



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

April 2025

Issue 478

THE Heyford SINGERS

Presents
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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.

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.


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Councillors were saddened to hear of the recent passing of Cllr. Phil Cowley, and send their condolences to his family. Phil had been on the Parish Council for a fairly short period, but had made an impression and was keen to get involved. He will be missed.

Subsequent to the resignation of the Chairman, the Parish Council is electing a Chair meeting by meeting up until the Election in May.

The February 2025 meeting took place on the 3rd February at the Baptist Church Rooms.

Election of a Chairman - L Hall elected as chair for this meeting.

West Northants Councillor report

Cllr. A Brown reported that WNC's budget would shortly be going to full Council, after a few tweaks necessitated by central government report. He reported that the impasse regarding the Harpole "Road to Nowhere" should soon be over. He will attend the gravel appeal hearing.

Public Participation

British Legion regarding VE day - The British Legion is now administered by the County branch, and it was said that Remembrance Day was now a civic matter, and that they intended to pass the responsibility for risk assessments, insurance and road closures to the Parish Council, including a road closure for VE Day. Regarding VE Day, the BL feel that this should be marked differently to Remembrance Day and that it should involve the school. The BL collection of road closure signs and cones could be housed at the Youth Club.

EGM - An EGM had been held to discuss the situation regarding potential gravel extraction. A course of action had been agreed upon.

Flooding Issues. Disaster Relief Plan/Emergency Plan - Jim Arnold (JA) showed a Community Plan that conformed to the Environment Agency (EA) template. He was concerned at how the PC and WNC would support those who had been flooded in the short term. Cllr PB reported that there had been an information gathering meeting held in Bugbrooke involving Anglian Water, EA, and WNC. The Clerk has asked EA for a similar meeting for Heyford, but with no

response as yet. Cllr AB said that WNC has a legal obligation to house homeless flooding victims in the short term, which it had discharged at Billing. After that it was a matter for insurers. KSM felt there should be a plan in place so that victims and helpers could at least get a hot drink and access to phone chargers.

JA felt that there should be at least one trained Flood Warden, and that Weedon and Kislingbury had better flood defences. He has been campaigning since 1998 and feels that nobody will accept responsibility or ownership. He is also concerned that the Heyford Brook culvert is collapsing and that that will cause future and worse flooding.

Grasscutting - The clerk showed the figures relating to 5 quotations. Resolved. Subject to their agreement and to the production of an appropriate insurance certificate the contract was awarded to Butlin. Clerk to prepare a contract.

To adopt new model Financial Regulations - TW had made suggestions which LD agreed with. Clerk to distribute new regs (with the notes) for approval next month.

To consider and respond to the government's consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - Clerk to respond. Councillors could respond as individuals. All felt that an improved and stronger Code of Conduct with sanctions was required.

Accounts software - Clerk and Cllr Rivett had decided that there was no need at this time, and that there was no funding allocated towards a probable cost of £1,000 plus.

Planning. Housing Needs Survey - TW reported that the next step was to meet with WNC officers and East Midland Homes to decide where to go next. They would be looking for a more balanced set of properties to include young families, and downsizing elder singles and couples.

Election May 2025 - Nominations have to be in by April 2nd. Posters have been put up and notice given on social media.

Community Lounge (CL) at the Youth Club in Roberts Field

There will be an exercise programme commencing March 26th between 1 and 2 pm. This is the Otago Chair exercises – aimed at the older age group to help promote fitness and balance. This will cost £2.50 per person per session.

The Lounge is open from 14.00 to 16.30 each Wednesday until the end of October. 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 2025 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/>

Welcome Packs

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

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

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

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Mrs L. Dilkes. 17 Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3JF e-mail thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967 753216	Acting 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 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
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
K. Sanders-Moody. Newlands, 4b The Green, Nether Heyford 07702 701862	Councillor
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
Councillor Phil Bignell - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD. 07969 919779 phil.bignell@westnorthants.gov.uk	Strategic Planning Committee (Chair)

Clerk. Guy Ravine, Tel:07935 931787.

E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

Next Meeting: Monday April 7th at the Baptist Church rooms.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for April 2025

Sunday 6 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford
Sunday 13 th Palm Sunday	09:45 am	Walk of Witness from Flore Chapel to Flore Church
	10:00 am	Benefice/United Service for Palm Sunday at Flore Church
Monday 14 th	7:30 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Tuesday 15 th	7:30 pm	Night Prayer at Brockhall
Wednesday 16 th	7:30 pm	Night Prayer at Church Stowe
Thursday 17 th Maundy Thursday	7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Supper at Flore Church
Friday 18 th Good Friday	2:30 pm	Walk of Witness from Heyford Church to Heyford Baptist Church
	4:00 pm	United Service for Good Friday at Heyford Baptist Church
	7:00 pm	United Service for Good Friday at Flore Chapel
Saturday 19 th	7:30 pm	Holy Saturday – A Service of Waiting & Hoping at Heyford Church
Sunday 20 th	09:00 am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Church Stowe
Easter Sunday	10:00 am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service of Holy Communion for Easter at Flore Church
	11:15 am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Brockhall
Sunday 27 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford Church

Dear Friends,

As Easter approaches this year, I invite you to take a moment to imagine the scene on the first Easter Sunday. Maybe have look at Luke 24:1-12 to help paint in the picture and see yourself in the role of one of the women who supported and cared for Jesus. Through the scheming and brutality of the religious leaders and the Roman governor, your beloved leader is dead. It feels like the end of the world. In one last act of devotion, you make your way to the tomb taking spices and ointments to anoint Jesus' body. Grief-stricken as you are, it is a difficult, tear-filled journey.

But when you get to the place where Jesus is laid, the stone has been rolled away and the tomb is empty...apart from a pile of funeral shrouds. At once you are frightened, puzzled and uncertain – what are you to make of this? Has Jesus' body been taken or has something happened that is beyond your understanding? Is Jesus alive somehow? You thought this was the end of all your hopes and dreams – has God managed to confound your expectations? As soon as the mysterious men in dazzling clothes appear, you're reminded that Jesus had predicted he would rise again, and rush back into the city to tell the disciples and the rest of Jesus' followers that he has risen, he is alive! Oh, how good you feel now, grief turned to gladness and joyful amazement.

It is strange that however long we have travelled with God, sought God's presence, and believed we have known God's ways – we can still be brought up short in amazement. Disaster can bring our world, our hopes crashing down around us. It can feel as though life is over. Yet there we discover God bringing us through to the other side. And God encourages us to let go of our attempts to keep him boxed in and manageable, to let go of our fixed ideas about ourselves, our neighbours and our world. And he invites us to step out of our comfort zones and walk untrodden paths, with no idea where we are going, but knowing in our hearts that God is with us.

The message and the mystery of the empty tomb is that nothing, not disaster, cruelty, betrayal illness or death can separate us from the love of God and from his glorious gift of new life in all its fullness. Happy Easter!

With my prayers and blessings for the Easter season

Rev'd Stephen (Tel: 01327 344436)

Midweek Services:

Thursday 10:00am Holy Communion at Flore Church (**not 17th or 24th**)

There is no private prayer at Flore Church during April due to other events taking place in the church

Friday 9:00am. Morning Prayer via Zoom - Please contact the Rector by email: s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk for an invitation that will enable you to connect.



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for April

April 6 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by John Perkins
April 13 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Lee Hillyard
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise also led by Lee (with tea and cakes)
April 18 th	4:00 pm	Good Friday service led by Rev. Stephen Burrow
April 20 th		No Easter day service here but people are invited to join the 10.30am Service at Blisworth Baptist led by Lee
April 27 th	10:30 am	Morning service with communion led by Martin Buckby

Events

Wed	April 16 th	10:00 am - 11:00	Prayer and Bible Study
Fri	April 18 th	13:00 pm	Tea and Hot cross buns before 4 pm Service
Fri	April 25 th	10:00 am - 12:00	Informal "Drop In" - An opportunity to look through our book and jigsaw collection and share a cup of tea. No charge, though books /cards/ jigsaws available to buy.

All welcome

As we celebrate this festive season, we invite you to join in the spirit of togetherness and renewal that Easter represents. While it holds significant meaning for Christians, the themes of hope, rebirth, and connection resonate universally. This time of year encourages us to reflect on the beauty of new beginnings and the warmth of community. Whether it's through sharing a meal, spending time with loved ones, or simply enjoying the beauty of spring, let's embrace the positive energy that comes with this season. Wishing you all joy, peace, and a fresh perspective as we welcome the vibrancy of life in the months ahead.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Lee Hiltyard



This year Christian Aid celebrates its 80th birthday! Its groundbreaking work began in 1945, when the organisation was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees following the Second World War. Last year supporters raised over £5 million to help tackle poverty and injustice worldwide.

In 2025 Christian Aid Week highlights support for indigenous communities in Guatemala. Congcoop, Christian Aid's partner in Guatemala, supports communities with agricultural resources and training that help them to become more climate resilient. Aurelia, who you can see on this year's envelope, took up the opportunity to gain new skills with Congcoop. She's combining her deep knowledge and understanding of her land with innovative techniques. She's making organic fertiliser, constructing rainwater collection systems, and growing a wider range of crops, including cocoa which she uses to make and sell chocolate. She is now training other women so they can do the same.

Christian Aid Week 2025 is 11th – 17th May. As for previous years volunteers will be delivering envelopes to households in the village with some central points where donations can be dropped off.

Further details will follow in the May Prattler

More details on the work of Christian Aid can be found at:
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Shirley Waterhouse

Friday 18th April



Good Friday Walk of Witness

2.30pm Meet at Heyford Parish Church to walk round the village, pausing at various points to reflect on the events of that first Good Friday

3-4pm Refreshments (Hot Cross Buns) in the Baptist Schoolroom

4pm United Good Friday Service in the Baptist Church, led by Revd Stephen Burrow

Everybody welcome to join in at any point

(The route will be advised on Facebook and the notice boards)

Astronomy on the Green

Most of us are very familiar with the term Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) or the six pips that the BBC broadcasts to let us set our watches or clocks. We consider time to be simple and a constant, well oddly enough neither of those considerations are accurate or true. One of the key uses of astronomy in the past was to determine and accurately track time, but why? We know that when we go on holiday to another country it is often plus or minus on the GMT time zone; so why is Greenwich at the hub of this?

The Royal Observatory Greenwich was established in 1675 by Charles II. Primarily its work was astronomical but strongly correlated with navigation and the issues associated with it. In 1714 the Longitude Act and rewards (at the end of Queen Anne's reign) concentrated minds. Navigation (north/south [latitude]) had always been relatively simple in European countries using the pole star (Polaris). But longitudinal positioning (west/east) was not easy once out of sight of dry land, even though it was known that each 15° of longitude was equivalent to a difference in time of one hour. Clocks of the era were simply not accurate enough, and even when more precise pendulum clocks appeared they were still unreliable at sea. It was not until the invention of the telescope, the pendulum clock (very accurate on dry land), the micrometre screw and logarithms in the seventeenth century that astronomers became equipped with all the tools they needed to begin to use astronomy as a practical way to solve the longitude problem.

There were other issues, namely the common use of local time (sun position related) and local meridians for each country. With solar time the sun rises earlier in the west than in the east, for example in Cardiff the sun rises thirteen minutes earlier than in London. A meridian is an imagined line in the sky that stars cross passing from east to west; this happens twice a day. This can be used to calculate time accurately. In these cases, having a standardised time or meridian position was necessary, for the reasons indicated below; local time and meridians over complicate the accuracy of positional measurement.

In international meetings Greenwich (with its history) was picked both for the zero meridian and Greenwich Mean Time as the worldwide clock (now superseded by UTC). The use of a single meridian combined with specialised telescopes to survey the stars was key to resolving the longitude problem. GMT was first implemented UK wide to regularise the railway timetables (imagine the effect of travelling east towards London from Cardiff) as time during crossing the country would constantly change. Of course, that doesn't mean our trains arrive on time, even hundreds of years later.

Clear skies

Tony Boutle

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Nether Heyford Village Hall

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Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

Village Hall News

At the time of writing, our Chairperson Carol is soaking up the sun on a well earned holiday, so it falls to me to keep you up to date with what is happening at the Village Hall.

We continue to see a high level of bookings for the hall, it is being used for a wide variety of activities, including two weddings. From the photographs I saw the hall looked spectacular. Congratulations to the Brides and Grooms and sincere best wishes for their future lives together.

As well as repainting the hall, we have also upgraded the separate meeting room with a self contained kitchen, fully equipped with everything you need for small gatherings, meetings, commercial use or community activities such as clubs or societies. The hire rate is only **£10** an hour. If you are interested please contact Simone our Booking Secretary for further details. nhvbookings@gmail.com

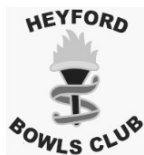
We have also purchased new shelving for our container and I would like to sincerely thank Peter, Simone, Andy, Mike and Steve for giving up their Sunday morning to help me empty the container, erect the new shelves and reorganise all the contents. A job well done!

A date for your diary is **Saturday 7th June** when our annual **Village Hall Fete** will be taking place, featuring all the usual things our village fete is known for. In addition, we would love to resurrect the traditional **'Tug of War'** competition and are looking for teams of 8 to enter. Perhaps your tennis club, football team or local pub would like to put up a team? It would be wonderful if we could also entice youth groups like the Scouts or Youth Club from surrounding villages to take up the challenge. Mixed teams of boys and girls are welcome. If you are interested please contact Judith our secretary for further details. nhvhevents@gmail.com

We would also like to introduce a **'Fancy Dress'** competition. There will be two age groups 0 - 5 and 6 - 11. So start thinking of a costume and let your imagination run wild.

Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place in the main hall on Monday 14th April at 7:00 pm. We invite all residents to come along and hear about what has happened over the last financial year and what plans we have for the coming twelve months. Please try and make it a date.

Veneeta Rayner Vice chair of Trustees



Heyford Bowls Club

So, We've had a taste of Spring (or did you miss it?) so it won't be long before the Bowls green is open. It looks good. Our clubhouse has been decorated - well done Ken & Bob with a little help from Barry and one or two others. On the morning of Saturday 12th April we are having a "working party" at the club in preparation for the new season, so any help is welcome. Our first match is at 6:30 on Tuesday 29th April against Kislingbury so why not come along and see what it's all about, and have a pint while you're watching.

The Short-mat section in the village hall is very well attended, and we always welcome visitors. A mixed Singles competition will be held at 1 o'clock on Saturday 26th April, so pop along and have a look, or just turn up on a Wednesday at 2-4 pm or 7-9 pm to watch and have a cup of tea. You never know, this could be the exercise to suit you - the company's not bad either.

Social Activities ease off during the summer months as bowls take preference but we have a Quiz on 19th April. Our Open Weekend is at the end of May during the Spring Bank Holiday which gives anybody a chance to have a go outside. Also we run an internal Friday night competition which we encourage everybody to join as it gives you an opportunity to try bowls for yourself. This is always a fun social evening, including a Meat Raffle.

Shirley Collins

(shirleybcollins@hotmail.co.uk)



300-Club Winners

February 2025

Winner:	Ticket 197	Mike Essery	£65
Runner Up:	Ticket 284	Brian Edgington	£30

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In Nether Heyford

It is a real joy to walk round the village on a lovely day to see the Spring flowers in people's front gardens and the blossom coming out on the trees. The nights are drawing out and we will be going to WI in the daylight soon. It is amazing what effect all these things have on us. We feel a bit more optimistic and energetic, perhaps keener to join village organisations and meet new people. Or is that just me hoping that our long-standing village WI can grow and flourish ...

Our AGM passed smoothly with members expressing many thanks to all the committee who put a lot of effort into keeping our WI running. It hums along quite nicely. After the business part was over, we enjoyed a games evening. There is something about laughing together with other like-minded people that raises the spirits and takes our minds off all the depressing news that surrounds us.

At our next meeting, we will welcome Jane Isaac who is an author. She lives in rural Northamptonshire and has had many crime novels published.



She says "Realising the power of words, my love affair with writing began. I enrolled on a creative writing course and started writing articles for newspapers and magazines. Then I discovered writing fiction and, in 2007, embarked on my first novel, *An Unfamiliar Murder*, which was picked up by an American publisher. And I've never looked back."

Jane is going to tell us about the perils of writing crime novels in the present digital age. Long gone are telephone boxes, hand written notes, isolated mansions and long train journeys.

I can't wait to find out how she writes a 'whodunnit' ... the suspense is killing me. Why don't you join us April 3rd 7.30. Village Hall ?

Jane Wareing.
01327 340875

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Heyford Allotments

An exciting time of the year

Spring is an amazing season, especially in the garden and on the allotment. All those dark, cold days and nights are becoming a distant memory as the natural world wakes up again. You can see why our distant ancestors tried to banish the dark by lighting fires and then welcoming the return of the sun with song and dance.

No dancing and singing on Heyford Allotments at the moment – although the many birds who visit us do seem in particularly good voice. There is, however, a lot of other activity on the allotments and plot holders, particularly those who have recently joined us, have been busy preparing the soil and sowing seed that will tolerate what can still be a fickle season. As I said in my last article, if the ground feels cold to touch, wait a little longer before you plant or sow. Things catch up. It is part of the magic of growing.

From Soil to Soul

Allotments have long been cherished as a space for growing food, enjoying fresh air, and cultivating a connection with nature. However, their value extends far beyond just being a patch of land for gardening.

Mental Health: Gardening is increasingly recognized as an effective way to improve mental health, and allotments offer the perfect space for this therapeutic activity. A growing body of research highlights how spending time outdoors, nurturing plants, and engaging with nature can reduce anxiety, depression, and stress.

Physical Health: Gardening itself is an excellent form of low-impact exercise that can help people stay fit, even if they lead sedentary lives. Digging, weeding, and planting all work different muscle groups, improving flexibility, balance, and coordination. Regular gardening also helps to improve cardiovascular health and can combat cognitive decline, particularly in older individuals. Spending time outdoors in the fresh air and sunlight also has its own health benefits. Even just 15-30 minutes in the sunshine each day can significantly boost your vitamin D levels.

Togetherness: Allotments play a vital role in fostering social ties, not just among plot-holders but within the wider community. While allotments have traditionally been seen as individual spaces for gardening, many sites have evolved into community hubs that host a range of projects aimed at supporting different groups in society. Allotments across the UK are increasingly used for social prescribing—where GPs refer patients to community gardening activities to improve their health and well-being.

Good for the Environment: Allotments are not only valuable to the people who tend them, but they are also essential to the environment. They create green

spaces that help preserve biodiversity, providing a haven for wildlife, pollinators, and native plant species. In fact, the ecological value of allotments often surpasses that of industrial farmed agricultural land, making them an essential part of our landscape. The soil quality on allotments is unique, offering an environment rich in nutrients that supports the growth of a wide variety of plants. Allotments also give us a chance to try out organic growing methods, reducing the need for harmful pesticides and chemicals. This not only benefits the health of the gardener but also contributes to the broader goal of creating a more sustainable and eco-friendly food system. It is good to know what you are eating.

Whether you are an experienced gardener or a newcomer to allotmenting in Heyford, the benefits of our allotments are undeniable. They offer a unique opportunity to improve your health, connect with others, and contribute to a more sustainable future. It is a part of the village to be cherished and cared for.

Keeping in Touch

There are, from time to time, vacancies for plots on the allotment site and we warmly welcome new allotmenters. If you are interested in taking on a plot - and benefitting from the things about which I have waxed so lyrical in this article, do contact Lynda Eales from the Parish Council and she will appraise you of the current situation.

Contacts: Mrs Lynda Eales, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford tel. 01327 341707
email: lyndaeales@aol.com

Mike and Jill Langrish, 28 Manor Park, Nether Heyford tel. 07879777802 email:
langrish_heyford@hotmail.com

Mike Langrish

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 14th April – Writing Crime
by Graham Black

Graham is a crime fiction writer, and will be telling us about the challenges of writing historical fiction and understanding the world in which his characters live.

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



View from the Nature Reserve

I am writing this on the 19th of March. The sun is shining, our Garden Frogs are croaking and spawning in their ponds whilst birds are building nests. As my Grandfather used to say "The spring is sprung".

The "Meadow areas" of the reserve have been trimmed to 75mm and the mowings removed. This is done to remove any long grass that may be lying flat. This can slow down or stifle the growth of smaller plants. It also allows light and heat to warm the soil to help last years seed to germinate. There was very little of this long growth after last winter. However after such a cold wet autumn and winter, the mowing enabled me to monitor the state of the sward prior to the start of the spring growing season.

It is important to encourage slow growing grass species to dominate the sward. Coarse, fast growing grasses can soon choke the growth of the flowering plants we need to provide pollen for a host of insects. Encouraging finer leaved, slower growing wild grasses to grow and seed freely helps to develop the healthy, mixed grass/flower sward. This provides food and shelter to a multitude of wild organisms. This can be done by judicial mowing and - in our case - a careful choice of seed mixtures at the start.

Our next job is to sow a seed mixture on the one remaining bed. That is still covered by a black plastic sheet. You may recall that this was originally sown with the Cornfield annual seed mixture that provided a stunning show of annual flowers for a season. These died down to reveal that we had a few too many invasive perennial plants growing. These could prevent the right sward developing. The result of this discovery made us decide not to plant there for another season and to replace the black plastic sheeting.

I now have a bag of new "Sandy Soil Meadow Seed Mixture" on my desk awaiting sowing which will happen later this week. I have always used a Norfolk Company "Emorsgate Seeds". If you are thinking of "rewilding a patch" just look them up on line. They are long established and have been awarded Royal Approval for a reason.

One thing that we have been very slow at starting on the Reserve is effective wildlife recording. Some of the team record occasional rare, or species new to the reserve but we have yet to begin an organised recording scheme. This means that we do not have a good record of species of all wildlife since the very start of the project.

I record new species to the site as I see them and I know others do the same. However we do not have a comprehensive record of what grows, slithers, flies, crawls or runs on the site. This means that we only have a word of mouth account

of how well the site is doing. Or how it is developing as time goes by. I know there are people in the Parish with the necessary skills. There will be more with the necessary enthusiasm. Are you a person who would love to be a part of something like this? You don't need a particular skill or knowledge. Just enthusiasm. Age is irrelevant. The reserve doesn't belong to The Wildlife Association, we just manage it. It belongs to the village as a community.

If you are interested please contact me at davemusson073@gmail.com or visit The Wildlife Association Facebook page and register an interest there.

Lets get this started.

Dave Musson



Heyford Cricket Club

As we all enjoy the first days of spring, it is a sure sign that the new cricket season is fast approaching. Indoor nets have been running for both senior and junior sections over recent weeks and the first home game for the 1st XI will take place at the playing fields on Saturday May 3rd.

We are please to confirm that we will be running Friday evening sessions this summer for both the Dynamos (8-11 year olds) and All Stars (5-8 year olds). Whilst we have leads and support in place for both of these groups, we would be grateful for any further volunteers who feel they would like to get involved. Please contact either myself or Julian Rice (07966 936278) if you think you could help; the more adults we have helping means the more children we can support.

Our first fundraiser of the year was well attended last month with 10 teams enjoying our pre season quiz. Many thanks to Simon Adkins and Graham McKechnie who organised and compered the evening. We hope to have raised around £500 which will be used to replace and upgrade equipment for the junior section of the club. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle which helped us achieve this target. Our next planned event is a Golf Day later in the summer and the date and venue will be announced in the next couple of weeks.

Darren Bastin, our groundsman, started work on the square in early March and we now have new mowers and rollers on order following the fire last year. 2 new containers are now in place to house grounds equipment and all the junior playing kit. Again, thanks to everyone who has contributed to getting us back on our feet; please come down and have a look if you have the chance.

Rob Pardon - Chairman
07894 865194



www.heyfordsingers.org

Spring Concert Friday May 9th and Saturday 10th May

See our Advert on the cover of this Prattler

Rehearsals are going on as usual, but stepping up a gear. Now that we know the tunes the hard part comes into play with all the 'light and shade'. Of course 'as usual' means a huge amount of effort – as there is in all organisations in the village. There are the chairs to put out every rehearsal evening in the right order - all the relevant parts; Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. The piano is then moved into position and the Librarian takes out the music and makes sure the current scores are put out in case someone has mislaid a piece. Then the person responsible for setting up the kitchen for the interval has to put all the mugs out, make sure there is enough tea, coffee and milk for 43 thirsty members. And of course the biscuits and in the case of a birthday, cake... As everyone comes into the hall, there is the Treasurer who signs everyone in so absences can be accounted for and followed up if necessary. As a Community Choir, the welfare of our singers is extremely important. Then there are lists to be signed – those who are singing in the Concert or can take part in events that involve the Choir going 'on tour'. This year it will be Dodford... Then the notices from our Chairman.

Only when all the above has been done can the Choir start their exercises and finally open their folders and as our Pianist provides the accompaniment, the Musical Director can start conducting us.

Graham's 'Mother's Day' was sold out almost immediately it was advertised and provided yet another exciting musical entertainment at which the Choir stepped up with different kinds of cake for the afternoon tea.

'For the Beauty of the Earth' is one of John Rutter's Anthems and is a beautiful little piece whose lyrics by Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835 – 1917 and no, haven't heard of that Christian name before) are simple but so thought-provoking. None of us seem to have time to really appreciate what is around us – 'For the beauty of each hour /Of the day and of the Night /Hill and Vale and Tree and Flower /Sun and Moon and Stars of Light' and condensed into this piece of music is a heartfelt thank you for all that has been given to us. Not so easy in this war-torn age when anxieties have been heightened but for a moment we can forget and follow the instructions to this piece of music and sing 'happily'.

And then there is the opening number of Cole Porter's 'musical 'Kiss Me Kate' (1948). 'Another Op'Nin', Another Show' which has to be sung 'Brightly'. And quite

relevant to the Heyford Singers – 'Four weeks you rehearse and rehearse/Three weeks and it couldn't be worse/one week, will it ever be right?/Then out of the hat it's that big first night'... And for a really bouncy version, click on to Youtube to hear the Welsh National Opera performing this.

Spring is at last with us and so we head to our Spring Concert with trepidation and excitement.

Sunny days are ahead...

JRA

To Nether Heyford Parish Council

Regarding the parish council putting the council tax by the maximum amount.

It's very hard times people are going through currently and I think it's an affront that people can sit on this 'council' and dictate such an increase in such trying times. They should be looking out for their neighbours in the village not grabbing money off them in such a way. Not to even mention the ridiculous reasons they have given for putting it up, a chicane to go in and the fact we have the one of the biggest playing greens in the country. Utter hogwash. If you haven't got the money do not spend it, and don't try do a money grab off your fellow neighbours in the village.

Please feel free to pass this onto any member of the parish council or print in the next edition of the prattler.

good day.

Sincerely yours,

Ryan Edwards

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Members and visitors welcome at our next meeting on Monday 28th April when Claire Bond will present "Spring Gifts".

There is no meeting in May as it is a Bank Holiday.

In June, Coral Gardiner's title is "Along the Silk Road". This is an Open Meeting. Tickets only.

All meetings take place at the Village Hall on the 4th Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Heyford at the Turn of the Century

The Census return of 1891 - The houses and people

The details below tell us about the number of houses, people and canal boats.

Lower Heyford

164 houses inhabited, 28 uninhabited

750 people, 365 males and 385 females

7 canal boats with 23 people on board

Upper Heyford

22 houses inhabited, 7 uninhabited

96 people, 41 males and 55 females

The houses listed as uninhabited were either vacant because the occupants were away on the night of the census, or more likely because they were uninhabitable.

In those days street names were generally not used and there were certainly no house numbers.

Working life

The occupations listed in the census also give some insight into working life in the village. Here is a breakdown into the main types of occupation.

Farming: The census lists 2 farmers, 2 flour millers, 1 milkman, 3 shepherds, 1 tractor engine driver and 26 agricultural labourers.

Building: 1 builder, 1 plasterer, 1 stonemason, 3 bricklayers and 7 carpenters.

Boot and shoe making: 5 shoemakers, 2 shoe rivetters, 1 boot and shoe finisher.

Other trades: 1 tailor, 2 lacemakers, 11 dressmakers, 2 blacksmiths, 1 harness maker, 1 wheelwright, 1 gunmaker, 3 boatbuilders, 1 organ builder.

Dealers: 1 butcher, 2 bakers, 3 coal merchants, 1 timber merchant, 1 corn merchant, 1 draper, 2 carriers, and 5 publicans, beer sellers and innkeepers.

Blast furnaces: These were the biggest single employers in the village with 1 blast furnace foreman, 2 blast furnace engine drivers, 2 stationary drivers, 1 engine fitter, 2 ironstone labourers, 1 weighboy, and 28 labourers.

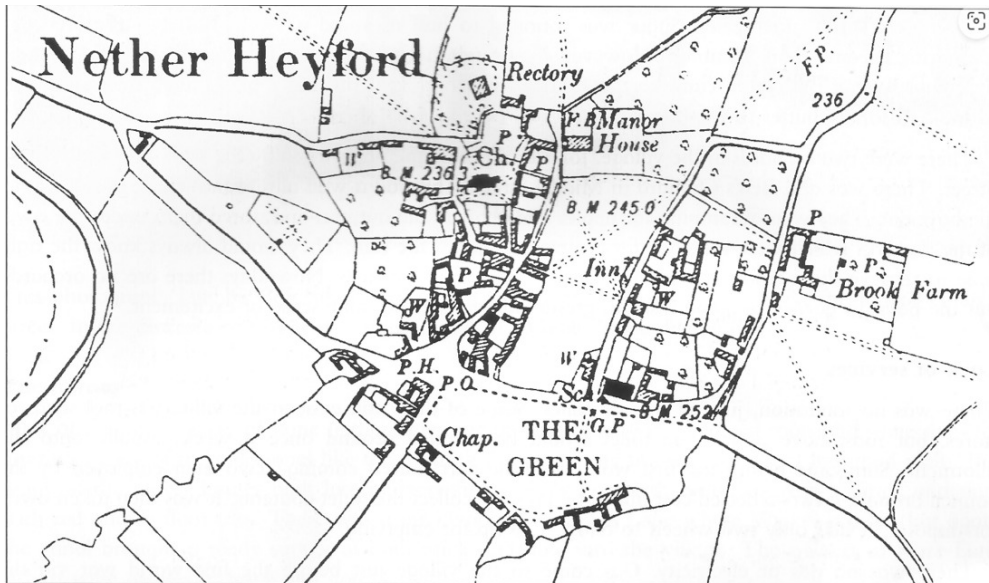
Brickworks: 16 brickyard labourers.

Railway: 1 railway engine driver, 1 goods shed labourer, 1 engine fitter, 1 telegraph clerk, 3 signalmen and 4 platelayers.

Domestic and educational: 1 schoolmaster, 2 school mistresses, 1 clerk, 1 governess, 14 housemaids and domestic servants, 2 grooms, 1 nurse girl, 3 laundresses, 1 midwife.

Other: 28 general labourers.

(Reprinted from the Story of Heyford Vol 4)



Heyford Athletic Women FC

ANNOUNCEMENT

Women's Football to NN7!

Heyford Athletic Football Club have announced today their new Open Age Women's Team. We will be entering the Northamptonshire Women and Girls League in Division One from the 25/26 season.

Register your interest to play using the web address:

<https://forms.gle/rcZ7WQvrDZbyxZc79>

Flore Arts Events

Box Office is now open for our first event of 2025...

Chamber Music for winds and piano featuring members of Ensemble Renard and pianist Mark Rogers. We are delighted to present what will be a truly exceptional evening of virtuosic playing. Expect dazzling music from Ellie Blamires (Flute), Patrick Bolton (Bassoon) and Francesca Cox (Oboe) who will be teaming up with award-winning American pianist Mark Rogers.

Ensemble Renard are going from strength to strength. As well as winning the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society's Henderson Chamber Ensemble Award and securing a place on the Britten Pears Young Artist Scheme they have now recorded their first album. This year's busy concert diary includes performances at the Aldeburgh Festival as well as a further tour of Scotland. Mark Rogers' credits include prize-winning performances at the Nadia and Lili Boulanger competition in Paris and at the Royal Academy of Music.

This concert will offer a selection of solo and ensemble pieces and will include music from Telemann, Britten and Judith Weir... not to mention an arrangement or two of very recognizable modern musical items. We think there will be something for everyone!

Saturday May 17th, 7.30pm, All Saints Church, Flore. Tickets £15 (£5 Under 18s): call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm). Licensed bar.

Meanwhile, here's a reminder of our diary dates for the rest of the year:

Poetry Please: Sunday May 11th. The theme for this session will be "Cutting Edge Poetry": poems that were ahead of their time or "breaking the mould". Meet at the White Hart in Flore, 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

Jazz in the Garden: Sunday July 13th. Rock Springs, Sutton St, Flore.

Track Dogs: Saturday September 27th. All Saints Church, Flore. A smorgasbord of folk, rumba, jazz and blues.

De Parys Sextet: Saturday October 25th. All Saints Church, Flore. Brahms, Mozart and more from some of the area's finest string players.

Neil Richardson entertains: The West End comes to Flore: Saturday December 6th. Millennium Hall, Flore.

Please keep watching this space for details - or 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.

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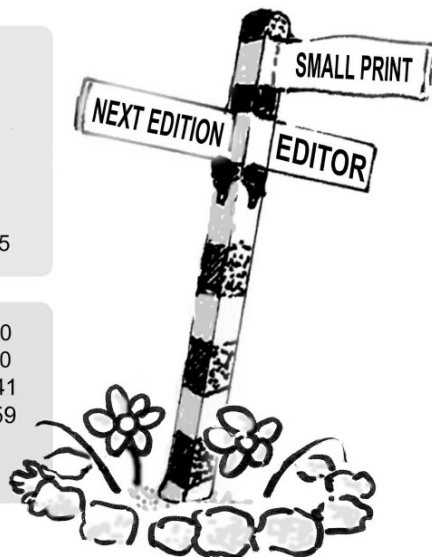
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