



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

Apr 2026

Issue 488

NETHER HEYFORD

GARAGE SALE

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2026

10am-2pm

A collection of stylized household items including a boombox, a television, a vase with a plant, a stool, a box, and a bag, arranged on a table.

**Maps available on the day in
Nether Heyford Village Hall - £1.00**

Tea, coffee & bacon rolls also available at Village Hall

Please register before 19th April to be on the map.
Application forms available in The Prattler
and www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org

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 printing costs are 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.

Sue (Prattler Ed)

Upper Heyford Parish Meeting

AGM

Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 7:30pm

At Hipwells.

Any questions or AOB please contact:

Mrs Sian Slater (Chair)

Email: UHParish@gmail.com



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The March 2026 meeting took place on the 2nd of March at the Baptist Church Rooms.

Casual vacancy - There is now a vacancy on the Parish Council. Applicants may apply to the Clerk for an application form at:

clerk@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Closing date 31st March.

West Northants Councillor reports. Cllr PB reported that the proposed self-build houses off Winston Close had been refused. He had reported local potholes as an emergency. Cllr DK reported that the Local Development Plan consultation goes on until March 27th, and that it is on show at various local venues. She has been appointed to the cabinet for women's affairs. IP complained about the number and size of potholes, and that those repairs that were done were inadequate and short lived. DK agreed that the situation was bad and that WNC could not keep up. She had been informed that the amount of rain combined with local clay-based soil made winter repairs especially difficult as repairs were best carried out when the holes were completely dry.

Presentation from developers of the proposed Church Lane site. Frances Jackson (FJ) introduced themselves as builders of high-quality homes, and that their application was for 26 homes: half of them affordable. Part of the site is in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Access was a problem and they proposed to restructure the access point at the junction of Weedon road and Church Lane. They intend to keep the hedge and the character of Church Lane, which will remain open during the building.

The site is on a slope and so will have a flood attenuation pond to slow down water going towards the river.

PB said that part of the site was outside the village confine and was therefore not compliant with the local plan. FJ said that the majority of the site was in the NP and was compliant., and that WNC had carried out an initial site visit.

Regarding access KSM referred to the poor state of Weedon road and the amount of traffic it carried, and to the lack of parking spaces. FJ responded that there would

be 2 parking spaces per house and it would be double the specification used at Upton.

Concerns were expressed about the affordable housing and the selection process used. FJ said that this was a District Council issue and not up to them.

DM expressed concern about the nature recovery Plan. LNRS. FJ would retain the existing hedge, put in more hedging, and allocate a green area, which in conjunction with the habitat the balancing pond offered, would show the required biodiversity net gain.

Neighbouring residents complained about potential loss of privacy, noise, and light pollution. FJ said they would take that as feedback. It was pointed out that the NP referred to 10 dwellings – not the 26 in this plan. FJ said that obtaining outline planning permission did not mean that all the current details could be included automatically.

A resident spoke of the difficulties experienced by young people brought up in the village in buying or renting, and felt that the affordable housing was highly desirable for such people as well as residents wanting to downsize.

AW pointed out that there was a long way to go with this proposal and that there would not be time to fully debate it at this meeting.

Play Area. Clerk reported that one of the units and the bike rack had been completely removed because of safety issues. Parts were awaited for the repair of other fixtures. LI is continuing to work on the project, she felt that the area should be all inclusive, and had been looking at other local play areas. AW wondered whether the design could be outsourced and asked whether LI could concentrate on fund raising. KR felt that a sensory garden would not work, and nor would ball games. AW suggested inviting a play area consultant to a meeting, to see if and how they could assist with the delivery process.

Flood Mitigation. LI reported that the flooding committee would meet on March 8th and would put up the shed. Permission to apply weed killer and to insert a membrane had been sought.

A draft version of the section 19 report on the Nov. 24 flood had been distributed and put on the Parish Council website.

AW felt it was a good piece of work and was comprehensive. It is felt that recent comments made in the Prattler about flooding contained some erroneous statements; and that for a fact-based assessment and analysis parishioners should refer to the formal report.

The Neighbourhood Plan referred to installing mitigation measures to control water flowing into the Luddle. AW would look into working with local landowners, and had

consulted with RAB (resilience and flood risk) in Birmingham regarding producing a flood mitigation plan. Proposal to be discussed at next meeting.

Assets of Community Value. An application is to be made for The Olde Sun to be registered as a community asset.

New Substation - Church Street or The Green. It had been proposed that an electrical substation formerly at the junction of Church St and Manor Walk be enlarged and re sited on The Green behind the phone box. Councillors were uniformly against this, one option discussed was that the new fixture could be sited on the Bliss owned land near the Millennium Green, which could be accessed via the jitty. AW to liaise with Bliss School.

Planning. The Church Lane application for outline planning permission would go to committee at WNC. The question of whether the Neighbourhood plan, or the SNC local plan took precedence was debated. It was felt that objections should be raised on 4 grounds, (Density. Access. The mix of affordable and other units. Pedestrian access) but not to the development itself.

Gravel extraction. It had become clear that the land would be allocated for warehousing at the end of the quarrying operation. Individuals would have to object to this via the WNC Local Plan consultation by March 26th

Reports.

Environment DM reported that there was much work to do.

Wellbeing KSM reported that Bugbrooke surgery was working close to capacity and intended to reintroduce same day appointments. There was concern at hospital readmissions. There would be a triage system. She reported that the Women's charter is progressing and that she would contact other organisations and the PCSO. The pub would be contacted regarding the Ask Angela scheme. She felt that the new set up with the PCSO covering 3 villages was workable.

Infrastructure IP reported that the chicane was due to be installed, and that the 2nd SID had been installed. Pavement widening on the green had been well received. What to do with SID data to be discussed at next meeting

Heritage Mosaic had now been installed. Thanks to Tom Dodd and Adam Dilkes for the restoration and to Wym Wray for the installation.

Community. PCSO would hold regular surgeries. LE and KR asked for Community Lounge funding to be considered.

Parish Council meetings in 2026 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/>

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

On April 27th Linda Seabrook will present 'Serendipity'. Visitors are always welcome at our meetings and will receive a warm welcome. So if you love flowers do come along on the 4th Monday of each month (except Bank Holidays) We meet at the village hall at 7.30 pm.

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 20th April – The roles of a TV/Film Extra and how anyone can do it.
by Robert Brewer

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Linda Hall CllrL.Hall@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chair, Website, Finance
A. Williams 26 Church St, Nether Heyford CllrA.Williams@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Vice Chair, Chair of Planning, Finance, Council rep to School Trustees
Mrs L. Eales 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford 01327 341707 CllrL.Eales@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Allotments, Youth Club, Burial Board
D. Musson. 16 Rolfe Crescent, Nether Heyford Tel: 01327 344461 CllrD.Musson@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Footpaths. Tree Warden
Ian Parris, 1 Winston Close, Nether Heyford 07909 514916 CllrI.Parris@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor SIDs
Karen Rivett. 12 Watery Lane, Nether Heyford 07711 312069 Cllrk.rivett@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Finance, Youth Club, Burial Board
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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 April 13th and Monday May 11th at the Baptist Church rooms.

The Upper Nene Benefice

(The Benefice of Heyford with Stowe-nine-Churches, Flore with Brockhall and Weedon Bec with Dodford)



Parish Church of

St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for April 2026

Thursday 2 nd	7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion at Heyford (with handwashing)
Friday 3 rd Good Friday	2:30 pm	Walk of Witness from Heyford Church to Heyford Baptist Church
	16:00 pm	United Service for Good Friday at Heyford Baptist Church
Sunday 5 th Easter Sunday	10:00 am	Holy Communion for Easter Sunday at Heyford Church
Sunday 12 th	10:00 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Flore Church (by extn)</i>
Sunday 19 th	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Weedon Church</i>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church (followed by APCM)
Sunday 26 th	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Flore Church</i>
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford Church

Midweek Services:

Thursday 10:00 am Holy Communion (not 9th) Flore Church
2.30pm - 3.30pm Private prayer Flore Church

Friday 9:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
Please contact the Rector for an invitation

Dear Friends

In dark and challenging times, I find myself looking for hope. Wherever we look – in international politics, in the climate crisis, or in the impact of another impending cost of living crisis, hope seems to be in short supply.

Through February and March, Christians have observed the season of Lent, which culminates in the feast of Easter at the beginning of April. Through Lent we learn discipline and patience as we wait for the joy of Easter Sunday. Easter focuses our minds on the crucial claim of the Christian faith: that despite humanity doing its worst in crucifying God's Son, Jesus, God raised him from the dead as the first real sign of the restoration and renewal of our broken world. That restoration and renewal will one day be brought to fruition in a new heaven and a new earth, described by St John in the Book of Revelation.

Easter grounds our hope in God's bright future, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, where God will dwell with his people. And that hope spurs us on to do all we can to make that Kingdom future a reality in the here and now.

With prayers, blessings and hope for the Easter Season and beyond,

Rev Stephen (Tel 07415 691541)

The Streets we shall be praying for during April are: Bugbrooke Rd and Wakefield Way in Heyford, Bliss Lane and the Nursery, Meadow Farm Close and Brington Rd, the businesses and outlying farms in Flore, Main Street and the School Rooms in Church Stowe, Manor Farm, The Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall, Church St, South St, New St and Billing School Place in Weedon and Main St in Dodford.

A full list of services in the Upper Nene Benefice can be found in the Benefice Newsletter, available in church and on the Prattler Website.

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.

Friday 3rd April

**Good Friday
Walk of Witness**



2.30pm Meet at Heyford Parish Church to walk round the village, pausing at various points to reflect on the events of that first Good Friday

This Good Friday's Walk of Witness will depart the church at 2:30PM and make several stops on the way to the Baptist School Rooms:

These will include points near the shop, pub, primary school and village hall

3-4pm Refreshments (Hot Cross Buns) in the Baptist Schoolroom

4pm United Good Friday Service in the Baptist Church, led by Revd Stephen Burrow

Everybody welcome to join in at any point



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

There's something about April that feels a bit indecisive. One day it's sunshine and blossom, the next it's sideways rain and a wind that makes you question all your life choices. And yet, even with the unpredictability, there's a sense that the world is waking up properly now. Daffodils are out in force, the evenings are stretching, and the village suddenly feels a little more alive.

It's fitting, really, that Easter falls in this season. Nature itself seems to echo the story we gather to celebrate, a story of life breaking through, of hope rising where it wasn't expected, of light refusing to be extinguished.

There's a moment in Matthew's Gospel that always catches my breath, no matter how many times I read it:

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

NIV – Matthew 28:6

It's such a simple sentence, yet it changes everything. The women at the tomb came expecting grief, finality, and the heavy silence of loss. Instead, they found an empty tomb, an angel with astonishing news, and a future they couldn't yet imagine. Easter begins in confusion and ends in joy, a reminder that God's greatest work often starts in places that feel uncertain, unfinished, or even hopeless.

As a church family, we're living through our own season of remembering and renewing. Our 200th Anniversary continues to be a thread running through this year, a reminder of God's faithfulness across generations, and of the countless people who have prayed, served, sung, wept, laughed, and worshipped within these chapel walls. Two centuries of Easter mornings. Two centuries of proclaiming that Christ is risen. Two centuries of ordinary people discovering extraordinary grace.

And as we look ahead, we do so with the same mixture of wonder and expectation that those first disciples must have felt. What might God grow among us in this next chapter? What new life might take root? What quiet acts of love might become seeds of transformation in our village?

Often, resurrection hope shows up in small, everyday ways:

A conversation that lifts someone's spirits
A meal shared with someone who needed company
A child's laughter echoing through the friendship hall
A prayer answered in a way we didn't expect
A moment of forgiveness that softens a long-held hurt

These are the places where Easter continues, not just as a date on the calendar, but as a lived reality.

Throughout April, we'll gather for services and celebrations that help us enter into this story afresh. Whether you've been part of the church for years, are returning after some time away, or are simply curious about what Easter means, you are warmly invited. There is space for you here, questions, doubts, hopes and all.

As we journey through this season, may we each encounter the risen Christ in ways that surprise us, steady us, and fill us with renewed courage. And may the hope of Easter, quiet, persistent, and stronger than death, shape our lives and our village in the days ahead.

Blessings,

Pastor Lee - Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Dates for the Diary:

Easter Morning Service - 10.30- 11.30 Sunday 5th April Led by Clive

Morning Service - 10.30- 11.30 Sunday 12th April Led by Lee

Easter Songs of Praise service - 4-5 Sunday 12th April Led by Lee - Followed by refreshments

Bible Study – 10-11 – Wednesday 15th April – Friendship Hall

Morning Service - 10.30- 11.30 Sunday 19th April Led by Ted

Book Sale - 10-12 - Friday 24th April - Books to Buy, and coffee to drink!

Morning Service - 10.30- 11.30 Sunday 26th April Led by Lee

Special Request

As we celebrate our 200th year, we'd love to gather photos taken in or around the chapel, or in our Friendship Hall. We hope to display a selection of these during our Open Weekend on 9th and 10th May. If you have any you'd be happy to share, please contact me at Minister@NetherHeyford.Church or call 01604 389 405 (option 1).

Thank you to everyone that donated to our last coffee morning, we raised £200 for NAB - Northamptonshire Association for the Blind'. Please do join us for our next events.

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



Heyford Bowls Club

Well, Spring is now here and the Bowls outdoor games begin with home matches against Kislingbury on Tuesday 28th and Woodford Halse on Thursday 30th April, both starting at 6:30 pm, Spectators are always welcome with plenty of seats around the green.

On the Social side, we have our Easter Quiz on Saturday 4th April in the clubhouse. This is a good time to catch up with friends you haven't seen much of over the winter, in readiness for the summer season, so get your Easter Bonnet out of the cupboard or make a new one.

The Short Mat bowls continues all year on a Wednesday afternoon at 2 pm and evening at 7 pm, so get in touch or turn up if you are interested. There is a Ladies Pairs Competition on Saturday 11th April so get your name on the board if you want to play.

Shirley Collins

(shirleybcollins@hotmail.com)

01327 342287

Heyford Athletic Football Club Reunion of ex players, committee and friends of the 1970's, 80's & 90's

The Foresters Arms Garden, Saturday May 16th 2pm

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Blues winning 4 trophies in one season. The Central Combination Premier Division, the Premier Division Cup, The Lower Junior Cup and the Byfield and Bethel Cup.

Also celebrating the 95/96 double winning season.

Time has passed so quickly since the days when manager Eric Miller led Heyford in their successful quest to win every trophy they competed for in the 1975/76 season. In the days when quite large crowds gathered to watch the matches on the village Green. It was a great time for the club with a very strong committee who had raised money and put in so much work to see the new changing rooms by the village hall completed.

The team made up of mostly of lads who grew up in Heyford with a few important signings from Kislingbury were the most successful in the clubs history.

The Premier League was won after a titanic battle with runners up Wootton.

Then on Saturday April 10th possibly the biggest crowd in Heyford's history watched them beat Corby Ajax 2-0 on the village Green, with goals from Tony Mattacola and Martin Carnague, to win the NFA Lower Junior Cup.

Nine days later on Easter Monday 1976 the Byfield and Bethel District cup was won. Beating Banbury side Grimsbury 4-1 in the final.

The quadruple was completed just 2 days later with the League cup being won under the floodlights at Timken, Duston. Two goals from 'Ian'Dill' Thomas and one from John Goodman saw the Blues come from behind against rivals Wootton to complete a quite remarkable season.

Although the club continued to be successful with several more Premier titles and cup wins after that, it was not until 1996 that the double of Premier Champions and cup winners was to be achieved

The 1994/95 season had been somewhat disappointing, and a team rebuilding exercise was required. With a nucleus of some good players who had stuck with the club, some excellent recruitment saw the Blues take the league by storm scoring over 100 goals on the way to winning the title.

The cup was won under the floodlights at Bugbrooke with 3-1 victory over local rivals Kislingbury. The prolific Craig Pugh scored twice, and then Richard Crick added the third.

A 5-1 win at Weedon a week later meant that the Blues were uncatchable and the elusive double had been won.

**Heyford Athletic
Football Club Reunion
of players, committee,
supporters and friends
of the 70's, 80's & 90's**



**Saturday May 16th
2pm
In the Foresters Arms
Garden.
Nether Heyford**

**To celebrate the 50th
anniversary of the
1975/76 season when
the Blues won 4
trophies.**

**Premier Champions,
Premier Cup, Lower
Junior Cup and the
Byfield & Bethel Cup.**



**Also to celebrate the
30th anniversary of
the double winning
season of 95/96**



Astronomy on the Green

We now live in a time that allows us to get involved in science individually. Citizen science has been with us for some time now, and astronomy was one of the early adopters. Astronomers have a wealth of data that needs processing by humans rather than computers. We are very good at pattern recognition, and visual data interpretation can be learnt with basic training. This is an effective way of crunching down the data to remove images and scans that do not match given criteria.

One such local project is underway at the Open University. A team of astronomers from the OU and other academic institutions are launching an international citizen science project to work out what over 30 million unique objects discovered in space actually are.

“We gathered over 16 million photographs of the entire night sky between 2004 and 2013. As you might imagine, that equates to lots of data; in fact, we have tens of thousands of measurements each of 31 million unique stars and we need a little extra support in identifying what types of stars these are”.

How do I become a citizen scientist?

“We are launching SuperWASP Variable Stars on the multi-disciplinary citizen science portal, Zooniverse. This is an opportunity for all those with a love of astronomy to contribute to international scientific research and further our understanding of the incredible universe”. Just search online and you can find the projects and see if they interest you. Zooniverse covers a wider range of scientific areas, so you can see if any other types of projects appeal to you.

Your own observatory?

If astrophotography interests you, there is a range of smart telescopes that means anyone can explore space from your back garden. These telescopes self-calibrate by making an image of the sky at the time and date and use this to generate a list of objects in the sky in a best for list. Choose an object, and the telescope will move to it and centre it.

You can then image it, and each additional image will be ‘stacked’, getting brighter and more resolved. The most economically smart telescopes are in the range of £400 to £600. The dwarflab series has the advantage that it can be used as a conventional camera (such as for wildlife subjects). ZWO’s Seestar series will produce superior images, but it is limited to astrophotography. In our cloud-ridden country, such opportunities can be limited (tell me about it).

Clear Skies

Tony Boutle

Slimming World

**With Vera @ The Baptist Church
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Heyford Allotments

Things are starting to stir

Plot holders are beginning to reappear on the allotments in increasing numbers and the whole site is springing into life. New allotmenters have made a wonderful start to their plots and it has been so encouraging to see once derelict allotments coming back to life. Hopefully our policy of trying to cover the ground with landscape fabric as soon as it is abandoned (thus keeping the weeds at bay) has made their task a little easier.

Gentle Progress not a Sprint

As with last month's advice, it is important for all gardeners to remember that the weather in April is still fickle. Sow and grow more tender crops indoors or in a protected environment, although by April, vegetables such as broad beans, onions, shallots, parsnips and spinach can be planted out, or sown in situ.

The gardening books and TV programmes always tell us that when to plant or sow will vary according to where you live in the UK. However, we've noticed that even on our allotments in Heyford, there is a wide temperature fluctuation. The sun doesn't reach some areas until later in the morning so frost remains on the ground; in some other places, heavy shade from nearby buildings makes things cooler in the evenings at this time of the year. I guess there is no substitute for knowing where your plot sits in relation to the sun and what the soil is like beneath your feet.

I sometimes think a fortune must be made by those retailers that sell plants too early, aware that they'll probably wither, and then simply resell the same plant a month or two later – at the appropriate time. Don't be fooled into buying and planting out tomatoes and cucumbers in April (or even May)!

Community Morning

By the time you read this article, hopefully, we will have held our Spring Community Morning. This always proves a wonderful opportunity to get a wide range of maintenance tasks completed, things that we can only achieve with the help of allotmenters who want to help keep the allotments in Heyford looking good. It's good to enable allotmenters to get together to share activities and talk to each other.

The tasks take no more than two hours to complete and we never cease to be amazed at how much gets done in such a short space of time. The hard work of these volunteers has helped us create an allotment site of which the village can be proud. Any allotment holders or villagers who would like to help us on our next community session in the autumn will be most welcome.

Vacancies

We currently have four vacant plots. They vary from small to medium sized and are all covered in landscape fabric. If you are interested in renting one contact Mrs

Lynda Eales, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford tel. 01327 341707 email:
lyndaeales@aol.com

Mike Langrish

THE Heyford SINGERS
www.heyfordsingers.org

Spring Concert

Thanks For The Memories

**A FAREWELL CONCERT FOR MARY RICE
OUR MUSICAL DIRECTOR OF 24 YEARS**

**CONDUCTED BY LUCY MASON
ACCOMPANIST GRAHAM KINNERSLY**

Nether Heyford Village Hall

May 15th & 16th at 7.30pm

FREE REFRESHMENTS

TICKETS: ADULTS £12.50

CHILDREN (UNDER 14) £6.00

FROM

KEITH RANDS-ALLEN

07971 786912 01327 340741

kvra44@gmail.com





**Picturedrome
presents:
The Choral**



April film – 16th of April 2026. 7pm for showing at 7:30pm

The film is about men in a fictional Yorkshire town during the first world war who are variously too old or too young to fight, and the women who must deal with the menfolk's repressed emotions and their own. The place is upended by the arrival of Dr Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes), who is to be the choirmaster, he has lived in Germany and admires their music and literature.

12A with subtitles 1 hour 53 minutes.

Admission £6.00



**Wine and soft drinks
are available at the
bar.**



**Nether Heyford
Village Hall**



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

View from the Chair

Well hello Spring! There is much going on behind the scenes at the hall at the moment as we plan this years events.

Firstly a reminder that the garage sale will take place on Sunday 26 April from 10am until 2pm. There is still time to book your place and empty those cupboards! For those of you who are not selling at the sale do come along to the hall and buy a map of the households taking part or for a bacon roll and have a look at our book sale.

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 30th April. This is a public meeting in the main hall at 7pm and all villagers are invited to attend. It is a chance to just hear what is going on or ask questions or give feedback on the hall in general.

Probably the biggest event for us is the grand village fête scheduled for Saturday 6 June 2026. Raffle tickets have been printed and will be on sale before the event. I think that our prizes have always been good but we are hoping to make it just that little bit better this year. Some nice surprises!

It's time to think about the fancy dress competition for the children. There will be three age categories and it would be lovely to see it expand from last year so that we could put it in the large arena. We are also hoping to make the annual dog show a bigger event so think about bringing along your four legged friend too.

The new shed has arrived to house the flood defence equipment provided by the Parish and overseen by our volunteer flood warden Steve Corcoran with the help of his volunteers. Housing mainly sand bags, these will be available to all villagers in times of need and will be overseen by flood volunteers. I think we can all agree that this is a positive step.

Finally at the risk of repeating myself too often (I think it comes with age), please keep following and liking our Facebook page to keep abreast of all developments and events at the hall. You can also message via Facebook messenger but do please allow time to replies as it is not constantly monitored. For those of you not on Facebook you can always pop a note in our letterbox and someone will get back to you but again it is not constantly monitored.

Carol Tuckley - Chair of the Trustees



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvevents@gmail.com

Village Hall Garage Sale Sunday 26th April 2026 10.00 - 2.00pm

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Opening 10.00am - 2.00pm - when maps and refreshments will be available in the Village Hall

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In Nether Heyford

At last, it looks as if Spring has finally sprung. After a long, grey, wet winter, we feel full of energy to tackle all those projects we have been promising ourselves to start. Whether or not we actually put any of these ideas into action, and complete them, remains to be seen.

The WI calendar of meetings starts once more in April. A varied programme of meetings has been planned, from the important and serious issues which face women today, to the more lighthearted and frivolous. There is hopefully, something for everyone. A veritable smorgasbord.

The March meeting was the AGM. The committee were thanked for all their hard work. They always pitch in to make the meetings happen. Particular thanks went to Chris Pardon who acts as our secretary and treasurer who ensures that our WI runs smoothly. We played some brain teasing games after the business meeting had concluded, all helped by a glass of wine (other drinks were available) and some delicious nibbles.

On April 4th at 7.30 we will welcome Roy Smart who will tell us about an Aviatrix (that's a new word for my vocabulary) Amy Johnson. She went from modest beginnings as a fishmonger's daughter from Hull, by grit and determination to teach herself the basics of aviation, and against all odds managed to fly solo halfway round the world in a fragile little biplane. She became a national heroine.

She had flown solo from England to Australia in 1930. She had benefitted from an education and opportunities not available to most women. In the 1930s women experienced limited equality despite gaining full voting rights in 1928. They faced low wages, "marriage bars" in professions (forcing resignation upon marriage) and hard, time consuming work at home with few, if any domestic appliances. Women had few legal rights and divorce was still very difficult to obtain.

It made me think about the women of Nether Heyford who felt strongly about forming a Women's Institute in the Village in that year. They wanted the opportunity to express their opinions, gain knowledge, have some time to themselves, away from family pressures to develop friendships and have a laugh. That is still true today.

Make 2026 the year you come along to Nether Heyford WI.

Jane Wareing
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View from The Nature Reserve

On the Reserve, we have sown a 'Wildflower Meadow' mixture designed for light soils. With the right management this will grow and form a species rich habitat for the foreseeable future. Our already developing meadow areas need to be mown to 75mm and toppings taken off. The regime of mowing in early Spring and late Autumn seems to be working very well, with a good mix of wild grasses and broad leaved plants now developing into a sustainable sward.

It is interesting that all beds are not the same, even though they are all sown with a similar seed mix. I put this down to the fact that although all were previously allotments, all were not managed in a similar manner.

We have a number of large roof tiles laid flat on the ground in different places. . These are already providing conditions for invertebrates to form "multi species communities" which are essentially "mini ecosystems". I would love to describe the different orders and species of the invertebrates in these habits but space does not permit.

The red dead nettles on some allotments are looking really lovely right now. By the time you read this there should be a lot of insects feeding on their flowers.

Here in Rolfe Crescent we are feeding hedgehogs nightly. It has been proven that mealworms are very low in calcium and demonstrated that feeding hedgehogs a diet made up mainly of mealworms can cause hedgehogs to develop soft or brittle bones. Calciworms are the larvae of the black soldier fly and do have sufficient calcium for hedgehogs. The hedgehogs in our garden seem to enjoy these and thrive on them. Ours have eaten these for several years with no sign of ill effect. They breed well and all look well. However, we do sprinkle a tiny amount of a mineral supplement on their Calciworms.

Whilst on the subject of hedgehogs, I notice that in West Northamptonshire, there are several initiatives for neighbours to join up with others in the area to form Hedgehog Highways across neighbourhoods. If anyone wishes to research this subject and then decide to form a group to create a Hedgehog Highway in Nether Heyford, the Heyfords Wildlife Association will encourage and assist in every way we can. My contact details can be found in the Prattler. Or respond on the HWA site.

Nether Heyford does not have "fields" as do many other Parishes. We do have an 8 acre Green and a lot of land designated to sporting activities. But we don't have 'Undesignated' land that can be set aside for Nature. To remedy this, it has been suggested that we may have small patches of land that could be sown with wildflowers and managed for wildlife. I would welcome any suggestions regarding this subject. I must add that this latter is part of a scheme led by West Northants Council and every community in the area are encouraged to do this.

I hope to post details about this, and other environmental schemes on The Heyford Wildlife Association Facebook Page.

Dave Musson

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*Use What talents you Possess
The woods would be very silent
If no birds sang there except
Those that sang best*

Henry Van Dyke

*No matter what yesterday was like
Birds always start the new day with a
song*

Unknown Author

Well our March rehearsals have been going very well under our new Musical Director. We have been rolling a small ball under our feet and then planting them firmly on the floor and letting the cares of the day 'sink through our seat and our feet'. Then there are the breathing exercises, one of which is using our arms rather like a steering wheel... A very different approach to our previous warm up exercises but an important part of our singing. And this has all had the desired effect. We have taken on Abba with a new energy, thanking the powers that be for '*the music, songs I am singing thanks for all the joy they're bringing*' which for an elderly Choir is some achievement! Our youngest members bring a natural zest to our performances so together we are coming alive. This is in no way a reflection on Mary Rice. She was the one who got us to this point in time and it is Lucy, very much under the umbrella of Mary's teaching who is taking us forward.

The pieces we are doing for the Spring Concert have all been chosen by Mary and represent the last twenty four years of her concerts so you won't be surprised to hear the beautiful gentlemen's rendition of *Homeward Bound* or the upbeat *Blue Tango* and *All That Jazz* and then there is the nostalgic *The Way we Were* with its wonderful lines 'Can it be that it was all so simple then, or has time re-written every line. If we had the chance to do it all again tell me, would we? Could we?'

The Welsh Valley choirs were at their peak in the 19th and early 20th centuries originating of course from the industrial communities and strong non-conformist chapel traditions that thrived in the valleys. Today there are not nearly as many of these choirs obviously due to the closure of the mines and therefore the communities but also because of the reluctance for the following generations to attend chapel; although if you attend a rugby match with a Welsh side the singing is magnificent. The oldest and still surviving Male Voice Choir (and they were all for gentlemen only) is the Duntant Male Voice Choir (Cor Meibion Dyfnant) and holds the distinction of being among the oldest in Wales with a continuous history dating back to 1895. The remaining, active chapels all support traditional Welsh singing with the addition of women and girls. Bangor Cathedral introduced its first-ever all-

girl choir as late as 2012 breaking with 1437 years of all-male tradition. I mention the Welsh tradition of singing because I collided last month with the original film of 'How Green was My Valley' which I read as a teenager and was a much loved book. But the Hollywood film has the advantage of Richard Llewellyn as the singing spills out into the audience in a wonderful, rich Welsh harmony and this despite being filmed in the mountains of St Monica, near Malibu! It very rightly won five Oscars.

We can't promise you a Welsh choir experience but we can promise you a very varied and entertaining Spring Concert which will be on **Friday 15th May and Saturday 16th May in Nether Heyford Village Hall**. Please see advertisement on separate page in this Prattler. We will be conducted by Lucy Mason with, we hope, an appearance by our beloved Mary Rice. Please support Mary as she leaves conducting but stays on as our Life President as the instigator of our much-loved Choir.

JRA

Flore Arts Events

Holtág String Quartet, Saturday June 6th, 7.30pm. All Saints Church, Flore. We will be hosting a talented group of musicians from Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London. 'Cellist Morgan Key - born and raised locally – will be joined by violinists Virág Hévízi and Paris Rizas Pintzopoulos and viola player Ivan Illingworth. This recently formed prize-winning quartet has already given a string of successful concerts across England including a performance at the Wigmore Hall. In August last year they appeared on BBC Radio 3's "In Tune". Their Flore programme will include Ravel's String Quartet in F Major and Kodály's String Quartet No. 2.

Box office now open: tickets £15 (£5 under 18s). Call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm).

Poetry Please: Sunday May 10th. The theme will be "May". 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.

Jazz in the Garden, Sunday July 12th. Rock Springs in Sutton St, Flore. Further details to follow later in the Spring.

Our programme of events will continue to be updated here. You can also keep up to date with our plans on our website at www.floreartsevents.com and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page. We hope to see you soon.

Bugbrooke Meadows

Possibly the most diverse meadow in the county, rich in wildflowers and insects

Know before you go

Size - 2 hectares

Entry fee - No

Grazing animals - Yes

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Reserve prone to flooding and soft footing after rain

Access - Unsuitable for wheelchairs

Dogs - On a lead

When to visit

Opening times - Open at all times

Best time to visit - May to July

About the reserve

This small secluded reserve is a remnant of the grassland once common along the banks of the river Nene. Much of the southern half of the site is spring-fed flush (mire) wet all year round, while the northern half next to the river is winter flooded. Much of the botanical richness is a consequence of these two distinct types of water source.

The main ditch supports a number of water plants, including lesser spearwort and common spikerush and there are patches of bright yellow marsh-marigold in spring. Also in spring, the small pink flowers of marsh valerian can also be found throughout the meadow, often in large numbers. In early summer there is a fine display of southern marsh orchids, a real treat to see in full flower.

Species

Chiffchaff

Yellowhammer

Common spike-rush

Cuckooflower

Marsh marigold

Meadowsweet

Wild angelica

Generally found as part of lowland farms or nature reserves, these small, flower-rich fields are at their best in midsummer when the plethora of flowers and insects is a delight. Tiny reminders of the former abundance of wildflowers in the farmed countryside, they are now treasured for both their wildlife and for the unique rural traditions that developed as part of their farmed history.

(For map see:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/netherheyfordwildlifegroup/permalink/1260326216074644>)

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Information for Patients



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Darts

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(Check Nether Heyford facebook page for dates)

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