



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

July/August 2026

Issue 491



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.

Enjoy Summer!

Sue (Prattler Ed)

Cover photo - Heyford Fete, thanks to Mick Parker

U3A

Monthly meetings take place in Bugbrooke Sports & Community Centre, Camp Close, Bugbrooke NN7 3RW.

They are usually on the **third Monday afternoon of the month**, starting at 2 pm.

Monday 20th July – Graham Kinnersley

More musical adventures with Fred and Dolly

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene



PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The June Meeting of Nether Heyford Parish Council took place on June 1st.

Fete. Congratulations and thanks to all those involved in the fete for all their hard work in making the event a success despite the weather.

Thanks also to Butlin for their efforts in getting the Green into such good condition for the sports day and the fete.

Public Participation. None, One member of the public in attendance.

West Northants Councillor reports. Clerk apologised to Cllr PB for missing his written report at the May meeting. Regarding 2025/3770/PIP PB felt Council had a right to their opinion and that it was up to WNC to decide whether to accept it; he felt Council were being diligent.

Co-option of a new Councillor. Permission given to co-opt by WNC. Vacancy to be publicised.

Internal Auditor report. The report was generally positive; with 2 weaknesses noted with regard to policies and documents not on the website. Resolved. Report accepted.

Annual general return. Pt 1. The Clerk read through the questions on the Annual general return. Pt 1. All were answered in the affirmative. Resolved. Council resolved that Section 1 of the Annual Return be signed and the Annual Return sent to the External Auditors.

Annual general return. Pt 2. The accounts having been previously accepted it was Resolved. Section 2 of the Annual Return be signed, and the Annual Return sent to the External Auditors.

Standing Orders and Councillors with additional needs. Concerns were expressed about the acoustics of the church rooms and that some councillors were struggling to hear. It was felt that curtains might help, or a hearing loop, or an amplifier. KSM would bring an amplifier to the next meeting. Clerk to ask Baptist Church about a loop.

KSM felt that some meeting discipline would help, and the Chair felt that it would help if councillors spoke one at a time, and through the chair, as per the Standing

Orders. Some councillors felt that the S/Os could do with updating. Other examples would be looked at.

Flood Mitigation and concerns. AW referred to the neighbourhood plan and the intention to try and mitigate flood risks by inserting attenuation measures on the hillsides to the west of the village. This would be more practical than trying to alter the streams, which would be very expensive. He recommended looking at ways to mitigate the flow of heavy rain off the fields in conjunction with landowners. This would be expensive, but he said that the Environment Agency would not do this work, and felt that it would be worth it and would be fulfilling a promise. He had contacted RAB, hydrological consultants from Birmingham, who had quoted £6,500 to do a survey. The Clerk, as RFO, expressed concern at spending that amount of unbudgeted money. AW to go back to RAB to update quote and also see if there is any other consultancy capable of and interested in doing this work. Councillors felt that this was a good idea.

Play Area. Clerk and AW had met a consultant who helps Parish Councils through the procedures necessary in procuring play areas. His fee would be £3,500 set against an overall cost of £10000 plus. He is not a project manager, however. AW felt that the project manager could possibly be the new Councillor, when selected. KSM referred to Eydon's play area as a possible model. CK felt free consultations should be taken advantage of. Funding is difficult to achieve at the present, Cllr PB reported that Kislingbury had had a funding bid for a play area turned down.

Church Wall. To discuss liability and course of action. LH and CK had met with the PCC, whose representative had pointed out that council's website contained a reference to council maintaining the "closed churchyard", and insisted that because it is closed the responsibility has passed from the PCC to the PC. Opinions differed as to what had been agreed and what should be agreed next. LH and CK to meet PCC again. AW referred to the precedent of the north wall when council gave a voluntary contribution, and referred to having taken ownership of his own boundary wall with the churchyard. The PCC having agreed with this would appear to them admitting responsibility up until that time.

Planning. Mr D Williams had complained to WNC about Council objection to 2025/3770/PIP claiming it was inaccurate and should be withdrawn. Council have been advised that there are no issues to answer and it is up to WNC as the planning authority to decide on the relevance of the objection.

Reports.

Environment. LH reported that the Gardening Club was being wound up and the remaining funds would be given to the Parish Council for the purchase and maintenance of planters to replace the existing ones in front of the One Stop Shop.

Wellbeing. The problem of HGVs trying to use Furnace Lane seems to have abated, largely thanks to the efforts of the PCSO. A Heygates lorry did find its way up there, however.

Infrastructure. IP felt that the chicane issue needed to be forced. PB would keep asking.

Heritage. No report.

Community. 8 letters were sent out after a recent inspection. Allotment grass had been cut by new contractors.

Playing Field. JL reported that new 5mph had been put up and the PFA was trying to stop inappropriate parking on the road and around the gate. The PFA wish to install new fencing and a turnstile. Council had no issues with this. Clerk to send green let form re youth football games on the Green.

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/>

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 July 6th at the Baptist Church rooms. No meeting in August. Then **Monday September 7th**

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 July / August 2026

Sunday 5 th	09:30 am	<i>Holy Communion Service at Church Stowe</i>
	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Dodford Church</i>
	6:00 pm	Evening worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 12 th	11:00 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Dodford Church</i>
Sunday 19 th	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Weedon Church</i>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	6:00 pm	<i>Holy Communion at Upper Stowe</i>
Sunday 26 th	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Flore Church</i>
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford Church
Sunday 2 nd	11:00 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Dodford Church</i>
Sunday 9 th	9:30 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Church Stowe</i>
Sunday 16 th	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Weedon Church</i>
	11:00 am	Holy Communion at Heyford Church
	6:00 pm	<i>Holy Communion at Upper Stowe</i>
Sunday 23 rd	11:00 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Flore Church</i>
Sunday 30 th	11:00 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Brockhall Church</i>

Midweek Services:

Thursday 10:00 am Holy Communion (or Morning Prayer) Flore Church
2.30pm - 3.30pm Private prayer Flore Church

Friday 9:00 am Morning Prayer via Zoom
Please let the Rector know if you'd like to join the service

Heyford: Our Church, Our Stories - A Community Project for Everyone

As Nether Heyford Baptist Church celebrates 200 years (congratulations to them), St Peter and St Paul, Nether Heyford Parish Church is launching a new community project celebrating the life, memories, and shared history of our village parish church; and everyone in the village is warmly invited to take part.

The idea for this project began quite unexpectedly. During the recent Village Hall Garage Sale, we had several visitors who had grown up in Heyford and once attended the church. They came from surrounding villages, drawn back by curiosity, nostalgia, or simply the chance to reconnect. People shared stories from decades ago: Sunday School adventures, choir practices, weddings, mischievous moments, and memories of people long gone but fondly remembered. It felt a bit like meeting distant relatives at a family gathering, recognising names, recalling old events, and laughing together about things that many of us today never experienced. There was a real sense of warmth, familiarity, and belonging.

It was clear that if we wanted to capture these stories, we needed to act now. And so, from those chance encounters, **Heyford: Our Church, Our Stories** was born. This project is all about gathering the memories, photos, and moments that have shaped our parish church and community over the years. Whether you've worshipped here for decades, were married or christened here, came to Sunday School, rang the bells, sang in the choir, or simply have a fond memory of the church at a particular moment in your life: **your story matters**.

We're collecting:

Personal memories and anecdotes

Old photographs and mementos

Stories from weddings, baptisms, and village events

Recollections from past congregation members and families

Items or keepsakes connected to the church

Throughout August and September, we'll be holding a series of relaxed Memory Drop-In Days. Bring photos, objects, or simply come for a chat. Volunteers will be on hand to help record stories, scan photos, and make everyone feel welcome.

Everything gathered over the summer will help us create a community exhibition at the end of November: a shared village history and a living archive for future generations.

Alongside the exhibition, we'll also be hosting a community supper and a thanksgiving service, bringing everyone together to celebrate the life of our parish church and the people who have shaped it.

If you'd like to help, whether with welcoming people, recording stories, scanning photos, or preparing displays, we'd love to hear from you. Even an hour or two makes a real difference.

This is a project for the whole village: long-standing residents, newer neighbours, families with deep roots, and those who've moved away but still feel connected to Heyford.

Every memory matters. Everyone is welcome. Look out for updates online, posters around the village, and future editions of *The Prattler*. We'll also be sharing mini-exhibitions along the way as the project grows.

For further information, memories, volunteering please contact Churchwarden Tim Brown on timothyandrewbrown@btopenworld.com.

PS. As we experience hotter temperatures and our homes become saunas, the Parish Church is open every day and as those who have joined services or events can testify to, it is never warm!! So, if anyone wants a cooler place to relax, read, sleep on a pew bench (there are cushions) please feel free to pop down. We only ask that you take any rubbish away. Have a great summer.

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.



Everyone is warmly welcome to join us at Nether Heyford Baptist Church throughout July and August. Whether you're new to the area, just curious, or simply fancy some good company, do come along on any of the dates listed below, you'll find a friendly welcome, time for fellowship, and refreshments to enjoy together.

We'd also love to hear from anyone interested in joining our music team, as well as those with a knack for technology who might enjoy lending a hand with our PA system. No experience necessary, just a willingness to get stuck in! If you're interested, please do speak to one of the team or get in touch. – **Pastor Lee**

5th July Sunday	Service, Allan Pope 10.30am-11.30am
12th July Sunday	Service, Pastor Lee 10.30am-11.30am
12th July Sunday	Praise & Worship, Martin Buckby 4pm-4.45pm
15th July Wednesday	Bible Study, 10am-11am
19th July, Sunday	Service, Pat & Dave Biddles 10.30am-11.30am
24th July Friday	Book sale 10am-12pm
26th July Sunday	Service, Pastor Lee 10.30am-11.30am
2nd August Sunday	Service, Allan Pope 10.30am-11.30am
9th August Sunday	Service, Pastor Lee 10.30am-11.30am
12th August Sunday	Praise & Worship, Martin Buckby 4pm-4.45pm
16th August, Sunday	Service, Pat & Dave Biddles 10.30am-11.30am
23rd August Sunday	Service, Pastor Lee 10.30am-11.30am
28th August Friday	Book sale 10am-12pm
30th August Sunday	Service (Communion), Clive Leakey 10.30am-11.30am

A big thank you to everyone who joined us at our last coffee morning! Thanks to your generosity,

We raised a wonderful £200 for The Bliss Charity School. It was lovely to see so many friendly faces, and we're grateful for your continued support — thank you!



Website: NetherHeyford.Church

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

Phone: 01604 389 405



St Peter and St Paul Church, Nether Heyford

Church Fete

Saturday 5th September

2-4pm

In The Rectory Garden

(in the church and church rooms if wet)

*Cake Stall, Tombola, Teas, Games,
Bits and Bobs Stalls, Children's Activities*

Music from 'Too Many Saxz'

Everybody Welcome

Darts

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

10th July 24th July

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.

Please note that there will be no sessions in August due to the summer holidays. They will re-start in September.



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

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

On Monday 27th July Mark Entwistle will present 'How to be a Diva'. This is an open meeting. Members £5. Visitors £10. No tickets. Pay on the door. Hope to see you at the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.



www.heyfordsingers.org

Heyford Singers Welcomes New Singers

Men and Women—All Abilities

We're about to enter our 25th Year and we'll soon start rehearsals for our Christmas Concert.

We're based in Nether Heyford and being a Community Choir we accept all singers of all abilities. We won't audition you and nobody has ever been turned away because they 'can't sing' - we firmly believe that everyone can!

All are welcome, but we particularly need men, especially Bases, though our Tenor section could use reinforcements as well. Don't worry if you don't know what part you can sing, we'll sort that out when you join us. There's about 45 of us so you won't stand out.

The challenging bit is that we sing in 4-part harmony—Bass, Tenor, Alto and Soprano and as few of us read music it's not always easy but we get there in the end, usually.

We rehearse on alternate Thursday and Friday evenings from 7.15 to 9.30 in Nether Heyford Village Hall and the first rehearsal of our Christmas Season is on Friday, September 4th, then on Thursday the 10th. Drop in on either date and we'll make you very welcome—promise! You can either pitch in and sing with us or just sit and listen—we don't mind.

If you want to get more information call me, Keith Rands-Allen on
01327 340741 or 07971 786912

Astronomy on the Green

This month we leave the Green and travel into space, or more accurately, into space telescopes. We are currently in a space race for off-planet observation, but why? To avoid the challenges that the Earth's atmosphere causes us and that low-orbit satellites present to Earthbound telescopes (this is becoming an increasing issue). So, the obvious ones: clouds, light pollution, and spectral changes as we approach the horizon and look through the increasing thickness (this accounts for the setting sun's red appearance, as blue light is increasingly scattered away).

So, away from Earthbound issues, the array of space telescopes surely will help us answer a lot of questions. But in true scientific fashion, better resolution unravels some of our previous understandings of physics! Now, in science, this is typical and exciting; For this article, I will look at some of the newest perturbations from recent findings; let us look at the James Webb Space Telescope.

Alan Dressler helped dream up JWST in the 1990s. More recently, he used data from the GLASS-JWST Early Release Science program to study galaxies from just two billion years after the Big Bang and found that they're making stars way faster than predicted.

Why this matters: understanding these bursts of activity help us piece together how the first stars formed and how they collected into the massive galaxies we see today. This requires input from astrophysical theorists who are going to have to step up and offer some alternative explanations for what JWST has seen. We need a revised Big Bang!

Noah Rogers used JWST to study 33 "teenage" galaxies from 2 to 3 billion years after the Big Bang; they got more than they bargained for! (In a good way). They were hunting for chemical signatures of young, dynamic star-forming galaxies, hoping to measure their oxygen content. After using JWST to stare at them for more than a day, they not only found the oxygen signals they were seeking but also those of sulphur and argon. The surprise?

These early galaxies had widely varying oxygen levels but were always deficient in sulphur and argon; a unique chemical environment from what we see in more local galaxies (and our own Sun). This is an obvious example of galactic immaturity. This matters because by getting a peek at which elements appear in these young galaxies, astronomers can track how star formation evolved in the early universe. The result of this was early, violent supernovae! Now scientists are using these findings to analyse data from galaxies even earlier in the universe's history. Other examples exist; this is just a tantalising peek at exciting times!

Clear Skies.

Tony Boutle

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Heyford Allotments

Why?

A gardener familiar to most of the nation through his many appearances on TV and at numerous garden shows wrote:

“I always see gardening as escape, as peace really. If you are angry or troubled, nothing provides the same solace as nurturing the soil” – Monty Don

There are many reasons to make our gardens grow, from Monty’s “escape” to a whole host of other benefits, both food and health related. Allotments and gardens in general are perhaps a reflection of their owner or curator, no model fits all. That is perhaps one of the reasons allotments, in particular, are such fascinating, quirky and individual spaces.

However, a recent citizen science survey carried out by the University of Sheffield identified a number of specific reasons people gave for allotmenting. As I promised in my last article, here are some of the reasons, given by a wide range of allotment gardeners, for tending their plots.

Learning About Growing

The gardener who tells you they are an expert is making a very bold and questionable boast. We learn a huge amount from actually growing things and with time and patience we do actually get better at it. There is no substitute for getting your hands in the soil and looking closely at what is going on down there. I never cease to be amazed at how much I don’t know or why a crop that thrived last year was a flop this year.

Organisation

There is no doubt that some of us are better at this than others. However, if you manage an allotment effectively you get better at being organised. Preparing soil, buying and storing seeds or plants, when (and when not) to sow and plant out, how and when to water, when to protect and when to harvest crops ... the list is almost endless. Really organised people keep a journal. I’ve tried, but keep forgetting to update it, so do whatever works for you.

Pride

Very few of us would admit to this one, but I suspect that it is a factor in the minds of many allotmenters. When you’ve worked hard, things look good or a crop is particularly successful you feel good, you feel satisfied and - whisper it quietly – you feel proud.

Relaxation

I came across this quote the other day:

“Gardeners are the only people who willingly go outside to get wet, dirty, sweaty, bitten and sunburnt and call it relaxing”

However, when these trials and tribulations are not affecting allotmenters, relaxation was cited as one of the key reasons people enjoyed tending their plot and it does echo the words of Monty at the beginning of this article. On a personal level I can vouch for the fact that after cutting grass and watering plants the other

evening, Jill and I sat on one of the community benches in the evening sun and partook of a little liquid refreshment. That was very relaxing.

Sharing and Surplus

One of the joys of growing and having some surplus, is being able to share it with others. In Heyford, allotment holders regularly give away bunches of dahlias, share courgettes and marrows with foodbanks, make apples and pears available for fellow villagers, provide neighbours with beans and surplus salad crops as well as donating so many other things too.

And then of course there is the sharing of knowledge. We have some very good gardeners who manage allotments in Heyford. Being able to share some of their knowledge and experience is invaluable. Alternatively, go and have a sneaky look at their plot to garner ideas!

Social

Not everyone wants to stand and natter, others like nothing better. That is why an allotment is a space for every type of person. That is why no model fits all. However, it is a factor that people who participated in the Sheffield study wanted to be identified. For many folk, social interaction is not only a good thing, but a skill, that in an age of digital technology, we are in danger of losing.

Weather

Gardeners love to moan about the weather and I've lost count of the times the topic has appeared in these Prattler articles. However, working the land and being out side in the fresh air really sharpens your appreciation of the weather and on a more global scale, the effect of a changing climate. I sometimes despair when people in the media so often see rain as something bad and the sun as something good. Why not love both and why not appreciate that a balance is vital for our planet – and our allotments?

Wildlife

Let's get this straight: allotments are for growing, both food and flowers. They are not wild spaces, allotments are curated and managed by gardeners. However, well managed, productive allotments can (and I believe should also be) havens for wildlife. Allotments are rich in biodiversity, creating green spaces for wildlife and pollinators throughout the country.

The quality of soil on allotments creates a unique environment from which all sorts of life can emerge. Even in rural areas, like Heyford, the ecological value of sites per square metre, surpasses that of adjoining industrial farmed agricultural land. The benefits of working with nature rather than against it are huge.

Vacancies

We currently have no vacant plots on the allotment site. 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 and she will add you to our waiting list.

Mike Langrish



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

View from the Chair

I cannot express how amazing the majority of people in this village are. You came out despite the unsettled weather to support this years fete. Although the programme had to be slightly revised, thankfully the weather held out for the King and Queens' arrival, the fancy dress, dog show and the performance by "Jumpz" gymnastics. The youth band "Too many Sax" were a hit on the stage in the hall and the raffle proved ever popular with our amazing prizes this year.

It was all made possible by you the residents and our generous sponsors. It is very heartwarming to see generations of families out enjoying the fun. We even got a glimpse of the Red Arrows!

We have a break now from events so that during the summer maintenance, repair and improvements can take place. The next event will be The Heyford Feast in the autumn.

Information about the groups which meet in the hall together with hire information is on our web site and I continue to urge you to "like, share and follow" our Facebook page for up to date news.

Finally, we are looking for quotes to resurface the car park and would always look to employ local businesses. If you are interested in tendering please send an email to the address below.

Have a wonderful summer.

Carol Tuckley - Chair of the Trustees

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



Christian Aid Week 2026

Thank you to everyone who donated to Christian Aid this year. Also thank you all those who helped with deliveries and to One-Stop and Heyford Meats for hosting collection buckets. We are pleased to report that the total raised in the village this year was £226.96. Of that £103.00 was gift-aided, adding an extra £25.75 to the total.

Christian Aid will therefore receive a total of £252.71 from our generous and caring villagers to further their work with some of the world's poorest communities. Rest assured it will be well used in projects that help to empower many people in these communities to work together and generate stable and sustainable incomes. More information can be found at <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk>

*Shirley Waterhouse
Heyford Parish Church*

Fancy afternoon tea in a village garden?

If so, you will be welcome to join us at the home of Alwyne Wilson
29 Church Lane, Nether Heyford on Saturday 4 July from 2-4pm.

This will be an informal event with a selection of home-made afternoon tea goodies plus tea, coffee and cold drinks.

Last year we raised funds for The Air Ambulance.

This year we are aiming to raise funds for The Torch Trust for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Two notes:

If it rains we can go indoors

If possible, could you please bring a spare garden chair – just in case...

NETHER HEYFORD

OFSTED No. EY450747

CHARITY No. 1029571

Pre-School

Ages 2-5 years

Open Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm

Funding available for eligible 2,3 and 4 year olds

Highly qualified and experienced staff

Excellent links with Bliss School

Fantastic village location with use of numerous outdoor facilities

'Rising 5' sessions for those starting school in September

Tax Free Childcare payments accepted



Before & After School Club

Wrap around care available for children aged up to 11 years old

Breakfast Club incl. breakfast open from 7.45am

After School Club open until 6pm

'Walking Bus' to and from Bliss School provided if required

Transition sessions available for Bliss School reception class.

Drop in and see us at
The Church Rooms, Church Lane,
Nether Heyford or call on

07984 055 828

info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk
www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk

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Heyford Cricket Club

With a weekend of bad weather and some inconsistent performances, it has been a mixed month for our senior teams. With one win in the last month, our 1's have slipped to 9th in Division and our 3rd team sit 7th in Div 2 of the South Northants League. Our 2nd XI has fared best of our senior teams in the last month with 3 wins pushing them up to 4th in their division and, with a growing sense of confidence, we are hopeful of maintaining a decent position during the second half of the season.

Our Junior teams have also had mixed results but there have been some really close games with 2 games being lost by 2 runs and our U13s winning against Byfield by 1 run. Close games like these really help to bond teams and young players learn a lot about how to manage matches. Our Friday evening practice sessions alongside the All Stars and Dynamos continue to be well attended.

Our fundraising Golf Day at Silverstone was a great success and was really well supported with 57 players taking part. We also managed to get sponsorship for all 18 holes from companies and individuals looking to support the day. All the funds raised will be used to improve facilities for both junior and senior sections. A large part of our work currently are plans to upgrade our changing facilities which no longer match the levels required, especially for our 1st team. Thanks to our fundraising team who put an enormous amount of effort into making this happen. We will be looking to set a date for next year's event before the next edition in the hope that we could get more Heyford golfers involved so please let us know if you would like to get involved in 2027.

Julian Rice

07966 936278



300-Club Winners

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21	Isaac Bailey	£65
250	Foresters Darts team	£30

May

152	Geoff Allen	£65
127	Tennis Club	£30

John

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View from The Nature Reserve

2026 is surely the year of the "Moon Daisy" (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). Having just returned from a week in Scotland I can say that many of our motorway verges were white with the flowers of this plant. So is a part of our front lawn that we manage for wildlife. Therefore, it was no surprise to see a similar situation on the nature reserve. It will be nearly two weeks before you read this so I expect this show will be a memory by then. After spending a week on the Ayrshire coast where all is very green and lush. I couldn't wait to see what was happening on our village nature reserve. I am delighted to say that I was very pleased.

The Pond - It is true that the water level is very low. However, there is moss covering much of what water there is. I haven't identified the moss species but it is making the 'pond' look more like a 'bog'. Maybe we need to just allow nature to take its course and expect to have a pond in Winter and a bog in Summer, as is the way with many natural ponds. There are plenty of Damselflies around the pond. These are the flies that are said to resemble 'flying, coloured straws'. There are also Demoiselle Flies. These are between Dragonfly and Damselfly in size and have dark coloured or banded wings. Both are present in good numbers. Over the whole of the area, the year on year increase in wildlife numbers and species testify to the success of the project.

The Grasshopper species count is rising all of the time as is the number of individuals within the species. Our Common Field Grasshoppers are very numerous this year. These are the Brown Grasshoppers. These may be present in long grass in your garden. They 'sing' on warm days. There is also a Common Meadow Grasshopper which is green and looks a bit smoother than the Common Field. I found the first one on the reserve today (Thursday the 18th).

Last year I reported finding the first Marbled White Butterfly on the reserve. Today I saw two of them. No doubt we have a nice colony developing.

Some may recall that we have concrete tiles laid flat in strategic places to create shelter for any life that needs such a shelter. Curiosity renders it difficult not to lift these at every visit. This is not fair to the life that is sheltering under them. I did lift one this morning. There were quite a few invertebrates. However, I was more interested in a small cavity made by a mammal. This shows that our strategy of creating multi habitats is looking successful. If we maintain this increase in biodiversity the reserve could soon become a registered and protected, local natural asset.

The paths round the reserve need mowing again (as always) and we still need to replace many of the fence stakes. We also need to establish a recording system for future generations and have recorders who are able to catalogue wildlife as it is now and in future. I am sure that if we have some volunteers we will be able to organise training in this. If you are interested in the work of the Reserve, please contact the Heyford Wildlife Association through the Facebook page or contact myself directly.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

Our internal Triples competition on Saturday 30th May was well attended but very, very warm. There were 24 players competing with four games of four ends, and the winners with the highest overall score were Lorraine Foulks, Marion Cooper and Bob Humphris.

The Fete on Saturday 6th June, with our very own Spinning Wheel, proved a success despite the rain. We had over 100 visitors and really enjoyed the day. Thanks to the organising Committee and helpers for once more bringing the villagers together for this annual event.

Now a few words from our Club Captain, Geoff Allen, on our recent Bowls Tour:-

The Club have just returned from a very enjoyable Bowls Tour on the Isle of Wight. Travelling down on the Sunday we had three games against Ryde Marina, Ventnor and Totland, returning on the Thursday. We lost the first two and drew the third 96-96, but as we had 3 winning rinks with 2 tied and 2 lost we claimed victory. We were able to field 7 rinks of 4 players for each match, supported by a small contingent from Bugbrooke Bowls Club.

They always say "What happens on Tour, stays on Tour" so my lips are sealed on the antics on the dance floor in the evenings. Suffice to say the producers of Strictly Come Dancing are unlikely to be interested. The Tour was organised by Club Chairman, Mike Davison, ably assisted by his wife Liz. Mike celebrated a special birthday while on Tour. He doesn't want me to say how old, so I won't, but it wasn't 70! So, we're back now; all we've got to do is twist Mike's arm to organise another one. But a word of warning. This Tour set a very high standard.

We have a full programme of games, home and away, during July and August, finishing the season on 6th September with our Gala Day. We continue to meet on a Friday evening from 6pm for our internal competitions and fun evenings for members and guests, so please feel free to come along and join us, if only for a drink and a go on our Meat Raffle.

Have a good summer, from all at the Bowls Club.

Shirley Collins

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Flore Arts Events

Jazz in the Garden, Sunday July 12th. Rock Springs in Sutton St, Flore.

2.30pm; gates open 1.30pm. Our 10-year anniversary celebrations continue with an old favourite. 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).

Joe Martin, Saturday September 19th. All Saints Church, Flore. 7.30pm.

Acclaimed Country singer-songwriter with a growing reputation both here and overseas

Hailing from Lancashire Joe has rapidly gained a strong reputation for his performances, with a New York Times commentator praising his rich, resonant voice. Joe's influences are rooted in the American storytelling world of Bob Dylan, James Taylor, Simon & Garfunkel as well as Nashville. Very much a 21st century troubadour, he has toured extensively in the UK and the US and recently released his third album "Alone in Valentine". This includes collaborations with top Nashville session musicians.

For his Flore programme Joe will be performing some of his own acclaimed songs as well as a set of James Taylor classics.

Tickets: £17.50 (£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).

Poetry Please: Sunday September 6th. The theme will be "Journeys". 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.

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.

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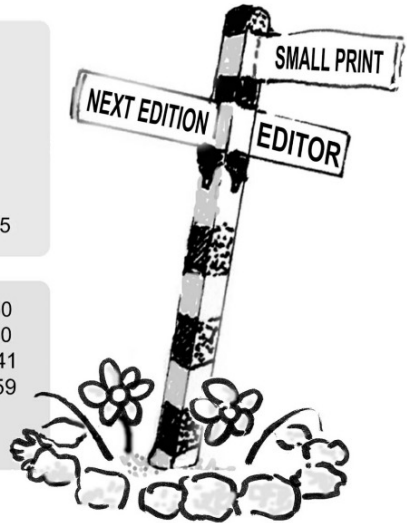
Submission date: 15th of August for written articles.
20th of August for emailed articles.

Publication date: 1st September 2026

e-mail: heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk

Or drop off at Heyford Meats or Sunrise Cottage, 15
The Green.

Editorial:	Sue Boutle	07415 352550
Proofreading:	Tony Boutle	07415 352550
Distribution:	Mick Watts	01327 340041
Adverts & Payments:	Vicki Hamblin	01327 341059
Design:	Nick Essex	
Website:	Jez Wilson	



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The Prattler is printed by



Design to Print Limited
46 Daventry Road
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01327 872950
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