



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

December 2025/January 2026

Issue 485

THE Heyford SINGERS
Come and join us for

The Parish Church of
St Peter and St Paul



Carols
on the
Green
(At the Pub)



Sing in Christmas!
Wednesday
December 17th
At 7.00pm
In the Garden of
The Forester's Arms,
The Green,
Nether Heyford.



Food Available from
The Burger Van

NOTE OUR NEW TIME AND VENUE

**BUCKET COLLECTION FOR HEYFORD SINGERS AND THE
PARISH CHURCH PLEASE BRING A TORCH AND SOME CASH!**

The Prattler

The Prattler is run by a voluntary committee comprising of Sue and Tony 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.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all.. The next Prattler will be published on 1 Feb 2026.

Sue (Prattler Ed)

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

Residents will be all too aware that we have just had a “near miss” as far as flooding goes. Fortunately, the heavy rain relented in time to spare us on this occasion. Thanks to Steve Corcoran and the flood prevention team for their vigilance and readiness to react to the situation. Thanks also to Iain Isgar – (Green Landscape Services- from Nether Heyford Village) and Chris Cheney – (Bec Aggregates from Weedon at the Barracks) for providing the sand and sandbags, and to all those involved in filling them.

West Northants Councillor report - Cllr PB reported that visits to recycling centres must now be booked.

The new café at Heyford Hills is being looked at with regard to change of use requirements.

Public Participation - Mrs Gugliemi complemented the council on how well the grass had been cut this year, and on how polite and helpful the mower operative had been to her.

WNC Parish Conference - LH and the Clerk reported that WNC were making a real effort to be approachable and transparent, and that there were encouraging developments regarding highways, a charter, and the development of a full planning team (as opposed to contractors).

Road signs at bottom of Furnace Lane - KMC felt that it was unclear who had the right of way and that road markings and signs needed revising. IP felt that a “Stop” rather than a “Give Way” sign would be more appropriate on Weedon road. Parking was also felt to be an issue, as many drivers clearly do not know who has the right of way. Clerk to contact WNC.

Flooding Issues - LI reported that more sandbags had been processed, although no storage had been secured as yet. It was felt that some more publicity was required although there is a WhatsApp group for key volunteers. There was discussion as to whether a siren would be appropriate, but it was felt that the flooding “hotspots” were known. A storage container was being sought, and a budget would be prepared for the precept meeting. The chair suggested that some practice runs would be helpful before the winter weather reaches us.

PCSO - Resolved. To renew the contract on the same terms.

Parking on the pavement - DM felt that this had become more prevalent and that the council should endeavour to prevent it from blocking footpaths. Council has no powers regarding this issue, and it is not illegal unless the footpath is obstructed, in which case the police should be contacted. Resolved. Residents to be asked to be considerate, in the next Prattler issue.

Reports

Environment. CAN Champion - (Climate and Nature Champion Scheme). DM to take on. DM reported a crash in bird numbers locally. Pollarding has begun on the Limes on the North side of the Green.

Wellbeing - PCSO report highlighted online and phone scams, as well as drug-based activity. KMS reported that there would be a fire safety talk at the Community Lounge and felt that another fraud talk should be arranged. There had been a good uptake for flu jabs at Bugbrooke surgery. The chair thanked KMS for her posts on Facebook.

Infrastructure - IP reported that the Chicane installation date has yet to be confirmed and that the SID battery needed changing every 6 days. A sign on A5/Furnace Lane Junction had been demolished and was now on Highways work schedule. The number of lorries trying to use Furnace Lane had increased. AW reported that Evri was actively trying to stop its drivers doing this, but it was felt that the other company located in the former Wickes depot were using foreign drivers with little grasp of English and equipped with car sat nav's which did not alert them to the problem with the bridges. Councillors to report sightings to AW with photographic evidence where possible.

Heritage - Mosaic still to be sited. Clerk to try and arrange meeting with Mr Bird.

Community - LE reported that the subsidised exercise classes were continuing with 8/10 people regularly attending. There would be a £500 grant from Tesco following the in-store token collections.

LE reported that there had been vandalism to the community area at the Allotments, which had been very upsetting. Most of the damaged items had been donated. The PCSO had been informed, and it was felt that someone must know who was responsible. Surveillance cameras were discussed.

There was a brief discussion about Play Equipment.

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 the council is made aware of, but the 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 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.

PCSO Contact:

Emma Teagles C7155

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

South Northants Neighbourhood Police Team

Telephone: 101 ext 343029/07866933412

Email: emma.teagles@northants.police.uk

Address: C/O Wootton Hall police headquarters

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Linda Hall linda.hall.netherheyford@outlook.com	Chair, Website, Finance
Mrs L. Dilkes. 17 Furnace Lane, Nether Heyford, NN7 3JF e-mail thedilkesfamily@outlook.com 07967 753216	Councillor, Finance, Youth Club
Mrs L. Eales – 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 01327 341707 e-mail lyndaeales@aol.com	Councillor, Allotments, Youth Club
Louise Isgar. louiseisgar@gmail.com	Councillor, Village Hall Rep.
D. Musson. 16 Rolfe Crescent, Nether Heyford NN7 3NG Tel: 01327 344461 davemusson073@gmail.com	Councillor, 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.
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K. Sanders-Moody. 07702 701862	Councillor, Police Liaison
C. Leggett chriseurolog@outlook.com	Councillor
J. Leggett justineeurolog@outlook.com	Councillor, 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 Meeting: Dec. 1st at the Baptist Church rooms.



Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for December 2025

Saturday 6 th	2:00 pm	Christmas Sing-along at Heyford Church
Sunday 7 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Saturday 13 th	2:00 pm	Messy Church & Christingle at Flore Church – all welcome!
Sunday 14 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	Instant Nativity Service at Flore Chapel
Wednesday 17 th	7:00 pm	Carols on the Green in Nether Heyford
Sat 20 th – Tues 23 rd	11:30 am	Angel Festival at Flore Church (11:30am – 3:00pm daily)
Sunday 21 st	10:00 am	Holy Communion at Flore Church
	3:00 pm	Crib Service at Upper Stowe
	6:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight at Heyford Church
	6:00 pm	Carol Service at Flore Chapel
Wednesday 24 th	6:00 pm	Village Carol Service at Flore Church
Christmas Eve	8:30 pm	Christmas Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
Thursday 25 th	10:00 am	Christmas Holy Communion Service at Heyford Church
Christmas Day	10:00 am	Christmas Holy Communion Service at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Christmas Day Family Service at Upper Stowe
	11:00 am	Family Christmas Service at Flore Chapel
	11:15 am	Christmas Holy Communion Service at Brockhall Church
Sunday 28 th	10:00 am	Service of Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Service of Lessons and Carols at Upper Stowe

Midweek Services:

Holy Communion at 10:00AM every Thursday at Flore Church

Due to various events through the month, Flore Church will not be open for private prayer during December.

Morning Prayer on Zoom every Friday morning at 9:00AM (not 26th Dec). Please contact the Rector for details

Prayer: During December we shall be praying for people living in Winston Close, Roberts Field and Ridgeway Furlong in Heyford, Nether Lane and Thornton Close in Flore, The Green in Church Stowe and The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage in Brockhall.

Services for January 2026

Sunday 4 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe
	11:00 am	United First Sunday Service at Flore Church
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford Church
Sunday 11 th	10:00 am	Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Sunday 18 th	10:00 am	Service of Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	10:00 am	United Service at Flore Chapel
	6:00 pm	Service of Holy Communion at Upper Stowe
Sunday 25 th	10:00 am	Service of Holy Communion at Flore Church
	10:00 am	Family Service at Upper Stowe
	6:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford Church

Midweek Services in January: Holy Communion at 10:00AM every Thursday at Flore Church (not 1st Jan).

Flore Church is open for private prayer every Thursday between 2:30PM and 3:30PM. (Not 1st Jan)

Morning Prayer at 9:00AM every Friday via Zoom. Please contact the Rector for an invitation – all welcome.

Prayer: During January we shall be praying for people living in Church Lane and Weedon Rd in Heyford, Spring Lane and Russell Rise in Flore, Francis Row in Upper Stowe and the Stables and Coach House in Brockhall.

Dear Friends,

Alongside our regular pattern of services, we would love to share our Advent and Christmas with you through various special services and events.

Our December kicks off with a Christmas sing-along at Heyford Parish Church, with Christmas music sung by Kyle Newman from 2:00PM to 4:00PM on Saturday 6th December. Come along and enjoy popular Christmas tunes, mulled wine, hot chocolate, lucky dip, and a games stall for last minute presents. Start December by getting in the Christmas spirit!

For children and families, there is our annual Messy Church and Christingle at Flore Parish Church on Saturday 13th December. As always, we'll all be making a Christingle, a tradition that involves lighting a candle in an orange decorated with fruits and sweets to symbolise aspects the Christian story. The event begins at 2:00PM – children and their families all welcome!

The following day, there is an Instant Nativity at Flore Chapel at 10:00AM, and another crib service at Upper Stowe on Sunday 21st December at 3:00PM. Pop along to either – or both – of these services to hear a fresh retelling of the most wonderful story of all.

If you enjoy a good sing, then there are plenty of carol-singing opportunities through the month of December. They begin with Carols on the Green at Heyford at 7:00PM on Wednesday 17th December, this year hosted by The Foresters Arms. On the evening of Sunday 21st December you have a choice – a Carol Service at Flore Chapel at 6:00PM, or Carols by Candlelight at Heyford Parish Church, also at 6:00PM. On Christmas Eve, join us for the Flore Village Carol Service at Flore Parish Church at 6:00PM. And if your voice is holding out, there is a service of Lessons and Carols at Upper Stowe on Sunday 28th December at 10:00AM.

Hopefully, you are in the Christmas spirit by this point, and ready to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. There is a service of Holy Communion for Christmas at 8:30PM at Church Stowe on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, there are services of Holy Communion for Christmas at Flore Parish Church and Heyford at 10:00AM, and Brockhall at 11:15AM, alongside family services at Upper Stowe and Flore Chapel at 10:00AM and 11:00AM respectively.

As if all this were not enough, there is a Festival of Angels taking place in Flore Church from the 20th to 23rd December opening each day from 11.30AM to 3:00PM. Please pop in to admire the angelic creativity of local people and organisations.

Whether you celebrate Christmas with us, or in your own way, may I – on behalf of all in the benefice and the partnership - wish you a peaceful, reflective Advent and a blessed, joyful Christmas.

With love and prayers,

Rev Stephen (Tel 01327 344436)



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Dear friends,

As the year draws to a close and the frost begins to settle on our hedgerows, I find myself reflecting on the rhythm of village life, the quiet beauty of winter mornings, the laughter of children at the school gate, the warmth of a neighbour's wave across the green. There's something about this season that invites us to pause, to take stock, and to look ahead with hope.

Christmas, of course, is at the heart of this season. Amidst the mince pies, fairy lights, and carol singing (and yes, even the last-minute dash for batteries!), we remember the birth of Jesus, a child born in a stable, wrapped in cloth, laid in a manger. It's a story we know well, yet it never grows old. In the stillness of that holy night, heaven touched earth. As the Gospel of John reminds us, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). That light still shines today. In our homes, our friendships, our shared cups of tea, and the quiet acts of kindness that knit our community together. It shines in the resilience we've shown through another year of ups and downs, and in the hope we carry into the new one.

January, with its fresh calendars and good intentions, is a time for new beginnings. Whether you're making resolutions or simply taking a deep breath and stepping forward, know that you are not alone. The prophet Isaiah once wrote, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). God is always at work, gently inviting us into renewal, so whether we're nine or ninety.

If you're looking for a place to reflect, to reconnect, or simply to sit in peace for a while, our church doors are open every Sunday and many other days through the month. Whether you've been before or it's been a while, you are so welcome. Come as you are, no need for fancy clothes or perfect answers. Just bring yourself.

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas and step into the promise of a new year, may you find moments of stillness, laughter, and light. And may 2026 be a year of grace, growth, and good company.

With every blessing,

Pastor Lee
Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Sunday 5 th December 10:30am - 11:30am	Alwyne Wilson leading <i>Chapel</i>	
Sunday 14 th December 10:30am - 11:30 am	Pastor Lee leading <i>Chapel</i>	
Sunday 14 th December 4pm - 5pm	Pastor Lee leading <i>Chapel</i>	Christmas Songs of Praise + refreshments
Wednesday 17 th December 10am - 11am	Bible Study <i>Friendship Hall</i>	'Psalm 7'
Sunday 21 st December 10:30am - 11:30am	'Lessons' <i>Chapel</i>	
Friday 26 th December 10am to 12 pm	No Book Sale this month	
Sunday 28 th December 10:30am - 11:30am	Clive Leakey leading <i>Chapel</i>	This will include our communion service.
Sunday 4 th January 10:30am - 11:30am	John Perkins leading <i>Chapel</i>	
Sunday 11 th January 10:30am - 11:30am	Pastor Lee leading <i>Chapel</i>	
Sunday 11 th January 4pm - 5pm	Pastor Lee leading <i>Friendship Hall</i>	Songs of Praise + refreshments
Sunday 18 th January 10:30am - 11:30am	Bruce Furness leading <i>Chapel</i>	
Wednesday 21 January 10am - 11am	Bible study <i>'Friendship Hall'</i>	'Psalm 8'
Friday 23 rd January 10am - 12pm	Book Sale <i>'Friendship Hall'</i>	Refreshments available
Sunday 25 th January 10:30am - 11:30 am;	Clive Leakey leading <i>Chapel</i>	This will include our communion service

Nether Heyford Parish Church

invites you to join it in the church for a

Christmas Afternoon Sing-Along

2pm-4pm, Saturday 6th December 2025

welcoming singer

Kyle Newman

Listen and sing to the best Christmas hits

Christmas refreshments, games stall, raffle and lucky dip

Entry is free, but donations welcome



touching hearts, changing lives

New Venue - The Baptist Church rooms

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.

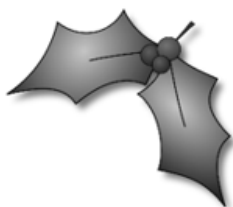
If you would like more information, please give me a call text on 07703 386941

Vera



Heyford Scouts

Christmas Card Delivery Service



This year Heyford Scouts will
do one house to house collection
evening of **Monday 1st December.**

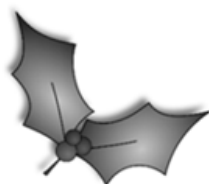
Donations are still 20p per card.

There will also be postboxes available at

Heyford Meats and One Stop Shop

Please post in bag with payment by 20th Dec
latest.

Merry Christmas !



Scouts 

Astronomy on the Green

Recently, cosmology has been in a spin. To see why, we must go back to 1907 when Einstein was working on general relativity: back then, it was assumed that the universe was static. If that were the case, it would collapse in on itself because of gravity. So, he added a constant to counteract gravity; scientists often do this when a fiddle factor is needed for their equations to balance.

In the 1930s, Edwin Hubble disproved the static model and proved the universe was in fact expanding. Einstein removed the 'lambda' constant from his equation, and the constant was gone. As in the best thrillers, the constant was not finished with us. In 1998, it was found that not only was the universe expanding; acceleration was occurring, suggesting that the constant could not be zero.

Aside, astronomers can only account for 5% of the universe, with dark matter and dark energy making up the other 95%. These are known as dark mainly because we can't observe them and, well, we don't know what they are! Dark energy became our new constant (the cosmic constant) relating to the acceleration.

Recent observations (2024) by a new telescope that uses fibres to sample thousands of galaxies at one time have generated data that suggests that the expansion is slowing down, so is the constant broken? Or could it be there is no such thing as dark energy?

Well, elsewhere researchers using non-Euclidean geometry have produced a model that uses the Finsler-Friedmann equation, producing a universe expanding based only on geometry, with no need for dark energy or that rascally constant. We are working on how to combine observations and hypotheses with the current model of the Big Bang. Science is based on observation, and when our observations match our theories well, great. When not and we are wrong, even better – as we are discovering more, new science.

All data is subjected not only to peer review but also to statistical analysis. The analysis looks at how likely our result is caused by chance. The most critical analysis is the five-sigma; if your data passes five sigma, then the chance of your results being incorrect is one in a billion. Not all (or much) data can reach that level of certainty, requiring more observations or a different approach.

This is the reason for the fluidity of science, and why our level of understanding is always based on current findings.

Out there somewhere is the answer to all our questions... I suspect it is 42!

Merry Christmas and clear skies,

Tony Boutle



Heyford Picturedrome

NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL

THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER 2025

6.30pm for 6.45pm

CHRISTMAS FILM AND SUPPER EVENING

ADMISSION: £20.00 (Ticket Only)

Tickets available from Rosemary Dunkley (01327 342588)

THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB

2025 Crime Comedy

Starring: Helen Mirren, Pierce Brosnan, Celia Imrie,
Ben Kingsley, Tom Ellis, Jonathan Pryce

**Four irrepressible retirees spend their time solving cold case murders for fun.
But their casual sleuthing takes a thrilling turn when they find themselves
with a real whodunit on their hands.**

JANUARY FILM : JULES

Comedy-drama starring Ben Kingsley

THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY 2026

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Admission £6.00

**A man's quiet life gets upended when something mysterious crashes in his
backyard...**



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

View from the Chair

I am happy to report that the annual Heyford Feast was very successful. The tables looked amazing, the food was apparently extremely good and many local villagers came together to have a very pleasant evening at a very favourable cost. Well done to all those involved.

The next major event brought to you by the hall trustees is the Pantomime. The Laugh Out Loud theatre company will be performing "Sinbad the Sailor" on Sunday 28th December at 2pm. The past two years have been sold out as they put on a very good show and it is a matinee in that quiet period between Christmas and New Year. We have kept the cost to an absolute minimum to allow families the chance to have time out together at a reasonable cost. I do think the adults enjoy it as much as the Children! Tickets are on sale now and if you are interested I would urge you not to leave it to the last minute to avoid disappointment.

It is a busy time of the year for the hall with the resident craft club putting on their annual Christmas Craft Fayre, our resident Heyford Singers performing sell out Christmas Concerts and many private parties. Don't forget Heyford residents are given preferential rates when booking the hall.

By the time you read this the trustees will have decorated the hall for Christmas and we have updated some of our decorations to match our new curtains and paintwork. I hope that you get the chance to visit over the festive period.

Carol Tuckley

Chair of the Trustees

Heyford Picturedrome - Christmas Event

Tickets for our annual film and supper evening on 18th December are now on sale.

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

For further information, please contact Alwyne on 01327 340803.



Laugh Out Loud
-THEATRE COMPANY-

SINBAD

The Sailor

Sunday 28th December 2025 at 2pm
Nether Heyford Village Hall

Tickets: Adults £10, Children £5, Under 2s free
Available from Carol on 07718988143
or carolnhvhchair@gmail.com



Heyford Bowls Club

Well, after a pleasant Saturday afternoon's bowling in the village hall in November, the Men comfortably beat the Women and were declared the overall winners. Next year girls, we'll go into training early and get our own back. We shall still meet in the village hall on Wednesdays at 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock, taking a short break for Christmas.

Our Presentation Evening was well attended and superb desserts provided by our ladies followed a Fish & Chip Supper. We have a Christmas Quiz on 6th December, a Christmas Party on 20th and continue meeting on Friday evenings. We will also be hosting a Bingo Night on Saturday 17th January next year.

If you are interested in joining our club for either Outdoors in the summer or Short Mat in the village hall all year round, please get in touch and we'll have a chat.

Shirley Collins
shirleybcollins@hotmail.com
01327 342287

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 8th December – Graham Kinnersly

A welcome return from Graham, with his fantastic keyboard skills and stories.

Monday 19th January – Codebreakers of Bletchley Park by Philomena Liggins

Guests welcome at the monthly meetings – to learn more, visit our website

www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene

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**

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Contact: Lisa and Amy Hillyard

01327 828520 or

07808815042

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



Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
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out more*





In Nether Heyford

By the time you are reading this, the big lead up to Christmas will have well and truly started. Good luck to all those who absolutely love it and have had decorations up for weeks.

Looking back to our November meeting, which will seem like an age ago, we were delighted to meet Steve Reid from Friars Farm Foods. He was a larger-than-life character who spoke with passion about supporting local food suppliers to produce wonderful salami, bacon, cheese, chutneys and jams. He has a large market stall in Northampton and his goods are to be found at farmers markets and local outlets. He explained to us the process of developing his range of food. The recipes for his chutneys and pickles originated in an old WI cookery book. I particularly liked the way he has named his cheeses after job titles from the Northampton shoe trade. It was a really entertaining evening which was well supported by members and guests.

The December meeting is always our Christmas Meal. Once again, we lunched at The Countryman at Staverton. Food always tastes good when someone else has cooked it and cleared it away.

Looking forward to 2026, our January meeting on Thursday January 8th will be "The Harpole Burial; Treasure and Mystery" with Dr Claire Finn. At WI, we like to extend our knowledge about local history and my word, it is extraordinary, that this archeological dig discovered one of the most significant early-medieval female burials ever uncovered in Britain. Just down the road. Among the artefacts was a necklace dated 630-670 AD. It is said to be the richest of its type ever uncovered. I can't wait to find out more about its owner, her life and ultimately her death...in Harpole. Where did she stay? Don't suppose there was a Premier Inn in those days. All will be revealed.

If you would like to come along to WI in 2026, please do, you will be most welcome. Season's Greetings to all.

Jane Wareing
01327 340875

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Faye Brassett and
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”



Heyford Allotments



Twelve Days of Christmas

25th December
Celebrate your growing year
Toast your successes and dream of Spring

26th December
Don't forget to feed the garden birds

27th December
Visit a Winter Garden and get some inspiration

28th December
Exercise!
Turn your compost heap

29th December
Make some plant labels from all that festive waste

30th December
Harvest leeks, kale and parsnips for tomorrow's feast

31st December
Make your Gardening New Year Resolutions

1st January
Treat yourself to a hot drink on the plot

2nd January
Clean and oil your hand tools

3rd January
Prune your currant bushes

4th January
Mulch fruit trees and bushes

5th January
Write your seed wish list for 2026 and dream on

Everyone from Heyford Allotments wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Thanks to Tom Dodd for his artwork

View from The Nature Reserve

Last night we had the first real frost of this 2025 Winter. I was born in 1945 and I am sure that this is the only year of my life when the first winter frost was as late as the middle of November. Indeed Global Climate Change is a reality despite what some well known people tell us.

West Northamptonshire Council has set up a scheme where each parish is asked to appoint a "Climate and Nature Champion" (Can Champion). There are over a hundred people who have volunteered so far and I have volunteered to be CAN Champion for this parish. I will know more about this after the 19th of November when WNC holds the first inaugural CAN meeting. I will put a report of the meeting on the Heyford and HWA pages sites when I know more. Please, expect to be involved.

A warning.

As dog owners ourselves, who also value our local wildlife, Pauline and I always followed the advice of most vets, that in order to keep your pet healthy, it will need to be treated regularly against fleas, worms and other parasites. If this is the case with your dog or cat, it is possible that your pet will be given a lasting treatment using the same group of neonics that are known to be killing our bees and other insects when used on growing crops. Whilst this may not have any harmful effect on our pets, it is almost certainly affecting all insects that come into contact with your pet and its waste products or even the hair lost as this pet goes about its business.

I first picked up on this when I researched the reason for the dead or dying Dung beetles I found along the woodland paths where we walk our dogs. I read that these beetles lay their eggs in dung. Then their larvae feed there till fully fed, they then pupate before hatching as adult beetles. I discovered well known research that demonstrated these beetles were laying eggs in dung from dogs treated with neonics. This contact proved to be fatal to both the beetles and other insects in the vicinity. I am not qualified to advise what to do when faced with this knowledge but I feel it's important to make others aware of this possibility. I will say that we never put dog dung in any bin where it could be recycled.

On the reserve, jobs are to get a new fence round the whole reserve. The road hedge needs to be trimmed and we need to renew many of the fence posts on the boundary fence.

There is a Sallow tree that is growing quite large. We will reduce the size of this and stack any logs to provide home for creatures. We also need to clean out all the nest boxes. There are parasites that hide in nest boxes, waiting for next year's birds to turn up. Cleaning the boxes out gives the birds a fresh start for the new season.

If anyone feels they would like to get involved in the Reserve in any capacity, 2026 looks like being a good year to get involved.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and successful New Year.

Dave Musson

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Silent Night

Holy Night

All is Calm

All is Bright

***Our Christmas Concert 12th & 13th December
Carols on The Green in The Foresters***

17th December 7 pm

Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

And now we are on the stage for our rehearsals practising with a full choir for our Concert. Tickets are going extremely well – probably because people see a welcome break looming in the hurly burly of life as we head towards Christmas. And especially as this has been a rather chaotic year. Meanwhile the Choir are turning out in all weathers to warm up vocal chords and to sing as loudly or as softly as we can. The slightly different arrangement of *Silent Night* is a beautiful rendition of this well known Carol, arranged by Gwyn Arch MBE who was a British musical arranger, composer and Choir director. And he was at Oxford University where he was musical director of The Experimental Theatre Club, his future wife being in the Choir. Their son David Arch is also a conductor, arranger and composer and the musical director on the BBC Television show – Strictly Come Dancing.

Other beautiful songs we are singing from The Faber Carol Book include *So Many Stars* and *Diamond Bright*, both written by Lin Marsh who is a highly sought-after composer. And all of these songs tell the story of Christmas along with *The Coventry Carol* which is a lullaby sung to the babies who are about to be slaughtered by King Herod. A gruesome thought but also a thought-provoking song written originally as a play in the Middle Ages and subsequently arranged as a Carol and named after its performances in Coventry. Ben Parry, born in 1965, formed the arrangement we are singing and was well-known as Director of the National Youth Choir. And we see from the above how fortunate we are to have these extremely talented British composers.

We were recommended to see *The Choral* which appeared in our local film venues last month. It is a wonderful insight into the difficulties of managing a Choir at a time when the membership was falling rapidly due to conscription at the beginning of the World War 1. Ralph Fiennes and Roger Allam give outstanding performances and the singing is absolutely wonderful featuring Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*. And like some of the adaptations of Carols just mentioned, this was adapted to depict the dreadful times of 1914.

You will see in this edition of the Prattler details of our Concert plus details of the new venue for our traditional Carol singing on the Green. We hope to see as many

of you as possible singing along with us and putting the difficulties of life behind you for a few precious moments as we enter into the Christmas season.

And may we, The Heyford Singers, wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

And in the words of *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*:

'Here we are as in olden days, happy golden days of yore, faithful friends who are dear to us gather near to us once more'.

JRA

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society#

Wishing our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We meet again on 26th January for our AGM and buffet supper.



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SINGERS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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VILLAGE HALL
7.30PM

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