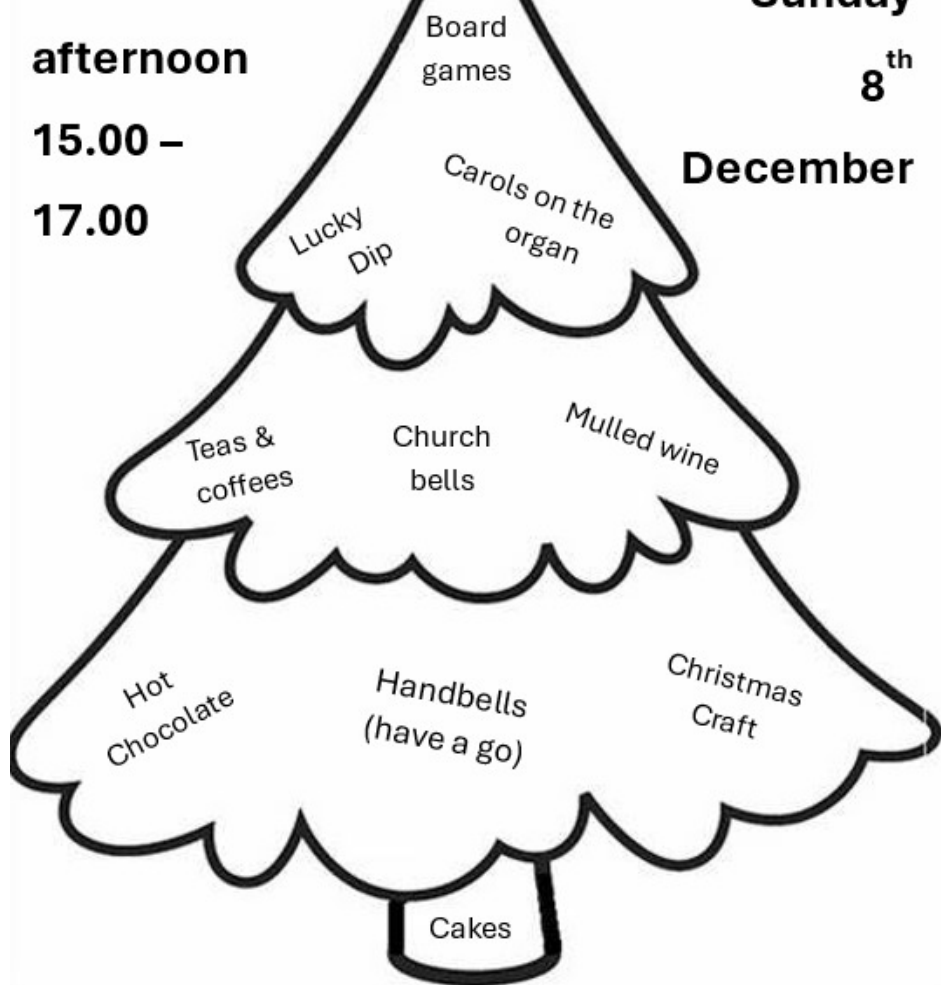


**A Christmas
afternoon**

**Sunday
8th**

**15.00 –
17.00**

December



Parish Church

Astronomy on the Green

The Outer limits – this month a quick overview of the solar systems giants, namely the Gas giants and Ice giants.

Let's start in reverse order by considering the furthest of the eight planets, Neptune the ice giant. It is between 2.7 and 2.9 billion miles away from us. Neptune has only orbited the sun once since it was discovered in 1846.

Recent images from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) reveal its faint ring structure in more detail, and seven of Neptune's fourteen moons. Triton is by far the largest and it orbits Neptune in the opposite direction to the planets orbit (retrograde). Triton is thought to originally been a dwarf planet captured from the Kuiper belt by Neptune's gravity.

As we come closer to earth Uranus orbits between 1.6 and 1.98 billion miles from us. Both Ice giants are so distant that our space probes rarely visit them (which make the JWST key in learning more about them). It turns out that during Voyager 2's fly past in 1986 we recorded the magnetosphere, and we have only just realised that the unusual and unexpected readings were wrong. At the time there was an intense solar wind which distorted the measurements.

We travel on to the Gas giants; Saturn has an elliptical orbit and the average distance from the Earth is 866 million miles. It has the most complex ring system in the solar system. We are now monitoring the stability of the rings, as the inner side of the rings are constantly eroded by Saturn's intense gravity. It's possible that we just happen to be alive at the right time to view Saturn's spectacle, as it may fade away. Next year the geometry between us and Saturn means that the rings will be edge onto us (and essentially be invisible). The rings are up to 175,000 miles wide however the vertical height on average is just 30 feet.

Jupiter is the Gas giant amongst giants, it's average distance from us is 484 million miles. Jupiter is twice as massive as all the other solar system planets combined. The Great Red Spot (storm) has raged for two centuries, but we have only realised recently how variable it is. This was revealed by a three month long observation by the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) which showed it contract and expand in time-frame photography. The JWST has found a new jet stream 3,000 miles wide (the streams on Jupiter revolve in opposite directions) that travels at 320 mph, twice the speed of a category 5 hurricane.

As always astronomy surprises us – even in our own back yard! Have a good festive season all...

Clear skies.

Tony Boutle

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

NEXT FILM : THE MISSIONARY

1982 Comedy – starring Maggie Smith and Michael Palin

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER 2024

6.30pm for 6.45pm

CHRISTMAS FILM AND SUPPER EVENING

ADMISSION: £18.00 (Ticket Only)

Tickets available from Rosemary Dunkley (01327 342 588)

In 1906, Reverend Charles Fortescue, a missionary, is called back to England after spending 10 years each to African natives. His new assignment is to minister in a slum to prostitutes – with funding that comes with a catch.....

JANUARY FILM : THELMA

Comedy – recommended!

THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2025

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

When 93-year-old Thelma Post get duped by a phone scammer pretending to be her grandson, she sets out on a treacherous quest across the city to reclaim what was taken from her.

‘Revenge has never been sweeter.’

Heyford Scouts Christmas Card Delivery Service

Heyford Scouts 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, which will be on the evening of Monday 9th December.

We also plan to have postboxes available at Heyford Meats, One Stop Shop and the Foresters Arms. Please post cards in a bag with payment by 20th December latest.

The Scouts, Cubs and Beavers groups continue to thrive. A good number of our young people attended the Remembrance Sunday parade and service, all very smart and respectful. Congratulations to the Scouts team 'Nether Ramblers' who in November came second by only 1 point in the District Star Trek competition, a night time activity in which they had to navigate between different check points with a different challenge at each one.

Thanks go to all the leaders, committee and parent helpers for contributing to the success of the group.

We wish all residents of Heyford a very Merry Christmas!



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 leave a message in Heyford Meats.

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

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable New Year.

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



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

Village Hall News

View from the Chair

The run up to Christmas seems to come earlier and earlier and by the time you get this issue of "The Prattler" we will already have decked the hall ... sadly not with boughs of holly but hopefully it is looking festive and inviting for all the upcoming events.

Festivities kick off with the crafty club Xmas Fayre and the Heyford Singers keep us in the festive mood with their carol concerts and carols on the green.

Private bookings for the hall are going well but we may still have availability for private parties and events. Please check the calendar on the web site and consider it as a venue for your celebrations.

Between Christmas and New Year we have our Pantomime in the hall, this years production is Beauty and the Beast by the Laugh Out Loud theatre company who were excellent last year and it promises to be sold out so get your tickets early.

Please keep following and liking our Facebook page, it really is the easiest way to keep abreast of what is going on in the hall.

There are some improvements and upgrades to the hall coming in the new year which all takes time, money and commitment from our committee of trustees. I'm sure you will join me in extending thanks to all those who give the above to keep the hall going for the benefit of the village as a whole.

My very best wishes to you for the coming holiday season.

Carol Tuckley
Chair of Trustees

Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com

THE Heyford SINGERS

Come and join us for

The Parish Church of
St Peter and St Paul



Carols on the Green

Sing In Christmas!

Friday December 20th

At 6.30pm

*Nether Heyford Village Green
in front of the Village Hall*



BRING SOME CASH & A TORCH!

All proceeds from a Bucket Collection will go to
Heyford Singers and Nether Heyford Parish Church

NETHER HEYFORD

OFSTED No. EY450747

CHARITY No. 1029571

Pre-School

Ages 2-5 years

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

Highly qualified and experienced staff

Excellent links with Bliss School

Fantastic village location with use of numerous outdoor facilities

'Rising 5' sessions for those starting school in September

Tax Free Childcare payments accepted



Before & After School Club

Wrap around care available for children aged up to 11 years old

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

'Walking Bus' to and from Bliss School provided if required

Transition sessions available for Bliss School reception class.

Drop in and see us at
The Church Rooms, Church Lane,
Nether Heyford or call on
07984 055 828

info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk
www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk

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Contact: Lisa and Amy Hillyard

01327 828520 or

07808815042

lisa.hillyard@mytc.com or
amy.hillyard@mytc.com



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 9th December – John Clare by Andrew Castley and Cut-a-Caper

Andrew will be talking about John Clare's tragic life, liberally interspersed with his music, played by the band. Some of Clare's poems will be read by a guest professional actor. We hope to provide some optional join-in dancing. It is an entertainment as well as an informal talk.

Monday 20th January – Medical Detection Dogs

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



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KEEP THIS BY YOUR COMPUTER - YOU MIGHT NEED US!



In Nether Heyford

I appreciate that this is much used phrase “well I don’t know where this year has gone “ is being spoken amongst old friends all across the world at this time of year. The good intentions to meet up earlier during the year have evaporated, and here we are trying to cram in, all the promised get togethers into the next three weeks. What about delaying some of these catch ups into January? Seems like a good idea to spread the seasonal cheer a bit thinner, and enjoy it for a bit longer into those grim mid- winter days.

At the November meeting, the women of Nether Heyford WI enjoyed a convivial evening making a Christmas decoration. The theme was Scandi (bare wood, recycled buttons and ribbons). It was amazing that we all started off with similar materials and that at the end of the session, we had a wonderful array of decorations all different and unique. Even if you are not a regular crafter there is a real sense of achievement in making something yourself, and in the process, giving your brain permission to be ‘in the moment’ and switched off from that inner voice which is constantly dictating the list of things that have to be done.

After the craft session, we did some blind tasting of Christmas goodies. That really focused the taste buds. The results were interesting and sometimes surprising. The most expensive did not always get the most votes, and yet in other categories cheaper items really did taste cheaper. As ever the WI remains impartial!

On January 9th we are welcoming Tony Boutle, who will tell us about the wonders of the Universe as seen through a telescope on the green. It will be a new topic for most of us. The sky is always fascinating during the day and at night and provides us with endless opportunities for conversation and wonderment. Who would have thought that the inhabitants of Nether Heyford would ever be able to view the Northern Lights over their houses?

If you fancy expanding your knowledge and your range of acquaintances in 2025 come along to WI on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30 in the Village Hall. You will be most welcome.

Jane Wareing.
01327 340875

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Heyford Allotments

Celebrating the Seasons

The celebrated garden designer, Tom Stuart-Smith recently wrote that we should: *articulate the seasons rather than deny them*. Every month has it's own beauty – even November! The leaves, turning glorious colours later than ever this year, are a wonderful example of this.

So, the nights are closing in, and although at the time of writing this article, there has been no obvious sign of winter approaching, the growing season has certainly started to slow down. It is a great time to get all those maintenance jobs and soil preparation completed on the allotments and in the garden.

Many Thanks

Heyford Allotments were fortunate to have received several large deliveries of wood chippings from Seb at SAS Arborists and James from JW Tree Specialists. Their support is much appreciated and an indication of how the community can come together to practically support organisations like the allotments. Many thanks to them both.

Allotmenters have made great use of the wood chippings, especially in creating pathways and as a mulch and weed suppressant around fruit bushes and trees.

Community Saturday

We again held a hugely successful community morning on Saturday 26th October. Over twenty volunteers gave up some of their time to carry out much needed maintenance work on the allotments. This included clearing the area around the old Bramley apple tree that has stood on the allotments for as long as anyone can remember. The tree still fruits wonderfully well but was becoming very overgrown and increasingly difficult to access. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, it is now in a better condition and easier to get to. Later in the winter we shall carry out some careful structural pruning on the tree.

Other tasks carried out on 26th included creating a new community rhubarb bed, tidying the old raspberry canes and building two “Bramble Towers”. These are structures promoted by the Royal Horticultural Society to safely dispose of unwanted brambles and prunings and at the same time create an attractive home for minibeasts and small mammals. If you are visiting the allotments, do come and have a look at them. They can be found on the edge of the orchard.

Without the help of our wonderful volunteers, the allotments would not be in such good condition. At a recent meeting of the Soil Association, a speaker (who also happened to be a Star Trek fan) urged allotmenters to: *Boldly grow better together!* Now, who would have linked the Starship Enterprise with growing fruit and veg?

Farmyard Manure

To coincide with the Community Saturday we also took delivery of a large trailer load of well-rotted farmyard manure. Allotmenters have made good use of this and what looked like a very substantial heap of muck, disappeared within a few days. If there is still anyone who has not yet paid Lynda Eales for their barrow(s) of muck, please can they let her have payment as soon as possible.

Dogs

With one or two notable exceptions, dogs are not allowed on the allotments (or the nearby playing fields). We can therefore only assume that the piles of dog mess that we have found in the orchard area, was the result of stray animals. We would kindly ask that villagers do not let their dogs run loose or, if they have strayed onto the allotments, they check their pets have not fouled the area and if necessary, clear up after them.

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

Mike Langrish

Nether Heyford Village Hall



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View from the Wildlife Patch

Today, I was watching our resident House Sparrows in the back garden. They looked chirpy and cheerful, whilst feeding on the commercial mix of seed that we ensure they have all year round. The sight took me back to my formative years on our family farms when countless thousands of these birds came from Birmingham city to feed in our cereal fields. They began to arrive in early June, in time for the young birds to feed on the Aphids that fed on the growing cereals. They then graduated to feeding on the wheat grain as this grew and ripened in the ears. I remember them very well. At the age of 13, at the beginning of the school summer holiday, I was handed a 12 bore, double barrelled shotgun and a few boxes of cartridges and told to keep these birds off the corn. I soon discovered that one shot would send clouds of Sparrows to the side of the next field where they fed happily whilst I made my way to where they were in range. Only for them to repeat the process over again.

In those days the majority of domestic houses had their eaves (the bit between wall and roof) open to the elements. This provided nesting spaces for millions of House Sparrows. That's where their common name "House" Sparrow came from. They also housed thousands of Starlings. Some Starlings nested in holes in trees as they still do. Starlings also had a bad habit of picking up burning cigarette ends to take to their nests. This habit caused many roof fires at the time. It could come as a surprise to those born more recently that there were enough burning cigarette ends lying around for this to be a problem.

Many will remember the millions of Starlings that came to roost in our towns and cities in wintertime. It seemed every single ledge and branch that would support starlings was utilised by a loudly twittering hoard of birds, spaced evenly at "pecking distance" from each other. In fact, there were still murmurations of Starlings over many towns and cities in the mid to late 80's. Now, sharp metal spikes stick up where once there were birds on those same ledges. Plastic boards now cover eaves preventing birds from entering their previous nesting places and we spray insecticide to kill the insects that once fed birds on our cereal crops. I could make a similar case explaining the loss of our Swallows. House Martins (house in the name again), Swifts, Wagtails, Warblers. Almost all of our bird populations are still in decline.

In looking back to those past times, I realise that whilst Climate Change is doubtless a huge factor in the loss of our wildlife, Our own activities and change of attitude also play a big part in this. Every bird nest box we put out does enable birds to find a safe place to breed. Every winter feeder feeds birds. Every "weed" is a wildflower with the potential to feed insects and birds. Every "weed" pulled up deprives something of food and safety. Short "velvet" lawns provide habitat for nothing but grass.

Officially The UK is one of the most natural habitat deprived countries in the developed world. What can **you** do to change that?

Wishing You a Happy Christmas and contented New Year.

Dave Musson

Heyford Picturedrome Christmas Film and Supper Evening

We are looking forward to our annual treat, on 19 December, when our film will be 'The Missionary', a 1982 comedy starring Maggie Smith and Michael Palin, supported by an amazing cast. Highly recommended.

Our supper, to be served before the film, will be buffet style and will include wine or juice, coffee and mints – and delicious home-made desserts. The cost remains at £18 which includes the film.

This is always a popular event with admission by ticket only, available from Rosemary Dunkley on 01327 342 588.

Don't leave it too late.

Alwyne Wilson

I would like to thank everyone in the village who donated to Brain Tumour Research over the last 12 months, including £430 raised on the day of the fete.

The running total raised so far is just short of £5,000.

Hopefully in the new year I will be attempting something different. Any suggestions are welcome!

Once again, thank you very much.

Bill Corner



www.heyfordsingers.org

*If architecture is frozen music
Then music must be
Liquid architecture*

*Quincy Delight Jones
March 1933 – November 2024*

*Hurry, Hurry Hurry now to Bethlehem
A Tiny Babe is Born*

*In The Christmas Spirit
Original words and music by
Ruth Elaine Schram
(Incorporating four spirituals)*

For those of you who haven't heard of Quincy Jones he is the recipient of twenty-six Grammys and considered to be one of the greatest minds in music and television history. He played with just about everyone in the musical world (a great early friend was Ray Charles) and worked with Frank Sinatra who called him one of the finest musicians; and indeed 'Fly me to the Moon' didn't fly until Quincy Jones had got hold of it re-arranging it with a swing beat instead of waltz time. He produced the Michael Jackson 'Thriller' album amongst scores of other well-known records thus proving that music isn't just notes or singing – it is the interpretation that is put into it.

For our Christmas Concert 'In The Christmas Spirit' please see enclosed advertisement for booking details. Friday, December 13th and Saturday December 14th 7.30 pm in Nether Heyford Village Hall, Credit/debit card facilities available. Followed by Carols on The Green Friday 20th December 6.30 pm

Our AnnA rydeR concert was a great success and the audience were enthralled with the number of instruments she could play, the depth of feeling to her songs and the general atmosphere of optimism she displayed. And for the Choir we could bank a little more money towards the cost of music which has to be bought twice a year. Our Musical Director tries to use as much as possible from our ever-increasing library, but to inject the right amount of musical genres, it is inevitable that some music will be bought to increase the diversity – and the interest – of our Choir.

And so we are now arriving at yet another Christmas. Seems impossible that a whole year has sped by amid the chaos of an ever-changing world. But The Heyford Singers are still standing and are proud of their commitment to music which provides the life-blood to many of us as we grapple with the day-to-day problems which are ever present.

'So Many Stars' is a beautiful, heart-felt piece of music by Lin Marsh who is a highly

sought-after composer, specialising in vocal works and is one of the UK's most well-respected singing leaders. This song is very thought provoking 'When the night is dark and the air is clear/Do you look up to the stars in the heavens, stop for a moment - wonder just why you are here?' This has given us some difficulty as once we had sorted out the notes and the inevitable page turning for repeat stanzas this piece does not stand alone. It has to have feeling put into it to make the whole piece come alive. See what you think.

We have abandoned '*Sleigh Bells*' and adopted '*Jingle Bells (Sort of)*' by James Pierpont, arranged with new Words by Jay Althouse. This is one for the ladies and I think we felt if we lost track of the 'jing, jing-jing-a-ring in '*Sleigh Bells*' we would never get it back! Few in numbers the men never cease to amaze us. '*We Need a Little Christmas*' is their turn to shine and from the first tentative steps they have blossomed into finely tuned harmony giving this lovely tune the depth it deserves. Come and join us and sing the Carols. Make this Christmas even more special. And may 2025 be a happy year for all of you.

JRA



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The Mental Health Number

24/7 support available for your mental health needs

NHFT and the mental health charity, Mind, came together in 2020 to create a 24/7 mental health support number for the people of Northamptonshire. The Mental Health Number connects callers to trained professionals, who can provide local support, advice or signposting, whether this is from the NHS, the voluntary and community sector, or advice over the telephone. All of this is available anytime of the day or night, every day of the year.

0800 448 0828 - Lines available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Anyone in Northamptonshire is welcome to call, whether they are already receiving mental health treatment or not. Existing service users can use the number as an alternative way to contact the service already supporting them, as well as a way of speaking to someone out of hours. Healthcare professionals such as GPs can also call in order to refer their patients to services for support.

Individuals can also access the mental health number by calling 111 and selecting the mental health option to access mental health support, this option will connect you to local service in the area you are calling from. If you or anyone you know is in need of mental health support, find out more about services available locally at **www.nhft.nhs.uk/help**

If you have questions or concerns around housing, financial worries, or further information on benefits, Accommodation Concern staff are here to help on 01536 416560.

We have launched a new text message number for those who are unable to communicate by phone call, or find talking on the phone difficult. This service is for those aged 17 and a half years old and over, and is available **Monday to Friday, from 9-5pm**.

You can send a text message to 07480 635531 or start a chat online here **<https://chathealth.nhs.uk/start-a-chat/h/NorthantsChatMentalHealth>**

Welcome Packs

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

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

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

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