



# THE PRATTLER

## The Heyford Village Newspaper

October 2025

Issue 483

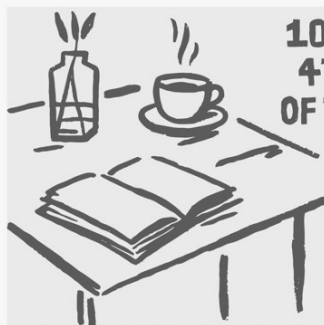
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## The Prattler

The Prattler is run by a 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. Articles can also be dropped through the door at Sunrise Cottage, 15 The Green.

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

If you would like to get involved, please email:

heyford\_prattler@yahoo.co.uk

You would be most welcome.

*Sue (Prattler Ed)*

  
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## **Sand & Gravel Extraction at Upper Heyford**

Upper Heyford Meeting and Nether Heyford Parish Council have now received official notice that the appeal against the refusal of the above development has been allowed. That is, sand and gravel extraction can go ahead at this site, subject to certain conditions being met as set out in the inspector's report. The full report can be found here:

<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?CaseID=3354897&CoID=0>

We are extremely disappointed at the outcome, despite not being surprised. This has been an allocated site on the county mineral plan for over two decades, and as such, this site carries a presumption of approval unless significant reasons can be shown to the contrary. Historic refusals have been based on highways issues as the site access came directly onto a busy A road, which was deemed unacceptable for the volume of heavy lorries. With the advent of the Flore bypass and the new roundabout that issue has been removed. The decision by WNC's strategic planning committee to refuse the application in June 2024 was based on the potential harms to immediate residents and the local environment based on substantive evidence gathered by volunteers' research and well-founded arguments. The applicant appealed against this decision, with that appeal being the subject of a formal hearing in June 2025, at which point WNC withdrew their refusal.

At the hearing, Upper Heyford Meeting and Nether Heyford Parish Council engaged a specialist barrister to help object to the appeal on a number of fronts. A number of local residents also spoke against the appeal, for which we thank them. However, without the support of the local planning authority this was always going to be an uphill struggle.

It is worth noting that after the hearing, the inspector walked the site, including the boundary adjacent to nearby residents, accompanied by a local resident, WNC and a developer's representative. The inspector's report is detailed and conclusive, setting out a range of conditions to mitigate potential harms, some of which must be fulfilled before work begins on site.

While some disturbance during the project is unavoidable, every effort will be made to minimise it. A local liaison group, including representatives from the community,

the planning authority, and the developer, will be established to ensure all conditions are met. Further details about this group will be provided in due course.

Upper Heyford Meeting and Nether Heyford Parish Council have challenged this latest application to the fullest extent possible, with volunteers dedicating substantial time to research and developing well-founded arguments, supported by professional legal advice. Our focus now is to ensure that all conditions are adhered to and that any potential harms are minimised throughout the life of the project.

## **Parish Council Notes**

The September 2025 meeting took place on the 1st of September at the Baptist Church Rooms.

**West Northants Councillor report** Cllr PB reported that the “Road to Nowhere” had finally opened, but felt that there were still issues to be addressed at the junction with the A4500. He referred to the delineation of the Flore bypass in response to the accidents.

**Public Participation** Steve Corcoran addressed the meeting on the subject of a Flooding Relief Plan. As a firefighter he had been involved with flooding responses for many years and felt that there should be resources and volunteers to be used should the need arise again. The Village Hall had been approached regarding a site for a secure shed to hold sand, sandbags, hi viz clothing etc. A What’s App group had already been formed. SC stressed that they were not trying to replace the emergency services. The Chair thanked SC for his efforts.

**Gravel Extraction appeal report** The planning Inspectorate had allowed the appeal against the refusal of permission for a sand and gravel quarry at Junction 16 of the M1. Council had still not had any official notification, so it is not yet known what conditions have been imposed. The Inspector has done his job; his report is with WNC who will release it with their official letter.

The new roundabout, with easy access to the Flore bypass, is felt to have played a major part in the appeal being successful. Mick George has a community fund for directly affected parishes.

**Road/Pedestrian safety** CL felt that all of the roads leaving the village were unsafe for both pedestrians and cyclists, and there were hedges that scratched cars should they need to pass. He feels the bridge over the Nene needs better signage.

**Flooding Issues** Resolved Council to fund the purchase of a metal shed (to be sited next to the village hall, appropriate boots) and sets of Hi-Viz clothing.

It was felt that the village hall, or the Community Lounge should be opened in the event of another flood.

**Playing Field and Village Hall reps** – Resolved. LI to become Council representative for the Village Hall. JL to become Council representative for the Playing Fields.

**Planning** AW reported that the Neighbourhood Plan runs until 2029. It has two parts. Part 1 is land use and is legally binding. Part 2 is all the village aspirations. AW distributed information about the various plans and asked councillors to look at how they might be involved. He would be happy to discuss anything on the list of projects.

**Infrastructure** It had been established that the Parish Council had no involvement in the placing of white lines outside disabled residents' houses. This was down to highways.

**Chicane** AW and IP had met with Keir engineers to establish the correct site for the chicane – but IP felt that the map sent subsequently was wrong. AW to contact Keir.

IP is still hopeful that the canal path can be paved, but it will not be this year.

**Electric charging points** It was felt that there would be difficulties in having charging points on lamp posts with regard to cost and insurance, and not least because there would not be sufficient power.

**Community** Resolved. £100 to be given towards Welcome pack costs.

**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/>

<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
Louise Isgar. louiseisgar@gmail.com	Village Hall Rep.
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. Finance.
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. 07702 701862	Councillor
C. Leggett chriseurolog@outlook.com	Councillor
J. Leggett justineeurolog@outlook.com	Play Area rep.
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 Meetings: Monday Oct 6th & Nov 3rd at the Baptist Church rooms.**



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

### Services for October 2025

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion and Harvest at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	10:00 am	Morning Worship at Flore Chapel
	4:00 pm	Café Church Harvest at Heyford Church Rooms

### 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 October we shall be praying for people living in The Green in Nether Heyford, for the Bliss Charity Primary School, for the shops, and for all the activities in the Village Hall and the Baptist Church Rooms. In Flore, we pray for people living on Hillside Road and Flore Hill. We pray for the Main Street and School Rooms in Church Stowe, and for Manor Farm, the Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

Over the recent August bank holiday, Deborah and I spent a couple of nights in Nottingham to celebrate our wedding anniversary. As we drove into the city on the Brian Clough Way, we noticed lots of England flags hanging from lampposts. As we drove home, we watched someone hanging a flag on one of the bridges over the M1. Apparently, the appearance of England flags and Union flags is something of a phenomenon in some parts of the country, prompting several articles on the BBC News website. Flags are being hung from lampposts and England flags painted on mini-roundabouts and zebra crossings. Apparently, there are funding pages raising money to buy the flags and groups of men going around hanging them in public places.

As you might imagine, there are questions about vandalism, about the dangers of hanging the flags and distracting drivers, about the costs of removing flags hung without permission, and so on. There are questions too, about the motivation behind the hanging these flags. Are they there as a show of support for the Lionesses in the UEFA Women's Football Championship, or the Red Roses in the Rugby World Cup? Are they expressions of pride, patriotism and love for this country? Or are they expressions of nationalism, of superiority over other nations and nationalities? Are they hung to make some groups feel uncomfortable and unwelcome, as has been suggested? I don't know the answer to that question of motivation. I suspect there are a range of purposes at play, yet I feel uncomfortable with what's going on. I pray that this is about bringing a little pride and joy in hard times. Yet somehow, these flags feel ominous.

What I do know, however, is that at the centre of the Union Flag and the flag of England there is a cross. A cross that reminds us that sacrificial love should shape our values. This love goes out of its way to forgive, to serve, to welcome, and to reach out to the whole world with compassion and mercy and kindness. The cross, of course, reminds us of Jesus, the Son of God, who died once for the sins of all the world. In his death and resurrection, Jesus brought forth his kingdom – one that transcends nations and frontiers to be truly global. The signs of this kingdom are not division or disconnection, conflict or confrontation, but peace and justice, joy and comfort, healing and wholeness.

So, reminded by the cross at the heart of the flags being flown, I pray that our lives, and the lives of our churches, our communities and our nation will be rooted in sacrificial, self-giving love once again. For that's where our hope lies.

With every blessing,

*Rev Stephen (Tel 01327 344436)*



## **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

## **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.



## Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> October 10:30 - 11:30 am	Pastor Lee leading <i>Chapel</i>	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 10:30 - 11:30 am	Pastor Lee leading <i>Chapel</i>	Harvest Service
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 4:00 - 5:00 pm	Pastor Lee leading <i>Chapel</i>	Harvest Songs of Praise + refreshments
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 11:00 am - 1:00 pm	'Winter warmer' <i>'Friendship Hall'</i>	Free soup and roll
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 10:00 - 11:00 am	<i>Bible Study</i> <i>'Friendship Hall'</i>	'Psalm 4'
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 10:30 - 11:30 am	Allan Pope leading <i>Chapel</i>	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 10:00 - 12:00 pm	Book Sale <i>'Friendship Hall'</i>	Free refreshments
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 10:30 - 11:30 am	<i>Martin Buckby leading</i> <i>Chapel</i>	

### Harvest Service at Nether Heyford Baptist Church

As the fields are gathered in and the trees begin to turn, we're reminded of the quiet gifts that surround us, the food on our tables, the friendships we cherish, and the grace that carries us through each season. Harvest is a time to pause, reflect, and give thanks.

We warmly invite you to join us for our **Harvest Thanksgiving Services** on **Sunday 12th October**, at **10.30am** and **4.00pm**, here at **Nether Heyford Baptist Church**. Both services will be relaxed and welcoming, with hymns, prayers, and reflections suitable for all ages.

Whether you're a regular, a neighbour, or simply curious, you'll be most welcome. There will also be tea and cake afterwards.

As part of our thanksgiving, we'll be collecting donations:

**Any financial gifts** will go to support the work of **Operation Agri**, helping communities around the world grow food, build resilience, and flourish.

**Tinned and non-perishable food** will be donated to **The Hope Centre** in Northampton, supporting those facing hardship closer to home.

Let's come together to celebrate the goodness of God, the beauty of the season, and the strength of our village community.

With every blessing,

**Pastor Lee**



## **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](http://www.NetherHeyford.Church)**



## **Upper Heyford Parish Meeting**

**Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7:30pm**

Hipwells (along from Totebox), Upper Heyford

Agenda to include; Planning Applications, AOB, next meeting

All Upper Heyford Residents welcome

Items for AOB please email me Mrs Sian Slater (Chair) to: [UHparish@gmail.com](mailto:UHparish@gmail.com) or drop me a note through the door.

Mrs Sian Slater  
UHPM Chair

I have just received my edition of the Prattler.

I am astonished at the comment by the PCSO about the immigrants coming into the village and efforts to educate them as to British Sensibilities.

Everyone deserves to be part of a community, where did kindness and caring for others go as we are told this is a kind welcoming village

*Trudi*

## Astronomy on the Green

This month, an update on a planet that has interested us for centuries. The red planet Mars. The reason for this is the latest findings suggesting more strongly that life may have existed there at one time. This life in our terms would be very rudimentary as the conditions needed to support life waned billions of years ago.

In common with most of the planets, Earth and Mars formed in the solar system around 4.5 billion years ago. Early in their formation, both had fluid cores. However, the core of Mars solidified 500 million years after its formation. The effect of this was that the equivalent of Earth's Van Allen belts degraded. In our case, the motion of the Earth's molten metallic core generates a set of strong magnetic belts.

All stars generate a stream of particles that irradiate out into space. The Sun has just such a 'solar wind' capable of stripping the atmospheres from planets. The Van Allen belts protect us from the wind, keeping our atmosphere stable. Mars lost this type of protection, and we can still detect the effect as gases stream away behind the planet. Mars still has a residual atmosphere, along with clouds, but it is much less dense than Earth's.

Besides the solar wind, the Sun emits ultraviolet radiation. A dense atmosphere blocks UV. Because of the high energy of that wavelength, it is very damaging to life. These factors would eventually eradicate life on Mars. NASA's robotic probes have been detecting signs of ancient rivers with rounded pebbles; these confirm that water flowed freely on the planet's surface at some past time. Water is, in our understanding, a requirement for life.

Scientists have detected organic carbon and certain minerals in Martian rock samples that, together, point toward chemical reactions that on Earth are often driven by living things. The key findings come from a region named Bright Angel, in what was once a watery environment: ancient river/lake sediments in the Neretva Vallis/Jezero crater system. What's new here is that multiple lines of evidence converge: presence of organic carbon; minerals (vivianite, greigite) that form under redox conditions (the reduction or oxidation of substances).

In addition, the conditions locally at the time were low temperature, so the 'biomarkers' were not mimicked by high temperature reactions such as volcanic episodes. We cannot be certain of having found 'life' until the samples are returned to Earth. If we have found life within our solar system, then the chances are it will be commonplace in the galaxy and cosmos.

It looks as if we are not alone.

Clear skies.

*Tony Boufle*



**Heyford Picturedrome**

**NEXT FILM**

# **THE APARTMENT**

**Winner of five Oscars  
1960 Comedy/Drama directed and produced by  
Billy Wilder**

**Cast includes: Jack Lemon, Shirley MacLaine  
and Fred McMurray**

**NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

**7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**ADMISSION: £6.00**

**CC Baxter, a clerk in an insurance company, lends out his apartment  
to executives for extramarital affairs.  
However, complications arise ...**

**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)

### View from the Chair

I hope that you all had a pleasant summer and are looking forward to the autumn/winter season. The hall Committee have recently met to carry on with the business of administering the running of the hall and planning our forthcoming events.

The next event will be the Harvest Feast which is a popular, not for profit evening which this year will take place on 24th October. It is a fabulous opportunity to meet with other villagers and enjoy a very high quality meal and fabulous company. There is also a raffle.

This years menu will be:

#### **Starter**

Antipasti with Charcuterie (with a vegetarian option)

#### **Main course**

Roast Loin of Pork or Chicken in a Thyme Cream Sauce (also a Vegetarian option)  
All served with vegetables

#### **Dessert**

Lemon Possett or Fruit Salad

Cheeseboard Platter

This is all for £25 per head.

Booking is essential and all enquiries and bookings should be sent to our Treasurer Mrs Lynn Adey by email at [lynnnhvhtreasurer@gamil.com](mailto:lynnnhvhtreasurer@gamil.com)

If you are unable to email please pop a note in the village hall post box with your phone number and someone will telephone you.

We will also be having the annual Panto as a matinee performance on 28 December. This has been a very popular event performed by a professional travelling theatre company. Again we try to keep the price as low as possible to allow families to enjoy this between Christmas and New Year. Details of the performance and the prices will be published soon.

Finally, the Trustees are currently working with the flood Warden, Steve Corcoran and the Parish Council to establish emergency flood relief equipment storage at the hall. More details of this will emerge throughout its planning but I am sure you will agree with me that it will be a tremendous benefit to the village to have this resource available in times of need. Again please look at our Facebook page to keep informed.

*Carol Tuckley*

*Chair of the Trustees*

## **Keith MacIntosh**

Very sadly, our son Keith died suddenly in Chamonix, France, on 20 August 2025, aged 51.

It has been a great comfort to us to have had the expressions of sympathy and support from all our friends and neighbours in the Heyford area - and further afield too. We wanted you all to know how grateful we are for your kindness and thoughtfulness which have helped to ease our present pain.

Keith has been cremated in France, not far from the mountains he loved. He had a very active and fulfilling life and his positive influence on other people around the world is very clear from the messages we've received so far. We plan to organise a memorial event to celebrate his life in London in November. If anyone needs more detail about this event and wishes to attend in person or remotely, please let us know.

With grateful thanks to all.

*Margaret and Peter*



## **Heyford Picturedrome – looking ahead again**

I know this will produce groans – talking about Christmas in September – as bad as the shops!

However, this is to give you advance notice that tickets for our annual film and supper evening on 18<sup>th</sup> December will be on sale at our October and November meetings.

The film will be 'The Thursday Murder Club' starring Helen Mirren, Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley and Celia Imrie.

For further information contact Alwyne on 01327 340803.

Details of the October film evening are elsewhere in this edition.

## **Heyford Past – The Village Hall**

In 1938, the Parish Council were asked by the Women's Institute about the possibility of a Village Hall. At that time, it was considered impracticable owing to the enormous costs involved in funding a project on that scale. However by 1945, the then Chairman of the Parish Council put on record that a Village Hall would be desirable and a committee was formed to raise funds.

In 1949 a site had been decided upon at the top side of the Green and the District Valuer was asked to value the plot, which he did at £25. Volunteer labour was recruited to take on the formidable task of building the hall. The total cost of the project was estimated at £2,938 of which £1,500 was raised by dances, socials whist drives and fetes over a number of years. The Ministry of Education contributed a grant of £1,368.

Work began in the summer of 1958 when the site which was formerly farmland was cleared. Bert Thorneycroft co-ordinated the voluntary labour which came from people of all occupations, and the prefabricated hall quickly took shape.

### **Condensed diary of the building work**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 1958** - work begins - Clearing site, Moving Hardcore

**September** - Foundations

**October** - Damp course, hardcore

**November** - floor

**December** - erecting building

**January 1959** - removing earth from front of building – hard frost delayed work for a weekend

**February** - Glazing, guttering and roofing

**April** - Electrics, Roof lining, Erecting partitions and stage flooring

**October** - drain laying, site cleaning, Interior painting, Electrics, Urinals, bricklaying in Men's Cloakroom

**December** - Floor tiling, Electrics, Fixing toilet cisterns and basin brackets, Path at front of building

**January 1960** - Flooring, Electrics, preparing toilets for plumbing, painting, Door hanging and carpentry in annexes

**March** - Flooring, painting, water heater, boarding to stage, shelving in kitchen, soakaway in SW corner of building

**April** - emergency exit doors, fitting cooker, painting, paving slabs to end of building, footings for front wall, pointing concrete step, raising inspection chambers, laying hardcore to car park

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 1960** Nether Heyford Village Hall was officially opened by Viscount Althorp with not one penny having been spent on labour.

**The Volunteers:** Mr & Mrs H Adams, D Agnew, R Bailey, Mr & Mrs Banner, Mr & Mrs Beck, George Blencowe, Joe Blencowe, Ken Boyes, Eileen Boyes, M Boyson, O Bubb, H Charvill, Keith Clarke, Fred Clements, Reg Collins, C Copson, Don Denny, W Denny, John Draper (drawings), T Eales, J Faulkner, Ralph Faulkner, Stan Faulkner, Tim Frost, Fred Goodman (Sen), R Harrison, R Hartgrove, A Haynes, C Haynes, E Jones, Danny Kemp, R King, Peter Kingston, J Kirkton, C Lack, G Lee, Bill Lee, Bert Lilley, Charlie Masters, L Massingham, H Matthews, Joe Matthews, G Mead, J Milner, W Nicholls, D Norrie, Fred Partridge, Frank Pearson, Ernie Quarterman, Bill Quelch, Frank Reeve, Don Spokes, Sonny Thompson, Mr & Mrs Bert Thorneycroft, David Ward, E Wright

(Apologies if I've omitted anyone or misspelt their names)

*Sue Boutle*



## Heyford Bowls Club

The Outdoor Bowls season is now closed. For the second season in succession our Monday night team left it to the last match to retain their place in Division 3, beating Daventry 42-34, at times "snatching defeat from the jaws of victory" (Geoff Allen quote). Our two Captains, Geoff and Liz, were happy with the attendance at our friendly matches, our green bowled well and only one game cancelled due to bad weather, breaking even on wins, making this a very good season all round.

The finals weekend went well so congratulations to all the winners and our Gala Day on 7<sup>th</sup> September was a lot of fun with a range of fancy dress outfits (check out our website for a laugh). The fancy dress was won by Carol Tuckley as a Sheik and the Australian Pairs competition by Peter McLean and Marion Cooper. On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October we are having a Race Night at the club so the horses are in training and the jockeys on a diet. During the winter months we meet on Friday night about 6 o'clock for a short-mat roll-up in the clubhouse, and a drink, to which anyone is welcome.

The Short Mat section with Rosemary at the helm, ably assisted by Jan, continue to meet every Wednesday throughout the year at 2pm and 7pm in the village hall, so why not come and watch or have a go. The Men's Doubles match on 13<sup>th</sup> September went well with Mick Collins and Gil Gugleilmi taking the trophy, and our Mixed Pairs competition is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October so names on the board in the village hall if you want to take part. Spectators are welcome to watch, buy a raffle ticket or enjoy a cup of tea and one of Rosemary's home made cakes.

Why not come along and try something new during the winter months and enjoy the fun and social life of the Bowls Club. Nobody is too young or too old for this game.

*Shirley Collins*  
**shirleybcollins@hotmail.com**

## Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Our October meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> is a social evening with a talk by Lee Berrill. Before that on the 10<sup>th</sup> a Fashion Show. Tickets £7 to include a glass of wine available from Maria Owen 01327 341 783. Both events to take place at the village hall.

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## In Nether Heyford

What a bonus it is to have some lovely sunny autumn days. All the sunshine with less of the heat. The countryside looks amazing and our garden flowers are having one last push to put on a display.

Our last meeting had a horticultural slant, when we listened to the story of the National Garden Scheme. Enthusiastic volunteers organise garden openings across the country. "Opening the gates to the nation's most gorgeous gardens" Northants had the most village openings (where several gardens are open in one village) showcasing some of our beautiful villages which are hidden away from the tourist trails. In all there were 68 different gardens open in the county ranging from cottage gardens to allotments and community projects.

The history of the National Garden Scheme was fascinating as it originated in Liverpool in 1859 when William Rathbone a Liverpool merchant, philanthropist and later an MP, employed a nurse to look after his wife in her final illness. After his wife's death, he retained the nurse so that the people in Liverpool who could not afford to pay for nursing would benefit from care in their homes. Seeing the good that nursing in the home could do, he worked with Florence Nightingale to develop the service.

The service and training grew over the next 30 years but in order for it to develop nationally it needed more money. In 1927 a well to do society hostess, Elsie Wagg came up with the idea of persuaded her friends to open their gardens to people 'for a shilling a head'. Consequently, the Garden scheme was founded and carries on to this day raising money for nursing charities.

At WI we try to offer a wide range of talks during the year so it is quite a leap from the National Garden Scheme to 'The History of Chocolate', but there we are. On Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup> we are welcoming Carl Whitmore will talk about something that most people can appreciate.

Carl tells me that "Chocolate has been described as being sensual, decadent and forbidden. No other food stuff is described in this way, so what is the story behind it and how have we arrived at this image? He will take us through its arrival in Europe, the Cadbury family and the famous TV adverts. There might well be some to taste. A talk guaranteed to stimulate the brain along with your taste buds. Come along, you will be most welcome.

*Jane Wareing*  
01327 340875

netherheyfordwi1930@gmail.com

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# Heyford Allotments

It has rained!

It is a long time since we have been able to say that, but what a difference a drop of water from the sky makes to what we grow.

However, as I have written many, many times in these articles, we are going to have to learn to cope with growing things that don't feel and benefit from the rainfall that we've perhaps taken for granted.

So here are some ideas to help us cope with this phenomenon. All is not lost and the joy we get from growing our own fruit and veg, as well as the completely different taste of homegrown food that hasn't been treated with all manner of chemicals, can still be yours.

Whilst recently on holiday, we ate some salad vegetables as part of a café meal. They tasted of ... nothing – just water and pulp. At this time of the year the tomatoes should have tasted of sunshine! But this meal was bland, and I fear we are in danger of taking this as normal.

## Working with the weather

Climate change presents significant challenges for gardeners, but with proactive planning and adaptive techniques, it is possible to maintain a productive and resilient garden.

By understanding your local climate, maintaining soil health, conserving water, choosing resilient plant varieties, creating microclimates, managing pests sustainably, diversifying crops, and remaining flexible, as well as recycling and going peat-free, you can ensure your garden thrives in the face of climate change.

By embracing and implementing these strategies, gardeners can mitigate climate change's impacts and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient food system. As our environment continues to evolve, so too must our gardening practices, ensuring that we can continue to enjoy homegrown vegetables for generations to come.

As individual gardeners, we can't do much on a global scale, but collectively, if we all do our bit, we can help to lessen the impact and improve the health of our soils and ourselves.

Every drunk will sober up in a burning building - well, the building is ablaze, it's time we all sobered up.

(with thanks to Growmad for their excellent and informative gardening advice)

## Give it a go

If you fancy rising to the challenge of “growing your own”, we have a few vacant plots on the allotment site, large and small and none of them expensive to rent. Most of these 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.

### 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*

## 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

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> October – Kinky Boots**  
by Steve Pateman

From a small factory in Earls Barton to Broadway, New York; this is the true story behind Kinky Boots.

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

Where have our birds gone to ? Earlier in the year we had a flock of 30+ House Sparrows in our garden tending their nest-boxes ready for next year. Then there were Starlings eating the food I put out for them, then raiding the Sparrows food and anything else they could get their beaks into. There were Dunnocks, Robins etc. Now we have a deafening silence. and I think that, for the first time in my life, it is normal to watch the sky for a few minutes without seeing one bird. Maybe by the time you read this they will all return and our gardens will come alive again.

I have recently been walking around the nature reserve, taking stock of the different habitats that are developing there, whilst planning work that needs to be completed before Winter sets in. Severe drought has killed some of our grasses and it is obvious our meadow areas have been taken over by Greater Knapweed. The question is -: Is this a problem or just a part of the natural development of the habitat we are seeking to create?

I am in touch with other individuals and organisations who are managing similar projects - mostly much larger than ours. It seems this is almost a universal UK phenomenon with light soil this year. The deep rooted Knapweed is accessing water too deep down for meadow grasses to reach. Thus deep rooted plants flourished whilst shallow rooted perished. If we are to have a self sustainable flora and fauna, we need to allow it to develop in a self sustainable manner.

We planned the patches to replicate the species rich hay meadows of the past. For now, we will cut everything to 75mm and remove the cuttings as usual. The weather next season will decide what will do well and what won't and insects etc. will flourish according to the habitat created.

The plentiful Ivy in the roadside hedge will be in full flower by the time you read this. In fact here are plenty of flying insects feeding on nectar there right now. Among these are Ivy Bees (*Colletes hederæ*). First appearing in the UK in 2001, Ivy Bees are a relatively new species in the UK. They nest in colonies which consist of lots of single holes dug in loose soil or grass. In fact you may well find a colony on your lawn. Thankfully, they are reported to be very reluctant to sting and the sting is said to be about as painful as a weak nettle sting. You may also see these bees flying around from hole to hole. It's likely these will be males (which have no sting) looking for females to mate with. Ivy bees can easily be confused with the Honey bees who are also very keen to get the nectar from Ivy flowers. So, if you have a lot of small bees on your lawn, they will be Ivy bees who don't sting rather than Honey bees who do.

It's well worth watching the insects feeding on Ivy flowers. You may even see a Humming Bird Hawk moth. These large day flying Moths are very distinctive darting

from flower to flower reaching down to suck nectar up through their long tongue. There seem to be quite a few around this year. They will be on the wing till they succumb to the colder temperatures of Autumn.

*Dave Musson*



## **Heyford Cricket Club**

The cricket club's senior team season ended on 20th September with a victory over Old which left the 1st XI clinching promotion with a 2nd place finish in Division 3. This is a fantastic result for the team, who started the season with several new recruits and a new skipper in Josh Bastin.

The 1s won 13 of their 22 matches this season and, despite a couple of heavy defeats along the way, heads never dropped and we look forward to the challenge of Div 2 next year. Morale also remained high for the 2nd XI despite a challenging year which saw the team relegated from Division 9. The fact that we completed all of our fixtures this year despite selection issues was a victory in itself and, with more recruitment during the winter, we hope the 2s will continue to enjoy their cricket in Div 10 in 2026. Thanks to both Josh and Chris Peck for their efforts ensuring we got 2 teams out each week.

The junior term ended earlier in the summer with U12, U13 and U15 teams playing throughout the season. These teams often included players from younger age groups who were competing against older opponents and we hope this will set them up well for next year. In addition to this, the club fielded a new U11 team made up of both boys and girls which played later in the season and won 2 of their 3 fixtures. We are grateful as always for the help of the team managers for their hard work so a big thank you to Graham McKechnie (U15s), Roger Kitching (U13s), Ian Matthews (U12s) and Stuart Hemmington (U11s) and also to Mike Coomber, James Beale and Simon Adkins for their support.

The All Stars and Dynamos also had a fun season earlier in the year and thanks to David Baker and Simon Lee for heading this up and to other club members who lent a hand along the way.

It is nice to be able to report that our village club finishes the season in a better place than this time last year. This is largely due to the efforts of the many volunteers who give so much time to ensure that both facilities and opportunities are available to all and, of course, to the generosity of the village who supported the club and helped us to get it back on its feet. The new equipment we have purchased over recent months along with a lot of hard work has allowed Darren Bastin to continue to develop our square into one of the best around. We all look forward to pushing on again in 2026.

*Rob Pardon Chairman 07894 865194*

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[www.heyfordsingers.org](http://www.heyfordsingers.org)

*The only thing better than singing -  
is more singing*  
**Ella Fitzgerald**

*Where words fail, music speaks*  
**Benjamin Disraeli**

We are back!! Thirty eight of us were in the Village Hall on September 5th for our first rehearsal along with two potential new members – a Tenor and a Soprano. Hopefully they will join us full time – they certainly seemed to enjoy it and will bring a great benefit to us. Many thanks to our Pianist Graham for finding another man...

Mary Rice, our Musical Director, took us through the potential pieces for the Christmas Concert in a whistle stop tour of the music and we certainly made our feelings known if there was a tune that we didn't like... Some music just doesn't 'gel' with our choir: we have to like what we are singing and some arrangements involve too much 'going back and forth' to make an enjoyable experience. And besides that – we get lost very easily.

The Christmas season starts very early for us – rather like the supermarkets – and we have quite a few rehearsals booked until December, but we know from bitter experience that if we don't take this part of the year seriously, our singing won't be up to scratch for the Concert. It's hard work all the way and with still only four bass singers and six tenors who have to meld with the soprano and alto parts, they have to punch their weight in no uncertain terms! And what a difference their voices make when they come in – the piece becomes complete. We are always surprised that so few men can make such a difference. So, if you are reading this gentlemen and like to sing – whatever age you are – please come along. Although it helps to read music you don't have to. Many of our long standing members have never read music but quickly learn 'on the hoof'. Our youngest member is at primary school so sadly is too young at the moment to join us permanently so has to bottle his singing ability until the Christmas Concert. But what a little star he is – showing that enthusiasm for singing can start very young. Long may it continue.

Our younger members also are rallying round with the logistics of the choir with a catering committee now in full swing and standing in as drivers for those who cannot get to Nether Heyford - and being on hand generally. A big 'thank you' to them.

So we shall carry on practising every week, endeavouring to get our Christmas spirit message across in December, remembering the famous quote (slightly changed) - 'To sing a wrong note is insignificant; to sing without passion is inexcusable'.

*JRA*



## Heyford Athletic Football Club

We are forging ahead with the plans for the new clubhouse and dressing rooms suite at the playing fields.

We have the various clubs in the PFA helping with fund raising and already people from the village are offering help, like Jez Wilson, the Hairdressers and others, we will be having a meeting very soon. Please do not hesitate to get on board, we are doing this for the now, the future of the villagers and sport, your children, grandchildren etc.

The clubhouse is in a rapidly deteriorating state, the dressing rooms would not meet the regulations for step 7 football, if the 1st team got relegated they could not get back up even if they won division one every season.

Also we desperately need someone who can do our social media, a great chance for someone who has the ability to show their skills.

We would also like a club photographer who could take photos of our various teams and work alongside the person doing social media to help raise the clubs profile, and to keep a pictorial record of the current club, it's condition, the new build etc.

We would like more people from the village to get involved as well. As apart from a couple of youth coaches, some youth players think there is not actually anyone in the village involved in the club, which we think is a crying shame.

If you can and would like to be involved please contact the club via 07901 534609 or [heyfordath96@yahoo.com](mailto:heyfordath96@yahoo.com).

Also huge congratulations to Heyford Cricket Club 1st 11 for gaining promotion, well done gents - superb season.





## Heyford Athletic Football Club

### Assistant Manager Wanted

Heyford Athletic Football Club are looking for a committed and enthusiastic Assistant Manager to join our coaching team. We are a friendly, ambitious club with a strong community spirit with a new clubhouse and 6 dressing room suite in the planning stage and we do not intend to stop there. We want someone who can help us take the teams to the next level.

The role:

- Support the Manager in planning and delivering training sessions.
- Assist with team selection, match day preparation, and in-game management.
- Motivate and develop players across the squad.
- Help drive a positive culture on and off the pitch.

We're looking for someone who:

- Has a passion for football and player development.
- Brings good communication and organisational skills.
- Can work closely with the Manager and coaching staff.
- Ideally has some coaching experience (FA coaching badges a bonus but not essential). We will put you through any levels you want to go for

This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to be part of an ambitious, hardworking, and supportive club environment.

Based in Heyford, Northamptonshire, just across from junction 16 of the M1

Adult football

To apply or find out more ring the Chairman on 07901 534609



## Flore Arts Events

**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).

**Neil Richardson entertains - The West End to Broadway:** Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm (doors open 7pm). Millennium Hall, Flore. If you came to Neil's show in 2023 you'll know that we can expect familiar songs performed by a consummate professional. Neil is an experienced entertainer who will be bringing us a programme of favourites from the West End and Broadway Musical Theatre repertoire including *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Jersey Boys*.

We think this will be a great way to get your Christmas season off to a cheery start in a convivial bistro-style setting. We're including your first drink and a selection of cheese with your ticket. Box office now open: tickets £15. Call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm).

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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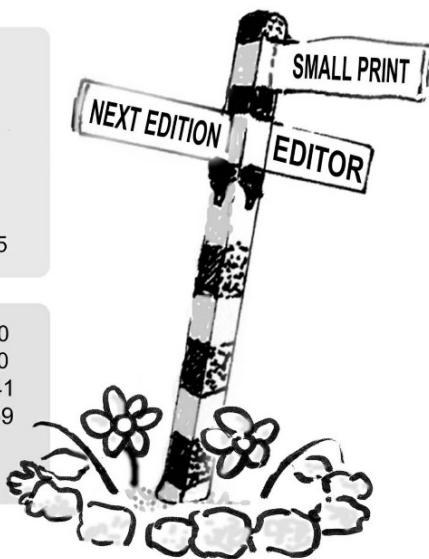
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