



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

July/August 2025

Issue 481



The Prattler

Welcome to the latest edition which covers July & August, This is the traditional summer break for the Prattler so we wish you all an enjoyable summer whether you are holidaying or just taking a break at home. The next issue will be on 1st September.

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.

Cover Photo: Heyford Fete 2025 by Tom Dodd


WEBUILDWEBS

Website Consultants

**With over ten years'
experience in auditing,
creating, managing and
developing websites.**

**Your business can't afford
not to have one**

Contact us on

T: 07591 005019
E: info@webuildwebs.net
W: webuildwebs.net

[www. http://jwreespecialists.co.uk](http://jwreespecialists.co.uk)



TREESPECIALISTS

City & Guilds qualified
- Experienced, Fully Insured
& Friendly



All aspects of Tree & Hedge work undertaken.
All risings removed from site.

Call James on 07546-033291
Professional Arborist





The Annual 2025 meeting took place on the 12th of May at the Baptist Church Rooms.

Election of Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office Resolved. Ms L Hall elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Election of Vice Chairman and Acceptance of Office Mr A Williams elected as Vice Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Report From West Northants Council No report. Our Ward Councillors are Phil Bignell, and Debra King. Council is familiar with Cllr Bignell, but has had no contact with Cllr King as yet.

Public Participation PCSO Emma Teagles asked for comments on her report, and announced that there would be knife amnesty at the village hall.

Two waste bins had disappeared from outside the Village Hall, one of which was paid for by the Parish Council. The reason for the removal had yet to be discerned. Clerk to contact WNC again.

Residents complained that branches on the Limes opposite the One Stop were very low and causing discomfort to pedestrians, also that cars were parking on the pavement and that the pavements on the North side of the Green needed to be restored to their original width. Queries regarding parking were referred to the police.

Election There had been eight nominations for the eleven seats, and therefore no need for an election. Throughout West Northants only 10% of Parish and Town Councils had required elections. The situation was very different with the ward councillors with most wards being hotly contested; including ours.

Two of the vacancies were filled at the May meeting. Christopher Legget and Justine Legget were co-opted as Councillors.

Planning AW reported that local councils are losing powers to Central Government as the number of houses needed gets re calibrated. The Neighbourhood Plan runs until 2029, but will need refreshing.

Gravel Extraction Appeal At the time of writing the result is not known. Council has done everything that it can to stop the appeal against the original refusal for permission, and it is hoped for a positive result for the community.

Reports

Infrastructure IP reported that proposed work on the canal towpath was now in doubt due to changes of circumstance and illness among the main proponents, and safety issues. IP to discuss with Cummins. It was suggested that Barclays and Immediate Justice could be approached

Resolved To ask WNC to reinstate the waste bin outside the Village Hall.

Resolved To ask for quotations for a crown lift to the Limes opposite the One Stop shop.

Community LE reported that the gate had been fixed, and that there were 3 Allotment plots available. She reported that the Bob Smith memorial plaque was in place. The Community Lounge had held a VE Day afternoon tea with a period display and food.

Flooding TW reported that Anglian Water appear to be carrying out various works, and would like to be kept informed. The PC will need to ask Highways to do the kerbing work in Watery Lane. The WNC flooding report should be available shortly.

TW reported that an FOI request had confirmed how poor the river water quality was, and this was because of the poor state of the Stowe Hill treatment plant which overflowed almost every time it rained, with raw sewage getting into the river on a weekly basis, approx. 50 times per annum. Despite this there are no plans to upgrade the facility until 2030.

Village Fete took place on the 14th after having to be cancelled (due to bad weather) on the 7th. Congratulations to all involved in creating another splendid event. The Green was in first class condition, and the fete shows off our green at its best.

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

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.

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	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	Chair, 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	Vice Chair, Chair of Planning, Finance, Council rep to School Trustees
K. Sanders-Moody. Newlands, 4b The Green, Nether Heyford 07702 701862	Councillor
C. Leggett. chriseurolog@outlook.com	Councillor
J. Leggett justineeurolog@outlook.com	Councillor
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 July 7th at the Baptist Church rooms.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for July and August 2025

Sunday 6 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 13 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Heyford
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Saturday 19 th	2:00 pm	Messy Church at Flore Church (until 4:00pm-ish)
Sunday 20 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	2:00 pm	Prayer 'Crafternoon' at Upper Stowe until 4:00pm
Sunday 27 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford
Sunday 3 rd	10:00 am	United Holy Communion at Flore Church
Sunday 10 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 17 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
Sunday 24 th	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Brockhall Church
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 31 st	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel

Midweek Services:

Thursday	10:00am	Holy Communion or Morning Prayer 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

Dear Friends,

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." (Mark 6:30-31)

Does it seem as though the world is getting faster and faster? And our lives busier and busier? Despite all the labour saving and time saving devices, despite the immediacy of the internet and social media, we seem to have less free time than ever. Perhaps the world slowed briefly a few years ago, as we struggled with the pandemic, but now life is as fast and full-on as ever.

The summer holidays which begin in July offer us all a time to pause and to rest, whether that involves time away, or simply creating space for rest and refreshment at home. Look at the Gospel reading at the beginning of this letter. Jesus' friends have returned from their first foray into mission, excited at all that has gone on and all they have achieved. In response, Jesus invites them to make time and space and 'rest a while'. Jesus knew that they had done important work, but now it was time to rest. Physical rest yes, and also spiritual rest, rest for their bodies and their souls. The deserted place they went to didn't stay deserted for long. Many people followed Jesus and his friends. When Jesus saw them, he "had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things," (Mark 6:34). The rest resourced the mission.

I pray that we might all find time for rest and refreshment over the summer, restoring our minds, recharging our bodies, and resourcing us for the busyness and challenges of the coming months.

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen (Tel 01327 344436)

Praying for our Villages by Street

During **July** we shall be praying for people living in Upper Heyford; Capell Rise, Collins Hill, Sears Close, Muscott Close and John Campbell Close in Flore; Francis Row in Upper Stowe and the Stables and Coach House in Brockhall.

During **August** we shall be praying for people living in Rolfe Crescent, Western Avenue and South View in Heyford; Chapel Lane and The Green in Flore; The Manor in Church Stowe and The Gate House and The Old Dairy in Brockhall.

Prayer Crafternoon

Come and join us at St James' Church, Upper Stowe on Sunday 20th July between 2:00PM and 4:00PM for a fun afternoon of crafting, ringing, singing and more! Have a go at making your own prayer cards, try your hand at handbell ringing, or visit the labyrinth in the wildflower meadow and find out what that's all about! Refreshments will be available.



St Peter and St Paul Church, Nether Heyford

Church Fete

**Saturday 6th September
2-4pm**

In The Rectory Garden

(in the church and church rooms if wet)

***Cake Stall, Tombola, Teas, Games,
Bits and Bobs Stall, Children's Activities
and more***

Everybody Welcome



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Services for July and August

July 6 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leahey
July 13 th	10:30 am	Morning service led by Pastor Lee Hillyard
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
July 20 th	10:30 am	Pastor pre record service. (Coffee served after the Service)
July 27 th	10:30 am	Morning service including Communion led by Pastor Lee Hillyard
August 3 rd	10:30 am	Morning service led by Bruce Furniss
August 10 th		Morning service led by Pastor Lee Hillyard
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise led by Pastor Lee Hillyard (with tea and cakes)
August 17 th	10:30 am	Service led by Dave and Pat Biddles. (coffee after the service.)
August 24 th	10:30 am	Service when Rose Kemp from Open Doors will bring us the message.
August 31 st	10:30 am	Morning service including Communion led by Martin Buckby

Events

Sat July 5 th	2 pm - 4 pm	"Bring and share" tea at 29 Church Lane (Free with donations for church funds)
Wed July 16 th	10 am - 11 am	Prayer and Bible Study
Fri Jul 25 th	10 am - 12:00	Informal "Drop In" - No charge, though books /cards/ jigsaws available to buy.
Wed Aug 20 th	10 am - 11 am	Prayer and Bible Study
Fri Aug 22 nd	10 am - 12:00	Informal "Drop In" - No charge, though books /cards/ jigsaws available to buy.

Dear Friends,

I want to begin with a sincere thank you to everyone who stopped by to chat, smile, and share stories with me at the village fete. Your warmth, curiosity, and kindness reminded me once again what a special place Nether Heyford is—a village with a big heart and an even bigger sense of community.

As pastor of Nether Heyford Baptist Church, it is my joy to walk alongside this wonderful community, not only on Sundays, but throughout the weeks, months, and milestones we share. Whether you've been with us before or are just curious about what happens behind the chapel doors, consider this your invitation to come and see what we're all about.

A Year of Meaningful Moments

This year, we're opening our arms wider than ever—to families, neighbours, and friends of all ages and stages. From our relaxed Book Sales and energised coffee mornings, prayer times, and seasonal celebrations, there's a place and a moment for you.

We don't claim to have it all together—but we gather in love, hope, and faith, seeking meaning in life's everyday beauty. Whether you're full of questions or quietly curious, whether church is familiar or totally new, know that you are welcome. Truly.

So come along—share a coffee, sing a song, find stillness, every face brings something precious.

Let's Journey Together

Church isn't a building or a Sunday-only affair. It's a growing family of people learning to love God, love each other, and love the world around us. I'd love to meet you, get to know your story, and discover how we can serve and celebrate one another more deeply.

You'll find regular updates on upcoming events through our social media, website and notice boards, but don't hesitate to reach out directly or pop in—we're always glad to see a new face.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Lee Hillyard
Nether Heyford Baptist Church



NEED A LOCAL SPACE?

Friendship Hall – The Green, NN7 3LE

Looking for a cosy spot to host your next gathering? Whether it's a birthday party, craft group, meeting or coffee morning—we've got you covered!

Only £9 per hour – includes kitchen access!

- ✓ Bright, welcoming venue
- ✓ Fully equipped kitchen
- ✓ Ideal for community events
- ✓ Right in the heart of the village

Book your space today!
www.NetherHeyford.Church



Astronomy on the Green

As I write this, we approach one of the prime events of the season. The summer solstice being the longest night of the year and our 'going over the hill' pointer towards winter. We know that this has been a celebrated event for thousands of years. People constructed Stonehenge (and probably an earlier wood henge) for rituals based on astronomical events. Builders constructed wooden and later stone circles with the greatest possible accuracy. Stone henges were less likely to damage and rot than wooden ones. This is an early example of humans revising structures to improve their effectiveness.

Roll on to the twenty-first century and scientists improved on the well-loved Hubble Space Telescope with the James Webb Space Telescope. They opened a whole new can of worms for cosmology. As so often, new technology has revised our scientific understanding of the cosmos. We had a nicely laid out plan for how the universe began, yet suddenly it doesn't match our new understandings.

As we look closely at the period just following the Big Bang (the cosmos lighting up about 13.6 billion years ago) there is far more structure than we expected. We see this particularly in galaxy formation. Our current models cannot match the speed at which the early galaxies appeared. They are just too structured, too early. Evidence also suggests that too many elemental gasses abound. This points to the rapid evolution of ancient stars. Once again, we cannot account for this.

Thinking caps on. Could this suggest that the singularity contained information to produce the universe? If so, how? I have been reading around this Penrose and Hawkins won the 1988 Noble prize for their theory on singularities. In 2020, Penrose won again, illustrating that black hole formation was a robust prediction of the theory of general theory of relativity.

It was at first thought that black holes emitted nothing, but Stephen Hawkins proved they were radiators. This raises the question: could information falling into a black hole (normally considered destroyed) be stored in the singularity? If so, at the end of one universe, could the singularity that began it contain information from earlier universes? Penrose is a long time believer in the formation of a universe as an ongoing perpetual loop. He's still thinking about it all at 93 years old.

Don't ask me. I'm as much in the dark as anyone else. I've wondered about this enough, to be honest.

Have a splendid summer!

Clear skies.

Tony Boutle



'Looking forward to September'
Heyford Picturedrome

HEYFORD PICTUREDROME

NEXT FILM

WIDOW CLICQUOT

**Drama about the Veuve Clicquot champagne family and
business that began in the late 18th century**

**An adaption of the true story of Madame
Barbe-Nicole Ponsardin Clicquot, who was to become
known as the 'Grande Dame of Champagne'**

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 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

My view this edition is of course all about our fete. What a roller coaster it was! After receiving a severe weather warning from the Met Office a postponement for a week was the only way forward. That of course meant that some contributors were not available and the race was on to shore up any gaps. The new date clashed with a bowls match and a wedding but those involved in both really pulled out the stops. What a great village we have! Our MC Geoff Allen and our sound engineers Adrian Croutear and Richard Waterhouse did a great deal of reshuffling. Our thanks to them.

Right from the official opening by our King and Queen Arthur Lesurf and Georgie Godfrey in the beautiful open top white Rolls Royce, the day went surprisingly smoothly.

The Gymnastricks troupe always give us a great show and the music this year is worthy of note. A newly formed group of young saxophonists "Too Much Saxz" stepped in when our band couldn't make our rescheduled date and they were amazing. We repaid them only in tea and cake and we are most grateful to them. I do hope they come back next year. Tom Dodd was here, there, and everywhere taking photographs so hopefully we will have some great pictorial memories of the day.

Our sponsors make it all possible and special thanks go to Macflex International who donated in memory of their late mother Shirley MacCullum who always supported us but it's worth mentioning our other supporters too. Without them we couldn't make our fete such a great event. A big "Thank You" to:

Apex Scaffolding, Chey and Tina Adams, Heygates, Althorp Estate, Holdenby House Gardens, Shirley Waterhouse (First Aid), Heyford Meats, Gtechniq, Heyford Hills Farm, Tilly's Pets, Barn Cafe Stowe Dairy Farm, Hayracks at Stowe Dairy Farm, Heyford Singers, Tops of Heyford, Foresters Arms, Unusual Rigging, D&M Skip Hire and Jez Wilson.

I do hope I haven't missed anyone.

Our Trustees worked very hard before, during and after the fete to make the day so successful and you did not disappoint with amazing donations of cakes. The cream teas were amazing.

Whilst the hall continues to operate as usual during the summer and its maintenance needs continue, the revenue from the fete allows us to keep going with a rolling programme of repairs and improvements.

Our next trustees event will be the Harvest Supper which is run for no profit but gives an opportunity for villagers to come together for a super meal and enjoy a really good get together. Places are limited so look out for the details in due course.

We will be taking a short break from our usual monthly meetings to recharge our batteries so the next edition will be something slightly different.

Have a great Summer!

Carol Tuckley (Chair)

Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com



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

travel counsellors

Confidential Travel Booking Service

for flights, packages, cruises,
celebratory trips, etc.

Contact: Lisa and Amy Hillyard

01327 828520 or

07808815042

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



Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
Parties, Weddings, Business
Meetings etc. Modern facilities,
Disabled access friendly

Bookings: nhvhbookings@gmail.com

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167



Goldmaster IT

- Computer/Laptop repairs: Hardware upgrades, software issues, speed improvement, virus & malware removal.
- Data Security & Transition: Safe disposal, backup advice & data transfer.
- Personalised Support: Coaching for getting the best out of your system such as file sorting.
- Digital Enhancement: Web design & social media management.
- Kislingbury Based IT Expert: We can visit you for all your IT & digital media needs.
No fix, no fee! Terms apply, see IT.Goldmaster.Site/Terms for details.

Just Call Jack Gold (BA Hons) on 07481 338363 or 01604 831882

Contact@Goldmaster.Site

IT.Goldmaster.Site

KEEP THIS BY YOUR COMPUTER - YOU MIGHT NEED US!



John

Northampton & Daventry

bluebird
care®

*Helping your
dad live his
life. So you
can live yours.*

We're here to give you or your loved one the support you need, in the place you love.

That's what Home Care is all about. From preparing healthy meals, assisting with washing, dressing and medication, to going on lovely walks in the local park. Our Care Experts will not only put your loved one at ease - they'll help you live the life you want.

Bluebird Care can provide anything from a 30 minute visit to live-in care. Contact us today to arrange a no obligation care consultation.

**It's good to
*be home***

Call us for a friendly chat on

01604 312 182

Or email

northampton@bluebirdcare.co.uk

*Find
out more*





In Nether Heyford

We have had a busy time at WI. In the June of each year over 5,000 members attend the National AGM held at The Royal Albert Hall. However, this year things were different. I attended the meeting which was held at WI head offices in London, via Zoom. Technology is amazing and I even voted electronically on the resolutions.

Yes, it was a little strange to sing Jerusalem and God save the King, all by myself in my office, but no one could accuse me of being out of tune. I really enjoyed the day; it was encouraging to hear that 59 new WI's had been formed and that there were 22,000 new members across the country. The WI has its own lottery and a podcast. Each month 5,300 women take part in free courses run on the digital Learning Hub.

The guest speakers (who give their time for free) were interesting. Emma Bridgewater spoke on how she rescued a failing pottery in Stoke on Trent and turned it into the successful brand it is today. Angel Strawbridge (of Escape to the Chateau fame) was entertaining telling us about her life in France and how her interest in all things vintage started back in the 2000's.

At a local level, we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Weedon Depot. After a spot of lunch at the Crossroads, we assembled at the visitor's centre for a guided tour. It is hard to imagine, as I write in the sweltering heat, that on that Thursday afternoon, it rained all afternoon. Not to be deterred, we just carried on regardless. The guides were full of interesting stories relating to the long history and importance of the depot as the centre of Ordnance for the British Army. We were served tea and biscuits afterwards in the centre and everyone agreed that "we hadn't realized that there was so much history on our doorstep".

We must thank the Village Hall Committee for all the hard work that they had put into organising another successful and enjoyable village fete on June 14th. It was great to see so many families supporting the event. Long may it continue.

At our next meeting on Thursday July 3rd at 7.30 we are welcoming Anita Gayton who has published her first book "Staying Alive: My Ride with Ovarian Cancer". Anita's story is told with optimism and humour. Ovarian cancer is often diagnosed late after women have been experiencing a range of symptoms for some time and have been ignored by medical professionals. We want to raise awareness of this illness and raise some money for Target Ovarian Cancer. Please come along, listen to Anita's story, buy a raffle ticket, have a drink and some refreshments. You will be very welcome and we would love your support for this great charity.

Jane Wareing
01327 340875

DWIFA Mortgage & Insurance Services are *your* *local* experts for:

- Mortgages
- Personal Insurances
- Business Protection Insurance
- Equity Release (Lifetime Mortgages)

If you would like to understand more about how David Williams IFA Mortgage & Insurance Services Ltd can help you, for expert advice and guidance in the first instance please contact our commercial Director Chris Peck.

Tel: 01604 250280 Mob: 07711 035258
chrispeck@dwifa.co.uk
www.dwmortgageservices.co.uk

DavidWilliams

— IFA —

Mortgage & Insurance Services Ltd

A mortgage is a loan secured against your home. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

But don't just take our word for it...

“

Thank you so much to Chris Peck and all at David Williams IFA Mortgage & Insurance services for helping us to buy our first home together. Amazing service and support from start to end. Very highly recommended.

Faye Brassett and
Darren Willers

”



Heyford Allotments

Take a Look

The allotments in Heyford are looking very good at the moment and the community areas are ablaze with flowers and buzzing with life. Come and take a look, sit in our picnic area and drink it all in. It really is wonderfully relaxing.

The hard work that allotment holders put in during the first half of the year really begins to pay off in June, July and August as cropping begins in earnest. Great credit must go to the allotmenters of Heyford for what they have achieved so far this year. Their hard work is plain to see.

Taste

Whenever you bite into that first strawberry or piece of homegrown beetroot you suddenly realise just how good the taste is when compared to eating pre-packed food grown out of season. If you've not done that, try growing your own and see for yourself. The difference is really remarkable and there is still so much more to look forward to. As the summer unfolds, fruit develops, tomatoes form and ripen, the top growth of so many tender plants is no longer threatened by frost and crops like the ever reliable courgette seem to grow before your very eyes! It really is magical.

Other Communities

Always keen to find out what different growing communities are up to, we never miss an opportunity to go and look at what other allotments and community gardens are like. We recently discovered a huge allotment site not one minute's walk from the Royal Crescent in Bath. Lower Common East Allotments were created from common land in Bath in 1830. Today it is a thriving community of gardeners who have created their own version of paradise in the middle of a busy city. The following statement, posted on notice boards by their entrance gates, beautifully sums up why we do what we do.

Allotment gardening allows individuals and groups to grow their own fresh, often organic, fruit and vegetables. They provide physical exercise and welcome relief from the daily stresses of modern life. Allotments are great for local biodiversity and encourage recycling through composting and reuse of everyday items. The diversity of allotment holders encourages social cohesion and there are educational benefits to new gardeners and children alike.

Keeping in Touch

At the time of writing this article we have several vacant plots on the allotment site, large and small and none of them expensive to rent. They have been strimmed and covered with landscape fabric so taking on the plot should be less demanding. Slowly peeling back the covering and cultivating just what can be managed at any one time is a good way to come to terms with an allotment, especially if you are new to allotmenting.

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 21st July – Mata Hari, a spy or a scapegoat?
by Philomena Liggins

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



View from the Nature Reserve

As I begin this article, I can hear our own colony of House Sparrows noisily chirruping above my head. They nest in boxes placed under the eaves of our Bungalow. Adults, nestlings and fledglings are equally noisy in and around these nests. House Sparrows, Starlings and Swifts, all suffered badly when the UK shifted from leaving the eaves of our houses open to the weather to boxing these eaves in. Firstly with wood, then with the ubiquitous plastic boarding, that is now familiar on almost every building in the land. Whilst this change improved all our lives in many ways. It is a fact that it made whole populations of birds homeless at the time. In recognition of this I made and sighted a few Sparrow nest boxes just under our eaves. Now we have at least 8 families of Sparrows twittering above our bedrooms. throughout the year

Last month I brought up the subject of Usuto Virus. It is a virus which is killing our Blackbirds. This subject is much too big for this magazine. If you haven't already done so please type "Blackbirds - Usuto Virus" into your search engine and you will have all the necessary information about the virus and what you can do in the fight to minimise its effect on our blackbirds.

Do you feed Hedgehogs in your garden? It's been 3 years since we began to feed hedgehogs in ours. They continue to eat around a litre of Calci Worms almost every night of the year - with only a three week break in January. I am not seeing many Beetles, Earwigs etc. around these days. Which Hedgehogs need to stay healthy. Calci Worms should replace much of this lack of insects. Remember **DON'T FEED HEDGEHOGS MEALWORMS**. These do not contain enough Calcium for hedgehogs. It has been proven that feeding Mealworms causes crippled Hedgehogs. Feed Calci Worms instead. They cost less and contain the ideal level of Calcium for Hedgehogs. They will always get other vitamins and minerals from any insects they do find elsewhere.

On the Reserve the deep rooted plants are still flourishing and Yellow Rattle is consuming most of the grasses. This is not what was expected to happen but it is a perfectly natural process. The best we can do is monitor the situation, and act as needed. We have two new plant arrivals on the reserve. One is Common Hogweed (*heracleum sphondulium*). A very common plant found on almost every roadside verge in the area. The seed is designed to be wind bourn. However, ours probably arrived on someone's feet. Being so common a lot of insect species will depend on its flowers. Therefore it has the potential to be an asset as long as we don't allow it to take over.

The other new arrival is Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*). This is very attractive for a plantain, being the only British plantain that is pollinated by insects. I have no

idea where this came from. It is not especially rare but likes calcareous soils, which we don't have locally. However, it is a very welcome addition to our flora.

We have Marbled White Butterflies on the reserve for the first time. They could be just passing through so I will not get too excited yet. Our mowing regime is designed to accommodate just such insects.

Watch this space.

Dave Musson



300-Club Winners

May

1st prize	17	Gerry Hartgrove	£65
2nd prize	205	Ian Elliott	£30

June

1st prize	194	Ann Andrews	£65
2nd prize	178	Bowls Club	£30



Heyford Cricket Club

The season has really picked up in May and June across the whole of the club with victories for both the senior sides and also for the U13s in the Junior League.

The 1st XI put together a run of three victories on the bounce and remain unbeaten in June. This has been based largely on some good batting displays with centuries for Connor Robson and Nas Kuttiyan. The side now sits 5th in Division 3 and are looking to push on in July. The 2nd XI recorded their first win of the season in an exciting finish against St Michaels and, although still bottom of Div 9, they are now in touch with the teams above them.

For the Juniors, it has remained a struggle to always get sides out but we are hoping to get together with other clubs to strengthen player numbers so we can fulfil more fixtures. The U13s had a good win against Byfield and the U11s will enjoy their first fixture at the end of June. Friday evenings continue to be well attended and enjoyed by all the Allstars and Dynamos with everyone making the most of this summer's good weather.

Our Golf Day at Silverstone went really well and our thanks go to everyone who turned out and also to all the companies and individuals who helped to sponsor the event. Funds raised will go towards continuing to improve facilities for all of our juniors. We are planning to have a Parents vs Kids fixture later in the summer, date to be announced. This is always a fun afternoon with a bar and BBQ if anyone fancies a wander down.

Rob Pardon
Chairman 07894 865194



Christian Aid Week 2025

Thank you to everyone who donated to Christian Aid this year, and also to all those who helped with deliveries and to One-Stop and Heyford Meats for hosting collection buckets. We are pleased to report that the total raised in the village this year was £225.28. Of that £141.16 was gift-aided, adding an extra £35.29 to the total.

Christian Aid will therefore receive £260.57 to further their work with some of the world's poorest communities.

Shirley Waterhouse, Heyford Parish Church.

100% NO SALE NO FEE

- No Upfront Marketing Fee
- No Withdrawal Fee
- Local and Experienced
- Free Energy Performance Certificate
- Free Premium Listing
- Free 360° Virtual Tour

Check out our
reviews on Facebook



Chris Gibson
- Horts Property Consultant



arla naea
propertymark



PERSONAL • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE



www.heyfordsingers.org

*In Summer
The Song Sings Itself*

William Carlos Williams

Our Concert and rehearsals are forgotten as we enjoy the three month break with the Choir. However we are not done singing. We are off 'on tour' to Dodford at the end of June so we are practising in Mary Rice's garden. And finding how difficult it is to sing in the open air. Totally different from the acoustics of a Church or the Village Hall. Outside there are no acoustics so the singing all sounds 'thin' and added to that getting out of garden chairs to stand for each piece has proved challenging... We had to move the Bass section in front of the tenors as their voices disappeared altogether so *The Wellerman* could be heard properly.

However never daunted, Mary has put together a programme (just quarter of an hour each half) and we sang through it enjoying the old favourites. *You Raise Me Up and Fields of Gold* along with pieces from our Spring Concert went down well. *Doris the Dog* will be a fun addition, written of course by our Pianist Graham Kinnersly who accompanied us on the keyboard in the garden and we heard individual voices for the first time – when we sing in the Village Hall it is almost impossible to isolate the voices. Not so outside. Another rehearsal at the end of the month and then we (possibly) wow the visitors at Dodford Manor. The owners of the Manor asked us to perform and were there at the first rehearsal. And the 'gig' is still on.

As I said it is the summer break now and unless we are 'spotted' we won't be performing again until our first rehearsal in September. So a very happy, sunny summer to everyone.

JRA

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

We are looking forward to our garden visit on July 28th when we are off to visit Waterperry Gardens.

No meeting in August as it is a Bank Holiday.

Flore Arts Events

Jazz in the Garden, Sunday 13th July 2.30pm; gates open 1.30pm.

Now pretty much a fixture on the Flore Arts calendar. Once again our hosts will be the generous owners of Rock Springs in Sutton St, Flore. This year we will again be entertained by Tad Newton's Jazz Friends. As always we're anticipating a programme of foot-tapping jazz and ragtime favourites in a relaxed garden setting.

You'll also have the opportunity to buy teas, cakes, soft drinks, Pimm's, wine or beer. Just bring something to sit on (and perhaps your dancing shoes).

Tickets: £15 (£5 under 18s).

Please call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm). You can also purchase tickets at Re, 2A Sutton St, Flore, NN7 4LE (during shop opening hours).

Track Dogs: Saturday September 27th 8.00pm. All Saints Church, Flore.

Formed in the autumn of 2006 in Madrid around the core line-up of acoustic guitar, electric bass, trumpet and cajón, Track Dogs have since added banjo, ukulele and mandolin. A big part of their sound comes from their four part vocal harmonies. Expect a smorgasbord of folk, rumba, jazz and blues from this band with a big reputation who have performed regularly at festivals across Europe.

Tickets £20; call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm). Also from Re, 2A Sutton St, Flore, NN7 4LE (during shop opening hours).

Here's a reminder of your diary dates for the rest of the year:

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.



BELLA INTERIOR DESIGN ★★



- Beautiful painting & decorating
- Expert Interior design
- Professional wallpapering
- Home decluttering/organisation
- Furniture upcycling
- Room layout planning
- Home or retail styling
- 5 star reviews ★★★★★
- Village based

📞 Annabel 07801 455030

📘 @bellainteriordesign

📷 @bellainteriordesignnorthampton

Tom's Blinds

Tom Brown
Blind Fitter with over 10 years experience
07740743628
Located in Nether Heyford
Call for free no obligation quotes
Find us on Facebook

KEVIN FAULKNER

Garden Machinery Repairs & Servicing
Petrol Mowers, Strimmers etc.

Call or text - 07798 725578



Percy's Plumbing & Heating

LTD

William Percy
Plumber & Heating Engineer
percysplumbing@gmail.com
Mobile: 07526539176

5 Winston Close
Nether Heyford
Northampton
NN7 3JX

Call Today!

01327340654

Auction Sales & Valuations

Valuation, collection and auction service of individual items through to complete property and commercial clearances.

Call for a free no obligation quote or email **info@leauktion.co.uk**

SALE ENTRIES NOW INVITED

www.leauktion.co.uk



LOCKE & ENGLAND

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

01926

889100

18 Guy Street, Leamington
Spa, CV32 4RT

RANDALL ELECTRICAL

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

For all types of
Domestic Electrical
Installations

Free no obligation quotes

Tel: 01327 349144

Mobile: 07703 258169



IAN SUMMERLING, ELECTRICIAN

All electrical installations,
burglar alarms, extra sockets, etc

Tel 01604 862710

Mobile 07971 426775

39 Wallwin Close, Roade, NN7 2NA

Radmore Cattery

- Luxury & modern boarding chalets operating to Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB) standards
- Located on a family run farm overlooking a picturesque fruit orchard
- All chalets with an indoor heated sleeping area & outside covered exercise run

Enquiries to Kathryn (01327) 830825
Mobile 07732274252

Radmore Farm, Northampton Rd,
Litchborough, Towcester,
Northants. NN12 8HR

THE PRATTLER

NEXT EDITION

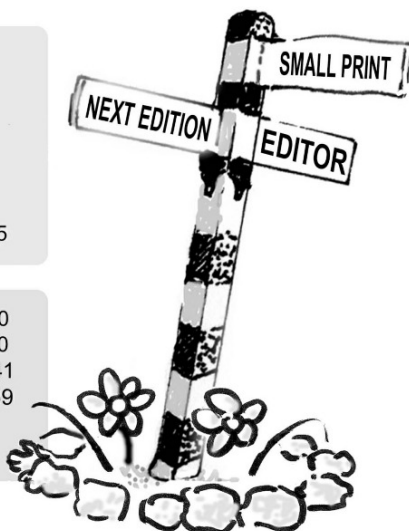
Submission date: 15th of August for written articles
20th of August for emailed articles

Publication date: 1st September 2025

e-mail: heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk

Or drop off at Heyford Meats or Sunrise Cottage, 15
The Green.

Editorial:	Sue Boutle	07415 352550
Proofreading:	Tony Boutle	07415 352550
Distribution:	Mick Watts	01327 340041
Adverts & Payments:	Vicki Hamblin	01327 341059
Design:	Nick Essex	
Website:	Jez Wilson	



We welcome Prattler contributions, please send these to the Editor. Please include your name and full contact details. We prefer items by e-mail & all images should be JPEG files.

The Editors reserves the right to edit or refuse any submissions at their discretion.

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of any member of the editorial team. Advertising material does not imply any endorsement by the editorial team.



/HeyfordPrattler



www.heyfordprattler.org



heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk

Please mention that you saw it in **THE PRATTLER** when responding to advertisers !

The Prattler is printed by



Design to Print Limited

46 Daventry Road

Norton Daventry

NN11 2ND

01327 872950

www.designtoprint.org.uk