



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

May 2026

Issue 489



Nether Heyford
Baptist Church

200

ANNIVERSARY



- **Chapel Re-Opening – Saturday 9th May**
Come and see the newly decorated Chapel, refreshed for the next chapter
- **Anniversary Weekend Events**
A warm invitation to the whole village to join the celebrations
- **Community Coffee Morning**
Supporting The Bliss Charity Primary School

For more details, please see inside

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)

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 18th May

A G M

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

No meeting in May as it is a Bank Holiday and in June we have a garden visit. We will be back In the village hall in July.



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The April 2026 meeting took place on Monday April 13th at the Baptist Church Rooms.

Public Participation Mr Arnold reported that he had met with the Environment Agency and expressed frustration that those in the “Flood Group” had no publicly available contact details.

PCSO Emma Teagles gave a report on the issue of HGVs having to reverse and turn in Furnace Lane. She has visited the Evri office at the former Wickes depot (as has the Parish Council) to try and understand and improve the situation. The problem seems to be that the drivers sat navs do not show the true state of the road and mislead the drivers. It is also felt that the signs could be better. AW felt that prosecutions should be taking place, as registrations were being taken. The PCSO asked that photos and registration numbers should be sent to her. IP felt that cameras should be placed to capture the turns.

KSM expressed concerns about activities in the Olde Sun gardens, and wondered whether any Councillors would be willing to accompany the PCSO on one of her visits. AW volunteered.

Co-option of a new Councillor Charles Kiloh co-opted as a councillor, replacing Lesley Dilkes.

Play Area With the departure of Cllr Isgar, AW wondered whether to contact a consultant. AW to forward names to the clerk, who would then send an invitation to attend a meeting.

Flood Mitigation Clerk to ask for an update and for details of members of the “Flood group”.

SID data IP felt that the SID data should go to the PCSO, and KSM felt it should go to the village. LH volunteered to put it through AI to try and produce a comprehensible report that could be published on the website. IP felt that a full police officer should do a speed survey, and that the speedwatch could usefully be revived.

Church Wall To discuss liability and course of action. Council were unable to agree with the PCC who was responsible for what in the Churchyard. There was no evidence that a Section 215 transfer had taken place, which should mean that the

PC had no responsibility at all. However, the PC had been cutting the grass, maintaining the trees etc since at least 2000. The PCC has accepted responsibility for the North wall, but insists that the PC is responsible for the grade 2 listed East wall. It is known that a previous neighbour on the east side had done work to the wall on their own initiative which may complicate the issue. It was agreed that while the matter was being investigated, that the PC would pay to have the wall made safe, on a without prejudice basis, before any further damage occurs. Resolved. Clerk to instruct David Speight to make the wall safe

KR reported that another cob wall nearby had received a 25% subsidy from SNC.

Resolved. PC to split the final cost with the PCC 50/50 on a without prejudice basis. The PC to commission the work.

Allotments Resolved. To charge a £50 deposit on new lettings, only returnable if the plot is left in an agreed good condition.

Resolved. Minimum charge of £10 per allotment to be introduced.

The grass had been cut voluntarily by Mr Corner, but he wished to retire. Contractors to be asked to quote.

MP visit to Community Lounge (CL) It was reported that there had been adverse comments on social media about the MP visiting the CL without public knowledge. It was confirmed that the CL officers had less than 2 hours' notice themselves, and that the visit was never intended to be a public surgery.

Substation location It was reported that the Bliss land near the Millennium Green could not be used. Resolved. IP given delegated authority to find a suitable location for the electrical substation. Various sites were discussed.

Infrastructure IP felt that a formal complaint should be sent to WNC regarding the non-installation of the chicane – for which WNC has been holding the parish Council's money for over a year. It appears that a landowner had objected, which they are entitled to do. Resolved. AW to consult with Cllr Bignell.

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/>

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

Food Bank

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

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

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
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
K. Sanders-Moody. 07702 701862 CllrK.Sanders-Moody @netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Police Liaison
C. Leggett CllrC.Leggett@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor
J. Leggett CllrJ.Leggett@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Play Area rep.
Charles Kiloh	Councillor
Councillor Phil Bignell - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD. 07969 919779 phil.bignell@westnorthants.gov.uk	Strategic Planning Committee (Chair)
Councillor Debra King. West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD.	

Clerk. Guy Ravine, Tel:07935 931787

E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com

Next Meetings: Monday May 11th and Monday June 1st 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 May 2026

Sunday 3 rd	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Church Stowe</i>
	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Dodford Church</i>
	6:00 pm	Evening Prayer at Heyford
Sunday 10 th	3:00 pm	<i>Benefice Holy Communion and Celebration at Weedon Church*</i>
Thursday 14 th	7:00 pm	<i>Holy Communion for Ascension Day at Weedon Church</i>
Sunday 17 th	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Weedon Church</i>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Sunday 24 th	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Flore Church</i>
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford
Sunday 31 st	10:00 am	Benefice Holy Communion at Heyford Church

*The Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Weedon Church on Sunday 10th May which begins at 3:00pm will be a celebration of the coming together of the six parishes of the Upper Nene Benefice. The Archdeacon of Northampton will be the preacher at this special service.

Midweek Services:

Thursday 10:00 am Holy Communion 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

The launch of the Artemis II space mission struck me as odd timing. As deadly rockets and missiles filled the skies of the Middle East, one much more powerful rocket was sent away into space, on a mission that took its crew of four further from the earth than any human has ever been. The launch was a key moment - Artemis II is significant in the world of space exploration, taking humans back towards the moon as a precursor for the establishment of a lunar base and human exploration of our moon. Blasting rockets into space is always dramatic, somehow connecting us to a world beyond our own, pointing us to the heavens.

In the Church Calendar, we're in the season of Easter, our recent Sunday readings recounting the post-resurrection encounters Jesus had with his friends and followers – Thomas in the locked upstairs room (John 20:19-31), the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), and first, Mary in the garden on Easter morning (John 20:1-18). The Easter story is another more powerful and more significant moment when we're invited to pause and think about worlds beyond our own, in an account that points directly to heaven itself. Like Mary Magdalene, when we reflect on the empty tomb, we're confronted with the reality that Jesus is the King of the cosmos. The empty tomb is the ultimate moment of connection between this world and the next. Unlike the space mission, which allowed only four astronauts to catch a glimpse of the universe, we're all invited to look up and catch a glimpse of the God of heaven and earth through his Son, who died for us and rose again. The Easter story changes our perspective for ever and points us heavenwards.

With every blessing,

Rev Stephen (Tel 07415 691541)

The Streets we shall be praying for during May are Brookside Place, Watery Lane and the playing fields in Heyford, Bricketts Lane and Springfield in Flore, Main Street in Upper Stowe and the Hall apartments in Brockhall, West Street, Buswell Close, Manor Road, Neneside Close and Brookside in Weedon Bec and Brockhall Road 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.



Nether Heyford Baptist Church

Celebrating 200 Years of Nether Heyford Baptist Church

This spring marks a wonderful moment for our village as Nether Heyford Baptist Church celebrates **200 years** of worship, welcome, and community life. For generations, families, friends, neighbours, and newcomers have gathered in our little Chapel, each adding their story to its long history.

In recent weeks the Chapel has enjoyed a much-needed makeover, bringing fresh colour, warmth, and improved accessibility to a building that has served the village since 1826. While the work has taken place, our Sunday services have continued in the **Friendship Hall**, where the sense of togetherness has remained as strong as ever.

We're delighted that the Chapel will **re-open on Saturday, 9th May**, just in time for our anniversary weekend. Everyone is warmly invited to step inside, see the refreshed space, see our flower displays and share in this milestone moment. As we celebrate, we remember the generations who have prayed, served, and cared before us.

"One generation commends your works to another." — Psalm 145:4 (NIV)

Alongside the re-opening, we'll be hosting a special **Coffee Morning in support of The Bliss Charity Primary School**, a chance to enjoy good company and do some good for our community. (Saturday 9th May 10am -2pm)

We look forward to welcoming you as we begin the next chapter in this village's story.

Pastor Lee - Nether Heyford Baptist Church



Upcoming services:

- Sunday 3rd May Pat and Dave Biddles,
Sunday 10th May Pastor Lee, and Lee will also be leading the celebration
afternoon service at 4pm
Sunday 17th May Bruce Furniss,
Sunday 24th May Nathan Toseland,
Sunday 31st May Martin Buckby

Events

Saturday 9th May	Coffee Morning Raising money for Bliss School	10.00am - 2.00pm
Sunday 10th May	Special 200th Anniversary Celebration	10.30am - 11.30am
Sunday 10th May	Special 200th Anniversary Celebration	4.00pm - 5.30pm
Friday 22nd May	Book Sale	10.00am
Saturday 6th June	Fete with open church and flower display and 'Meet the Minister'	2.00pm - 5.00pm

Contacts

Website: NetherHeyford.Church

Facebook: [NHBapChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NHBapChurch)

Phone: 01604 389 405

Nether Heyford Past - The Baptist Church

Our story begins in 1799, when a small group of local people started meeting regularly for worship in a building owned by Mr Richard Adams. Before this, they travelled to Castle Hill Chapel in Northampton. When a Baptist Chapel opened in Bugbrooke in 1805, the Heyford congregation walked or rode on horseback to attend services there.

By 1826, during a period of growth in the village between the opening of the canal and the arrival of the railway, the Baptist community was finally able to establish a permanent home in Heyford. The Chapel opened that year, though the link with Bugbrooke remained, and the minister there continued to oversee both congregations.

By 1839, the church had 76 adult members and 24 children, leading to the start of a Sunday School. The church continued to grow, and at the Jubilee celebrations in 1876, more than 120 children enjoyed a hot dinner at Bliss School, followed by games in Mr Adams' orchard and an open-air service on the Green.

In 1922, Mr Oliver Adams played a key role in building the Schoolroom, which cost £838, a significant increase from the Chapel's original £178 cost in 1826.

A generous legacy from Mr A. T. Cosford in 1962 enabled the Chapel to begin much-needed rebuilding work and to call a part-time minister, becoming independent for the first time. This marked the beginning of the ministry of Rev Harry Whittaker, well known as the Founder Director of the Northamptonshire Association of Youth Clubs. Since then, the church has been served by only three further ministers: Revd Frank Lawes, Revd Michael Jones, and Revd Roy Cave.

In 1963, the Methodist Chapel (opened in 1838) sadly closed due to declining numbers. Its remaining members joined the Baptist congregation, and several items, including the two stained-glass windows now at the front of our building, were brought across, along with pews and panelling used to create the vestibule.

In 1984, serious dry rot was discovered in the Chapel, an issue that also affected the Parish Church at the same time. This led to a number of joint fundraising events and strengthened the sense of unity between the churches.

During periods without a minister, we have been blessed by the support of many visiting preachers.

We owe particular gratitude to Mr Martin **Buckby** for his **pastoral care, ministry,** and spiritual guidance, which have been a great encouragement to us.

In 2024, the church called Lee Hillyard to serve as pastor. He brings with him fresh energy, new technology, and a renewed sense of direction for serving our community.

Darts

Friday Fortnightly 17:00 - 19:00 Youth Club, Ridgeway Furlong NN7 3GH

1st May, 15th May, 29th May

Open for children and adults, parents are welcome to stay and chat.

1st session free then £1.00 thereafter to May with costs and running of the sessions. If you haven't been before then come and give us a try.

There will also be tea, coffee, cold drinks and snacks and sweets.



Heyford Bowls Club

The Bowls Club Open Day is planned for Sunday 24th May and everyone is invited to come along and see what it's all about. You can just watch, enjoy a drink from the bar or a hot dog from the BBQ, or maybe have a go at a fun game of bowls. Any age can play, it's competitive, fun and sociable. We shall also run a Meat Raffle during the afternoon. Why not pop in and see us any time between 2 & 5 pm if only to be aware of this brilliant village facility.

We have several home matches through May so let's hope for good weather – it's always best.

On the Short Mat front in the village hall the Mixed Singles was won by Geoff Groom; The Ladies Pairs, the last competition until the Autumn, was won by Liz Davison and Dawn Bastin. It's always worth joining in or supporting these competitions if only for the home made cakes supplied by Rosemary Dunkley, who also does a great job of organising these events. Well done Rosemary.

On the Social side our Easter Quiz was well supported with 60 contestants.

We now look forward to running our Spinning Wheel at the fete on 6th June.

Shirley Collins

shirleybcollins@hotmail.com 01327 342287



Heyford Cleaning Service

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300 Club

February Draw

Winner £65	Cricket Club	Ticket 189
Runner Up £30	Sandra Sedorski	Ticket 175

March Draw

Winner £65	Fiona Gillespie	Ticket 173
Runner Up £30	Will Percy	Ticket 34

HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB

Open Day

Sun May 24th 2.00 - 5.00pm



Bar Tea/Coffee Meat Raffle

Prizes **BBQ** Novelty Bowls

**Just bring some flat soled shoes/sandals
and come along for a fun afternoon**

Astronomy on the Green

Well, I suppose there can be only one subject this month: the return of four genuinely brave human beings to the moon. The last Apollo mission was number 17 in December 1972, the year I left school to the theme of Alice Cooper, and yes, for me, school was out forever! Since then, (some 54 years ago), much of the technology we now enjoy daily came from the developments made to enable the series of Apollo missions.

As the final human lunar landing of the 20th century, Apollo 17 landed in the Taurus-Littrow valley with astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt, while Ronald Evans orbited above. We have yet to revisit the surface of our satellite; the next time we look to prepare the way for a permanent lunar base. There is much to consider before then, not the least how humans survive and thrive in such a unique environment.

The effects of space travel on astronauts, including zero or low gravity, have been ongoing since the 20th century. The International Space Station (ISS) which whisks across our skies every night, has been key in this venture (26 years of data). So, what have we learnt?

To paraphrase the effects: Recent 2026 NASA findings confirm that long-term space travel causes significant human body changes, including 1%–1.5% monthly bone density loss, brain fluid redistribution (shifting upward/backward), and cardiovascular changes. Key findings show space flight induces gene mutations, alters vision, and challenges astronaut cognitive speed upon return.

Some of the above can be mediated to an extent by training, and some are not. Gene mutations are a potential pathway to cancer; cognitive losses may stabilise over time given a return to Earth. Essentially, however we developed on Earth and our evolution made us suited to its environment. That makes us resilient and adaptable, so there are billions of us. Making the Moon, or even more-so Mars, our permanent home looks challenging.

Few of us so far have travelled into space, and most of us have seen the footage of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. It is a risky business, and I take my hat off to the crew of Artemis II; Victor Glover (Pilot), Christina Koch (Mission Specialist), Jeremy Hansen (Mission Specialist), and Reid Wiseman (Mission Commander). These people truly deserve the word brave.

Now, back in '72, I would have jumped at the chance of donning an astronaut's suit. Now – jog on!

Clear Skies

Tony Boutle

Slimming World

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rooms - 7.00 pm every Tuesday**

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Heyford Allotments - Sorry, Too Busy!

Apologies, but this will be a very brief article. The months of April and May are a very busy time for allotmentees and there is never enough time to do all the jobs we'd like to. So, there is no real article for you because we are:

1. Planting out hardy seedlings we've been raising under glass – lettuce, spinach, beetroot, rocket, broad beans, radish etc. etc.
2. Earthing up early potatoes to prevent frost damage.
3. Uncovering onions and shallots planted from sets and protected from frost (and birds)
4. Weeding round soft fruit, feeding (in our case, with an organic fertilizer) and mulching if the ground is wet.
5. Mowing pathways and keeping fast growing weeds in check.
6. Harvesting rhubarb.
7. Checking for slugs and snails as they emerge from their winter rest
8. Preparing beds for direct sowing of crops like parsnip and salad leaves (we did a first sowing in March as well).
9. Sowing the seed of tender crops like cucumber, courgette, sweetcorn, squash, climbing beans and peas under glass.
10. Potting on tomato, chilli and pepper plants that we grew in the propagator (still far too early to plant out)
11. Sowing the seed of tender annual flowers.
12. Where necessary, making sure soft fruit is netted to stop bird damage.
13. And believe it or not watering plants. No rain for ages!

The list could go on and on and on.

And of course, all of the above happens as well as looking after our own garden and helping keep the allotment site in Heyford well maintained and looking as good as we've become accustomed to.

Hopefully, next month, we'll have more time to write a proper article.

Vacancies

We currently have two vacant plots. They are both 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



Nether Heyford Tennis Club

The new tennis season is getting underway, with a summer of long light evenings of playing to look forward to.

NHTC is a friendly local tennis club that welcomes enthusiasm just as much as skill! We're based at the playing fields in Heyford, though our membership of over 100 is drawn from all around the area. We have three well maintained hard courts, with floodlights for evening playing.

Membership fees can be paid annually or monthly. For one adult the annual cost is just £110, or £14 a month, which buys you access to the courts all day, 365 days a year. Much better value than the gym, more sociable and there's nothing like a summer evening on the tennis court.

Club members can book a court for free to play with your family and friends, as long as they are members too, and also join in with our friendly social club sessions on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.

If you're new to tennis or fancy getting back into it after a break, we offer group coaching for older teens and adults with our great fully qualified coach Ollie Reis. Lessons are on Saturday morning between 10.30 and 11.30. They are a good way to meet other members and have fun as well as brush up on your racket skills.

From April onwards we are also offering Cardio Tennis on Tuesday evenings 6-7. This is a fun fitness class with a bit of tennis thrown in.

More information about the club on our website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/NetherHeyfordTennisClub> or email us at netherheyfordtennisclub@gmail.com





Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

View from the Chair

We are very much hoping for fine weather for the garage sale which will probably have taken place by the time you read this. With so many garages registered it is also hoped that you have all had a good clear out and are counting the profits.

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.

The next event is the village fête scheduled for Saturday 6 June 2026. Raffle tickets have been printed and are on sale now in Heyford Meats and from Committee members. We have some super prizes this year including a signed Saints rugby shirt and tickets to various events and venues. As well as a £100 cash prize and many other substantial prizes.

As our dog show has proven very popular in the past we will be bringing it to the main body of the fete so think about registering your dog on the day. It's for all with fun classes. It would also be really nice to see the children's fancy dress competition grow this year. Time to start thinking about costumes please. Hopefully it will be well attended and the entries large enough for the main arena.

If you are able to please keep an eye on our Facebook page for up to date information about all events at the hall.

Finally, I would like to ask for your help. Recently our bins have been filled (quite literally) with cardboard storage boxes from house moves, suitcases and household items. This leaves no room for the waste generated by the groups which use the hall and of course we have to pay for this service. Please dispose of your own waste. The only waste which should be brought to the hall is from the playing fields with which we have an arrangement via the Parish Council. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

I very much look forward to seeing and speaking to many of you at the fete this year.

Carol Tuckley - Chair of the Trustees



Picturedrome Presents ~ I Swear

swearing



Showing 21st May - Certificate15 - BAFTA - Subtitled – 2 Hours long

I Swear is a 2025 British biographical drama film directed, written, and produced by Kirk Jones. It is based on the true life story of John Davidson, a Scottish man with severe Tourette syndrome who was the subject of the 1989 television documentary *John's Not Mad*.

Admission £6 includes
Tea, Coffee and
Biscuits

Wine and soft drinks
are available at the bar



**Nether Heyford
Village Hall**

Doors open at 7:00 pm, film showing at 7:30 pm

NETHER HEYFORD

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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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In Nether Heyford

Gosh, here we are staring May in the face. May, the month of bank holidays, long queues at supermarkets and garden centre's. The month of Morris Dancing and indecision as to whether it is warm enough to change into summer clothes. At my senior school, we had to wait for the headmistress to announce the date when we could wear our summer uniforms. You could bet that the next week we would be freezing our ankle socks off.

At our last month's meeting we were educated and enthralled by Roy Smart's talk on Amy Johnson. Roy had been a pilot, so could explain the aeronautical challenges that she faced choosing to complete long distance flights in primitive aircraft without all the navigational aids of today's aircraft. She and her husband set many long-distance records during the 1930s. She became a national heroine.

On the outbreak of World War 2 she volunteered for the Air Transport Auxiliary which was responsible for delivering new aircraft to RAF bases all across the country. She died on January 5th 1941 after leaving Prestwick for RAF Kidlington in poor weather. She became lost and ran out of fuel forcing her to parachute out of the plane into the icy Thames. Despite gallant attempts to rescue her, her body was never found. WI members found the story of bravery and loss very moving.

This month we shall hear another incredible story from centuries past when Dr Claire Finn will tell us about "The Harpole Burial; Treasure and Mystery ". If you remember, it is 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. We should have heard this talk in January but had to call it off due to a snow storm. Fingers crossed there's no inclement weather on **Thursday May 7th at 7.30**. Visitors welcome.

Now for some wellbeing advice. You have to celebrate life's small victories when they come along and we are celebrating coming 3rd in the County WI Quiz. There were 36 teams from all over the county in a very large hall. We usually flounder around in the twenty something slots but not this year. No one was more surprised than us. Go Nether Heyford!

Jane Wareing
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View from The Nature Reserve

I am writing this in the last week of April. The Bluebells in our local woods are now coming into full bloom whilst wild bees of different species are seeking out suitable sites on which to deposit their precious eggs. All of this whilst most of our native trees are only just coming into leaf. My Wife Pauline and me, accompanied by our two dogs, regularly walk in our local small woods. Thankfully, this year there seem to be more species of migratory birds singing in these woods than have been present in recent years. There are a good number of Chiffchaffs with an occasional White throat. Doubtless there will be more birdsong as the spring sunshine warms the woodland up. In recent years the development of Bird-song "Apps" for mobile phones has brought easy recognition of our songbirds by their songs within the reach of almost everyone.

In addition to identifying birdsong, there are now Identification apps for wild flowers, insects, fungi, mammals and pretty well everything you can think of. These apps were a bit "shaky" at the start. However, now most are easy to use and quite accurate. I still have some of the wildlife Id books that I saved up to buy in the late 1950s and early 1960s. These are very well worn. However, lately, I am more likely to buy a book on "Restoring Nature" than identifying plants and animals I bought in the last millennium. I still use these old books which are still valid today.

Those who follow the Nether Heyford facebook page will know the parish nature reserve is developing very well. Cowslips are looking the best I have seen in both colour and numbers on all of the 5 "Meadow Beds". Each year new flower species show up. Some dominate for a season then die down to return in a more restrained fashion the following year. It's important to stick with our management plan for scheduled cutting and removing dead grass in Spring and Autumn. It would be lovely to extend this management regime to other grass areas in the village.

I really just cannot understand why some folk find a patch of flat, bare grass that no-one uses preferable to a wildlife friendly meadow which is resplendent with wild flowers and grasses, along with accompanying insects preferable to a flat patch of mown grass which has little or no biological value. With only two mowings each year, the wildlife managed patch also costs less to maintain. The evidence for this is now on the nature reserve and the mown part of the allotments for all to see, where both models are there together for comparison.

On the reserve, we also have grass that remains completely unmown from one year to another. This forms an important habitat for many species of insects, spiders, reptiles, amphibians and of course small mammals. I have recorded Wood mice (when did these stop being Field mice?) and all 3 of our UK Shrew species too.

I will discuss the conservation of our mammal species in a future "View" as it is a big subject.

Dave Musson

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Spring Concert Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May – a collection of songs chosen by Mary Rice to celebrate her 24 years of conducting Heyford Singers Community Choir

Writing this in April ready for the May Prattler I realise how little time we now have left to finish rehearsing for our Concert. An extra special Concert marking the end of an era. But of course the Choir will continue to flourish under the new guidance of Lucy Mason and so much enthusiasm from the members. A vital part of Heyford's active community life.

We have been practising *Pachelbel's Canon in D* which because of its complexities, we have been rehearsing only two pages at a time. Not an easy piece but with careful consideration we are really mastering it. The Sopranos' voices soar in this one with beautiful melodies from the Altos and Tenors, the Bass section providing a warming sound to this magnificent piece. And why 'Canon in D'? The name refers to a famous Baroque-era musical piece by Johann Pachelbel composed around 1680-1706. The 'canon' is a structure where voices imitate each other and it is written in the key of D major. It is a much-played piece of music and its familiarity plays a role and has an emotional impact evoking a sense of nostalgia and comfort. It has been used very widely – from weddings to movie soundtracks and that is why it continues to resonate with audiences across generations. And interestingly, although not proven, it is widely believed to have been composed for the wedding of Johann Christopher Bach, the elder brother of Johann Sebastian Bach in 1694 who was a pupil of Pachelbel and, like his brother, a prominent composer and organist.

The Picturedrome in the Village Hall last month showed 'The Choral' which drew members of our Choir to what is a stunning performance by Ralph Fiennes and Roger Allam. 'As World War 1 rages on, Dr Henry Guthrie takes over a British choral society that's lost most of its men to the army. The community soon discovers that the best response to the chaos of war is to make beautiful music together'. (Quote from the overview on the Internet). Members of the Huddersfield Choral Society believe that the film is based on their choir's history and it is written by the famous Leeds playwright author Alan Bennett who brings this awful part of our history to life. The younger actors, many only recruited in Yorkshire in 2024 had to possess a sense of humour and Roger Allam states that 'nearly all the music was sung by the actors'. The singing really is amazing and many at the Village Hall were wiping away tears when the lights went up. I don't think our singing will reduce anyone to tears (although the men's *Homeward Bound* is very moving) but you never know...

We are now going over everything we have planned for the Concert and there seem to be so many different pieces - and as always we wonder whether we have prepared enough. But every year we manage and this year especially will be no exception. Tickets are going very well as Mary Rice is so popular and both nights should be full to over-flowing. One of our Second Sopranos as I said last month sadly passed away and she will be very missed at our Concerts. We were invited by the family to a memorial tea in Flore last month and we sang Abba's '*Thank You for the Music*' doing Olive Thomas proud as the proceedings ended.

I was looking for an appropriate passage or poem to end this on for Mary but instead decided on the following entitled 'Departure'.

*At the airport
she drew him near
then whispered softly in his ear -
not words of parting's
sad, sweet sorrow,
but 'don't forget the bins
tomorrow.'*

Brian Bilston

JRA

Flood Watch

The months of March and April saw a dramatic change in the weather with rainfalls of 44% and 13% of normal. This followed excessively heavy rainfall and three fluvial events in January and February.

As I prepared this article I was reminded that this year marks the 14th year of writing in the Prattler under the guise of Community Flood Forum, Community Flood Group and Flood Watch designed to keep the residents of the Village up to date with flooding issues.

For the majority of the time I have acted voluntarily, partly as I live next to the River Nene but more importantly to understand and help find solutions to the major flood risk area in the centre of the Village. Also this allowed me to interact with various authorities such as the Environment Agency, NCC and SNDC, to establish direct links with Chris Heaton Harris who raised flood issues in Parliament whilst sharing experiences with volunteer groups up and down the Country through Flood Forum.

My background as a Scientist and Technologist helps me to collect and analyse data and suggest solutions to flooding problems.

Our village is divided into two distinct areas of flood risk, one from the River Nene where fluvial events have a risk factor of between 1 in 100 years to 1 in 1000 years and the other from a tributary of the Nene, namely Heyford Brook with a risk factor of 1 in 10 years. This brook is fed into the E-W culvert whose output is fed into Horestone Brook. Two studies commissioned by E/A concluded that the culvert had insufficient capacity when climate change is taken into account.

A second parallel culvert would be needed or up stream storage to reduce flow rate in Heyford Brook. Unfortunately cost/benefit ratio could not be met, ie. Unaffordable.

The flooding in Watery Lane in March 2016 and the follow up report suggested a problem with the outlet being prone to blockage from high water levels in Horestone Brook creating back pressure. Through discussions with the E/A it was agreed that the outlet needed to be streamlined and Horestone Brook needed to be tiered to increase its capacity and hence avoid blocking the culvert output. This work was funded and the modifications completed in April 2018.

Whenever there is a major flooding event in which at least 5 properties are flooded the Flood and Water Management Act of 2010 requires a detailed report to be prepared. The document is referred to as Section 19 which would normally be written by the LLFA, Local Lead Flood Authority. After the 2016 Watery Lane flood, myself and a nominated Consultant prepared the document with the latter asking me to write the flood account/analysis due to my local flood knowledge.

Unfortunately at the time of storm Bert in October 2024 Watery Lane was again flooded due to outflow from a manhole on the edge of the Green. At the same time properties in South View and Church St were also flooded. Although the River Nene had a high level of fluvial water in the paddocks of Manor Park no properties were effected there. As more than 5 properties were flooded this prompted the generation of a Section 19 report. As this was mentioned in the April Parish Council minutes I reviewed the draft copy prepared by WNC LLFA and found errors and lack of detail. The corrections filled 4 sheets of A4 which were forwarded to the LLFA. These documents are prepared as a reference document and therefore need to be accurate.

A meeting was held with the E/A in early March to discuss alterations to Heyford Brook. Unfortunately the suggestion of a modified trash screen was rejected in favour of increasing the Brook capacity by raising the channel wall height or preferably create a piped culvert. The E/A have retired to consider these options. The creation of upstream storage to restrict flow rate was considered in previous studies and rejected on cost/benefit grounds.

A camera inspection of the E-W culvert following the 2016 flooding had identified major issues of collapse and root ingress and concerns about lack of maintenance remains a major issue.

J Arnold

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 Hévizi 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”. The quartet’s Flore programme will include Ravel’s String Quartet in F Major and Kodály’s String Quartet No. 2. The Ravel quartet has been called one of the most famous in the repertoire, with beautiful melodies and lively rhythms throughout. Kodály’s quartet combines Hungarian folk influences with subtle French impressionist tendencies. The programme will be completed by Webern’s lush and deeply romantic “Langsamer Satz” and the opening section from J S Bach’s “The Art of Fugue”.

This concert really promises to give us a memorable evening of beautiful music. It’s a landmark occasion for Flore Arts Events as it takes place ten years after our first concert. In the meantime – and thanks entirely to our supporters’ generosity – we have been able to raise more than £33,000 for local good causes from our events.

Box office now open: tickets £15 (£5 under 18s). Call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm). Also available from Re at 2A Sutton St, Flore, NN7 4LE (during shop opening hours).

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.





Heyford Cricket Club

I am pleased to report that we have had a really positive close season at HCC. Winter nets have proved really popular across both junior and senior ranks and we have had interest from new players as well as existing members.

We have had less issues with flooding overall during the end of the winter which has meant that we have been able to get onto pitch and outfield preparation without mowers sinking. Our annual pre-season fundraising quiz was well attended and raised over £400. This money will all go directly towards replacing and upgrading kit for our Junior section. Thanks to Simon Adkins and Graham McKechnie for organising a great night as always.

Our new season started with a late April fixture for our 1st XI who welcomed Weldon 1st's to the Playing Fields for their first game since being promoted back into Division 2 of the NCL. At the time of writing, we can only hope for a rain free start to the year. Our newly reformed 3rd XI had their first game on Saturday 2nd May in the South Northants League and our 2nd XI have their first run out of the year on May 9th.

Our Junior Cricket also started early in May and we wish our 3 teams the best of luck for the season. Our Friday evening sessions for the All Stars and Dynamos kick off on 8th May and will run each week with a break for half term at the end of the month.

Our main fundraising event of the year is a golf day which will take place at Silverstone Golf Club on Friday 12th June. Details are available for anyone who might be interested in getting a fourball together. The day starts with a coffee and a bacon roll and finishes with a 2 course dinner. It would be great to welcome some local golfers from outside the club.

As always, we are looking for new players and volunteers who might be able to help either with ground work or with junior and senior cricket training. Please feel free to get in touch if you think you could help, however limited your experience might be. Growing the cricket club for our kids and for the village needs help from as many of us as are able.

Julian Rice

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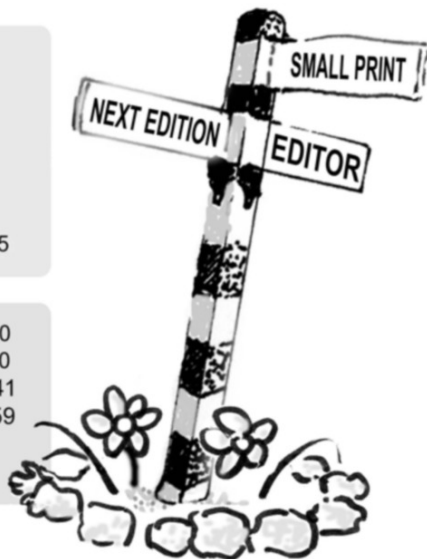
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