



# THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

June 2026

Issue 490

NETHER HEYFORD  
VILLAGE HALL

## SUMMER FETE

**SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2-5PM 2026**

**FEATURING:** Fancy dress Competition  
(ages 0-5, 6-8 & 9-12)

- ★ Saxophone Band ★ Grand Raffle
- ★ Dance & Gymnastics displays  
★ Classic Cars Show
- ★ Fun dog show ★ Rose King & Queen  
★ Stalls & Amusements
- ★ Burgers on sale ...and lots more

**Afternoon teas in Village Hall**  
email: [nvhsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:nvhsecretary@gmail.com)  
for further details



## 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.

A reminder that next month is a double issue covering July and August. Normal service will resume in September.

*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 15<sup>th</sup> June – A woman in Blue** by Fay Tennet

Fay talks about her 15 year career as a police officer. Dealing with everything from homicide to front line response, and how she made her way to Chief Inspector.

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

**[www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene)**



# PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The May Meeting of Nether Heyford Parish Council took place on May 11th, one week later than usual because of the May Bank Holiday.

This was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at which the Chair is elected. Ms L Hall was elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Mr C. Kiloh elected as Vice Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**Public Participation** No members of the public in attendance.

**Church Wall** Clerk reported that PCC had agreed to pay 50% of the charge to remove spoil. It was felt that a meeting with the PCC was needed as soon as possible. Resolved. Council to pay spoil removal fee and reclaim half from PCC.

**Play Area** report from meeting with Michael Carter. Clerk reported that Mr Carter would charge a flat fee of £3,500. He would advise on the tenders when the Parish Council had received them and would liase with the contractors prior to the installation. A separate project manager would be required.

**The Bliss Charity School May Fair.** May 20th. Resolved. Fair to be allowed.

**Flood Warden** Coffee Morning - 15th May. DM had attended the meeting on behalf of Council. The position of flood Warden would be advertised. Sandbags and emergency equipment had now been installed.

**Parking on the Green** Reports of vehicles driving and parking on the Green (because of lack of parking space for events at the Village Hall) had been received. Council unfortunately has no powers to stop this, and nor do the police. CK to liase with the Village Hall Management Committee to try and remedy this. CL to look into Road traffic orders etc.

**Assets of Community Value** A request to add the Olde Sun to the list of Assets of Community Value had been turned down by WNC "as insufficient information or evidence has been provided to support the application."

## Reports

**Wellbeing** KSM reported that the PCSO was trying to be more visible on her visits to the village. She is working actively on the situation regarding HGVs on Furnace Lane and the use of SID information. CK volunteered to walk round with the PCSO.

**Infrastructure, Chicane report** Council has been informed by WNC that the intended installation of the chicane is being held up by objections from a landowner. WNC has expressed frustration at this situation. TW to contact Cllr Bignell on this issue. It had been stressed that the complainant could not hold up the installation indefinitely.

**Community** LE reported that all the allotments had now been let and there was no waiting list. Resolved. Orchard grass to be cut at a cost of £70.

**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/>

<b>Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.</b>	
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 June 1st and Monday July 6<sup>th</sup> 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 June 2026

Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Pop Up Messy Church at Heyford Village Fete
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	09:30 am	<i>Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe</i>
	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Dodford Church</i>
	6:00 pm	Service of Prayer and Praise at Heyford Church
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion Service at Brockhall</i>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Weedon Church</i>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	<i>Ordination Service at Peterborough Cathedral *</i>
	6:00 pm	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Flore Church</i>

\* On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June, our curate, John Robinson will be ordained a deacon at Peterborough Cathedral at a service beginning at 10:30am. It would be great if as many people as possible could be there to support John. Please hold John in your prayers this month, as he completes his studies and prepares for his curacy in the Upper Nene Benefice.

### Midweek Services:

**Thursday** 10:00 am Holy Communion Flore Church  
2.30pm - 3.30pm Private prayer (**not 18<sup>th</sup>**) Flore Church

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

Dear Friends

What are you hoping for? Sometimes our answers will be quite personal: enough money to sort out the washing machine, a decent night's sleep, sunshine on our summer holidays. Other times our answers are enormous: world peace, a solution to climate change, the restoration of a broken relationship. Yet in difficult, challenging times, hope can be hard to find, hard to hold on to. In the TV series 'Alone', ten individuals are dropped into the Canadian wilderness and the one who survives the longest is the winner. Contestants often have all kinds of skills: hunting, fishing, knowledge of plants and fungi, the ability to make tools and build shelters. Each contestant comes to a point in their experience when what they miss most is people: for some, it is at this point they decide to give up; for others, the thought of family and friends spurs them on. They want to make them proud; they want to show them that they can overcome the challenge; they want to be a stronger person when they return to everyday life. They face the same harsh external environment as the others, but their internal focus is strengthened, enabling them to persevere and press on.

In the first century, the early Christians of Asia Minor – modern-day Turkey – faced difficult circumstances; driven from their homes, scattered, persecuted, harassed. St Peter wrote to them, saying; *'Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence'* (1 Peter 3:15-16). This inner hope had been given to them by God through the saving work of Jesus Christ, providing the strength to keep going, helping them through difficult times.

Christian hope invites us all to recognise that God's action in Christ has changed the world at every level, and to share that hope with others. I pray that we might all come to know that God-given inner hope and strength, transforming our perspective and enabling us to persevere and press on, whatever life has in store for us.

With every blessing,

*Rev Stephen (Tel 07415 691541)*

**The Streets** we shall be praying for during June are: Middle Street, Manor Park and Parsons Close in Nether Heyford; Brockhall Road and The Crescent in Flore, the Main Street in Church Stowe and The Old Rectory, Rose Cottage and Western Cottage in Brockhall, Bridge Street, Bull Inn Close, Eton Close and The Croft in Weedon Bec, and Church Lane 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

A warm welcome to Nether Heyford Baptist Church. Whether you've lived in the village for years or are new to the community, we're delighted to have you with us. Our Chapel has been a place of worship, friendship, and hope for over 200 years, and we pray it will be a place where you feel at home too. Come as you are, share in the journey, and know that you are part of a caring and joyful village family. We look forward to welcoming you as we begin the next chapter in this village's story.

*Pastor Lee*

### Upcoming services:

6 <sup>th</sup> June Saturday	Fete with open church and flower display and 'Meet the Minister'	<b>2.00pm-5.00pm</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> June Sunday	Service, John Perkins	<b>10.30am-11.30am</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> June Sunday	Service, Pastor Lee	<b>10.30am-11.30am</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> June Sunday	Praise & Worship, Pastor Lee	<b>4pm-4.45pm</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> June Wednesday	Bible Study,	<b>10am-11am</b>
21 <sup>st</sup> June, Sunday	Service, Ted Hales	<b>10.30am-11.30am</b>
26 <sup>th</sup> June Friday	Book sale	<b>10am-12pm</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> June Sunday	Service, Pastor Lee	<b>10.30am-11.30am</b>

**4<sup>th</sup> July Saturday Charity Garden Party 2.00pm-4.00pm**  
at the home of Alwyne Wilson, 29 Church Lane, Nether Heyford NN7 3LQ.  
Raising money for The Torch Trust for the Blind (and church funds)

### Contacts

Website: [NetherHeyford.Church](http://NetherHeyford.Church)  
Facebook: [NHBapChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NHBapChurch)  
Phone: 01604 389 405

## Darts

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

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

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.



## Princely Home Assist

**Do you need help at home, do you have elderly parents, a relative with a disability, or a busy family life?**

Are you struggling to do your housework? Working long hours and struggling to find the time to help out?

Let me take the pressure off. While I'm not a professional carer, I offer reliable support with everyday tasks such as:

- Housework and ironing
- Changing bed linens and doing laundry
- Preparing meals
- Tidying the garden
- Grocery shopping (or accompanying someone to the shops)
- Offering friendly company and conversation

Whether it's a one-off job or regular help, I'm here to make life a little easier for you and/or your loved ones.

Feel free to get in touch to discuss how I can help.

**Contact: Christine on 07463939427 or [caprince63@gmail.com](mailto:caprince63@gmail.com)**

## Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

A reminder that our June meeting is a garden visit. We look forward to having our usual 'Little Boxes' stall at the village fete. Back in the Village Hall in July.

# Heyford Athletic Women Football Team

So the day came around that all of us had been waiting for.

In their 1st season as Heyford Athletic Women, they have bought into the club 100%, everything they have celebrated they have held at the club, like the men and Youth teams they can see what it gives the club to spend on pitches, new goals, balls, training equipment etc so they spend as much as they possibly can. The day before they were celebrating the upcoming marriage of manager James Sullivan and player Lucy Cox.

Having only lost once in the league, away at Kingsthorpe Jets, and with the Jets still having 2 games to play, they knew a win was the result that made them Champions. A draw could have gone down to goal difference although we were confident of winning that way as well, but a win put it beyond any possible doubt.

With 2 hugely important players in Lauren Roche and Kady Cox away on holiday it was not necessarily going to be easy, but you doubt these ladies at your peril.

With a good crowd of spectators from both teams, the men's players and the ladies partners and some tiny tots donning the men's identical game shirts it was going to be an exciting game, there was also a contingent of Kingsthorpe Jets players up the end by the bowls club hoping and praying for a miracle of Olney winning the game.

We were straight out of the box with skipper Jodie Fisher opening the scoring on 7 minutes, then 2 minutes later goal machine Samantha Nunn (53 goals in less than 20 games) added the 2nd.

Then Olney starting to fight back and with the ladies snoozing they scored 2 to make it all square. To the watching Heyford Committee and fans it looked like the night before could come back and bite them.

The Jets ladies were getting excited but our ladies had a different view, Samantha Nunn scored her 2nd on 33 minutes, Araina Thompson got number 4 on 41 minutes then Skipper Jodi got number 5 just on half time at 45 minutes, a verse of "you only came to see the Heyford" started to ring out aimed at one end of the ground.

## HT 5-2

Olney came out determined and pulled one back 5-3 game on, then Sam, who else, got her regular hat trick on 76 minutes to lay any supporters nerves to rest. The Jets started to leave to the sounds of "we can see you sneaking out", out came the surprise banner and the party started.

Left sided defender, Ellie Palmer, put the cherry on the cake with an in swinging corner from the right that flew straight into the net.

## FT 7-3

Then the party really began. The Northamptonshire Women's and Girls Football league had informed James that the cup and medal's would not be present and would have to be presented at the leagues AGM, this was understandable as they had a whole weekend of cup finals in Corby. Our Chairman however was not accepting that and arranged to pick them up from the FA offices, huge thank you to Luke Scott, Chairman of the NWGFL, for arranging that.

So to the ladies surprise at the end of the game the Trophy and Medals were there and the teams Sponsor Mr Justin Hammond, of AW Audit Solutions LTD, presented them to the team along with the scarecrow figures of the missing Lauren Roche and Kady Cox. He also brought them the white T-Shirts they donned at the end and put some money behind the bar for them, and these lot can drink. We thank him for everything he has done for the ladies.

Also a huge plus is that there is a village girl playing for the team (Laura Leacock) and we hope she might be the 1st of many.

A great season, thank you James and his assistant Finlay Marshall for putting together this great group of players and we are all excited for what the future may hold. COYHW



## Astronomy on the Green

As summer approaches, we face our galactic centre, and the Milky Way dominates our skies. The centre of the galaxy appears to stretch right across the sky. This is because of the Milky Way's shape (it is roughly a disc, and we are inside this disc). The actual centre is some 26,000 light-years (or about 150,000 trillion miles) away from us. Roughly, it is toward the constellation Sagittarius (in the eastern sky at midnight). Were we to look at the same time to the northwest near Gemini, we would face the edge of the galaxy.

If we move, so we face north at the same time and towards Cassiopeia (the 'W' shape in the sky) we are pointing towards our direction of travel around our Galaxy (one orbit taking around 250 million years at a speed of 515,000 mph). All this happening here and now every day, and because of gravity, the Earth seems to be perfectly stationary to us.

To us amateur astrophotographers, this gives us two seasons. During the spring and summer, most of the targets for us will be star clusters or galaxies. Star clusters are of two basic types: open clusters are young stars concentrated within the thin galactic disc and spiral arms along the galactic plane (there are over 1,000 of them; they are centres of star formation). Globular clusters (old stars) are most common in a spherical halo surrounding the Galactic centre; there are 150 or more of these.

A typical open cluster is the well-known Pleiades (Seven Sisters, M45) an asterism of bright blue stars 440 light-years away in Taurus. As it is in a spiral arm, it is an autumn/winter object. The Great Globular Cluster (M13) is the brightest cluster in the Northern Hemisphere; a gathering of 100,000 stars whirling some 25,000 light-years away in the constellation Hercules. It is visible to the naked eye and makes for a great binocular sighting.

The other season I mentioned is the Autumn/Winter one, when we look out to the edge of the galaxy through the spiral arms beyond us. These cold, dark nights are filled with my favourite objects - nebulae. These clouds of gas are another home of star formation and striking ionised gases showing off.

Unfortunately, the UK being at a relatively high latitude, our skies never reach astronomical darkness during the summer months, and this dims the richness apparent in locations to the south of us (the Mediterranean, for example). At home, the best views are seen at dark-sky sites. Of course, the attractions of the Mediterranean are well known, and a warm, starry, starry night can be quite romantic!

Enjoy the summer!

Clear Skies

*Tony Boutle*

# Slimming World

**With Vera @ The Baptist Church  
rooms - 7.00 pm every Tuesday**

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# Heyford Allotments

Allotments have existed since at least Anglo Saxon times; strips of land, made available for people in villages to grow their own produce.

Jump forward almost 1000 years and we find the UK government passing the General Enclosure Act of 1845 that made provision for “field gardens” to be used by the landless poor. Sounds promising, but unfortunately, very little land was ever made available to rent!

After continued pressure from the public, the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1907 and 1908 imposed responsibilities on councils to provide allotments if there was a demand for them. There was a huge increase in allotment use during the two world wars as blockades resulted in a shortage of imported food. The famous “Dig for Victory” campaign during the Second World War produced a staggering 1.3 million tonnes of food from nearly 1.5 million allotment plots.

This was followed by a steady decline in allotment use after the war as focus shifted to housing, rebuilding initiatives and the reopening of trade routes across the world. This decline slowed in the 1970’s when shows like The BBC’s “Good Life” inspired interest in food production and self-sufficiency.

Since the 1990’s, there has been something of an allotment renaissance as concerns about global warming, food miles and the use of chemicals in agriculture have led people to become more concerned about where their food comes from. Unfortunately, this steady rise in interest has not been met by supply; in some urban areas, waiting lists for allotment plots can extend to several years.

So how lucky are we, in Heyford, to have a large, well kept allotment site where new plots regularly become available to prospective allotment gardeners.

## **Why are allotments good for us?**

For those lucky enough to own or rent space to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers, the health benefits are numerous. Allotments can provide a social community space for like-minded people to get together and share ideas, produce, or just have a catch-up. This can be crucial in alleviating loneliness and provide a lifeline during periods of isolation such as in the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Growing fruit and vegetables can help maintain or increase fitness, particularly more labour-intensive tasks like digging and weeding! It can help strengthen muscles and improve balance and regularly visiting an allotment plot will top up vitamin D levels, crucial for healthy bones, teeth and muscles.

An allotment or vegetable garden can supplement the weekly food shop and provide an individual or family with fresh, seasonal fruit, vegetables and even cut flowers. Food grown on your own plot is likely to be more delicious and, if grown organically, free from the chemicals found on supermarket produce.

I came across the word **locavore** whilst visiting a street market in France and it refers to a person who makes an effort to eat food that is grown, produced, or harvested within a specific radius of their home (often within 25 miles). The goal is to support the local economy, reduce the carbon footprint associated with transporting food, and eat fresher, more seasonal produce. I like to think that all allotmenters are perhaps **locavores**.

### **Next time**

In the next issue of the Prattler I'll explore how allotments, in a time of growing fragility for our planet, can not only be a source of good, healthy food, but can help safeguard the natural world.

### **Vacancies**

We currently have no vacant plots on the allotments in Heyford, but if you are interested in renting a plot in the future, they do become available from time to time. Just contact Mrs Lynda Eales, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford tel. 01327 341707 email: [lyndaeales@aol.com](mailto:lyndaeales@aol.com) and she will add you to our waiting list.

*Mike Langrish*



## **Heyford Cleaning Service**

**Don't have time to clean your house?**

**Struggling to clean your house? or**

**Simply don't like cleaning !.....**

**Contact Alice on 07486695202 or [heyfordcleaning7@gmail.com](mailto:heyfordcleaning7@gmail.com)**

- ✓ **Flexibility to suit your time.**
- ✓ **DBS checked and insured.**
- ✓ **Level 2 cleaning certificate.**
- ✓ **Regular cleans or one off cleans.**



## Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

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

### View from the Chair

I make no apologies that this edition is all about the Fete. It is a wonderful Heyford tradition that fills the green and brings the community together. This years Looks to be one of the best. We have more stalls, more children performing and fingers crossed for the weather. Let's not forget though that it is takes a lot of planning and hard work. If you are available to help with the heavy work around 9.30 am please come to the hall. If you can make a cake for the teas please also bring that to the hall around 10 am.

It would not be possible on this scale without our wonderful local businesses who have supported us with finance and amazing raffle prizes.

The raffle is absolutely amazing this year. We have a signed Saints shirt, £100 cash, £150 meal voucher for the Cromwell, Luxury car care kit, tickets for Althorp and tickets for Lamport Hall with a cream tea! There are tickets for the Heyford Feast and the Pantomime plus mixed wine hampers. Tickets for sale in Heyford Meats if you can't make it on the day.

It's all about the children... Our Rose King and Queen will officially open the fete and this year we have both dance and gymnastics in the arena. Bliss school will perform on the stage in the hall whilst our teas are served and by popular demand our youth saxophone band are returning to play for you.

This year we would also like to make the children's fancy dress competition a bigger event. Three age categories to give everyone a chance and no theme so let your imagination go wild! Simply come to the Nether Heyford Village Hall Gazebo at 2.30 after the grand opening.

Oh and don't miss out on a burger from the Scouts!

The classic cars are always a delight to walk around and don't forget to enter your furry friend in the fun dog show.... More roughs than Crufts! But please walk here if you can as it gets very busy around the green.

And finally, I am aware that there has been some complaints about parking around the vicinity of the hall when it is in use for a popular function. Please remember that all those who strive to keep the hall going are volunteers. We are a registered

charity and as such unpaid charity trustees. Whilst we endeavour to ask people to park considerately and leave quietly we are not on hand permanently nor do we have any jurisdiction over the public highway. The cost of hire all goes to the running of the hall which is increasing greatly. Please be kind to our trustees.

*Carol Tuckley - Chair of the Trustees*



**Heyford Picturedrome  
will return in September**

***The Film Club holds a meeting at the end of June when we pick next seasons programme. If you have a particular film, you would like to watch please come back to me with your preference.***

***Please note: Film suggestions will be subject to both availability and suitability.***

***Tony Boutle, Chair.***

***tony.boutle@protonmail.com***

## **Food Bank**

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

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

## Olly Murs visits Nether Heyford

On Wednesday May 13th, we found out just after school that Olly Murs would be finishing a stage of his incredible Soccer Aid for UNICEF challenge on the village green at around 10pm. As part of the challenge, Olly completed a gruelling 400km journey over five days, running, rowing and cycling to raise vital funds for children around the world.

Despite the difficult weather conditions, many residents gathered to cheer him on after waiting over an hour to see him complete the stage. He was warmly supported all the way down Furnace Lane before crossing the finish line in tears. The evening became even more special when Olly revealed it was his birthday, prompting the crowd to sing "Happy Birthday" while he completed his interviews.

It was amazing to see the support from the local community, with several people wearing Olly Murs merchandise or bringing banners, and Faye even putting out a sign of support from the pub. The fantastic turnout created such a lovely atmosphere and made it a truly memorable Wednesday evening for everyone there.

*Jemima Thompson*

Having Olly Murs come to our very own Nether Heyford was a dream come true for a girl like me. I have been a fan of Olly's music 15 years now - having discovered his music when I was 4 years old through my mum when he was on The X Factor. I knew that he was doing the runs, cycles, and rowing for UNICEF but I had no idea that he would be coming into Heyford! I didn't believe that he would ever come into our little village so when I saw that he was, I had to go down to the village green to witness this.

At first there weren't a lot of people there, but when they all started to trickle down, the anticipation set in that this was all happening. When all of the crew started to arrive at around 9:50pm, everyone got all excited and we started playing Olly's songs on a speaker. We then started to see more promotional cars appear and a bear mascot wearing a rainbow light up cape!

All of the crew for Heart Radio, his social media team, and the whole documentary team came onto the village green at around 10:40pm. They wanted to film some things for social media but they also wanted to test our cheering and this was such a cool experience to be a part of!

Olly and the team came into the village at 10:52pm and finally seeing my favourite music artist up so close was surreal!

*Skye Medcraft*



## **Olly Murs Takes on a 400km Challenge for Soccer Aid for UNICEF**

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Soccer Aid for UNICEF, multi-platinum singer and TV presenter Olly Murs stepped away from the stage to take on one of the toughest challenges of his life – and has now completed a gruelling 400km journey over five days, raising vital funds for children around the world.

### **A Five-Day Test of Endurance**

Olly will run, row and ride his way from Manchester's Old Trafford – where Soccer Aid first kicked off – to London Stadium, the home of this year's milestone match.

### **No Route, No Warning, No Easy Days**

To make things even tougher, Olly won't know each day's route until moments before he sets off, with details revealed live on national radio. With no time to prepare, every day brings a new unknown – and nowhere to hide.

On Wednesday 13 May, live on Heart Breakfast, Amanda Holden and Jamie Theakston revealed to Olly that it would be The Longest Day, as he made his way from Cannock Chase to Nether Heyford, finishing in the dark.

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## Heyford Cricket Club

The 2026 season has started well for the club with decent weather and a larger playing membership meaning that we have been able to complete all of our fixtures in the junior and senior sections so far. Our 1st XI has fared pretty well in their opening 4 matches and started with a win at home in their first game. Well beaten at Finedon in week 2, they bounced back to enjoy a great game against Wollaston, unfortunately losing by a single run. A solid win against Rothwell means that, at the time of writing, we are sitting 5th in Division 2.

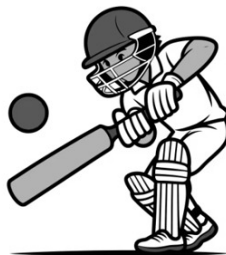
The 2nd XI had a later start than the 1s and started with a win and a loss. The side is hoping for a more settled season and their steady starts sees them sitting about half way in Division 10. The 3rd XI has 3 games under its belt as we enjoy playing in the South Northants League for the first time. They have yet to record a win but are enjoying their home games up at Badby and got their first points on the board following an abandoned game against Middleton Cheney.

Our 3 junior sides have been putting in good performances often against bigger clubs and older players. The U15s have recorded the juniors first win of the season against Brackley and the training sessions on Friday evenings have been really busy, as have the Dynamos and All Stars. As always, we are looking for help with these evenings so that we can continue to grow numbers and provide fun evenings for the kids. No cricket experience is necessary to get started so please get in touch if you think you could help.

Our main fund raiser of the year takes place on Friday 19th June with our Golf Day at Silverstone Golf Club. If anyone fancies a day of golf please get in touch either individually or as part of a fourball. Further details can be found on social media.

*Julian Rice*

07966 936278



*John*

Northampton & Daventry

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## In Nether Heyford

Firstly, I must apologise. In last month's piece, you may have detected a stray apostrophe which had flown in and landed on a plural. I was mortified when I saw this in print. I am usually most vigilant about roaming punctuation. Yes, I am the person who utters a well developed tut at signs which advertise tea's and coffee's. As a consequence of my error/typo I am referring myself to the Apostrophe Protection Society which since 2001, has championed the correct use of this small, but essential mark of punctuation. Membership is free and I can join over 5,000 members worldwide.

At May's WI meeting, we were delighted to welcome Dr Claire Finn from MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) who have an office in Northampton. They undertake archaeological digs and research on building sites across the Midlands. The exciting finds at Harpole were discovered just before building commenced. To find the burial plot of a high ranking female who had been afforded the privilege of being buried on her bed was very exciting. Such burials are rare, and to find the incredible jewellery which was amazingly intact makes it one of the most important finds in recent years in the UK. Everyone was enthralled and look forward to the time when these artefacts will be on display.

In June, our meeting takes us out for the day. We don't have to venture far in Northants to find interesting places to visit. This year we are off to Kelmarsh Hall, an elegant Country House surrounded by historic gardens. Picture us wandering through the house imagining our lot as domestic servants (perhaps that's only me) or perhaps one of the Bennett sisters. A light lunch to follow in the tearooms, and then meandering around beautiful gardens soaking up the summer sun. However, if it is anything like last year, you will see us huddling under umbrellas, teeth chattering desperate for a cup of tea to warm us up. Oh, the joys of the English Summer.

That reminds me that on June 6<sup>th</sup> we will be at the fete selling cakes, preserves and some plants. Fingers crossed that the gazebo doesn't blow away. See you there.

*Jane Wareing*  
01327 340875  
netherheyfordwi1930@gmail.com

## View from The Nature Reserve

2026 is still producing surprises. In the local area, more Warblers are singing in more places now than they have for a number of years. For instance Willow Warblers and Chiff Chaffs are singing in places where I have not heard them for 5 or 6 years.

We walk our dogs in local, semi wild places and birdsong is very much in evidence in these places right now. I can recommend using a Birdsong ID app on your phone whilst walking in places such as Everdon Stubbs and other wooded areas. In the "Cool of the Evening".is best. You could really enjoy picking out the songs of different birds during the evening chorus. You need to be quick though. Most bird song decreases after the Summer Equinox.

I have recently been reviewing progress on the reserve from conception till the present day. Looking back I realise that development of the meadow areas has been very much a journey of faith. Faith in a plan and sticking with that plan. Creating self sustaining habitats is not an exact science. We began with an idea to recreate the long gone hay meadow flora and fauna that I grew up with on our family farms. This is likely to be similar to that on the allotment field before it became allotments.

Thus it began, with derelict allotments and a management plan based on experience both personal and the experience of others, as well as advice from our seeds suppliers "Emorsegate Seeds". It was a case of plant and believe our management plan would work over the years to come.

I can now say it was all worth it. We bought in and planted a mixture of harvested seed from broad leaves plants as well as grasses. Growth began with the germination of a small number of both wild flowers and grasses. This has increased in plant numbers and of species. This is still continuing as new species emerge each year. Some wild plant species seed remains viable in soil for many years.

New butterfly species are appearing each year too. Marbled Whites showed up for the first time last year.

It was decided to retain some of the old allotment pattern to form separate areas. Then just to plant one or two of these each year. This enabled us to learn from experience as time went by. Given that they were previously separate allotments, it is not surprising that some favour a different flora to others. It was always in the plan to leave quite a large proportion to go completely uncultivated. Though not unmanaged. Brambles are always trying to gain a foothold and we don't have space for these on our small reserve. There are always brambles to pull up if you want to help.

The resulting "Rough Areas" are very important for Beetles large and small. Wood mice, Shrews Common and Pygmy. Both Bank and Field Vole are also present. I even saw a large female grass snake basking on the reserve last year.

The Pond has not mirrored the success of the rest of the reserve. Our decreasing rainfall pattern results in too much loss of water through evaporation. The result is that Summer brings a sad looking pit with sad looking plants. The fate of the pond is still under review. There is very much more to say about the whole pond subject. Any suggestions are welcome.

*Dave Musson*



## **Heyford Bowls Club**

Outdoor Bowling is now in full swing with our first few matches played. Our Friday evening competition is due to begin 12th June. This is a competition amongst ourselves, whilst allowing new members to join in, and spectators to watch.

Our Meat Raffles are very popular thanks to meat from our local Butcher and John & Rosemary who organise it.

The green is well kept thanks to our green-keepers and our club is thriving again this year.

The Spinning Wheel is oiled for The Village Fete so fingers crossed for good weather on the day.

Short Mat bowls is well supported and will continue throughout the summer and anyone is welcome to join in on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock or evening at 7 pm.

*Shirley Collins*

**shirleybcollins@hotmail.com 01327 342287**

## **Flore House/Garage Sale in aid of Flore Scouts**

Flore front of house/garage sale on Sunday 28th June between 10am - 2pm

Maps can be purchased from either The White Hart car park or The Cabin, Scout Hall, Kings Lane, Flore.

Refreshments available to purchase at The Scout Hall

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The Parthenon and moments on  
the Hudson River Line  
How Lovely it was!*

*Words and Music by  
Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger*

And so our Spring Concerts have finished and the era of Mary Rice as Musical Director comes to a fitting end. Everything went extremely well with all Mary's chosen, favourite songs, Lucy Mason conducting and a presentation by our Chairman, Geoff Allen, of a Certificate of Honorary Life President. And to cap that the promise of a DVD of the Concert as the Saturday night was filmed (professionally) so she will, we hope, have many happy memories of us all especially as members who have had to leave to look after loved ones, or were ill themselves, came to the Concert to say 'goodbye'.

The sound we made was terrific as we have all worked extremely hard over Lucy's tenure (which was only a couple of months) and I think we did both Mary and Lucy proud. Of course it was all going swimmingly until we reached the 'Amen's' in the last song – the Benediction: *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* from the John Rutter book. The four-part harmony was extremely difficult thanks to the timings and on the Saturday night we managed to arrive at the very last note as one, but getting there with the last few bars didn't exactly go to plan. To put it mildly! Fortunately it was quickly followed by Lucy getting the audience to stand and sing for another, emotional rendition of '*Thank You for the Music*' - a wonderful sound of so many people singing their hearts out to say farewell to a person who has been our mainstay for so long.

I now quote from our programme: 'it is beyond dispute that without Mary Rice the Heyford Singers would not exist. It was in 2001, that a chance meeting with Maureen Wright and Hazel Wren at Sainsbury's in Sixfields led to the germ of the idea that a Community Choir could be formed in Nether Heyford using the Village Hall as a base for rehearsals and concerts. Within a matter of weeks a sufficient number of volunteers (40) had been mustered and in 2002 The Heyford Singers had been formed with Mary as Conductor and Musical Director. Since then we have been rehearsing and performing two concerts a year broken only by the Covid epidemic. Our membership of 45 singers is as strong as ever and it is with heavy hearts that we must accept Mary's retirement, but we are nevertheless pleased that Lucy Mason has picked up Mary's baton. The show will go on!'

And through a very difficult year it is such a relief that we could give Mary the send off she deserved thanks to the loyalty of a Choir that has stuck with her through thick and thin. It has not been easy for anyone but we now turn our faces to the future and to recruiting new members as the age at the 'top' is getting alarmingly high! Our 'youngsters' have really stepped up with organising all the catering which

for the concerts is not a light task by any means. And we are so fortunate to have a 'younger' Stage Manager whose family help out at rehearsals and of course the nights of the concerts. We are all extremely grateful for this. Then there are the lifts for members who otherwise wouldn't be able to get to rehearsals and the general help and understanding of those struggling with ill-health. As our Chairman, Geoff Allen, said "We are a family" and I know we will all miss it until we meet again in September.

*JRA*

*Thanks for the Memory  
The fun we always had,  
Rehearsals good and bad  
When you said to look at you,  
We would drive you mad  
'Cos we never did.*

*Thanks for the memory  
Of carols on the Green,  
Songs we'd never seen,  
And helping us to understand  
What the notes all mean,  
How lovely it was.*

Words by Graham Kinnersly  
Sung as an Encore on 16.5.26

## **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](mailto:emma.teagles@northants.police.uk)

Address: C/O Wootton Hall police headquarters

## **Flore Arts Events**

### **Holtág String Quartet, Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 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". 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 £34,000 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).

### **Jazz in the Garden, Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>. Rock Springs in Sutton St, Flore. .**

2.30pm; gates open 1.30pm. Now pretty much a fixture on the Flore Arts calendar. Once again our hosts will be the generous owners of Rock Springs in Sutton St, Flore. This year we will again be entertained by Tad Newton's Jazz Friends.

As always we're anticipating a programme of foot-tapping jazz and ragtime favourites in a relaxed garden setting. You'll also have the opportunity to buy teas, cakes, soft drinks, Pimm's, wine or beer. Just bring something to sit on (and perhaps your dancing shoes).

Tickets: £15 (£5 under 18s). Please call Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm). You can also purchase tickets at Re, 2A Sutton St, Flore, NN7 4LE (during shop opening hours).

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](http://www.floreartsevents.com) and our Flore Arts Events Facebook page. We hope to see you soon.

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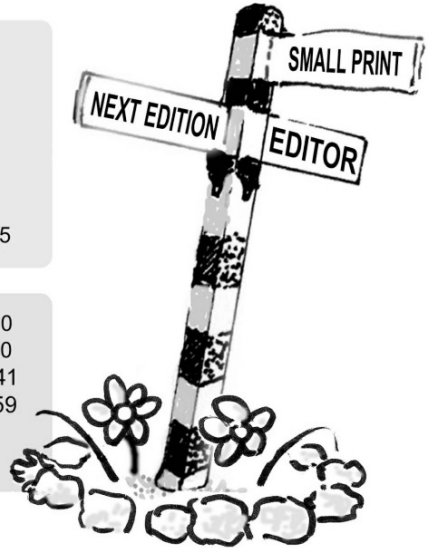
NEXT EDITION

**Submission date:** 15th of June for written articles  
20th of June for emailed articles

**Publication date:** 1st of July 2026

**e-mail:** [heyford\\_prattler@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk)

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*The Prattler* is printed by



Design to Print Limited

46 Daventry Road

Norton Daventry

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