



# **THE PRATTLER**

**The Heyford Village Newspaper**

**September 2025**

**Issue 482**



**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 Stalls, Children's Activities  
Music from 'Too Many Saxz'***

## St Peter and St Paul Church Fete

We need good quality board games and jigsaws for one of the stalls and suitable prizes for the Tombola. If you have anything to donate please contact Tim on [timothyandrewbrown@btopenworld.com](mailto:timothyandrewbrown@btopenworld.com) or Jane on [janerands@gmail.com](mailto:janerands@gmail.com)

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 July 2025 meeting took place on the 7th of July at the Baptist Church Rooms.

I have been contacted with regards to the following message.

Does anyone know or remember Linda Westley who lived on Bugbrooke Road from 1965 to at least 1985, and is known to have written for the Bugbrooke Link.. An old friend is hoping to contact her.

Please contact me directly if you knew her or have any information.

**Co-option of a Councillor.** Resolved to co-opt Louise Isgar as a Councillor.

**Report From West Northants Council.** Cllr Debra King introduced herself as a Reform Councillor and reported that she was training and trying to get round all the villages in her area.

**Public Participation.**

PCSO Emma Teagles referred to the problems with dens and their destruction on the Playing Fields, which led to the brook needing to be cleared. She referred to concerns about the immigrants coming into the villages, and that there were efforts to educate them as to British sensibilities. Some speak English well, some very limited. They do get rotated to other locations.

KSM asked about the possible expansion of the PCSO area to include Kislingbury and Harpole, and expressed concern that Heyford might become the poor relation given the size of the much-expanded Harpole. At this stage it is not a fully developed plan.

**Flooding Issues.** Disaster Relief Plan/Emergency Plan not yet finished by WNC. Highways have been assessing Watery Lane re improving surface water management. Clerk and KR trying to find relevant contact at Keir.

Steve Corcoran has obtained sandbags and has started a list of contacts and potential helpers. Clerk asked that SC keep him, and KR informed.

**Lighting costs** – to review. The contract with YU ends in November. Clear Utility Solutions and another agent had sent quotes for new contracts, and both recommended the same figures from Valda. Resolved to stay with Clear Utility Solutions and proceed with a 2-year contract with Valda.

**To clear up the jitties.** Resolved – to accept Mr Gibbins quotation to clear up the jitty between the Memorial green and Church Lane. Resolved - to accept Mr Gibbins quotation to clear up the other jitties.

## **Reports.**

**Environment.** Allotment hedge needs trimming. Clerk to seek quotes.

**Wellbeing,** LE reported that the exercise classes were now into their 13th week. LD had put in a bid for grant money from Tesco for the Community Lounge. A minimum amount would be forthcoming anyway, but higher amounts were possible depending on how many tokens were collected at boxes in the Daventry, Weedon and Towcester branches of Tesco, Councillors and residents were asked to support the CL by putting their tokens in the appropriate box.

**Infrastructure.** The SID pole in Weedon Rd had been moved. IP will move the SID when he can get help. Cllr PB to send details of batteries. IP reported that Keir operatives had visited Furnace Lane re. the chicane – but was disappointed that they seemed to have no knowledge of previous discussion on siting etc. he would contact Helen Howard. IP still trying to confirm whether Cummins are still willing to fund paving the canal path. Other possible courses of action were discussed.

**Heritage.** Mosaic – Clerk to arrange installation. – Heritage Walks Leaflet. Introduction, short walk, and long walk texts complete. Library of graphics complete. Artwork for map layout agreed in principle and overall size and layout agreed. All elements now being brought together for review at the of end July.

**Community.** Brass on the grass. Resolved – to give outline permission subject to insurance requirements being met.

**Remembrance Day** Road closure needs to be obtained in August, 12 weeks before the event in November. Clerk to contact Charles Kiloh for advice as to whether this will be needed.

Resolved to permit Harvest Festival at the allotments on Sept 28th.

The annual inspection of allotment plots revealed only one substandard, and three vacancies.

## **Planning**

Gravel Extraction Appeal. Gravel Extraction appeal report. Appeal hearing held with Inspector, Applicant, WNC Planning and members of the public. Without any pre-warning WNC planning had decided to not defend the appeal, leaving us and Upper Heyford to fight our case as best we could, with support from counsel. Inspector's decisions typically take 6-8 weeks. At present there is some detailed correspondence around conditions and the applicant being prepared to accept those conditions, mainly around noise, dust, and light pollution. That does NOT mean a decision has been made either way. KMS had observed and felt badly let



down by WNC. She felt that noise potential was under reported, and that the site would ultimately end up as industrial or housing. Mick George has ten sites and this is the smallest.

**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/>

## Food Bank

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

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

<b>Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.</b>	
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)
Councillor Debra King. West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD.	

Clerk. Guy Ravine, Tel:07935 931787.

E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

**Next Meeting: Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> then October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Baptist Church rooms.**



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

### Services for September 2025

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Brockhall
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Worship at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church Harvest Service at Heyford Allotments

### Midweek Services:

<b>Thursday</b>	10:00am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	2:30pm – 3:30pm	Flore Church open for private prayer
<b>Friday</b>	9:00am.	Morning Prayer via Zoom - Please contact the Rector for an invitation

During **September** we shall be praying for people living in Furnace Lane in Heyford, the High Street, including the shops and the Millennium Hall in Flore, The Old Dairy Farm in Upper Stowe and the outlying farms around Stowe and the Mews Houses in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

*"I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the sky."*

So writes John Masefield in his poem, Sea Fever. Living in the beautiful but landlocked county of Northamptonshire, I confess I have that yearning for the sea. Last year, I satisfied that yearning by visiting the wild, near-deserted beaches of the Northeast, around Bamburgh and Seahouses. This year, Deborah and I holidayed in Bournemouth. Of course, we timed our visit to a period of changeable weather between two heat-waves, but we did manage a day on the beach, and I did get to swim in the sea.

I'm not alone in my yearning. Many of us want to holiday by the sea, or better still, live by the sea, or at the very least by water. Perhaps the sea, lakes and rivers offer a mental escape from the straight lines and rigidity of our increasingly urban and industrial environments. The late Wallace Nicholls, a marine biologist, suggests that being close to water can heal, restore, give us a sense of connection and promote calm. Being with, on, better still in water, is undoubtedly good for us. Conversely, the sea can be a place of mystery and terror, a no-go area where 'there be monsters.'

In the Christian tradition the sea is a place of profound paradox. Genesis tells us that in the beginning, God's Spirit hovering over the water as he lovingly created the world. Yet, the Hebrew scriptures also present the sea as chaos, as a place of God's absence. The sea is the place of perhaps the most famous whale in all literature - the whale that swallows Jonah, as he flees from God's plans for him. For Jonah, the sea is both a place of death, and a place where he meets God, a place of divine encounter. In the sea, in the belly of the whale, Jonah's journey with and for God begins again.

Stories of Jesus also deal with this enigma of wildness and encounter in the chaos of the sea. In the story of the calming of the storm (Mark 4:35-41) the wild threat of the sea is not rendered as simply something to be avoided. Jesus is not a fixer making all daily dangers obsolete. Rather the story says that it is precisely in such moments of wildness, fury and terror that his powerful presence can be encountered. It is in the wind and the waves of life's storms that we can truly know that God is with us.

Being in or on the water is more than just a balm for our souls. To float on the gently bobbing sea and watch the horizon is to be reminded that we are a very small part of the wonderful world on which we depend. And maybe, it's an opportunity to connect with God, who holds that beautiful creation together.

With every blessing,

*Rev Stephen (Tel 01327 344436)*

St Peter and St Paul Church, Heyford  
Invite you to

# A Harvest Festival Service

Followed by refreshments

At The Community Area of  
**Nether Heyford Allotments**

4pm

**Sunday 28th September**

**Everybody welcome**

*We will be collecting donations of non-perishable items  
e.g. tinned or packaged food, pet food, toiletries, toilet rolls  
for **Daventry Food Bank**. Thank you*



## 300-Club Winners

### July 2025

Winner	Ticket 216	£65	Graham Linnell
Runner Up	Ticket 224	£30	Elaine Young

### August 25

Winner	Ticket 19	£65	Heyford Cricket
Runner Up	Ticket 66	£30	Jeremy Rice

# **St Peter and St Paul Church, Heyford**

Invite you to put your thinking caps on and join us for a

## **Quiz Night**

In aid of church funds

**Friday 3rd October, 7.00 for 7.30pm start**  
**in the CHURCH ROOMS**

Teams of up to six people  
or make up teams on the night

**£5 per person**

**Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served at half time and  
there will be a raffle**

**Please bring your own drinks and nibbles if required**

**Quizmasters Rev Stephen and Deborah Burrow**

Please book beforehand by contacting Jane on  
[janerands@gmail.com](mailto:janerands@gmail.com)  
or 01327 340678

### **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



## Nether Heyford Baptist Church

### Services for September

September 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Clive Leakey
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service led by Pastor Lee Hillyard
	4:00 pm	Songs of Praise led by Martin Buckby (with tea and cakes)
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	Service led by Nathan Toseland from the Central Baptist Association (coffee after the service.)
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning service with a speaker from the Leprosy Mission. Service includes communion

### Events

September 8 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Church Meeting
Friday Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	10 am - 12:00	Informal "Drop In" - No charge, though books /cards/ jigsaws available to buy.

# DO YOU CARE FOR SOMEONE?



If you look after a family member, friend,  
or neighbour who couldn't manage  
without your help...

## YOU MAY BE A CARER.

**Carers provide essential support with:**



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cleaning, or  
shopping



Emotional  
support



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appointments

**Let us know if you are a carer.**

Please speak to reception – we can help you  
access support, advice and services available  
for carers.

Your healthcare team is here for you too.

Meet the new Carers Champion Kaylee @ Bugbrooke Medical  
Practice



## Astronomy on the Green

As I write, today is the peak of the Perseids meteor shower. Unfortunately it coincides with a nearly full Moon which will limit the visibility. It brings to mind a few questions; as the cloud of particles we are passing through are tiny, how come we see shooting stars? Are they all white? How come they happen at particular times of the year?

The brightness comes from one of the dominant equations of the twentieth century. Einstein's  $E=MC^2$ ; Energy = Mass times the speed of light squared. If we apply this to 1 gram, then  $E = 1 \times 34,596,000,000$ , equivalent to 89,875,517,873,682 (89 billion) joules of energy. Our tiny particle (much less than a gram, but as seen, the energy released will still be massive) loses all its mass as it burns up in our atmosphere as a flash, a streak of light.

Most meteor trails are white unless they contain a high metal content. Then they will be coloured; Yellow (Sodium), Green (Iron), Blue (Magnesium), Purple (Calcium) and Red (Oxygen and Nitrogen). You may notice that these colours are also seen in Nebulae.

The time of year and intensity vary across a range. For instance, the Perseids occur between the 17<sup>th</sup> of July and the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. We are on Spaceship Earth travelling around the solar system. Exactly when we encounter the particle cloud, and which part we enter will never be precise. The universe is not clockwork. There are many influences - gravity, leap years, solar activity – the list is endless. However, our route is pretty constant, enabling us to know where we are at any point in time.

Finally, where do these clouds of particles originate? The answer is comets. As they travel around the sun, a tail forms as the solar wind interacts with the comet's head. This creates a plume of particles shed from the head. The Perseids are a leftover from the visits of Comet Swift-Tuttle (1737, 1862, 1992). Even at my age, I only remember one of these.

By the time you read this, it will be a thing of the past, but it will be back next year! The next shower is the Draconid's in early October, not as spectacular at ten meteors per hour.

Keep looking up all; and enjoy your trip on Spaceship Earth.

Clear skies.

*Tony Boutle*



**Heyford Picturedrome**

**NEXT FILM**

## **WIDOW CLICQUOT**

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

**NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**ADMISSION: £6.00**

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

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

**TEA, COFFEE, BAR**



## Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

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

### Village Hall News

#### View from the Chair

Whilst we are all enjoying a summer break I thought it would be a good opportunity to highlight actually how the hall functions and what happens day to day.

Some of you might think "well it's just a village hall, most villages have them and it's what you would just expect to be there". But how does it just exist?

The Village Hall is a Registered Charity and has a committee of around 15 Trustees. Within those trustees there is a Chair of Trustees, a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. We then have a booking secretary, an events secretary and facilities manager. The Committee is made up of a representative of each regular local user groups so that information disseminates down to those groups. There is a representative from the Parish Council and up to 3 Parishioners. Each one becomes a Charity Commission Trustee. It is a responsibility taken on fully voluntarily.

The hall is very well used indeed. Local User groups include Heyford Singers (usually Thursday evenings), Bowls Club for short mat indoor bowls (usually Wednesday) which is very popular, a sewing group called the patchwork group (usually Tuesday and Thursday daytime) a crafty club (usually Monday afternoon), WI, Flower Club, and Picturedrome. I do hope I haven't forgotten anyone! If you check the calendar on our web site and are interested in any of our clubs I'm sure they will be pleased to see you. Just come along and meet them.

Permanent commercial hirers include Yoga, Pilates and Martial arts and of course the hall is available to hire for events and parties. The hire charges have to cover the running and maintenance of the hall and all its expenses and outgoings whilst our fundraising like the fete, garage sale, etc are used for capital investment and improvements.

There is always a list of maintenance and repairs plus the ordinary day to day things like weeding and post to deal with, licensing, certifications and regulations to adhere to. All this is necessary to make sure the hall remains lawful, vibrant, fit for purpose and future proofed.

Again I stress that no trustee is paid. Everything is done voluntarily. We are however always looking for villagers with energy or skills to help with maintenance to keep our costs down. Please let me know if you can help on occasion.

I hope you are as proud of our village hall as we all are and are encouraged to join one of the groups who meet here. Whenever I call in and there is a group in the hall it always seems a friendly, happy and warm atmosphere. Give it a try!

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and when you pass by the hall give a little thought to all that goes on there.

*Carol Tuckley (Chair)*

Carolnhvhchair@gmail.com



## **Heyford Picturedrome - All set for a new season**

We're starting again on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September with what sounds like an interesting film: Widow Clicquot – another based on a true story.

I'm delighted to report that our organising team now has several new members and we're all looking forward to working together to help you to continue enjoying our village's films and social evenings – not forgetting the wine (non-alcoholic included), juice, tea, coffee, biscuits - and a warm welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Village Sports in 1900

At the beginning of the 1900's up until the First World War in 1914 Heyford residents celebrated together at their annual sports day organised by a special sports committee and at which everyone in the village attended.

The sports field was situated beyond the children's playground where the houses in Hillside Road/Hillside Crescent now stand. The field belonged to a local farmer who removed his cows for the day which usually meant a bit of clearing up had to be done first. The date was usually set for Whitsuntide (seventh Sunday after Easter) and a beer tent and tea tent would be organised by the ladies.

The men would probably be dressed in striped jackets, baggy trousers and straw hats, the ladies in blouses, long skirts and large hats, the little girls in ankle length dresses and the little boys in jumpers and knickerbockers.

A local band (probably from Bugbrooke) would begin the proceedings and set the mood and the races would be mainly for the children and fathers, possibly followed by an egg and spoon race for the mums, although they found it rather difficult to run in long skirts. Winners names would be taken after each race for the prize giving at the end of the afternoon.

At the interval the lancers from Weedon Deport would give a display of horsemanship including the spectacular attraction of tent pegging. A peg much the same as a tent peg but softer would be placed in the ground at the centre point. The lancer would mount his horse with his lance at his side, charge at the peg, picking it up with his lance and raising it above his head amid cheers from an enthusiastic crowd.

Prize giving would be the highlight of the afternoon, and the prizes would be something for the home, possibly linen or cutlery which would be acceptable to any family.

The band would play a finale and everyone would go home tired but well satisfied with the days event, and the day would be talked about for a long time.

*(Reprinted from Issue 3 of the Prattler dated January 1978)*  
*Shirley Collins*

# *Slimming world has changed my life*

Then



Now



I joined Slimming world because I was unfit and overweight. Never a slim person, my weight crept up and up until it simply became too much. Everything was suffering; especially my physical and mental health as well as my confidence.

I joined Slimming World in Weedon at the end of January 2023 with an interim target in my head - I wanted to shed 2 stones by the end of May for my godson's wedding and I did it with two weeks to spare. I've now lost 4 and a half stone and am wearing clothes 4 sizes smaller. Staying to group is key for me as the support it provides is invaluable. And I've made new friends and thoroughly enjoy myself in group.

I love being part of the Slimming World family so much that I decided to become a consultant so that I can help others achieve the same success. Slimming World supports people from all walks of life to eat healthy nutritious meals and still have room for our favourite snacks. If you're like me you enjoy a tipples, that can be accommodated by making simple changes and using your Syns.

Food Optimising is now a way of life, to me it's not a diet, it's a scientifically proven healthy way to eat. I don't have to be hungry as there's a list of 370 free foods that can be eaten in unlimited quantities, so it suits everyone's appetite.



touching hearts, changing lives

## *Is coming to Nether Heyford.*

Would you like to lose a stone or more by Christmas, the count down is on!

A brand-new group is starting on 23 September at the football club. A warm welcome awaits you from 7.00 o'clock. We'll start group at 7.30. Come along and experience 'operation joy'.

You'll find real support and real results through eating real food. You need never be hungry with Slimming World.

Watch out for the posters and leaflets which will provide more details and any upcoming offers.

If you would like more information, please give me a call (evening's preferred) or text me on 07703 386941 If I can't answer the phone leave me your name and number and I'll call you back. If you see me around the village, please say hello.

With very best wishes

*Vera*

*Your Consultant* (living in Nether Heyford)

Nether Heyford Football Club, Middle Street, near the allotments.

# 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

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**Contact: Lisa and Amy Hillyard**

**01327 828520 or**

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





## Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings  
Parties, Weddings, Business  
Meetings etc. Modern facilities,  
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**Bookings:** [nhvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:nhvhbookings@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com](http://www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com)

**Phone:** 01327-342167



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out more*





## In Nether Heyford

In future years will we look back onto the hot Summer of 2025 and compare it to other summers? "Remember the summer of 25..." Perhaps they will be equally hot. Personally, I feel that it is "too darn hot" just as the song says. I googled where those words came from and found that they were written by Cole Porter in 1948. Well, I was quietly shocked by the raciness of the song's lyrics. We won't be singing it (or will we?) at WI.

So, it's the beginning of term and we shall be back at the Village Hall on September 4<sup>th</sup> to welcome Elaine and William Portch who will tell us about "The Story of the National Garden Scheme"

The National Garden Scheme raises funds at privately owned gardens in towns and villages across the country, which open to the public for one or more days a year, charging for admission and selling tea and cake, and plants. All the money raised goes to support cancer nursing charities and gardens for health, recognising the restorative benefits of sitting in a garden whilst enduring long episodes of treatment in hospitals and hospices. Over £3.5 million was raised in 2024.

Many gardens open in Northamptonshire, and you don't have to travel far to spend a very gentle hour or two wandering around a village that you think you know, but in fact you don't, as you usually pass through it in a car. It is very heartening to appreciate all the work that ordinary gardeners put into getting their gardens ready for opening to the public. This summer, whilst wandering around a village open day, it was noticeable that most owners all said the same thing "it's a pity that you didn't see it a few weeks ago, it looked so much nicer" All the plants this year seem to have flowered early and then given up in the hot weather.

On Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> the WI is holding a coffee morning in the Village Hall from 10- 1 Come along and have a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Catch up with friends and perhaps buy something from local businesses. We look forward to welcoming you.

*Jane Wareing*  
01327 340875

netherheyfordwi1930@gmail.com

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# Heyford Allotments

## Dry, very, very dry!

A few words that sum up the long, hot summer that we are all experiencing in 2025. The long spells of hot sunny weather have no doubt been welcomed by those folk on holiday. Others who are picnicking, barbecuing or camping and those organising play schemes will also relish being outside as much as possible.

However, for allotmenters, and gardeners, whilst the long hot and very dry spell has been lovely for ripening crops, it has also been problematic to say the least!

Watering. How often? What time of day is best? Which plants take priority? And underpinning this, being mindful of excessive water use when such a precious resource is rapidly being reduced. And then of course the issue of preserving the few and rare drops of rain that fall from the sky! What is it about Heyford? Sometimes we think the rain deliberately passes us by.

## A plentiful harvest is still possible

Crops such as lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, beans and peas are thirsty plants and so need lots of watering, ideally to the roots and soil around, not to foliage where it rapidly evaporates. If you have watered such crops carefully and timely, you may now be experiencing exceptional yields in a truly bountiful harvest. The next question ... What to do with all those courgettes, tomatoes and cucumbers? Eating, cooking with, and enjoying such fresh, homegrown produce is pure delight and the taste far outweighs anything we buy in the supermarket. So how to use the excess, after sharing with friends, neighbours and family?

Soups, sauces and passata, cakes and traybakes, quiches and pies; produce bottled, pickled and frozen, even delicious homemade tzatziki – the recipe books and the internet are awash with creative ideas for using excess homegrown foods.

The harvest of crops from trees and bushes, which are more deep rooted and are therefore able to tap into a deeper source of water, have also been abundant this summer. Although the fruits are a little smaller in size. Having frozen and made many jars of jam from the various types of berries we grow, the next task has been 'assembling' and freezing summer puddings and pies, a messy activity but in the dark, cold days of winter, what joy it will be to feast on those all currants and berries!

## Warning

If you know anyone with a source of figs, as we fortunately do, then you will have experienced the joy of eating this Mediterranean crop, which like grapes, have been incredibly plentiful this year. However, before we all rush to grow more exotics, we must remember that whilst we cannot deny global warming is now a fact of life, it does not follow a strict timetable or predictable route. A cold and wet Winter or Spring is still a feature of our weather (in Heyford we had a particularly cold snap in April and May this year). Be warned; tender or exotic crops, sown or planted out too early will die! Who knows what 2026 will bring?

## Good Earth

It is very important that we care for and maintain the health of the plots we try to cultivate. The approaching seasons of Autumn, Winter and Spring are a really good opportunity to do this. Plenty of rich homemade compost added to the soil will enhance its water retention. Collecting and storing leaves for future use is a free resource that can be used as a mulch in the future. Sowing a green manure in unused spaces will enrich the quality of the earth for next year's crops.

## Water

Finally, save every drop of that all important resource, water. Site a water butt near a rooftop, be it house, shed, garage or greenhouse, for any rainwater runoff. It will ultimately help seedlings and young plants, as well as those tomatoes, cucumbers and courgettes for next summer!

## 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](mailto:lyndaeales@aol.com)

Mike and Jill Langrish, 28 Manor Park, Nether Heyford tel. 07879777802 email: [langrish\\_heyford@hotmail.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> September – Grumpy Old Men** by Steve Dimmer

Tales of “Grumpy Old Men” from our TV screens, including Tony Hancock and Victor Meldrew.

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



## View from the Nature Reserve

September is here already. 2025 seems to be passing very quickly. The main feature of this year has - and still is - the very severe drought we are experiencing just now. By the time this is published the drought could have broken. But its effects on our wildlife will be with us for the rest of this year and into 2026.

On the Reserve and in many other areas of light soil across the British Isles, deep rooted plants that have better access to groundwater have grown very well. Unfortunately, those with less deep roots have been - and still are - suffering, by being stunted, or even dying. It remains to be seen what the overall effect of the drought will be on our local wildlife which was already very stressed due to other, unrelated factors.

The short, fine leaved grasses that were taking over at the base of the large Knapweeds etc. and were expected to continue to form a base for our meadow flora, are now just a fine, brown straw on the ground. Maybe they had time to seed before dying.

Of course Nature has ways of handling the occasional drought. I remember the 1976 drought which was the last year when the weather was anything like that of this year. In those days, Cattle and sheep were grazed outside in much smaller fields than today. These fields were mostly bordered by hedges. Many farms in our area of South Warwickshire resorted to keeping their stock in yards and feeding them there due to the hungry animals repeatedly breaking through the hedges to find forage.

I note the National Beekeepers Association is warning members to be aware of losing bee colonies through starvation. I guess that if the weather is affecting Honey Bees, then other flower dependent insects will be similarly affected. Likewise the animals that predate these will also be struggling.

Lepidopterists put sugar solution on trees. Then count the insects that come to feed there. Maybe we could consider trying this on the reserve, and in our gardens too. But with a view to providing insects with food in the same way that we supply birds with seed. I'm sure there are manufactured sugar feeders available for just this purpose somewhere.

Here, in our garden we feed hedgehogs throughout the year. During the 2024/25 winter, there were only 3 weeks in January when no hedgehog food was taken. Our Hedgehogs usually ease off feeding in the Summer months as natural food increases. They have gone back to eating loads just now.

Whilst writing this, it occurred to me that we put out drinking water for birds and mammals in our garden 24 hours every day of the year. Would it be a good plan to supply this for the same on The Reserve? Or would we be feeding the Allotment Cats?

*Dave Musson*



## **Heyford Cricket Club**

The Summer has continued to be really enjoyable for everyone involved with the cricket club. Although the All Stars, Dynamos and Junior teams have now finished for the season, our 2 senior teams have enjoyed some really competitive matches during July and August.

The 1st XI has had a series of convincing victories despite missing several key players across a few games and are currently sitting 3rd in Division 3 of the Northants League. The only real disappointment was a heavy defeat to Great Houghton who are a place above us and our record now shows 6 defeats in 17 games. If results are kind to us and we manage to come away with the points from our game against top placed ONs, promotion at the end of the season is a real possibility.

The 2s have had less success in terms of victories but have 2 wins so far and, importantly, have been far more competitive than last season. Improved numbers of players at the club has meant that we have been able to fulfil all our fixtures so far this season and the seconds have enjoyed some really tight finishes. Both sides finish their seasons on September 20th.

We are still planning to have a Parents vs Kids fun game before the season ends. This is a great social afternoon with a bar and BBQ on the go and the date will be confirmed shortly. The weekend of September 27-28th also sees the annual club tour with a mix of players and club members looking forward to a long weekend in Portugal.

*Rob Pardon*  
*Chairman 07894 865194*



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*I guess he {John Dankworth} married me because he  
wanted a cheap singer. But what  
he got was an expensive wife*

*Improvisation is the heartbeat  
of jazz – and the freedom of  
the soul*  
**Dame Cleo Laine**

At aged 97 Cleo Laine passed away in her home in Wavendon last July. She was an icon of jazz and hailed as the UK's most celebrated jazz singer having the most incredible vocal range and wide musical repertoire. We are so fortunate to have her home 'The Stables' so near us with its tremendous range of concerts and musical talent and offering a vibrant learning and participation programme with workshops, courses and events for all ages and abilities aiming to make music accessible to everyone. For that alone we applaud Cleo and her husband John Dankworth but added to that was an amazing singer who will be very much missed.

We, at the Heyford Singers, have attempted jazz – not everyone's favourite in our Choir – but have managed to make a fairly good fist of 'And All That Jazz' and 'Don't Get Around Much Anymore'. It is very difficult getting the rhythms and timing right especially when we sing in four part harmony. This is where our Pianist, Graham Kinnersley, helps out on the piano, guiding us through the complicated chords...

We have just had our annual Choir Garden Party complete with ideal weather. As usual it was at our Musical Director's house and we thank Mary and Jeremy Rice for a lovely afternoon where we all caught up after the May Concert when we break for the summer. That seems a long time ago and now have been issued with our Christmas Concert music. As I write this the hot weather seems to have deserted us and there are Autumnal undertones arriving – chilly and wet. But as from September 5th we shall be back in our old routine, sitting in the same chairs, and singing in Christmas until we get it to perfection. Takes nearly four months!!

Ginny Griffiths (Primary School fame) kept our singing going throughout the summer with her sing-along sessions, based on different genres. August's was Musical Theatre and we sang with great pleasure the old favourites from The Phantom, West Side Story, Oliver and Cabaret. No parts, just singing in unison. Thank you Ginny for all of your hard work in photocopying the words and for arranging these musical get togethers. More please...!

So until next month when we shall have a good idea of where our Christmas Concert is going, I leave you with the date which is **Friday 12th December and Saturday 13th.**

And although not The Stables we have in common the enthusiasm and joy in music and both of us are non-profit making organisations.

*JRA*

# Big Plans, Bright Future: A New Era at Heyford Athletic FC

Something exciting is kicking off at Heyford Athletic Football Club - and this time, it's not just a game. After years of loyal service, the current clubhouse is set to be demolished, making way for a brand-new, modern facility that reflects the growth and spirit of our brilliant little village.

This isn't just about football. It's about building something special for everyone in Nether Heyford. From the Village Green to the Playing Fields Heyford Athletic has been part of village life for generations. Many will remember the days when matches were played right on the village green - at the very heart of Nether Heyford. That was our home before the club grew and moved to the playing fields, where it's flourished ever since. But while the location changed, the sense of pride and community remained exactly the same. More teams, more spirit. Fast forward to today, and Heyford Athletic is buzzing with life.

We're now home to more teams than ever, including youth sides and, for the first time, a women's team. Our fields are full every weekend, echoing with cheers, goals, and the unmistakable sound of muddy boots and grassroots determination. But here's the thing - we've outgrown our clubhouse. It's tired, outdated, and no longer meets the needs of the club or the wider community. **Time to build something brilliant - together.** That's why plans are now underway to create a brand-new clubhouse, designed not just for sport, but for the whole village. Think modern changing rooms, kitchen facilities, and a flexible, welcoming space where everyone - from the footballers to the cricketers, the netballers to the tennis club - can come together.

We want this space to also be a proper village hub. A place for birthday parties, wedding receptions, quiz nights, family gatherings, and community events. A place that brings people back together - like it used to. But we need you to make this dream a reality, we need the support of the people who make Nether Heyford so special - you. We're actively pursuing funding from the Football Association, the National Lottery, and other organisations, but this project won't happen without the backing of the village.

We're calling on volunteers to help us fund-raise. Ideas are already flying around for events - maybe an annual Family Fun Day, community raffles, sponsored challenges, or local business partnerships. If you can spare a little time, energy, or creativity, we'd love to hear from you. We also want your ideas: What would you like to see in the new clubhouse? What kind of events should we host? How can we make it a true asset for everyone in the village? And when the time comes, we'll be looking for local hands and hearts to help bring this project to life - because this isn't just a football club project. It's a Nether Heyford project.

Let's bring the village back together - let's build something brilliant. Let's create a legacy that generations to come can enjoy and be proud of. A space that represents

all that's great about our village: teamwork, community, and a bit of good old-fashioned Heyford spirit.

Want to get involved, share your ideas, or help us raise funds? Please get in touch - we'd love to hear from you.

Let's show what Nether Heyford can achieve, together.

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## Flore Arts Events

**Track Dogs:** Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> 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).

Box office has now opened for...

**De Parys Sextet:** Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm). All Saints Church, Flore.

We'll be hearing beautiful string music by Borodin (*String Sextet in D Minor*), Brahms (*String Sextet no. 2 in G Major*) and Mozart (*Grande Sestetto Concertante*) from some of the area's finest string players.

The De Parys line-up features Alex Collins and Alison Brown (violin), Hazel Farrow and Ben Phillips (viola) and Felicity Gibson and James Jarvis (Cello). This group of experienced orchestral musicians first came together for the Bella Ciao festival in Bedford last year, and we're delighted that they have now agreed to come to Flore to share their music with us.

Tickets: £15 (Under 18s £5); call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm). Also from Re, 2A Sutton St, Flore, NN7 4LE (during shop opening hours).

**Poetry Please:** Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this session will be "School Days", which probably doesn't need any further elaboration. As usual feel free to bring along any poem you would like to share, not necessarily related to the theme. Or just come and listen. Meet at the White Hart in Flore, 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

Our last event of the year will be in December: **Neil Richardson entertains: The West End comes to Flore:** Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Millennium Hall, Flore. Further information to follow.

Please keep watching this space for details - or keep up to date with our plans on our website at [www.floreartsevents.com](http://www.floreartsevents.com) and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page.

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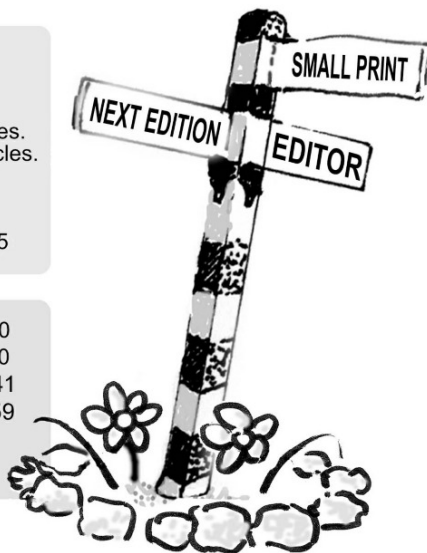
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