



THE PRATTler

The Heyford Village Newspaper

October 2026

Issue 493



**Ladies with their 'Compote' designs in August
Bugbrooke and District Flower Society**

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)

Jakki Cowley

Jakki's funeral arrangements are as follows:

Friday 9th October - Service starts at 1:15pm at

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Nether Heyford.

There will then follow a Service of Committal at 2:30pm at

The Counties Crematorium, Milton Malsor

For anyone who would like to attend.

Family flowers only please. If you wish, you will be able to make donations to the charities of Jakki's choice.

You are welcome to join us afterwards for a celebration of Jakki's life and sharing of your favourite memories and stories from 4pm at

The Forester Arms, Nether Heyford



The September Meeting of Nether Heyford Parish Council took place on Sept. 7th.

Police presentation PCSO reported that things were quiet. Lorries on Furnace Lane are less of a problem.

A presentation on the youth intervention unit – renamed as the Phoenix Project – was given. It is intended to counter County Lines, and act as specialists in young persons under 18s involved in violence, drug dealing, knife carrying etc. They are employed by the Police Commissioner. When a young person is referred to the unit, having gone through a triage system they will only be seen by one operative. They work with police officers who try to disrupt crime. Some referrals are made when a young person is arrested, and there is no time scale – every case is different. Young women are used as drug and weapon carriers – and they and others often are unaware that they are being exploited, and do not know the consequences of having a criminal record. Sometimes GPS tags are used on the young people, and some of them ask for the tags because they know it makes them useless to criminals. There had been some notable successes in deterring young people from embarking on a life of crime.

KS reported that NHPC had signed up to the women's charter, and that she had learned that Long Buckby station was used in various exploitations of young women. All were asked to look out for changes in young people giving concern for concern. Information on what to do available from the PCSO.

Public Participation Mr. Morgan talked about his planning application and asked for council's support.

Co-option of a new Councillor Resolved. To co-opt Mark Marney as a councillor.

Flood Mitigation report. Flood training Oct 2nd. TW would be meeting a consultant to walk the water courses. It was hoped to slow down the water and mitigate the effects, and stop it from rushing through the village. They do already have a lot of data, but it was not expected that they would have any results until November.

It was felt that the "Flood Group" had lost momentum, and some of the sandbags had deteriorated. A Flood Warden was needed and training was available. KS was unsure whether the Parish Council or a community organisation should be in charge of anti-flooding action. Clerk to contact Mr Corcoran.

Address/Box number or letter box for Council It was suggested that a steel letterbox should be attached to the Youth Club wall and that the Youth Club address should become the council's official address.

There has been an issue with cigarette butts being discarded around the doorway. A large no smoking sign or a camera was suggested to counter this.

Play Area KS reported that there had been 69 online responses to the consultation, plus some paper ones. The consultation continues until mid-October. The school and play school had been contacted. Styles of equipment were being discussed, and an outline project plan was being worked on. KS would like to employ consultant Michael Carter once the equipment was chosen.

Church Wall The PCC had sent a long letter outlining their position regarding responsibility for maintenance, and were intending to send further information. Mr Sleight had been asked to put in supports as the wall could not be restored this year.

Remembrance Day – Road closure. The clerk had obtained permission for a road closure – but it had come with many conditions. Clerk to ask Highways to justify those conditions. Wreath to be purchased.

Reports:

Environment Allotment hedge needs cutting again. Resolved. To cut. DM reported that the hedge will be considered part of the nature reserve in future. A small blue butterfly – a protected species – had been seen this year.

Planters DM recommended looking at the planters in Bugbrooke and would look up details.

Quotes for pollarding the Limes in the churchyard in Jan/Feb to be sought, as well as the church hedge. DM felt that the two Robinias nearest the houses on the south side of the Green needed to be made safe.

Resolved. Crowns to be lifted on the two Limes on the Pound.

Wellbeing KS reported that covid and flu jabs available at Bugbrooke surgery, but the “same day appointment” pilot struggling to get off the ground. Hospital letters taking a long time to get through.

Infrastructure It transpired that the information that the landowner who had objected to the chicane had withdrawn objections, was erroneous. A meeting between WNC and the objector was still to take place.

Heritage Production of the heritage leaflet was ongoing.

Community Resolved. Harvest festival to take place at the allotments on 29th Sept.

Community Lounge to hold a MacMillan coffee event at 2pm on Sept. 23rd.

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/>

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 19th October – Tales of a Tour Guide
by Jo Golby

Some of the weird and wonderful experiences encountered by Jo as a tour guide at Warwick Castle and Calke Abbey

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Linda Hall linda.hall@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chair, Website, Finance
A Williams tony.williams@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Chair of Planning, Finance, Council rep to School Trustees
Mrs L. Eales lynda.eales@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Allotments, Youth Club, Burial Board
Dave Musson Tel: 01327 344461 dave.musson@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Footpaths. Tree Warden
Ian Parris 07909 514916 ian.parris@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor SIDs
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K. Sanders 07702 701862 karen.sanders@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Police Liaison
C. Leggett chris.leggett@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor
J. Leggett justine.leggett@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Playing Fields Rep
Charles Kiloh 07779 900860 charles.kiloh@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Vice Chair. Village Hall Rep. Burial Board
Mark Marney mark.marney@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor
Councillor Phil Bignell - West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD. 07969 919779 phil.bignell@westnorthants.gov.uk	
Councillor Debra King. West Northamptonshire Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester NN12 6AD. debra.king@westnorthants.gov.uk	

Clerk. Guy Ravine, Tel:07935 931787
E-mail: clerk@netherheyfordparishcouncil

Next Meeting: Monday Oct. 7th, and Nov. 2nd at the Baptist Church rooms

Website - <https://www.netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

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 October 2026

Sunday 4 th	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Church Stowe - harvest</i>
	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Dodford Church - harvest</i>
	6:00 pm	Evening worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 11 th	9:30 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion Service at Weedon - harvest</i>
Sunday 18 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 25 th	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Flore Church</i>
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford

Midweek Services: Thursdays

10:00 am Holy Communion (or Morning Prayer) Flore Church
2.30pm - 3.30pm Flore Church open for private prayer

Fridays

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

During October we shall be praying for people living in The Green in Nether Heyford, for the Bliss Charity Primary School, for the shops, and for all the activities in the Village Hall and the Baptist Church Rooms. In Flore, we pray for people living on Hillside Road and Flore Hill. We pray for the Main Street and School Rooms in Church Stowe, and for Manor Farm, the Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall. In Weedon Bec, we pray for people living on New Croft, St Mary's Way, St Peter's Way, Queen Street and Oak Street, and in Dodford, those on Norton Lane.

The Rector's Letter

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the Lord drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.
(Exodus 14:21-22)

Dear Friends

In recent weeks, our Sunday readings from the Old Testament have followed the story of the Exodus, the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. I doubt any of us would choose to live in slavery. Yet slavery is not something that's been consigned to the past. Nearly 50 million people are living in modern slavery today, and the harms of slavery haven't changed - trafficking, debt bondage, child labour, forced marriage, violence and abuse. Perhaps we can understand how desperate the Israelites were to escape slavery in Egypt. It was a risky thing to do, leaving in a hurry, taking just what they could carry, pursued by Pharaoh and his army. Little wonder the Israelites were so afraid that they thought about returning to slavery in Egypt, rather than being killed in the desert. Even with Moses' reassurance that God was with them, the Red Sea must have seemed like an impassable barrier. Yet Moses told them to stand firm and do as God asked.

Have you ever seen the sea when the tide's high and the wind strong, waves crashing over sea defences, causing floods and coastal damage? Even in good weather, natural causeways - such as the one that links the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to the mainland - can quickly close, stranding people who have misjudged the tide in life-threatening situations. People being rescued in such situations must put their trust in their rescuers, however scary or dangerous that might feel. Being rescued at sea is not a passive thing, it takes courage to step off a boat or a rock onto a lifeboat tossing about in rough weather. It takes strength, hope, and courage to grasp the outstretched hand of a rescuer.

I guess the Israelites, trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army, didn't expect the sea to part for them. Often, we find ourselves between a 'rock and a hard place' with no obvious way out. Maybe you've experienced God 'part the waters' and lead you to safety. Perhaps you're presently facing barriers that seem impossible to get past. The story of God parting the Red Sea encourages us to put our trust and faith in God and step out with him even when the way ahead feels risky and unclear. Going with God can mean taking that giant leap of faith, and grasping the outstretched hand of God, our Rescuer.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Stephen (Tel: 07415 691541)



A Warm Welcome Awaits

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us at Nether Heyford Baptist Church throughout September and October. 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.

Harvest Service — Sunday 11th October

Join us for our special Harvest Service on Sunday 11th October, as we give thanks together for God's provision throughout the year. This year we'll be collecting tinned and dried goods to donate to The Hope Centre in Northampton, supporting local families who need a helping hand. Please do bring along a tin or two to place at the front as part of our offering.

Remembrance Service — Sunday 8th November

Join us for our special Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November from 10:00 am to 10:45 am, as we gather to honour and remember those who gave so much for our peace and freedom today. Following our service, we will walk over to the village memorial together to join the rest of the community for the act of remembrance.

As it says in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." A reminder of the selfless sacrifice made by so many, and of God's extraordinary call for us to live with compassion, gratitude, and peace in our own lives.

We'd love for you to be part of it, whether you've been coming for years or would just like to join us in paying our respects. Do come along, join us as we gather, and stay with us as we head to the memorial together.

Pastor Lee

4th October Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Service, Tony Brown
11th October Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Harvest Service, Pastor Lee
11th October Sunday 4pm-4.45pm	Harvest Praise & Worship, Pastor Lee
18th October Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Service, Ted Hales
21st October Wednesday 10am-11am	Bible Study
23rd October Friday 10am-12pm	Book sale
25th October Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Service (Communion), Clive Leakey
1st November Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Service, John Perkins
6th November Friday 10am-12pm	Cynthia Spencer refreshments + Book sale
8th November Sunday 10.00am-10.45am – then to memorial	Service, Pastor Lee
8th November Sunday 4pm-4.45pm	Praise & Worship, Martin Buckby
15th November, Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Service, Durk Walsa
18th November Wednesday 10am-11am	Bible Study,
22nd November Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Service, Martin Buckby
29th November Sunday 10.30am-11.30am	Service (Communion), Pastor Lee

Website: NetherHeyford.Church

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

Phone: 01604 389 405

Pastor Lee Hillyard

Nether Heyford Baptist Church,

The Green, Nether Heyford, Northants, NN7 3LE

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

Would you like to edit the Prattler?

I will be retiring as the editor of the Prattler next year so we are looking for someone who would be interested in taking over this position.

If this would be of interest, please let me know so we can work alongside each other in producing the next few issues before I give up completely. Please contact me at heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested or would like further information about this.



Heyford Cleaning Service

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Heyford Picturedrome
presents –

**Remarkably Bright
Creatures**



October's film is on the 15th. Doors open at 7:00 the film runs at 7:30 pm.

Remarkably Bright Creatures: PG13 rating; running time 1 hour and 51 minutes.

Through unlikely bonds formed during night shifts at a local aquarium, Tova, an elderly widow, learns of a life-changing discovery that may bring her joy and wonder once again. She now prefers being alone, something she has in common with Marcellus, an elderly octopus.

Tickets are £6 at the door and include coffee or tea and biscuits.

The Bar stocks affordable alcoholic/
alcohol free drinks and soft drinks.



Nether Heyford
Village Hall

Astronomy on the Green

As I write this, a new space telescope wends its way to Lagrange point two (a point in space where the gravitational forces balance each other). Its name is the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, so where does that name originate? Well unsurprisingly from an astronomer, a female born in Nashville Tennessee in May 1924. From an early age Nancy was fascinated with stars, and astronomy became her focus, as it turned out for the rest of her life. As one would expect it took her time and determination to rise through the ranks of a male dominated (at the time) science.

During her long career, (she was so dedicated to astronomy that she never married) Nancy made important contributions to stellar classification and stellar motions. She thought of the stars as 'her family'.

In the 1960's she became the first female executive at NASA, Roman served as NASA's first chief of astronomy throughout the 1960's and 1970's, establishing her as one of the 'visionary founders of the US civilian space program'. She also became known as 'the mother of Hubble' as she fought for and administrated the Space telescope program.

So, thanks to Nancy we have over 30 years of discovery by the Hubble Space Telescope, and eventually that success spawned the James Webb Space Telescope. So why another telescope? Well, there is a real need; if we are to understand the Cosmos to have more and clearer data especially for illuminating exoplanets and the search for life.

The Roman telescope uses wide angle cameras to image large areas of the sky (the size of a full moon at the same resolution that Hubble had), snaffling more data quickly. In addition, there are specialist tools used to improve clarity. One is the coronagraph, scientists will photograph worlds and dusty disks in visible light to help us see giant planets that are older, colder, and in closer orbits than the hot, young super-Jupiter's direct imaging has mainly revealed so far.

In addition, using microlensing (a version of gravitational lensing) allows smaller objects like stars and planets cause a detectable degree of warping, and adds to the 'transit' methods currently used that mostly detect large hot planets. Enabling us to reveal smaller cold planets in the system (such as would be the case in our solar system like ours).

So, I take my hat off to Nancy Grace Roman who passed away on Christmas day 2018. One determined person can still have an effect in this odd old home planet of ours.

Tony Boutle



In Nether Heyford

The welcome arrival of the Prattler through the letter box each month underlines how quickly each month flies by. October? Surely not, but it is true. We are settling into Autumn. It is one of the best seasons in my opinion. We revel in the fact that it has stopped being too hot and can see signs that the Arizona like desert that has been my garden, is beginning to come back to life. I am running a book on whether some of the shrubs will revive in the Spring. Let's hope I am pleasantly surprised and don't have to commence a comprehensive replanting programme using all those drought resistant plants which will, no doubt, have tripled in price at the garden centres by next April.

WI members had an informal meeting at the end of the summer over a cup of coffee. The hubbub of chatter and laughter amongst friends one of life's great pleasures. I have met many women through the WI and it has widened my circle of acquaintances. If you have ever thought about joining, put your thoughts into action and come along. You will be most welcome.

At the September meeting we had a start of term activity, a bit like covering your text books with wallpaper (only people of a certain age will know what I mean). Our Treasurer and Secretary Chris Pardon had very kindly done a huge amount of preparation to make it possible for all of us to end up with an attractive card, which we can honestly say is handmade by our own fair hands. We thoroughly enjoyed taking on a craft activity which many of us had never tried before. If you had seen some of the mess some of us got into with card and glue you might have thought that the playgroup children had got involved, but in the end we all had something to be proud of, and to take home.

On Thursday October 1st at 7.30 in the Village Hall we welcome Robert Agar-Hutton who is going to talk about "Tai Chi for Health, Wellness and Self Defence". This ancient art is an excellent low impact exercise for seniors and beginners because it focuses on slow, flowing movements, deep breathing and mindful balance.

Robert says "What ancient masters discovered, and modern science confirms, is that these arts offer profound benefits far beyond their original purposes, enhancing your 'life force', or 'Qi' as the Chinese name it, to help you achieve and maintain optimal wellness." Well, I am all for that.

Jane Wareing
01327 340875

netherheyfordwi1930@gmail.com

Flore Arts Events

At the end of another busy year we have one more event before Christmas and then two 2027 diary dates for you.

Poetry Please: Sunday November 6th. The theme will be "Changes". 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.

Saturday January 9th: Silent Movie evening, All Saints Church, Flore. Vincent Byrne returns to present classic films from the golden age of silent movies - with musical accompaniment. He will be joined by renowned percussionist Nick Ward who will add a range of ingenious special effects. Further details in next month's Prattler.

Sunday July 18th (afternoon): Jazz in the Garden. Rock Springs, Sutton St, Flore.

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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Heyford Allotments

Although we have had a very challenging summer, the allotmenters in Heyford have worked hard to maintain their plots keep things alive. Sadly, the rain, when it arrived in early September, was just a little too late to satisfy (and save) some crops. However, the grass is greening up in the orchard and on the pathways and the weeds are loving a drink!

Some crops did not perform well in the extreme heat, although sun loving plants like tomatoes and squash have thrived and produced bumper crops. And who could have imagined things like sweet peppers and grapes growing so well without any protection or covering? Is this a sign of things to come?

If you'd like to take on an allotment and grow your own fruit, flowers and veg in the coming year, we'd love to hear from you. We currently have one or two vacant plots on the allotment site. Just contact Mrs Lynda Eales, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford tel. 01327 341707 email: lyndaeales@aol.com and she will be in touch.

Making the most of Autumn and Winter

Rather than simply clearing away the summer, this is the time for gardeners and allotmenters to decide how they want their plots to keep working and looking good. Some beds can keep producing, others can be planted for next year and those taking a rest can be covered and fed.

It is surprising how later growing leafy crops enjoy the cooler temperatures. Winter spinach, rocket, winter lettuce, radish and lambs lettuce all germinate and grow well. If you can offer a little protection as the year moves on, even better. If beds are being left empty, avoid leaving the soil bare. All that compost you've hopefully been making over the spring and summer makes a wonderful mulch covering. It doesn't need to be dug in, just let the worms and the weather do the work. Alternatively, try sowing a green manure such as grazing rye or winter field beans. They help maintain the soil structure, stop nutrients from leaching out of the soil and provide a feed for the soil in the new year.

Autumn and winter are also the perfect time to start carrying out structural jobs and, as long as the weather allows it, planting new fruit bushes and other perennial plants. While the soil is still warm they'll get away to a flying start.

The National Allotment Society

The NAS is an organisation that supports, protects and promotes allotments across the whole country. It was founded in 1901 and is the leading representative body for allotment holders in the UK with over 125,000 members. There are all sorts of benefits from being a member such as monthly newsletters and quarterly magazines, legal advice, free guidance and answers to any cultivation queries you may have. Where allotments have been under threat of closure, they have been powerful advocates to prevent this happening.

All members receive a huge discount on goods from Kings Seeds. This can amount to as much as 40% off seeds. Postage and packaging is also free. The cost of our membership last year, was virtually paid for by the discount we received! Here is a very handy list of five key jobs that the NAS suggest you might try before the month is out.

Photograph your plot. It is surprisingly useful when planning next year's layout and crop rotation.

Label stored produce. Add the variety and harvest date, particularly to potatoes, squash and apples.

Check water collection. Clear gutters and make sure water butts are ready to capture autumn rainfall. Consider installing more water butts or containers to collect and store precious rainwater.

Inspect structures. Secure loose greenhouse panels, shed roofing, netting and other structures before autumn winds arrive.

Write down what worked. Record successful varieties, disappointing crops, pest problems and anything you want to grow differently next year.

By spring, you may have forgotten far more than you expect.

Community Morning

We will be holding our next Community Morning on Saturday 24th October. We'd love your help with some of those jobs that need to be done in and around the site and which go over and beyond the work on each tenant's individual plot. Without the combined help of plot holders and volunteers from the village we can't keep the allotments looking good and maintain the standards we aspire to. Do come and join us at 10.00.am for an hour or two. Your support would be really appreciated.

Mike Langrish

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.

Slimming World

Now with GLP Support

Join us at the Baptist Church rooms on Tuesdays.

New members talk and weigh in 7.00 pm
Group starts at 7.30.

Make this your moment - eat real food, get real results!
*"joining group helped me reconnect with my belief in
myself"*

If you would like more information, please give me a
call, text or WhatsApp on **07703 386941** or come along
to see what it's like. A warm welcome awaits everyone.

Vera

Bugbrooke and District Flower Society

Our outing to Batsford Arboretum on Tuesday October 13th is going ahead as planned. Non members are welcome to join us , the cost for the coach is £20.00 entrance to the Arboretum can be paid on the day. The coach will pick up in Kislingbury and Bugbrooke leaving Nether Heyford at 9.30am. If you would like to join us the contact details are below.

For our October meeting we welcome Lorena Dyer, Lorena is a National Demonstrator and Speaker and she will give us a talk on her time as a 'Milliner'. The members will provide a Buffet to ensure we will have an enjoyable end to the evening.

A members husband has a surplus of Gourds and pumpkins so we have decided to have a Workshop for members only on Saturday 24th October 10am until 2pm. There will be no charge but members will be asked to bring their own materials to decorate.

Our meetings are held at Nether Heyford Village Hall on the fourth Monday of the month. 7.30pm start

Visitors are assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

For more information on any of the above please contact

Dianne - 01604 830063. email d.mg2008@hotmail.co.uk



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



Nether Heyford Village Hall

Registered Charity, No. 304256

www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org nhvhevents@gmail.com

View from The Chair

The summer holiday break seemed to fly by. The hall trustees are now busy looking at a long list of repairs and maintenance together with any grant opportunities to update the hall. We are also looking to recruit a local resident member to shadow our secretary and help with our admin. If you are interested and would like to help us there is very little commitment in terms of time given but your contribution could make a huge difference to the ongoing viability and resilience of the hall for the whole community. Please email me if you wish to enquire further.

Our next community event is the Heyford Feast. Those who attended last year gave amazing positive feedback. I know the table decorations and flowers looked fabulous and the food was a triumph. It is brought to the village as a non profit making event and purely as a celebration for the community to get together. It represents really good value for money with three courses for only £25 and wine at reasonable prices. Check out the poster in this edition of the Prattler and on our Facebook page. Please do consider coming along.

Finally, just a quick word about our bins. We pay for trade waste and we are monitored carefully by the Council as to what we discard. Recently the Council refused to empty our recycling as it was 'contaminated' with non recyclable waste. Please do not fly tip our bins. It causes us untold problems.

Carol Tuckley
Chair of Trustees
carolnhvhchair@gmail.com

Welcome Packs

Welcome packs are available for newcomers to our Village. The information in them helps people feel at home quickly.

If you notice that someone has moved in recently, get a pack for them by calling:

Charles Kiloh, 3 Church Lane, Nether Heyford Tel. 07779 900860

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NETHER HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL





Heyford Cricket Club

In an exciting end to the season for our 1st XI, a victory was needed in the last game of the year for Heyford to stay in Division 2 of the Northants Cricket League. Having lost to Earls Barton, the bottom club in the division, early in September we finished second in a close game the following week against Irthlingborough and needed a win against Haddon who were placed third in the division.

After a strong bowling performance, we were chasing 158 runs to win and a disciplined performance from our batters saw us over the line to record a 6 wicket victory. After a difficult second half of the season, this was a great way for the team to end the year and we look forward to building on this in 2027.

The 2nd XI ended the year with a good victory against Dunchurch 1st XI to finish in 6th place Division 10. This has been a good year for our 2s which has seen younger players put in consistent performances and many team members growing in confidence. There are plenty of positives to take from this season.

One of the highlights of this year was the development of our first ever ladies team. Following an approach from members of the League winning Heyford Ladies Football team who were interested in learning how to play cricket, training sessions in the second half of the season led to a victory in a friendly against Horton Ladies XI in their first game. This was followed up by a third place finish in a tournament at Burton Latimer where Heyford Ladies' only defeat came against the home side who went on to win the competition. We hope to push on further next year and thanks go to Simon Legge and other coaches who have helped to get this new part of the club started so successfully.

We will finish our season with our Presentation Evening in the village hall on 14th November.

Thanks again to all the individuals and businesses who have helped the club this year either through the financial support of our fund-raisers or by giving up their time to help with training, organisation or ground work down at the playing fields. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Julian Rice 07966 936278



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*When I was a little boy, I told my Dad
'When I grow up, I want to be a musician'
My Dad said: 'You can't do both, Son'*

www.heyfordsingers.org

Well we are all grown up and singing proving the point that we can do both. And our musical instrument is our voice and we all know how inspiring singing is. We are now back at rehearsals, although a different day of the week (usually Mondays) to enable our new Musical Director, Lucy Mason, to be with us as much as possible.

We have had two rehearsals so far this term and delighted to welcome four new members who will hopefully stay. One in Alto, one in Sopranos and one in the Tenors and the fourth is a most welcome return in the form of Mr Tony Wright for the basses. We are very sad to lose some of our members due to ill health, age and simply because the change of date is not convenient for them. However we have left them on our mailing system in the hope that something may change.

Our pianist, Graham Kinnersly, was away for these two rehearsals but we were lucky enough to have Alan Cafoud as a stand-in, although chiefly an Organist, he managed to accompany the Singers, as usual very professionally. We also found Lucy couldn't do the first rehearsal as something came up at work, so we were rewarded with Ginny Griffiths – an original member of our Choir and who has been ever since – doing a great job. She had everyone in fits of laughter with the warm up exercises (practised many a time at Bliss School Primary where she is the Music Teacher) and got everyone singing at the top of their voices enjoying being back as part of the Heyford Singers. Attendance was down due to many people being on holiday, but that will be rectified shortly. We all look forward to the next rehearsal which will be in the Baptist Chapel.

Sadly we have to announce that Maurice Whiting from Weedon has passed away. He was a long-standing and well respected member of our Choir and contributed to the Tenor and Bass sections. He also was a member of the Gilbert & Sullivan Group in Northampton where he excelled in acting as well as singing. There will be a Thanksgiving Service for Maurice at St Andrew's Methodist Church on Harlestone Road NN5 6AB opposite the junction with Cotswold Avenue. There is car parking on site. And at Maurice's request, no black is to be worn! There will be an opportunity to donate to charity in his memory.

We are now rehearsing the songs/carols for our Christmas Concert which will contain some old favourites along with some new (to us) ones. Always an exciting time of year, we hope to produce a delightful Concert in December (**11 th and 12 th**) to which we hope you will attend. More details will appear in The Prattler and posters around the Villages nearer the time. In the meantime inhale the fresh, cooler air which heralds our Autumn and enjoy the sight of our 'Green and Pleasant Land' being restored to us.

View from The Nature Reserve

Good News, it seems the drought has broken and we have rain again. I am amazed at the speed that our land has changed from light brown to emerald green. It seemed that somehow, hours after the first rain, our contractors were mowing on the Green again. Even the small lawns in our garden need trimming already. We will need to wait till Spring 2027 before we find out what - if any - effect the prolonged drought has had on the reserve flora and fauna.

Our garden Grasshoppers are now busy laying eggs in the soil. They lay these in little pouches that will protect them till the hatch in Spring 2027. The Reserve Grasshoppers are busy doing the same. So far I have only found one species, the Common Field Grasshopper. I did find a lovely green Grasshopper which I hoped was a different species. However according to my Grasshopper book it was Just a variation on the usual light brown job. There are more of the Grasshopper, Cricket and Cockroach family on the Allotments. In 2020 I recorded and photographed a Roesels Bush Cricket and a Dark Bush Cricket - this latter was quite battered and was probably dropped by a passing bird.

For some reason many of our insect populations are in free fall right now. I have a photo of life under a piece of wood on my allotment. This wood measured about 15 x20cm. Under this wood was a Black Ants nest which hosted tiny, white, Ant Woodlice. There was one other species of woodlouse. (Porcellio scaber - which means Rough Little Pig). Also there were several species of earthworm as well as some tiny, UK native flatworms. There was also a flat brown Centipede who was probably eating its neighbours one by one. I took the picture in the Summer of 2019 and kept the photo to remind how important it is to leave small pieces of wood and stone in places where they will provide good habitat for invertebrates.

We deliberately leave logs, stones, slates etc. to act as shelters for mixed species. If I compare this with a similar habitat today there would only be one or two species present. For some reason the species count is going down rather than up. Wider reading suggests this downward trend is not confined to our allotments or even to the United Kingdom but is almost worldwide.

August and early September were extremely hot. Too hot to spend extended periods in the Sun. This meant there was no using a net to trap and identify flying insects in the heat of the day. However, I did see 2 of our marbled white Butterflies. This shows that last year's larvae had survived the winter. Among other butterflies there was a Small Copper. This is a lovely little butterfly. They feed on Sorrel. We need to spread seed from the Wood sorrel already growing there to encourage more Small Coppers.

A big surprise early on one of the hottest days of the year was seeing what could be a Small Blue butterfly. It was blueish grey, tiny and fast, which describes the species very well. I did not catch it in that heat. There is only one other known population in this County. If they appear next year our reserve could be of County interest.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

Our Summer Season is now over and our green will be put to bed on 3rd October. Any help would be appreciated. The season has gone so quickly. Many thanks to our Butcher, Glen, for supplying us with some meaty Raffle prizes every Friday evening throughout the summer. We had a game cancelled because of the heat and we did nothing but moan about it. We'd have moaned if it had rained I expect.

Our Gala Day on Sunday 6th September was successful, with 10 teams competing in a game of Australian Pairs, to win a Trophy. The winners were Liz Davison and Bob Humphris, and everyone enjoyed the day. Lots of the players bowled in Fancy Dress, the winners being chosen by our photographer Mick Parker as Mike & Liz Davison. We finished with a BBQ and the weather was perfect.

We had a Sixties Night on 26th September and we have a Race Night planned for Saturday 17th October, the runners named by our club members, and a buffet supper. All for a Fiver. Our Presentation Evening is on Saturday 7th November with a Fish and Chip supper, a bit more than a Fiver.

The Short Mat section is doing well on a Wednesday afternoon from 2 pm to 4 pm and during the evening from 7 pm to 9:30 pm. On Saturday 10th October there is a Mixed Pairs competition to win the Benko Shield. Anyone is welcome to pop in and watch and have a cup of tea with the bowlers.

Shirley Collins

shirleybcollins@hotmail.com 07715 972517

Darts

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

Friday 2nd October, Friday 16th October, Friday 30th October

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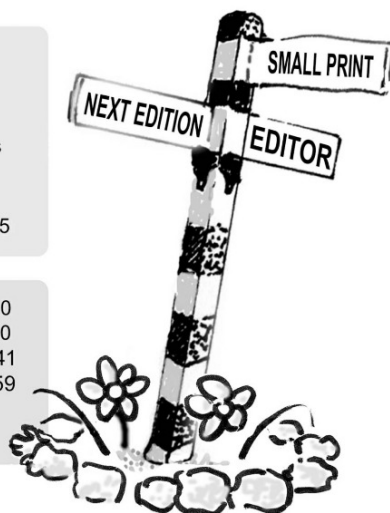
Submission date: 15th of October for written articles
20th of October for emailed articles

Publication date: 1st November 2026

e-mail: heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk

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

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The Prattler is printed by



Design to Print Limited
46 Daventry Road
Norton Daventry
NN11 2ND

01327 872950

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