



THE PRATTLER

The Heyford Village Newspaper

November 2026

Issue 494



SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2025

10:AM TO 2:00PM

HEYFORD VILLAGE HALL



SELECTION OF DIFFERENT CRAFT STALLS

– including Christmas Cards
& decorations



HANDMADE GIFTS

CAKE STALL



And why not enjoy a delicious
BACON ROLL, with a **TEA or COFFEE**
Provided by Heyford W.I.



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)

Editor needed

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.

If no-one comes forward, the Prattler will cease publication on Issue no. 500 which is its 50th anniversary.

Please contact me at heyford_prattler@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested or would like further information about this.

Sue

Picturedrome Christmas event.

Tickets for this year's Christmas Event are now on sale. A Christmas meal and drinks are included in the price of £20 per attendee.

Please note that places can only be confirmed once a ticket is purchased.

The film at the event is The Sheep Detectives. It's a herder mystery, and everyone is a suspect. Starring Hugh Jackman, Nicholas Braun, and Emma Thompson. Tickets can be purchased at October's (15th) and November's (19th) film nights.

The Village hall doors open at 7pm.



The October Meeting of Nether Heyford Parish Council took place on October 5th.

The resignations of Councillors Justine and Chris Leggett were noted. They were thanked for their service to the parish council. Clerk to initiate the casual vacancy process.

West Northants Councillor reports.

PB reported that H Howard of WNC is continuing to pursue the matter regarding the chicane and is working to progress this with the relevant parties.

Public Participation.

Mr. Toseland and Mr. Jelley (the new owner of Heyford Fisheries) addressed the meeting regarding the through route across the fisheries land. It was explained that new fencing had recently been erected, which had resulted in the through route being removed. Mr Jelley has since been made aware of the route and confirmed that the footpath will be reinstated to allow continued access through the site.

Flood Mitigation report.

TW reported that he had met with RAB Consultants and undertaken a walk around the village to gather information regarding local flooding issues. RAB Consultants will attend the November Parish Council meeting to present and discuss their draft report.

TW will submit an Expression of Interest for potential funding.

PB advised that the Flood Mobile will be in Bugbrooke on Thursday 29th October, between 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm, in the car park opposite the Five Bells public house.

To consider making a response to the WNC Reg 19 Local Plan consultation.

TW recommended that NHPC submit a response to the WNC Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation. It was noted that the deadline for responses is 15th November. It was resolved to consider the matter further at the next meeting, following which TW will submit a response on behalf of NHPC. TW advised that the consultation relates to matters including due process and the principles underpinning the Local Plan.

Play Area.

Resolved. To engage play area consultant Michael Carter once the parish consultation has closed; at a set fee of £3,200.

Remembrance day – Road closure and wreath purchase.

It was noted that the deadline for submitting the road closure application for Remembrance Day had been missed due to the Clerk's illness. A Remembrance Day wreath had been sourced, and it was resolved that the wreath be purchased. L Eales agreed to lay the wreath on behalf of NHPC.

Reports.

Environment. It was noted that the church hedge requires pruning but, due to wildlife protection requirements, this cannot be undertaken between 1st March and 31st August. The item was carried forward to the January 2027 meeting.

Infrastructure. LE reported concerns regarding vehicles travelling at speed along the road to the Playing Fields. LE will ask Mr. Langrish to provide the Parish Council with costs for bolt-on speed humps.

KR reported that PCSO Emma Teagles will endeavour to obtain speed detection equipment, subject to the Parish Council providing details of the most appropriate times and locations for speed monitoring.

Heritage. TW presented a draft of the village leaflet, which was well received and remains a work in progress. He hopes to have the final version available for approval before the December 2026 meeting.

Community. LE reported the CL raised almost £200 from the Macmillan coffee morning, and that the Harvest Festival at the allotments was a success. CK and MM attended recent Village Hall management committee meeting and MM is now on the VH committee.

LH reported excess rubbish on the Green following the fair. The Parish Clerk will raise this with the organisers. It was agreed that a formal agreement covering rubbish, dogs and other conditions of use should be put in place for future fairs.

Parish Council meetings in 2026 will normally be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30

Reporting Canal Issues can be done by phoning **0303 040 4040** during normal office hours.

Reporting Highway and Footpath Issues - The Clerk will report issues that the council is made aware of, but the council would encourage residents to use the Fixmystreet service to report issues themselves as there will then be no time lag and first-hand reports are almost always better than 2nd or 3rd hand reports.

The service can be found here

<https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

It is easy to use; you can have your own account and can check up on any issues you have reported.

Streetlights within the village can be reported to the Clerk, who will report them to the maintenance company. **Please do not report to Balfour Beatty** as they deal only with major Highway lights – i.e., motorway, A5 and A45.

Roadworks locally & nationally can be seen on this site

<http://streetworks.org.uk/live-traffic-works-map/>

PCSO Contact:

Emma Teagles C7155

Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

South Northants Neighbourhood Police Team

Telephone: 101 ext 343029/07866933412

Email: emma.teagles@northants.police.uk

Heyford Scouts Christmas Card Delivery Service

Heyford Scouts are pleased to announce that we will be again running our Christmas Card delivery service this year. Donations are still 20p per card, for collection and delivery in Heyford.

We will do a single house to house collection, which will be on the evening of Monday 7th December.

We also plan to have postboxes available at:

Heyford Meats and One Stop Shop.

Further details will also be in the December Prattler.

Food Bank

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

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

Councillor list with responsibilities and preferred means of contact.	
Linda Hall 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
Karen Rivett 07711 312069 karen.rivett@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Finance, Youth Club, Burial Board
K. Sanders 07702 701862 karen.sanders@netherheyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk	Councillor, Police Liaison
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 Meetings: Monday Nov. 2nd, and Dec. 7th at the Baptist Church rooms at 19.30.

Finance Committee precept meeting at Youth club. Nov 18th at 19.00.

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 November 2026

Sunday 1 st	9:30 am	<i>Holy Communion at Church Stowe</i>
	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Dodford Church</i>
	4:00 pm	<i>Annual Benefice Service of Light at Weedon Church</i>
	6:00 pm	Evening worship at Heyford Church
Sunday 8 th	10:15 am	Service for Remembrance Sunday at Heyford Church, followed by Act of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial
Sunday 15 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 22 nd	11:00 am	<i>Holy Communion at Flore Church - Gift Service</i>
	4:00 pm	Café Church at Heyford - Gift Service
Sunday 29 th	11:00 am	<i>Benefice Holy Communion at Brockhall Church</i>
	2:00 pm	'Our Church, Our Stories' Celebration Service at Heyford Church

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

Dear Friends,

As the seasons now start to change before our eyes and we leave the summer heat behind, many of us will be watching the leaves brown and start to fall to the ground. The cycles of life and nature. Growing, and going to back to the earth to replenish and nourish for the next season's growth. Soon we will put on an extra layer and walk out into the first frost. It made me really reflect on the harvest festivals throughout the area. The generosity of people, the giving to those most in need. How we pull together to make differences to people's lives. The time sacrificed to be there for someone, how fortunate a lot of us are, and remembering those who are not. The harvest, where people give up what they have for the betterment of others is powerful, and coming into November, we are reminded of what millions of people gave up for us to be able to be this modern society. As I mentioned last letter, I have a small fear of spiders, I cannot imagine the fear of people and individuals or even nations as we look back and remember the lives given and lost to fight the wars of history, so that we can be free, so that we can be a people that mix, grow and live side by side. Men and women that carried the hope of nations on their shoulders, as they went to fight against dark forces, so that we can remain in the light.

Memories are coupled with dreams and aspirations, and to be able to try and live out those, came at great personal cost to so many. Not just in their individual lives, but also those around them. The families of the men and women who handed over their dreams, freedoms, their memory-making times with family and friends, so that WE can. Some of the fondest memories from my childhood are getting my first bike, sitting on a field playing quick cricket and the smell of fresh cut grass. Thank you for all those that paid for those times with levels of commitment and sacrifice that are extraordinary. These people went above and beyond to give up things for a future that they did not know, for people not yet born, with a hope that what they would be laying down, would help build the foundations of a better world. Everyday we have a great opportunity to shape the world we live in and the worlds of other people. What a gift. In this time, we shall remember them, and we remember the sacrifice that Christ made for us all. Their names immortalised, they rest in a room carefully prepared for them, and thanks to them, the light shines a bit brighter. "A light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it".

We look forward to seeing you at the remembrance services.

Peace be with you.

Rev'd. John

The annual **Service of Light at Weedon on Sunday 1st November** is an opportunity to remember, celebrate and give thanks for the lives of loved ones who have died recently, or, indeed, not so recently.

On **Sunday 22nd November**, we have a series of **Gift Services** in aid of **Restore Northampton**. Gifts of board reading books for small children, cuddly toys, colouring books and crayons, Christmas selection boxes, toiletry and cosmetic gift sets and the like will be gratefully received. Thank you in advance for your generosity

The church is part of our story - We are part of its story

Over the past few months we have been gathering memories, photographs and stories connected with Nether Heyford Church. What has emerged is a fascinating picture of a church that has sat at the heart of village life for generations. People have shared memories of Sunday School, choirs, Harvest Festivals, bell-ringing, church fetes, Christmas pantomime trips and family celebrations. One contributor described how a place in the church choir eventually led to the Royal College of Music and an international opera career, simply saying, "This all began at Heyford Church."

Alongside these personal memories, we have been researching the lives of Nether Heyford's First World War servicemen and uncovering the stories behind the names on our war memorial.

Visitors to the exhibition will also be invited to record the names of loved ones, family members and friends who lost their lives while serving their country, creating a space for remembrance and reflection.

We look forward to welcoming you to Heyford: Our Church, Our Story on 28–29 November as we celebrate the people, memories and community that have shaped our village.

HEYFORD: OUR CHURCH, OUR STORY

A Community Exhibition of Memories, Photographs & Stories

EXHIBITION WEEKEND: 28th & 29th November

Opens 10am to 3pm both days

Tea, coffee & cakes

Saturday Community Commemoration

Supper 19.30-22.00



Celebration & Remembrance Service

Sunday: 14.00



A Warm Welcome Awaits

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us at Nether Heyford Baptist Church throughout November and December. 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.

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.

Carols by Candlelight — Sunday 13th December

Join us for a magical afternoon of Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 13th December, led by Pastor Lee from 4:00pm to 4:45pm. Come and celebrate the true wonder of the season as we sing well-loved Christmas carols together by warm candlelight in the church

It's a wonderful opportunity to pause, reflect, and share in the joy of Christmas with family, friends, and neighbours, everyone is warmly invited to attend!

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

1st November Sunday	Service, John Perkins 10.30am-11.30am
7th November Saturday	Cynthia Spencer refreshments + Book sale 10am-12pm
8th November Sunday	Service, Pastor Lee 10.00am-10.45am – then to the memorial
8th November Sunday	Praise & Worship, Martin Buckby 4pm-4.45pm
15th November Sunday	Service, Durk Walsa 10.30am-11.30am
18th November Wednesday	Bible Study 10am-11am
22nd November Sunday	Service, Martin Buckby 10.30am-11.30am
27th November Friday	Book Sale, 10.00-12.00pm
29th November Sunday	Service (Communion), Pastor Lee 10.30am-11.30am
6th December Sunday	Service, Clive Leakey 10.30am-11.30am
13th December Sunday	Christmas Service, Pastor Lee 10.30am-11.30am
13th December Sunday	Carols by Candlelight, Pastor Lee 4pm-4.45pm
16th December Wednesday	Bible Study, 10am-11am
20th December Sunday	Christmas Lessons Service, 10.30am-11.30am
27th December Sunday	Service (Communion), Clive Leakey 10.30am-11.30am

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

******* Our Friendship Hall is an ideal venue for functions of all kinds from children's parties to celebrations and meetings. Now we also offer free Wi-Fi access *******

Astronomy on the Green

Sitting here on our quiet planet I'm reflecting on how stable the solar system has been for millennia. However, it was not always this way, over its 4.6 billion year history the solar system has gone through some violent and dramatic phases. Fortunately for us it has resulted in our planet being in the ideal location for life to flourish and to be protected. I will continue with this subject next month.

Let's start at the beginning, a giant cloud of gas and dust (the solar nebula) collapsed under its own gravity, likely triggered by the shockwave of a nearby supernova. Most of the collapsing material was pulled toward the centre, creating immense pressure and heat that ignited hydrogen fusion, forming the Sun (which holds over 99% of the system's mass). Then the remaining gas and dust flattened into a spinning disk orbiting the young Sun. From this disk around 100 planets formed (by the process of accretion), and they jostled for position. A violent jockeying for a stable orbit resulted in multiple collisions and resulted in the reformation of planets. At this time in our part of the system around 30 planets were close to the newly formed sun and here the reduction in numbers cleared out the region.

The newly formed planets were now subject to a rain of asteroids, during this period a planet struck the Earth a glancing blow and sent a spray of the mantle into space. This eventually formed our unusually large moon (and accounts for the similarity of geology on the moon being identical with the Earth). Jupiter was forming at this time and due to its size began moving inward towards the Sun's gravity. If it had completed that journey the rocky planets would have been eliminated. Fortunately for us Jupiter's movement in was halted by the formation of a large planet (Saturn) whose gravity pulled back the gas giant into the orbit it now has. The other effect was to pull the asteroids away from the rocky planets and form the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.

Jupiter now protects the Earth and other rocky planets from strikes by asteroids and comets. However, during the bombardment period asteroids and icy comets had seeded the Earth with the most precious of life givers – liquid water. Now as luck would have it the new orbit of our planet placed us in the 'Goldilocks zone' meaning that the water was not evaporated away.

The rocky planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars all have solid rocky cores. In Earth's case the core is surrounded by liquid rock. The motion of this layer gives us the protection of a magnetosphere; this stops the atmosphere being blasted away by the Solar wind. It also protects life from lethal Solar radiation.

Clear Skies

Tony Boutle



In Nether Heyford

November here we come. It has a dreary feel to it. Grey skies, wet days, and unduly long nights. We should be more like hedgehogs, build a nice warm nest and then hibernate until Spring. That sounds really tempting.

It occurred to me the other day that we haven't been hearing quite so much about Hygge (Danish /Norwegian for cosiness, related to our word 'hug') It was big a few years ago and was commercially translated into buying candles, woollen blankets and sheepskin slippers. Living the Dunelm dream. Well, we aren't really able to do that, are we, as the store got burned down and is yet to reopen.

Until it does, perhaps we should adopt the Scandinavian 'friluftsliv' and reconnect with nature to slow down, clear the head, and escape modern digital distractions. Remember when you are drudging through those dark dank days, be guided by the Nordic mindset 'there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing'

Hopefully, WI members now have more relaxation techniques to use during a long winter after the talk we had at our last meeting about Tai Chi. We learnt of the history of this martial art which has become adapted, and has become less about mortal combat and more about combatting stiff joints. We enjoyed practising some basic sequences to encourage stretching and meditative breathing. The demonstration left us wanting more.

This month on **Thursday November 5th at 7.30 in the Village Hall** we will welcome Jeanette Harmon, from St John Ambulance who will take us through the modern aspects of lifesaving techniques. 'Bystanders can be Lifesavers' was a resolution from the WI last year to call on WI members to work together to increase public confidence and training in the delivery of CPR and to work with local organisations to help improve access to defibrillators in their communities to give every person the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.

We all probably think we have an idea of what we should do when faced with a person who has had a cardiac arrest, but do we really? You are welcome to come along and attend as a visitor (£5 to include refreshments) and find out.

Jane Wareing

01327 340875

netherheyfordwi1930@gmail.com

Flore Arts Events

Silent Movie evening: Saturday January 9th, 7.30pm, All Saints Church, Flore.

Here's an evening to really bring the silent movie era to life. Vincent Byrne's talented and versatile organ and piano accompaniment to two silver screen classics proved a huge hit in Flore Arts Events' first year in 2016, so we are delighted to welcome him back.

Vincent made his silent movie accompanist debut in Birmingham more than a decade ago, performing for members of the "Laughing Gravy Tent" Laurel & Hardy Appreciation society. He has continued to wow audiences across the Midlands ever since. This time, as an added bonus, Vincent will be joined by renowned vintage jazz drummer Nick Ward, who will be supplying just the right special effects from his percussion kit.

Vincent and Nick will be presenting three films for us. Critics praised Charlie Chaplin's "The Adventurer" from 1917 for its "generous share of sure-fire comedy business" and "irresistible pantomime". Buster Keaton's "The Boat" dates from 1921; Keaton considered it one of his personal favourites, and The Washington Post recognised the film as a classic, praising its clever portrayal of naval mishaps. And Laurel and Hardy's final silent film, the 1929 "Angora Love", provides an entertaining tale of mishaps resulting from too much generosity to... a goat.

SPECIAL OFFER... Tickets are priced at £12.50 (£5 Under 18s) but on this occasion we would like to help Christmas budgeting by offering an Early Bird discount: all adult tickets will be on sale for £10 for bookings made and paid before 13th December. As usual tickets are available from Rosemary Read on 01327 341026 (between 9am and 6pm), and you can also purchase tickets at Re, 2A Sutton St, Flore, NN7 4LE (during shop opening hours).

Poetry Please: Sunday November 29th (please note corrected date). 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.

Further 2027 calendar date: 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.



Heyford Picturedrome

19th of November:

Hunt for the Wilderpeople



Doors open at 7
PM, Film rolls at
7:30 PM. Tickets
are £6 and
include tea,
coffee and
biscuits

The Bar offers,
wines, beers and
soft drinks at
affordable
prices.



The film is set in the wilds of New Zealand.

Ricky Baker runs away to the wild when his foster mother dies. However, his cantankerous uncle Hector joins him and gets to know him better on their way out of the wild.

PG Amazon Prime. 1 hour 45minutes.



Nether Heyford
Village Hall

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

Thirty nine members and friends enjoyed a day at Batsford Arboretum, we did encounter heavy rain on our journey there but the sun was out on our arrival .

On Sunday December 20th we are having a Christmas Workshop. Two Christmas arrangements will be made, all requirements and expert advice will be given. Although places are limited non members are welcome to attend if space allows, the inclusive cost £40.00.

November is our Christmas demonstration , Emma Remington will be presenting 'Christmas Carols' entrance for visitors will be £7.00 as usual.

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 Vice-Chair

Amazingly it's November already, when it falls to me to write our contribution for the Prattler. Let me begin with a huge thank you to Judith who has been the our valued secretary for many years. Judith has been such an asset to the Village Hall. Her enthusiasm and dedication has been second to none and we shall most certainly miss her sense of humour and commitment to our monthly meetings. We shall also be lost without her support and help at all our fund raising events. Thank you so much for all your time and the difference you have made to our community.

Fortunately as one door closes another one opens and I am delighted to welcome Mark and Karen to our board of Trustees. Mark has kindly offered to step into the role of secretary and Karen is keen to take on the role of events secretary. Both are highly efficient and organised and I feel sure will make a valued contribution to our already fabulous team to ensure our hall continues to prosper and serve the whole community.

On behalf of the Trustees, I would just like to take this opportunity to write a warm tribute to Sally Sargent who until recent years was a highly valued member of our committee. Sally was very much a community person, who did a huge amount for our village and the children and people within it. She will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

On Friday 23rd October we held our annual 'Heyford Feast', a non profit event which fully endorses our continuing commitment to our local community. It was another cracking evening with plenty of atmosphere and fun. Our thanks go to James and his team for providing us with such a marvellous three course meal that was enjoyed by all. I also wish to thank Lynn and my highly valued team, who helped me organise and decorate the event. Thank you so much. If you haven't attended before, do consider it next year. It is certainly worth it.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that we will be installing WiFi in the next few weeks to support our regular users and to hopefully welcome future hirers of our hall. This demonstrates our continuing commitment to maintaining and future proofing our Village Hall to keep it purposeful and relevant in this internet age. If you are interested in hiring the hall please contact Simone, our booking secretary nhvhbookings@gmail.com

Veneeta Rayner -Vice-Chair



CRAFTY CLUB

Every Monday 13:00 to 15:00

CONTACT

Chris Phillipps
PHONE NUMBER:
07445483605 or 01327 341796

EMAIL ADDRESS:
seeandem@aol.com

Are you new to the village?

Have you always lived here?

Have you recently retired or have time to spare for two hours on a Monday?

Would you like to join like-minded people who enjoy numerous crafts, or maybe you would like help with a project or would like to learn a new craft?

Then why not come along any Monday in the Village Hall 13:00 to 15:00 – bring your own craft or just come and see what is on offer.

Tea, Coffee & Biscuits available.

Weekly subscription of £3.00 with a yearly Membership Fee due in March.

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



travel counsellors

Confidential Travel Booking Service

for flights, packages, cruises,
celebratory trips, etc.

Contact: Lisa and Amy Hillyard

01327 828520 or

07808815042

lisa.hillyard@mytc.com or
amy.hillyard@mytc.com



Nether Heyford Village Hall



Available for Club Meetings
Parties, Weddings, Business
Meetings etc. Modern facilities,
Disabled access friendly

Bookings: nhvhbookings@gmail.com

Website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.com

Phone: 01327-342167

[www. http://jwtre specialists.co.uk](http://jwtre specialists.co.uk)



TREESPECIALISTS

City & Guilds qualified
- Experienced, Fully Insured
& Friendly



All aspects of Tree & Hedge work undertaken.
All risings removed from site.

Call James on 07546-033291
Professional Arborist



WEBUILDWEBS

Website Consultants

With over ten years'
experience in auditing,
creating, managing and
developing websites.

**Your business can't afford
not to have one**

Contact us on

T: 07591 005019

E: info@webuildwebs.net

W: webuildwebs.net

Ken and Mollie Garrett

We celebrate a truly monumental milestone: Ken and Mollie Garrett's Diamond 60th Wedding Anniversary. That is an astonishing 21,914 days together. If you've lived in Heyford for any length of time, you know Ken and Mollie are absolute legends. Whether Ken was testing our brains with his Sunday pub quiz down at The Olde Sun, or Mollie was feeding half the parish with her famous bakes from the Bliss Charity School and Heyford Patisserie, they have always been the heart and soul of this village. From Furnace Lane to Church Lane, and everywhere in between, they've done it all. And after six decades, you can still spot them taking their daily walks through the village with their trusty boy, Teddy.

Ken, Mollie, thank you for showing us all what a lifetime of love, legendary baking, and stubborn resilience looks like.





John

Northampton & Daventry

bluebird
care®

*Helping your
dad live his
life. So you
can live yours.*

We're here to give you or your loved one the support you need, in the place you love.

That's what Home Care is all about. From preparing healthy meals, assisting with washing, dressing and medication, to going on lovely walks in the local park. Our Care Experts will not only put your loved one at ease - they'll help you live the life you want.

Bluebird Care can provide anything from a 30 minute visit to live-in care. Contact us today to arrange a no obligation care consultation.

**It's good to
*be home***

Call us for a friendly chat on

01604 312 182

Or email

northampton@bluebirdcare.co.uk

*Find
out more*





HEYFORD
SINGERS

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

11th & 12th DECEMBER

NETHER HEYFORD
VILLAGE HALL

7.30PM

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
RAFFLE

TICKETS £12.50

CHILDREN UNDER 14 £6

FROM KEITH RANDS-ALLEN

01327 340741, 07971786912

kvra44@gmail.com



www.heyfordsingers.org

The year is rattling to a conclusion – and of course it doesn't help that the November copy for The Prattler has to be ready for the 20th October to enable the editing and printing to be done. And what a superb job the Committee do! In the meantime rehearsals for our Concert are going well and we are learning a lot of new tunes for Christmas, albeit very hard work.

The *Carol of the Bells* is a four-part mixed voice tune that literally sounds out Christmas. At first very daunting with its timing but once heard on YouTube, never forgotten. In fact the earworm can last over a week! Looking at the music, the Sopranos sing the same notes over and over, as do the other parts but coming in at different times causing the wonderful bell chiming effect. Badly timed the result is chaos; done right this is a lovely and joyous song by Mykola Leontovych and is based on the Ukrainian New Year's celebration song *Shchedryk*. Mykola wrote and arranged this between 1901 and 1916 and the English language lyrics were written in 1936 by the American composer Peter Wilhousky. This song has been adapted for musical genres that include classical, heavy metal, jazz, country music and pop and is to be found in films and television shows. Very popular it would seem, but new to the Heyford Singers... And if you want to hear it syncopated, check out Wynton Marsalis' recording on his album 'Crescent City Christmas Card' with the role of the bells carried by brass. Fortunately we only have our voices to worry about.

And keeping the Eastern European connection '*Rocking*' is a Czech carol arranged by David Willcocks and is a familiar Christmas song. '*We will rock you, rock you, rock you*' resonates with us all at this special time of year while *Lily The Pink*, a comedy song in fond tribute to Lydia Pinkham who invented 'Vegetable Compound' is in total contrast and is a song we all know and sing under our breath but never know the words! Lily's invention was a herbal-alcoholic patent medicine for women in 19th century America and this song tells us her story so enunciation matters a good deal...

Stop The Cavalry is a marvellous anti-war tune encompassing trumpets sung by the gentlemen which herald the song with a wonderful fanfare. Of course like all singers in rehearsals the first tentative steps sound quiet and weak but after a few 'pa pa pa pas' the lips form a fanfare and the sound is heard above the hall. This is followed by the sopranos singing the melody while the 'pa pa pa pas' continue from the Alto section and the Tenor whilst the bass sing a low beat of 'Dum dum dum dum'. It was written and performed by the English musician Jona Lewie, released in 1980 and the song peaked at number three on the UK Singles Chart in December 1980 at one point being kept from number one by two re-issued songs by John Lennon

who had been killed on 8th December that year. According to a poll conducted by The Irish Times, *Stop The Cavalry* was listed as the seventh highest royalty earning Christmas song.

When a Child is Born, *Mary's Boy Child* and *White Christmas* are all well-known favourites amongst the Choir but we all have to watch out for the hidden traps which occur in singing well-known songs – the sudden descent or ascent of notes or quavers where we 'assume' crotchets. A lot of rehearsing still to do!

And then of course there is Graham Kinner's piece of music that he composes for us at every Concert. And of course I shall not divulge where this masterpiece goes in the musical genre... Come and see.

JRA

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

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 16th November – Royal Northamptonshire
by Kate Wills

Northamptonshire's links with royalty throughout the ages.

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/upper-nene

View from The Nature Reserve

There is no doubt that 2026 continues to be an exceptional year. I wrote this on the 18th of October. There has hardly been any rain since my last "view", written on 19th of September. Grass is now green and topsoil is now damp however, there is still a severe shortage of water deeper down.

Pauline and I regularly walk round some of our local reservoirs. These are still at the lowest level we have seen since we moved to the area 11 years ago. And they are getting lower day by day. Rain is pouring down as I am typing this article and I am told there is more substantial rain to come. We can only hope and pray.

I don't know what has happened to our bird population of late. 5 or 6 years ago anyone could look out from any window and always see birds flying overhead. Today, I can watch for a few minutes without seeing even one bird. Possibly, this is due to the continuing dry spell. Our birds are struggling to find food in this area so have shifted elsewhere till we get some rain. That is one of the advantages of having wings.

There are still reports of Humming Bird Hawk Moths appearing in gardens etc. The caterpillars of this moth feed on Bedstraw plants of which we have a few species locally. Adult moths draw up nectar from plants with their long proboscis whilst on the wing, hence the Humming Bird name. Adults of this species don't hibernate but try to keep warm long enough to survive till spring. It is possible you could find an adult of Humming Bird Hawk moth in your garage or outhouse trying to keep warm. If this happens you should be able to feed it on a solution of Honey, thinned with warm water to make it easier for your moth suck up. Put the liquid on a spoon and bring it to the moth. I used to breed moths of different species and found that by carefully unrolling the Proboscis (Tongue) with a pin or similar then dipping it in the liquid, the moth will begin to draw the syrup up very quickly. This species is built to feed "on the wing" but if they are hungry, they will sit on a hand enjoying the warmth whilst feeding.

The late mild weather means that right now is a good time to offer food to Hedgehogs. There are still quite a few small "Hoglets" around and not in hibernation. Ours are still eating quite a lot of the food we offer. We feed "Calci Worms". They are not lacking in Calcium as are Mealworms. Feeding Mealworms has caused a lot of pain and suffering for many hedgehogs who depended on them in the past. We follow the advice that if a Hog weighs less than 600 grams, it will not last the winter without support. We also offer extra shelter in the form of a box made to the RSPB site design. For extra warmth, cover the box in vegetation e.g. dry leaves or grass. Then put it somewhere sheltered and out of the way. I put a piece of dry grass across the entrance to check if it is used. If the grass is disturbed, your box is being used.

Dave Musson



Heyford Bowls Club

No outdoor bowling for the remainder of this year but plenty of Social entertainment at the club. Our Sixties Night went well with about 50 people enjoying each other's company while reminiscing about life in the 1960's. Our Race Night on 10th October was bursting at the seams, obviously a lot of gamblers in our Bowls Club. All the horses were named by our members, all ridden by local jockeys, and a lot of shouting made it fun. Our Presentation Evening is on Saturday 7th November so trophies are at the engravers at the moment, and we have a Christmas Quiz scheduled for 5th December.

Our Short Mat season continues throughout the year in the village hall, every Wednesday afternoon and evening, and anyone is welcome. Afternoon numbers are very steady but we have room for more in the evenings. In September we played a friendly at Harpole and we hope to organise a return match shortly. We had a Competition for the Benko Shield, a well-fought match between Alan Davis and Geoff Groom against Chris Phillipps and Bob Bates, the winners being Alan and Geoff. We also enjoyed some of Rosemary's home-made cakes with our cuppa.

If you are interested in joining our club or just want to have a chat about it give me a call, or if your club fancies a game during one of your regular evening meetings instead of a speaker, we can arrange that between us just for a bit of fun.

Shirley Collins

shirleybcollins@hotmail.com 07715 972517

Darts

It is with regret that I write this post. I am sad to say that I have made the hard decision to close the Nether Heyford darts club.

The reason for this is lack of participation. The past 4 session's, I have only had 2 people turn up.

100% NO SALE NO FEE

- No Upfront Marketing Fee
- No Withdrawal Fee
- Local and Experienced
- Free Energy Performance Certificate
- Free Premium Listing
- Free 360° Virtual Tour

Check out our
reviews on Facebook



Chris Gibson
- Horts Property Consultant



arla naea
propertymark



PERSONAL • PROFESSIONAL • PROACTIVE

JL Chauffeuring
07951 158927
info@jlchauffeuring.co.uk

Travel in style, comfort & luxury

JL Chauffeuring can take care of all your travel needs. Airport Transfers, Weddings, Corporate Days, London Theatre Trips or a Gig at the O2.

All in our luxury Mercedes V Class 7 seater vehicle.

Call today for an immediate quote.



KEVIN FAULKNER

Garden Machinery Repairs & Servicing
Petrol Mowers, Strimmers etc.

Call or text - 07798 725578

**Your ad here
for just
£5 per issue**



Percy's Plumbing & Heating

William Percy
Plumber & Heating Engineer
percysplumbing@gmail.com
Mobile: 07526539176

LTD

5 Winston Close
Nether Heyford
Northampton
NN7 3JX

Call Today!

01327340654

Auction Sales & Valuations

Valuation, collection and auction service of individual items through to complete property and commercial clearances.

Call for a free no obligation quote or email **info@leauktion.co.uk**

SALE ENTRIES NOW INVITED

www.leauktion.co.uk



LOCKE & ENGLAND

AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS

01926

889100

18 Guy Street, Leamington
Spa, CV32 4RT

RANDALL ELECTRICAL

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

For all types of
Domestic Electrical
Installations

Free no obligation quotes

Tel: 01327 349144

Mobile: 07703 258169



IAN SUMMERLING, ELECTRICIAN

All electrical installations,
burglar alarms, extra sockets, etc

Tel 01604 862710

Mobile 07971 426775

39 Wallwin Close, Roade, NN7 2NA

Radmore Cattery

- Luxury & modern boarding chalets operating to Feline Advisory Bureau (FAB) standards
- Located on a family run farm overlooking a picturesque fruit orchard
- All chalets with an indoor heated sleeping area & outside covered exercise run

Enquiries to Kathryn (01327) 830825
Mobile 07732274252

Radmore Farm, Northampton Rd,
Litchborough, Towcester,
Northants. NN12 8HR

THE PRATTLER

NEXT EDITION

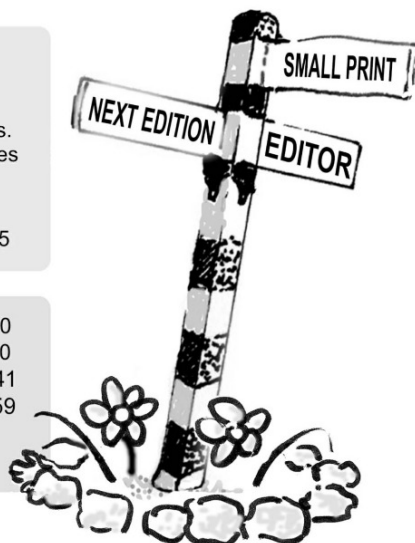
Submission date: 15th of November for written articles.
20th of November for emailed articles

Publication date: 1st of December 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	



We welcome Prattler contributions, please send these to the Editor. Please include your name and full contact details. We prefer items by e-mail & all images should be JPEG files.

The Editors reserves the right to edit or refuse any submissions at their discretion.

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of any member of the editorial team. Advertising material does not imply any endorsement by the editorial team.



Please mention that you saw it in **THE PRATTLER** when responding to advertisers !

The Prattler is printed by



Design to Print Limited
46 Daventry Road
Norton Daventry
NN11 2ND
01327 872950
www.designtoprint.org.uk