



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

May 2025

Issue 479

HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB Open Weekend

Sun/Mon May 25 / 26th 2.00 - 5.00pm

Bar

Tea/Coffee

BBQ



Meat Raffle

Novelty Bowls
Prizes

Just bring some flat soled shoes/sandals and
come along for a fun afternoon

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.

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

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

West Northants Councillor report - Cllr. P Bignell reported that WNC had increased the rates by 4.99%, and that £119 million had been saved in recent years. He reported that the Sandy Lane relief road would be completed by May, and that Recycling centres/Tips would be open 7 days a week.

Police Report - PCSO E Teagles reported that there had been no major incidents. School parking had improved since the inception of the new yellow lines. It was felt that the lines at the front of the school should be extended up to the driveway. ET confirmed that nobody had been prosecuted for the fires at the Playing Fields; but that the area was now covered by cameras – towards which the Parish Council had given a donation.

Election - Posters had been put up and information on the website. The Clerk outlined the procedure

Flooding Issues - Disaster Relief Plan/Emergency Plan. This is a work in progress. LD had retyped Jim Arnold's plan and distributed it. Clerk to remind the Environment Agency that Heyford would appreciate a meeting.

Bliss School Parish Representatives - To approve 4 representatives. TW reported that the Trust required four representatives to be endorsed by the Parish Council. Resolved. Tony Williams, Sharon Grayson, Tony Clewett and Veneeta Rayner endorsed by the Parish Council.

Litter Bins and Litter Picking - Resolved. To accept Shield's quotation. Clerk to ask Shield to empty both dog and litter bins twice per week from April to October. Shield would be quoting for litter picking. Immediate Justice to be checked with regard to litter picks.

Planning - No date had been set for the appeal against the refusal to allow gravel extraction.

Reports.

Environment - AW reported that there was a website which reported river water quality, - this confirms that the river water quality is poor. He had spoken to the MP who would question Anglian Water about this at a forthcoming meeting. Link to be put in the Prattler suggesting residents contact their MP if they are concerned about this situation.

Wellbeing - KSM to be Parish Council rep at Bugbrooke surgery PPG.

Infrastructure - IP reported that Highways would invoice for the chicane before the end of the financial year. Canal path project still on track to take place in spring.

Concern had been expressed at the delay in replacing the fallen light at Winston Close. Clerk had been in touch with the insurers of the company whose lorry wrecked the light. They claimed they had no contact details; and when the reference was checked their report was from somewhere completely different. A quote had been given that would enable the light to be moved to a safer position. IP insisted that it was only necessary to move it about three feet and that he would supervise the positioning. Clerk to repeat request for a revised quote. There has subsequently been an insurance pay out for the light, and it has been re-instated.

A resident had complained again about the timing of the light outside her house as she is afraid of the dark when going to work in the morning. Council resolved to maintain their policy of having lights on timers as they were changed over to LEDs.

Heritage - Resolved. To approve funding for printing the Heritage leaflets. This would come from funds left over from the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved. To approve expenditure of c £900 on a display board and installation costs.

Community - LE reported that c £1390 had been collected in allotment rents. Councillors were happy with the plaque for the Bob Smith memorial tree.

Gate at the allotment still had not been replaced by Anglian Water. DM volunteered to follow this up.

VE Day would be celebrated on the May 5th Bank Holiday rather than May 8th. Clerk had secured a road closure for May 8th, but it was not yet clear whether this would be required.

Election May 2025 - Nominations had to be in by April 2nd. As there were only 8 nominations, there will not be an election for the Parish Council. There will be an election for Ward councillors, and there are 10 candidates for 2 seats on WNC.

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

There will be an exercise programme commencing between 12.30 and 1.30 pm. This 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. 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 May 12th at the Baptist Church rooms.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for May 2025

Sunday 4 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
Thursday 8 th	11:30 am	VE Day – Commemorative Service at Heyford War Memorial
	7:30 am	VE Day – Commemorative Service at Flore Church
Sunday 11 th	10:00 am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	3:00 pm	A Spring Afternoon – All Age Event at Heyford Church
Sunday 18 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church (followed by APCM)
	10:00 am	United Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 25 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church (with baptism)
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford
Thursday 29 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion for Ascension Day at Flore 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

A service for you

I can imagine that for many a list of church services means nothing, nor can you tell whether any of them will suit you. Perhaps the guide below will help you decide what may work for you. You are more than welcome to come and experience something that might reflect how you want to worship.

Our monthly Holy Communion services tend to be more traditional and formal. They give people an opportunity to worship God and to take communion to remember Christ's sacrifice for us. They last about an hour, hymns are sung, bible passages read and there is a sermon from Rev'd Stephen. There is always tea and coffee afterwards to chat, reflect, get to know each other and relax. In Nether Heyford this normally takes place on the third Sunday of the month at 10:00am (and if it's really cold there's often tea and coffee before the service as well!).

On the first Sunday of the month Heyford holds Evening Prayer at 6:00pm. This is a more informal service that provides the opportunity to reflect and unwind. We sing a few hymns, listen to a reflective reading and prayer. This is led by either Rev'd Stephen or a member of the church and lasts between 30 and 45 minutes.

The fourth Sunday of the month is more informal still, and that's Café Church in the Church Rooms at 4:00pm. The service provides the opportunity for more discussion on a particular issue or subject. This takes place over cake, scones, biscuits and the proverbial tea and coffee and lasts for about an hour.

A popular event run every two or three months is Messy Church. This is aimed particularly at young children and always involves some form of craft activity (hence "Messy"), a reflection on faith and refreshment. Parents are welcome giving a great opportunity to chat. It is on a Saturday afternoon 2.00pm to 4.00pm and rotates between Nether Heyford and Flore.

During the year the church holds other services during the week and around Easter, Christmas etc. Look out for these.

We welcome anyone wishing to join us at any of these services. There is no requirement to take communion, donate a collection, come every time, or even stay for refreshments. It would just be really good to see you. We can also arrange lifts for those who would like help getting to the church.

Heyford Parish church is part of a group of churches, a Benefice, connected through geography and our vicar, Rev'd Stephen. We join with the churches in Flore, Stowe and Brockhall. Everyone from across the parishes are welcome to join any one of our services, and hopefully if there isn't one in Nether Heyford, there will be one that suits you in style, timing and locality elsewhere.

The Chapel in Nether Heyford also run services that may be closer to how you want to worship. Please get in touch if you want to know more.

Tim Brown, Churchwarden



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for May

May 4 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
May 11 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Lee Hillyard
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
	4:00 pm	Good Friday service led by Rev. Stephen Burrow
May 18 th		Morning Service led by Ted Hales
May 25 th	10:30 am	Morning service with communion led by Alan Pope

Events

Sat May 10 th	10:00 am - 12:00	Coffee morning in aid of Marie Curie
Wed May 21 st	10:00 am - 11:00	Prayer and Bible Study
Fri May 24 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

Upper Heyford Parish Meeting AGM

Wednesday 14th May 2024 at 7:30pm

Hipwells (along from Totebox), Upper Heyford

Agenda to include; Review of minutes from 2024 AGM, Review of 2024 Accounts, Chair Statement. AOB, next meeting, close

All Upper Heyford Residents welcome

Items for AOB please email me Mrs Sian Slater (Chair) to UHparish@gmail.com



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.

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

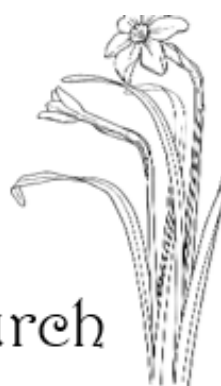
Christian Aid Week, May 11th - 17th - As outlined in the April Prattler donation envelopes will be delivered by volunteers to all houses in the village. If you would like to donate there will be collection points at One-Stop and Heyford Meats, also other drop of points will be identified on the envelopes.

With thanks to all.

Shirley Waterhouse



Spring Afternoon



Heyford Parish Church

3pm to 5pm, 11th May 2025

Tea, Coffee &
refreshments in the
churchyard

Outdoor & indoor
games

Bell ringing

Art & craft for
children of all ages

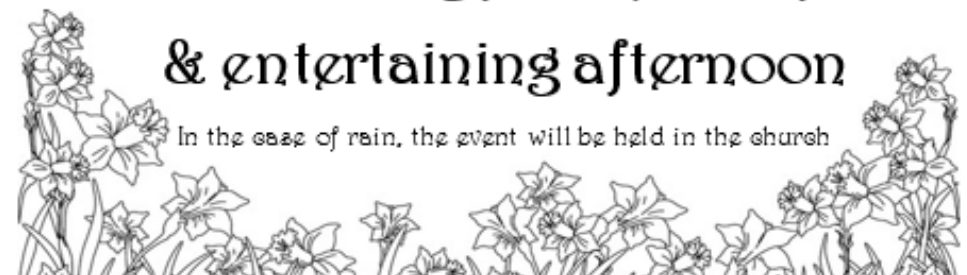
Have a go at
handbell ringing

Lucky dip

Everyone welcome

Come along for a peaceful
& entertaining afternoon

In the case of rain, the event will be held in the church



**Nether Heyford
Baptist Church**

Coffee Morning

10.00am - 12noon



Saturday 11th May



*Only £1.50 per person
Drink & Biscuits included*

Stalls include: – Books, Cards, Cakes, Bric a Brac

**Money raised for
Marie Curie**





Celebrating VE Day 80

VE Day Tea Party , Saturday 3rd May 2-4pm at Nether Heyford Village Hall.

40s Style dress optional!

Raffle tickets available at the Foresters Arms from Monday 28th April and available on the day at the Village Hall. All money raised will go to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your support.

Astronomy on the Green

An ongoing question may be being answered “Are we alone?” it is such a fundamental question that we have been researching it seriously for almost a century. Is Earth a unique environment in an otherwise life free Cosmos, or not? Our earlier work on this was concentrated on looking for some equivalent to us (the classic little green men) that science fiction gave us. Now though researchers look for what are called ‘biomarkers’ chemicals that are associated with primitive life forms, notably bacteria and microscopic plant life.

The reasoning behind this is that water is seen as an essential for life, and in Earth’s prehistory, life evolved in oceans long before it moved on to land. Planets that may support life (as we understand it) need to live in a ‘Goldilocks’ zone, firstly this is related to the temperature on the planet and secondly on the nature of the star the planet orbits. Many stars emit enormous amounts of radiation that would scourge the surface of the planet (such as Ultraviolet – which even here we need to protect our skin and eyes from). Finally, water is a prerequisite for life.

We have some targets in our solar system (moons of the gas giants) where liquid water may exist underground (or compacted ice), however we need to send probes to these to sample the geology and emissions of these potentially hidden opportunities. The launching of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) expanded our capabilities of searching other star systems for Exoplanets (planets outside our solar system orbiting stars other than the sun). These planets are light years away from us and lie billions, or more likely trillions of miles away.

This raises a question, how can we analyse biomarkers on such remote planets, when even solar system moons are beyond analysis remotely. The answer is that we can look at these planets as they pass (transit) their star. The gas giant moons in our solar system are outside the earth’s orbit and we never see them transit the sun.

The instruments on the JWST are sensitive enough to detect chemical fingerprints in the atmosphere of selected exoplanets. Recently one of these has turned up a candidate the snazzily named K2-18b which orbits its star in the habitable zone (Goldilocks). The planet is different to our own, it is 8.6 times more massive and 2.6 times the earths size, 124 light years away in the constellation Leo. Currently the researchers need to refine their work to make the discovery certain but the presence of strong biomarkers (on Earth, DMS and DMDS are only produced by life, such as marine phytoplankton) add to the earlier detection of carbon dioxide and methane in the atmosphere.

We live in interesting times, no little green men, but little green plants.

Clear skies

Tony Boutle

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

NEXT FILM

ARTHUR THE KING

**2024 American Adventure Film
based on a true story**

**Cast includes Mark Wahlberg, Nathalie Emmanuel
and Bear Grylls**

Michael Light and a team of athletes take part in the Adventure
Racing World Championship in the Dominican Republic.

As the team gets pushed to the outer limits of endurance,
a dog named Arthur comes along for the ride...

Nether Heyford Village Hall

THURSDAY 15th MAY 2025

7.00pm for 7.30pm
Admission £6.00

FILM WILL BE SHOWN WITH SUB-TITLES
TEA, COFFEE, BAR



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

Village Hall News

View from the Chair

The AGM took place as advertised on 14th April followed by the regular monthly meeting of trustees. Unfortunately it was not well attended by residents but I hope that you will take the time to read the annual report published on our web site in due course and give the hall your continued support predominately with our fund raising efforts.

Speaking of fund raising, the annual fete is both our main fund raiser but also the main coming together for everyone in the village. It is taking place on 7 June this year and there truly is something for everyone. Raffle tickets are on sale through representatives of each of the groups that meet in the hall but also through Heyford Meats in the shop. Our grateful thanks to them. Tickets will also be on sale on the day. The prizes are starting to come in from local businesses and supporters and are looking to be rather good. If you would like to give a raffle prize or donation please let me know.

We have a few different things this year so we hope to see you there. The children's fancy dress competition is a returning event from years gone by so we are hoping to see some innovative costumes!

Again this year we would be grateful for your donations of cakes for the afternoon teas to be dropped off at the hall after 12 noon. Stalls are still available for vendors or exhibitors on the green, look out for the poster and contact our events secretary if you would like a stall.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for all the latest news on the fete.

We have now completed the upgrading of the small meeting room for 12/14 people with additional kitchen facilities. Share the news and consider booking this for your smaller events.

The hall continues to be well utilised by many and varied interest groups and there are some note worthy events taking place in May. Heyford Singers have a concert and The Royal British Legion are holding a VE celebration afternoon tea.

Our Facebook page continues to gain traction so please do "like" and "share" our page.

Carol Tuckley (Chair) Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com



Heyford Bowls Club

Well folks, what a beautiful start to Spring. Let's hope the weather holds through May as we have our first 5 matches at home, as follows:-

Thursday 1st May at 6:30 pm against Woodford Halse;

Thursday 8th May at 6:30pm against St Crispins;

Sunday 11th May at 2pm against Roade;

Wednesday 14th May at 6:30pm Ladies against Kislingbury;

Thursday 22nd May at 6:30pm against Cogenhoe

We also meet every Friday evening for a social game and a Meat Raffle which you are welcome to join in.

Our Open Weekend is on Sunday and Monday 25th & 26th starting at 2pm. Why not come along and have a go. It's free, it's open to everyone. Come along wearing flat shoes if you want a try, have a pint and you can meet some of our members for a chat - no pressure.

On 22nd the Ladies Pairs in the village hall short mat competition was won by Rosemary Dunkley and Myra Schofield.

The short mat section continues in the village hall through the summer at 2pm and 7pm every Wednesday.

Shirley Collins
(shirleybcollins@hotmail.co.uk)

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CHARITY No. 1029571

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Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

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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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In Nether Heyford

If you missed last month's WI meeting, you missed a real treat. Jane Isaac told us about her life as a crime novelist. Jane was a wonderful speaker who told us how she came to start as a novelist and the joy of getting her first book published. She has gone on to have three series published. DCI Helen Lavery, DI Will Jackman and family liaison officer Beth Chamberlain take the lead in solving crimes. The stories are set in Stratford on Avon and in Northamptonshire. The lengths she goes to in researching the criminal justice system and making sure that the settings are factually correct is fascinating and showed how demanding writing crime fiction can be. We were absolutely rapt and could have listened all evening. As a result, we got mentioned on social media (X) by Jane "Huge thanks to Nether Heyford WI for the warm welcome yesterday. It was great fun talking books and publishing with you!" We'll take that.

We entered a team into the annual county WI quiz. The hum of conversations from 49 teams was quite considerable. The answers were on the tip of everyone's tongues and the heavy sigh of "ugh I knew that" when the answers were read out, was to be heard across the very large room. We didn't win, needless to say.

How can it be May already? We meet on the first day of the month this time. We are welcoming Richard Piner who will talk to us about garden birds. They have been singing like crazy over the last few weeks. I am enjoying using a birdsong identification app out in the garden when I am weeding. It is amazing how many different birds are around, which is lovely. The only thing that is so disappointing is the number of blooming pigeons there are in our neighbourhood. The dawn chorus is ruined by their repetitive song. And the cheek of them. Three twigs do not constitute a nest in the nearest shrub you can find. If there were Avian Building Inspectors they would fail the inspection. (If there were Avian Building Inspectors, they would have to be Owls, wouldn't it?)

Watching garden birds can be a deeply rewarding and peaceful activity. Bright colours, intricate songs, and unique behaviours, bring an element of life and vibrancy to any garden setting. I love to watch the Robin hopping around, the Starlings doing over the lawn and the Blackbirds throwing soil all over the path and there is something quite eerie about the Red Kite circling overhead. Well, we will find out a lot more on Thursday May 1st at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

Jane Wareing.
01327 340875

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PERSONAL • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

Heyford Allotments

“What is paradise, but a garden, an orchard of trees and herbs, full of pleasure and nothing there but delights”

William Lawson

I was fortunate to visit two very different gardens over the Easter period and both were equally inspiring. Firstly, a huge National Trust estate in Herefordshire that has just had its cider orchard replanted; 700 hundred trees. It was a mass of Spring blossom; alive with bees and birdsong and the sound of children's voices, playing amongst the trees. The quote above, is lifted from the that wonderful place. Secondly, and purely by chance, we came across a community garden created by the ECHO Charity in Leominster. They specialise in working with people who have learning or other disabilities, with a particular focus on gardening and way in which growing things can have a restorative effect on their lives. Allotment plots, polytunnels, another wonderful orchard and all the things that help make people's lives that much richer (not least delicious cake) were there in plenty. They were even making bug hotels from old cupboard drawers – more on that at another time!

We often bang on about the positive effects that gardening and the outdoors can have on our physical and mental health, and this was probably the best two examples I have come across in a long time.

Community Day

Continuing on the theme of community involvement, we held our Spring Community Morning on 5th April. Over twenty allotmentees volunteered their services, as well as some good folk from the village who simply wanted to make a contribution. It was, as always, a hugely successful session and in less than two hours we painted our community shed, mowed and strimmed the grass areas, weeded the fruit and flower patch, planted some new trees, replenished our two splendid bramble towers with new material, trimmed the willow arch, and prepared several beds for sowing wild flowers. In addition, one of our volunteers checked and repaired plot number posts. It really is incredible what can be done when so many people give up a little bit of their time. A huge thank you to all the people who joined us and we look forward to our next Community Morning in October. Everyone is welcome. You don't even need to have an allotment, just a desire to give back to the community something that will make our village an even better place to live.

Keeping in Touch

There are, from time to time, vacancies for plots on the allotment site and we warmly welcome new allotmentees. 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

Good growing and enjoy yourselves.

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 19th May
AGM**

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



300-Club Winners

March 2025

Winner	Ticket No. 146	Anthony Lomax	£65
Runner Up	Ticket No. 127	Tennis Club	£30



View from the Nature Reserve

As I write this on the 19th of April, We are still experiencing a long drought. The very heavy rain we had earlier didn't really soak into the ground. It caused flooding in many places as it rushed to fill streams and rivers without really soaking into the subsoil to replenish the water table. We really need a lot of steady rain on and off all through the summer months, however this would not be to everyone's taste.

I have been spending quite a bit of time in the reserve area recently and am appreciating the lovely area that is being created by our wildlife. Blue and Great Tits are singing constantly. A Greenfinch was singing. They really do have a beautiful song. Greenfinches have recently faced an enormous population crash caused by a protozoan parasitic "*Trichomonas gallinae*". This microscopic organism affects the bird's throat, windpipe, and mouth area, rendering them unable to breathe. It was lovely to hear that Greenfinch song again after a few years of near absence

On the Reserve all seems to be well. Cowslips are flowering in good numbers and increasing year on year. Knapweeds are also increasing in size and number as are many perennials. Yellow Rattle, an annual parasitic plant's seeds, are germinating in places. Can anyone explain why it is termed "parasitic"? It feeds on the roots of other plants, especially some grasses. Humans feed on other mammals but we are not termed "parasitic". I have recently read that the seeds of this plant germinate more freely in places where there is an abundance of the right species of potential food plants.

Some seeds on the newly planted wildflower meadow bed are germinating like "mustard and cress" Unfortunately they mainly appear to be seeds from "Cornfield annuals" that were sown in the plots the first year. This is no great problem. Both mixtures are often sown together in the first year. The annuals grow up quickly to act as a "nurse crop", growing quickly and providing shelter for the slower germinating perennials. This can also help to retain moisture at ground level.

It's also good to see the grass on the established beds forming a thick base. This is providing a haven for the thousands of insects, Spiders and other invertebrates and vertebrates alike, whose populations will be building up at the base of the sward as was planned at the start of the project.

As always there are brambles to pull out. We do not have space to accommodate these otherwise wildlife friendly plants.

As I have written previously we need to be identifying what species are there and recording it on paper. We have identified a suitable document on which to record species. Identification of species has never been easier with tools like Google

Lens. I watched one of our Grandsons using this App and realised how, with a little practice, anyone can become an efficient wildlife recorder. When we have found the best way to use both the recording sheet and ID App, we will be asking for volunteers.

Dave Musson



Heyford Cricket Club

The league season is underway and we look forward to our first home game of the year on Saturday 3rd May. This year we will be fielding 2 senior teams with the 1st X1 captained by Josh Bastin playing in Division 3. It is great to see the side being lead and vice captained by young local players who have come through the club youth system in recent years. The 2nds are playing in Division 9 under the guidance of Chris Peck. Chris also came through the club's youth programme, although not quite as recently. We wish all our players all the best for enjoyable and successful seasons.

The junior groups begin their Friday night sessions on 9th May with both the Allstars and Dynamos starting at 6pm. We also plan to have 4 age groups (U11, U12, U13 & U15) competing in League cricket with fixtures starting later in May. We need help to run these teams so if anyone fancies getting involved and helping with kids cricket, please get in touch. Good luck to all our Juniors.

Our Golf Day is taking place at Silverstone Golf Club on Friday June 6th. This should be a really fun day with 18 4-Balls taking part in a 12 noon start. Price is £70/head which includes coffee before the golf starts, 18 holes of golf and a 2 course meal afterwards. There will be plenty of competitions running during the day and a raffle and auction in the afternoon. We still have a few places available and if anyone is interested in sponsoring a hole at £100 each, we would be grateful for your support. Please contact Chris Peck on 07711 035258 if you would like more information on this.

Finally, we are always looking for new players young or old so please either get in touch or, alternatively, have a wander down to our outdoor senior practice nets on Tuesday evenings at the playing fields.

Rob Pardon
Chairman
07894 865194



www.heyfordsingers.org

*May, Queen of Blossoms,
And fulfilling flowers,
What pretty music
Shall we charm the hours?*

Lord Edward Thurlow

We have the answer to the above – Friday 9th or Saturday May 10th are our Concert dates and we are nearly there. Not without difficulties. Our Pianist collapsed with norovirus which meant we had to call in our substitute who is extremely proficient but of course not very used to our ways, especially so late on in our rehearsals. And he could only do one of them. The second was an attempt between one of Mary Rice's friend and Pianist (Lucy) and our practice tracks put through a speaker. The tracks are in individual parts but we could only play the melody so we had to all sing our parts against the soprano backing. Apart from the extreme vagaries of the sound (due to our usual Pianist's problems with his keyboard when the tracks were produced) we staggered through and managed to produce a full sound with a few of the pieces that Lucy valiantly managed to play for us. However we are keeping our fingers firmly crossed that Graham makes a quick recovery. One of our Tenors had a fall and broke his hip (although cannot sing hopes to attend as part of the audience) so a valued singer taken out! With 43 of us, something will always happen!

'Don't Get Around Much Anymore' with music by Duke Ellington has an 'easy swing feel' and has proved quite challenging with the Choir singing it as though it was one of John Rutter's Anthems! We have spent a lot of time practising this with all its rhythms and expressions and have now managed to crack it, swinging it like proper jazz musicians! Not an easy task but very rewarding. One to look forward to at the Concert. And you will enjoy 'Let Me Entertain You' (Stephen Sondheim) which is 'Fast and Bouncy' (as per the sheet instructions) and cheers us all up as does 'Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat' from Guys & Dolls. The ladies are performing the George Gershwin piece 'Someone to Watch Over Me' which is, if sung well, a real tear jerker.

'I Am a Small Part of the World' is by Sally Albrecht and Jay Althouse and is a dramatic work carrying an inspirational message about friendship and about how, through working together, we can all achieve our dreams. 'Hand in hand, dreams combine, voice with voice, for all time. I am a small part of the world, Take my hand'.

But nothing of course compares to Graham Kinner's World Premier of – Doris the Dog. Enough said...

Our Finale is the beautiful Elton John piece 'Can You Feel The Love Tonight' with lyrics by Tim Rice. Some of you will recognise this from The Lion King and has the recurring phrase 'It's enough to make kings and vagabonds believe the very best'. I mentioned this in the March Prattler but it is worth mentioning again. A stunning song to complete what has been a difficult, but very rewarding, year.

JRA

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Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Bad News - No meeting in May as it's a Bank Holiday.

Good News - A lovely evening awaits members and visitors at our June meeting. National demonstrator Coral Gardner will present 'Along the Silk Road' which sounds fascinating. Coral is very talented as well as being an amusing speaker so it is sure to be a special evening.

You will be made very welcome at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 23rd June.

More details in soon.

NETHER HEYFORD
VILLAGE HALL

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2-5PM 2025

FEATURING: Fancy Dress Competition (age 0-5 & 6-11)

- ★ Daventry Silver Band ★ Raffle
- ★ Vintage Vehicles ★ Dog Show
- ★ Rose King & Queen ★ Stalls & Amusements
- ★ Ice Cream ★ Refreshments ★ Gymnastics
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