Thank you

Lorraine, Rory, Lynda, Mark and families would like to thank everyone from Nether Heyford and beyond for the many beautiful cards and messages of support received on the sudden, and very sad loss of our wonderful Mum and Nan, June.

Mum touched the lives and hearts of so many people who came to make her final journey from her home and the village on 7th July such a poignant and special moment, and one that has brought us great comfort.

Many thanks also for the lovely floral tributes and the generous donations given in Mum’s memory which have so far raised £895 to benefit Collingtree B Ward at Northampton General Hospital.

We will always treasure our memories of Mum, and those of her final goodbye to her home of 50 years, which was made so special by all her friends and neighbours, and a nod to Ken Cooke with the Hoover salute!

We thank you all.

Lorraine Smallbone

Food Parcel Deliveries

May I express my sincere gratitude to Charles Kiloh and his team of helpers who arranged and delivered the food parcels so faithfully to the housebound during the first three months of the current coronavirus crisis.

I appreciated the goodies and their weekly cheerful visits.

Thank you.

Arthur Hanley

The Prattler

The Prattler is run by an active voluntary committee comprising of Sue Boutle, Christine Watts, Vicki Hamblin, Jez Wilson, Nick Essex, Richard Musson and Mary Rice. If you would like to submit articles or have any suggestions for future issues, please get in touch.

The Newspaper is supported by donations from the Parish Council, the Parish Church, the Baptist Church, Heyford W.I., Heyford Garden Club, 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.
Due to government regulations prohibiting public meetings the July 6th and Aug 3rd, 2020 Parish Council meetings were held online, using the Zoom platform. This is in line with national advice. At this time there is no indication of how long these conditions will persist, but it is likely that meetings will take place online for the rest of this year. Parishioners wanting to participate in the Public Session should check the Agenda on the Public notice boards, or the Website, for the meeting ID on Zoom.

Due to difficulties experienced by Councillors unused to using the internet, a reduced number of Councillors attended the online meeting, but a quorum was achieved and was supplemented by the District and County Councillors.

Illness and unfamiliarity with IT have meant that the number of Councillors at meetings has fallen, and the anticipated election in May was postponed until next year, and this may well have bought an influx of new Councillors. We are able to co-opt new members, subject to them being eligible. The Parish Council does need some active new members, preferably familiar with IT – so if you feel that is you – please contact me or the Chair (details overleaf).

**Reports from the District and County Councillors.**

Cllr Phil Bignell reported that the Forum has yet to re-open, and that Covid 19 was something of a problem in several wards in Northamptonshire. Further measures were being considered by Government, but action and advice by local health officers has averted this.

**Lights.**

The required 3 Quotes had now been received and an application made for funding from the New Homes Bonus; the result of that application is awaited.

**Roads and pavements.**

The jitties between Watery Lane, Middle St and Manor Walk have been cleared up, as has the one between the memorial Green and Church Lane.

**The Green and Play Area.**

Grass in good condition. Play area has been re-opened and one of the fixtures has been repaired.
Playing Fields. In good order. Tennis courts have been re-surfaced.

Youth Club will remain closed until at least September. Trees had been cut down adjacent to the Youth Club.

Planning. An application for land behind Denbrook was proving controversial and a report had been put in to the Planning Dept at SNC.

Reports on effect of Covid 19 emergency. Whilst there are still restrictions, the lockdown has largely been lifted and most people are back at work. The volunteer effort to distribute food parcels and prescriptions has been largely stood down. All those involved in that effort should take a bow – we can be very proud of them and that this village got its effort together very rapidly and effectively with a mixture of residents and Parish Councillors involved. Indeed, it was so effective that Heyford became a hub for other villages to collect from.

It may be that there will be no further need for such an effort, or we could just be in a pause period before there is a second wave of Covid 19. The Parish Council will look at the readiness of the village to cope with another potential lockdown at the September meeting. The Parish Council are grateful for the work of all the volunteers during this emergency and are proud of the community spirit that it has engendered.

Reporting Highway and Footpath Issues. The Clerk will report issues that 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.

Next Meeting Monday Sept 7th. Online at 19.30

Parish Council meetings in 2020 will continue to be on the first Monday of each month, (unless a Bank Holiday) and would start at 19.30. The next ones are on Sept 7th and Oct 5th

Clerk to the Parish Council: Guy Ravine, c/o Old Dairy Farm, Upper Stowe, Weedon. Northampton. NN7 4SH.

Tel: 07935 931787. E-mail: netherheyfordparishcouncil@gmail.com
Heyford Entrepreneurs

Villagers, we are looking for help watering our flowerbeds at the entrances into our lovely village. If you live near one of the signs, it would be fabulous if you could water it a few days each week. Or if you are passing one, could you stop on the way and throw some much-needed water onto them, it will help them keep looking great. We are desperate for volunteers especially during this hot spell. If YOU can help us to keep these signs pretty, then please call me on 07912 971799. If you feel you want to take on a sign on your own as a little project, then also let me know.

We are also looking for much needed plant donations. If any of you lovely villagers are thinning any plants in your garden or have bulb/seeds going spare then please let me know. I can collect.

I want to also thank our helpers who are already playing a big part at the moment, watering, planting, weeding and flattening those pesky mole hills, you are all amazing. We would not have come this far without you. However, we still need more people to make it easier all round.

Thank you all so much.

Jill
Parish Church of
St. Peter and St. Paul

Services for September 2020

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 6th</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion Service via the Facebook Page</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion at Upper Stowe</td>
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<td>Holy Communion at Heyford</td>
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<td>Sunday 13th</td>
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<td>Holy Communion Service via the Facebook Page</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion at Flore</td>
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<td>06:00 pm</td>
<td>Evening Prayer at Upper Stowe</td>
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<td>Sunday 20th</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Holy Communion Service via the Facebook Page</td>
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<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Partnership Service at Flore Chapel (TBC)</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
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<td>Evening Prayer at Heyford</td>
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<td>Sunday 27th</td>
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<td>06:00 pm</td>
<td>Evening Prayer at Flore</td>
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As we re-open our church buildings for public worship, we follow all Church and Government Guidelines regarding social distancing, face coverings, no singing, the administration of Holy Communion etc. to ensure we keep people as safe as possible.

The Benefice Facebook Page can be found at https://www.facebook.com/HS9FB

During September we shall be praying for people living in Furnace Lane here in Heyford, the High Street, including the shops, the garage and the Millennium Hall in Flore, The Old Dairy Farm in Upper Stowe and the outlying farms around Stowe and the Mews Houses in Brockhall.
Dear Friends

Deborah and I were recently blessed with a couple of weeks’ holiday in Kingsbridge, South Devon. The town sits on an estuary, and on our first day, we enjoyed a walk along the river in the afternoon sunshine. Almost every day of our holiday thereafter, we walked alongside the river to a little café/bar, where we sat outside and enjoyed a cuppa. For the first week, the tide was always out, and we found ourselves watching the seabirds on the mudflats – several different kinds of seagull, and one very beautiful little egret, striding carefully through the shallows in search of something to eat.

As we visited the café towards the end of the second week, the tide was in, and the river teemed with human activity; power boats, little pleasure cruisers, kayaks, and paddleboards. Many of the paddleboarders were taking lessons, and they set off from a platform close to where we sat drinking our cups of coffee and tea. They began very gingerly, knelt on their boards, and carefully nudging themselves out into the river, gently paddling to a quieter part of the water. As they gained in confidence, they were able to stand and paddle up and down the river. But when one of the larger boats powered past, the paddleboarders often stood perfectly still, or dropped to their hands and knees and held on tight as their boards rocked in the larger boat’s wake.

Watching the paddleboarders in that moment, as the river went from a flat calm to a choppier surface, I was reminded of the story of Peter stepping out of the fishing boat into the stormy waters, told in Matthew’s Gospel (14:22-33). Like Peter, the beginners took a leap of faith, stepping on to their paddleboards, and learning to steer them through the busy waterway. Those in family groups encouraged one another, they listened to their instructor, and when the waves came, they often held on tight until the choppy waters became calm again.

We have all been through choppy waters recently, facing the storms of the coronavirus outbreak and its effects. Even now, as the lockdown eases, and things seem calmer, there will be times when the waves rise again. How might we respond when that happens? Maybe we need to listen carefully to government guidance, and act accordingly. Maybe we need to reach out to others for comfort and reassurance, or to offer our support to them. Or maybe, like Jesus, we need time alone to get our head around the changing circumstances, time to check in with our Father God. Or perhaps, like the paddleboarders, we just need to hold on tight, trusting to hope that there are better, calmer times ahead.

As these uncertain times continue, please be assured of my prayers for all of you. If there is anything I can do to help, please give me a ring.

Stephen (tel. 344436)
“We’re back”

Morning services have now re-started and comply with the current government and Baptist guidelines.

We are meeting in the Baptist rooms, holding shorter services and would be pleased to welcome you. (with some restriction on numbers)

Services for September are as follows:

- Sept. 6th  10.30am  Morning worship Led by Les Britten
- Sept. 13th 10.30am  Morning worship Led by Alan Pope
- Sept. 20th 10.30am  Morning worship Led by Clive Leakey
- Sept. 27th 10.30am  Communion service Led by Martin Buckby

Village Clean Up

The clean up of our village which was cancelled earlier this year will now take place on Saturday 19th September. Litter Picks can be loaned from Sunrise Cottage, 15 The Green. I also have some disposable gloves available.

If people can let me know which location they are cleaning, we can ensure that the whole village is cleared. Also if you can let me know the number of sacks / bags you have picked up, I can notify the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

Please ensure that you follow the Health and Safety guidelines.

Sue
Village Hall News

Great news – the village hall is returning to life! Under the current Government guidance, we are planning to open the hall again on 1st September.

To bring us to this stage, a great deal of work has been done, thanks mainly to the tremendous efforts of two of our Management Committee members – Peter Squire and Pat Paterson – who have spent countless hours over several weeks to interpret the many directives issued by the Government.

To re-open the hall, we must demonstrate through Risk Assessment that the building can be ‘Covid-19 Secure’. This risk assessment highlights the mitigation's required to exclude the virus from the hall. Some of these will be actions by the Management Committee to provide equipment etc., and others will be actions required by the users. The latter are set out in a Special Conditions of Hire documents that will be supplied to all users.

Significant changes in the use of the hall will be to restrict the number of people in the hall to a maximum of 30, close the kitchen for the preparation of food and drink, and create a one-way system to access the washrooms from the main hall via the kitchen and back to the hall by the entrance lobby.

Entrance to the hall will remain unchanged but, to avoid people passing each other in the front lobby, exit will be via the front fire escape door.

Users and event organisers will be asked to hold a contact list of their members / guests, and to make that available if required by the Government’s Track & Trace system.

The Risk Assessment and the Special Conditions of Hire will be supplied to all regular users, in both the bookings and documents sections and are also on the website: www.netherheyfordvillagehall.org

If, as a non-regular user, you might consider hiring the hall but would like to know more first, contact Peter Squire on 01327 342167.

The Management Committee is committed to doing everything necessary to keep the hall as safe and Covid-19 Secure as possible but, if you see something that needs to be added, or could be done better, please let us know about it – on Peter’s number above.

And finally, when you return you will be welcomed to a newly decorated hall, in a fresh new colour-scheme. We hope you like it.

Alwyne Wilson
01327 340 803
Its been a little while since we were able to give an update – lockdown has understandably slowed down communications and the processes we need to push our plans forward. However, the cogs are beginning to turn again and we have been making the most of Zoom meetings with our colleagues!

An important next step is to organise a Strategic Environmental Assessment of our Plan. This SEA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental implications of our proposed Neighbourhood Plan, providing a means for looking at any cumulative effects of our policies, and how to address them at the earliest stage of our decision making, alongside economic and social considerations. In these more enlightened times, the SEA can provide adequate responses to environmental and climate change problems, which can adversely affect our environmental and climate resilience, and offers opportunities to enhance low-carbon development. Although there are no major issues anticipated, our environment here in the village does determine whether areas of land identified for possible development could be used or not. For example, if the tract of land is in a flood zone from the River Nene or other waterways, the assessment clarifies that it would be unsuitable, or that it may not be cost effective to develop. We also have a conservation area and a number of listed buildings to consider.

It is useful to keep in mind the scope of the Plan. The latest housing needs assessment completed by Midlands Rural Housing (conducting an independent and objective survey), concluded that there is an identified need for 12 affordable rented homes, 6 shared ownership homes and some open market homes. 25 households identified that they would like to move home but remain in the village. 11 of these are deemed as suitably housed in their current accommodation. 17 of the 25 households would like to relocate to 2-bedroom bungalows. A number of respondents said they would be like to 'self-build' their next home. These have been included in the number that expressed a desire for open market housing.

On average, 21 market homes are sold in the village each year. The need identified through the survey for open market housing could be met through these sales without a requirement for new build development. This would of course be dependent upon the type of homes sold, and the type required, e.g. the sale of large family homes would be unsuitable for those wishing to downsize to single storey accommodation and vice versa. The full document will shortly be available to view on our website at http://netherheyfordneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/

Since our last update, there has also been an independent survey of the sites which were put forward as available to develop. More details on this in our next bulletin, as
well as a revised timescale to completion following the impact of the Coronavirus. We are grateful to Tony Williams who has stepped up to become a member of our core group, bringing his knowledge of planning and local systems from his role on the Parish Council.

Tony Clewett, Tom Dodd, Tony Williams and the NHNPG Group

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**Nether Heyford Tennis Club**

**Our Court Refurbishment Project is finished!!**

Have you seen our three very smart and upgraded courts? Throughout the last difficult months, we have continued to offer as much tennis as we can legally and safely do.

We offer:

- 4 social sessions each week - ladies, men’s, league level, mixed abilities
- Coaching -adults -beginners and improvers, and juniors
- “Free Friday tennis” during school holidays
- Opportunity for league play
- New member discount

We would love to welcome new players of any age and any ability – please contact us or just come along and see what our Tennis Club has to offer.

For further information - please find us on Facebook or contact Jo 349094, jodickson@btinternet.com

Website - clubspark.ita.org.uk/NetherHeyfordTennisClub
Dear Diary, September 1956

Well, that’s it. I’ve left Bliss Charity School and am preparing for the next stage of my learning at Duston Secondary Modern School. I didn’t pass the 11+ but that’s fine because all my friends are joining me on the daily bus trip to Duston. The few that passed the exam will bike to Upper Heyford, leave their bike in somebody’s garden and catch a bus to the Grammar School in Daventry. I’ve got my new school uniform, navy skirt and white blouse with school tie and a blazer with a badge for winter. For the summer we are to have a green striped dress made from Butterick Pattern No. 7741 available at Adnitts. Duston Secondary Modern School opens its doors this month and I am in Form 1A. A bus will leave Heyford at 8:20 am and bring us home after 4 o’clock. I’m looking forward to the next stage of my education.

I’ve enjoyed the school holidays, mostly outdoors. It was great not having to get up so early. By the time I opened my curtains nearly all the ladies in Furnace Lane had their washing out. They all have a line stretching from top to bottom, and they all seem to wash on a Monday, so it’s lovely to see rows of sheets blowing on a sunny summer’s day.

The other day I had a “butcher’s basket” on Sue’s bike and I jumped off when she started going too fast and ripped my knickers. I told dad I’d fallen down a tree because he knows I climb and he’d be really annoyed if he knew I’d been on somebody’s bike. He thinks they’re dangerous. Mind you that could be because he can’t afford to buy me one. It all started after we’d been scrumping down Ben’s Orchard and had to make a quick getaway because somebody shouted “Ben’s coming”. I have no idea who Ben is and don’t know of anybody who’s ever seen him but he has some lovely apples. I really don’t need to go scrumping because we have apples galore at home but I like to join in the fun.

I’m spending the morning with Nan while mum goes fruit picking up at Beck’s farm by the A5. They say that Mr. Beck was a pilot in WW1. He is a very kind man. Children are allowed in the school holidays but I like to help my Nan pod her peas and pick her gooseberries ready for Pap’s dinner and she lets me help make pastry in the kitchen sometimes. Having said that she’s not quite as bright as she used to be and doesn’t mind if I find a caterpillar in the peas, “adds a bit of meat” she says. I love her 3 cats which she has to keep the mice away. She falls asleep easily but she’s over 60 and she brought up 7 children, so it’s understandable. I might go off and play for a bit if she nods off.

Last Sunday my dad and uncle cut the hedge round pap’s garden & orchard. It’s a very long hedge and takes hours. Backing onto the orchard is Mr. Humphrey’s ladder making yard and you can hear the saws during the week in the woodshed but it’s quiet on Sunday because they all go to chapel.

The morning was spent with the men hedge trimming and mum cooking our meal. After dinner the men were clearing the hedge cuttings and making a bonfire at the
top of the orchard, Nan and Pap were asleep in the living room, and me and mum washing up. All of a sudden mum gasped. “Oh blimey, they’ve set the hedge on fire. Go and sit with the oldies, and if Pap wakes up play dominoes with him, but make sure he doesn’t come into the kitchen, he’ll have a fit. What, miss all the fun, again! Of course, I did as she asked and Pap didn’t wake up until the men came in, all black, saying the work had been done. Mum was grinning.

Polly

Bugbrooke & District Flower Society

We are really fortunate living in rural communities amongst some very pleasant countryside, so hope you have been able to make the most of the summer and enjoyed your gardens and maybe the local area.

We were saddened to hear that two former members had passed away during the summer – Chris Cooper and Dinah Anstead – both enthusiastic and loyal members for many years.

With the restrictions imposed on using village halls at present and the uncertainty of these difficult times we have, reluctantly, decided to postpone our meetings until the New Year, particularly as we do not meet in December. We can, however, make the most of the remaining good weather and use a few flowers from the garden to make some simple arrangements for our homes.

We hope all our groups/organisations will gradually get back to some sort of normality and in the meantime hope you get the best you can from these unprecedented times. We look forward to meeting up again with all our members and greeting new ones when circumstances permit.

For more information please follow us on Facebook.
Please note that Garden Club activities have had to be suspended until further Notice.

The year so far

Every year is different but this year has been more different than most. Following on from the conditions I have mentioned before, at the time of writing we have had a heat wave the like of which has not been seen for decades. The garden has stood up surprisingly well to all this, though I must remember next year not to have so many plants in pots to water.

The strange weather has caused some odd behaviour too, an honesty plant grew to 2m in height and still has flowers in mid August. Wild strawberries which really are a weed in the garden have actually produced a usable crop of fruit this year, which don't seem to appeal to our resident blackbirds. These strawberries have also turned out to be an answer to a problem we had. We have an area of dry shade under some trees which is planted with bulbs and other spring flowers and looked wonderful until June after which it became bare and unsightly. Now ivy and strawberries have covered the ground and are keeping it looking green.

The roses and clematis have been particularly good this summer, and we have been pleased with some knapweed plants that we introduced that have flowered for weeks on end and attracted a vast number of bees, butterflies and hoverflies. One type of bee we have seen a lot of this year is the leaf cutter. These have a more qualified welcome as they remove neat sections from rose leaves to line their nests, always choosing the most precious varieties. The community orchard looked as if it might produce a small crop this year enough for a tasting at least, but none of the pears set in the end and sadly most of the apples eventually dropped, probably due to the spring drought. The only tree to bear anything at all is our damson, and these look to be ripening very early. However as the trees mature they should become more resilient to the vicissitudes of the climate, we shouldn't expect too much from them at this early stage.

Things to do in September

1. Start planting spring bulbs
2. Collect seed from annuals and perennials to sow later
3. Sow seed of hardy annuals and hardy veg for early flower and crops next year

Mark Newstead
VICE-CHAIR

Required for the Village Hall Management Committee

We are still keen to welcome a volunteer to join our friendly and active team to help manage the hall.

The Management Committee meets 11 times a year - meetings rarely last more than 1 ½ hours.

This important and rewarding voluntary opportunity involves two main roles:

a) Supporting the Chairman and being willing to take over when she eventually retires at the end of her term of office.

b) Helping to organise fundraising events to help maintain the village hall – especially the annual fete.

If you think you may be interested but would like to know more first, our chairman, Alwyne Wilson will be delighted to hear from you on:

01327 340 803
alwyne76@gmail.com
Café on the Green, Update

As you are aware we have been unable to open the café for the last five months. We have reviewed the situation in the light of the recent easing of some restrictions. However, due to the size of the venue, the age mix of our customers and the voluntary status of our staff, we do not feel it is safe to reopen the café for the foreseeable future.

As we won’t be holding the usual Macmillan Coffee Morning in September we will send a donation from existing café funds.

We’ll review the situation in the New Year but, in the meantime, would like to thank everybody who has supported the café in the last four and a half years.

Best wishes

Jane R and Jane W

SOFEA Community Larder

The community larder deliveries have now ceased after 15 weeks. We hope you found the deliveries useful. If circumstances change and you experience an emergency situation around good or medicine supplies, please do not hesitate to contact one of us and we will endeavour to help and support you.

Charles Kiloh & Lynda Eales 07779 900860 | Jez Wilson 07761 672376 | Sue Boutle 07500 636009 | Faye Brassett 07827 707599 | Rev Stephen Burrow 01327 344436

Northamptonshire County Council - Coronavirus Helpline - 0300 126 1000 option 5
https://heyfordprattler.org/coronavirus/
https://www.netherheyfordparishcouncil.org.uk/

Nether Heyford Volunteers
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Heyford Athletic are entering the 20/21 season with fresh optimism and we are very excited about what the future holds. With 7 teams across all age ranges there are numerous sponsorship opportunities to promote your local business available with the club including

- Pitch side banners
- Website advertising
- Social media platforms
- Event sponsorship

Feel free to get in touch with Gary McMahon on 07801 276488 or Brian Edginton on 07743 494738 to discuss opportunities.
Word Quiz

What word forms the second element of the first word or phrase and the first part of the other?

Answers on page 31

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Allotment News

Community Use
It has been so good to welcome villagers to the allotments. They are often residents who have never visited the site or who came along when it was an overgrown wilderness. Their comments and general surprise at how productive and attractive the allotments look have been most encouraging. One long standing resident of Heyford said to me the other day: “Last time I came here it was a jungle and all a bit depressing really. Now look at it! The allotment holders must be very proud of what has happened”.

The sharing barrow in the community picnic area has been used by allotmenteers to off-load excess produce (particularly courgette’s). It is good to share and exchange what would otherwise be wasted. Even more encouraging, has been the increasing number of allotmenteers and villagers who have taken the opportunity to cut some of the beautiful flowers on offer. Virtually all of these flowering plants originated from donations, so many thanks if you were able to give us something earlier in the year. When you come to tidy up your seed box in the winter or begin dividing plants, do spare us a thought. Those items could be the basis of next year’s bounty.

If you are picking flowers, try to use a pair of scissors or snips and, if time allows, give the plants a drink, using the watering cans we have left out in that area. A water cistern can be found nearby.

Soft fruit in our community fruit patch has been better than we anticipated, particularly as the bushes and canes were only cast-offs and did not look too promising when we planted them during the winter. Do feel free to pick fruit from this area if it looks ripe. We know for a fact that many villagers have already used this resource to make jam, fill a freezer box or even produce gin!

Allotments are cool?
We recently dug up the early potatoes on our own allotment, enlisting the help of our grandchildren. There is something quite magical about a child’s face when they unearth a large clutch of potatoes from the soil. For them it must be like finding buried treasure. As we finished and surveyed our haul, Nick, our eldest grandchild said: “You know grandad, allotments are really cool aren’t they?” I gave him a hug, there and then.

People used to have this stereotypical view that allotments were the preserve of old men in tweed jackets and flat caps. Those wise souls of more mature years are still a vital part of the growing community, but as Nick so wisely noted, allotments are “cool” and have attracted a far wider group of people. This has become so obvious in Nether Heyford, for our allotments are now tended by people of all ages and from all sorts of backgrounds. They have all discovered the joy of growing their own fruit, veg and flowers and long may it continue. Perhaps, as I approach another big birthday, I may even need dig out my tweeds and flat cap!
Weather
Despite the ridiculously hot weather we've experienced during much of the summer, the crops on the allotment have held up well – due in no small part to all the watering that allotment holders have done. However, we have found that cropping has advanced, in many cases by as much as a month. We are already picking autumn fruiting raspberries from our own allotment and sweetcorn is in danger of “going-over” if we don’t get a move on! I suspect that is a trend all gardeners will have to come to terms with as our planet warms.

Fruit Trees
A recent inspection and some routine maintenance of the fruit trees in our community orchard has revealed that all the trees, planted just eighteen months ago, are thriving. Earlier infestations by aphids have all but disappeared - largely due to the increasing number of predators like ladybirds and wasps. The excessive use of pesticide just isn't necessary if you wait for nature to take its course. New growth on the trees is strong and they are beginning to take on that classical shape which should herald good harvests in the coming years.

Equipment
A range of equipment is available for allotment holders to borrow when working on the allotment site; this includes mowers, rotavators, wheelbarrows, brooms and watering cans. Many people will own some or all of the above, but for those who wish to get access to such equipment, please contact Lynda Eales (01327 341707) or Mike Langrish (langrish_heyford@hotmail.com/01327341390). We can ensure that you get the equipment you require at a mutually convenient time.

Allotment Holders
If you are considering growing your own fruit and veg, act quickly by contacting Lynda Eales on 01327 341707.

Mike Langrish

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:

Sue Morris
21 The Green
Nether Heyford
01327 349387
In Nether Heyford

I was so looking forward to writing the September article for the Nether Heyford WI which was anticipating the interesting Speakers for the next few months and all the fun of our 90th Birthday Celebrations BUT, as you will have guessed, the year is still ‘on hold’! We were keeping our fingers crossed that we may be able to hold a social meeting on September 3rd but, sadly, it seems unlikely. Our Birthday Celebrations will probably take place next year (I wish I could do that with my own!!) but you can rest assured we will have a ball when it does happen.

I’m sure you will agree that it has been so strange not being able to take part in the great community spirit of this village of ours. As a WI we look forward to seeing the usual faces when we do meet up again although, sadly, we will be missing the very familiar and loved face of Beryl Smith who has died since we last met. She was a long standing member of our group and, in spite of finding it hard to move freely, was up for every bit of fun that was on offer. I will have a lasting memory of her laughter as she sat watching our members trying to remember the steps of country dances. We send our love and sympathy to her family. She will be sorely missed.

I try to be an optimist so I will go on hoping that, by the time the October Prattler comes through your letterbox, Northampton will have ceased to be one of the worst coronavirus towns in the country and we will all be another step nearer to normality. Until then keep smiling and stay safe.

Mary Rice
Heyford Lodge 01327 340101

2021 Calendar

The Prattler is producing a calendar for next year. We are currently selecting photos from the village photographers and they will be on sale in October.
New services launched by Age UK Northamptonshire

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- Call us with your list
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Our connections with Nether Heyford

About 200 years ago, in 1820, my great-great-great-grandfather was married in Nether Heyford. His name was Joseph Mann and he was born in Weedon Bec in 1800, and baptised there on 18th January 1801.

His first wife was Elizabeth Claridge (1801-1829), with whom he had two children, Lucy (b.1822) and Ann (b.1827), and after Elizabeth's death, he married Charlotte Claridge (1810-1891) who may have been Elizabeth's sister or a cousin; there were Claridge's living in Heyford at that time but there may also have been a Claridge connection with Hertfordshire. Charlotte and Joseph had ten children, all born between 1831 and 1850 of which only one (George, b.1841?) was recorded as an infant death. The next boy, born in 1844, was named George, too.

When Lucy was married, aged 21, in c.1843, her father, Joseph, was described as a shoemaker. In fact, he developed a successful shoemaking business in the village. There were quite a lot of shoemakers (or people connected with the shoe trade) working in Heyford in the mid-19th century, nine in 1841, fourteen in 1851 and nineteen in 1861. The village itself had the first recorded mention of shoemaking in Northamptonshire in 1202.

Joseph died at the age of 61 in 1861 and is buried in Heyford. His widow, Charlotte, then married a John Smith of Heyford, whom she survived, and later she was buried at Cogenhoe. Joseph's second son, William (b.1833) is the subject of an article in Volume 3 of “The Story of Heyford” and was also at one time a shoemaker. In that article William said that his father was not sympathetic to the established Church and followed the Baptist faith. In fact, it is recorded that Joseph was a “sponsor” of the chapel at Farthingstone. William also mentions that the people were not very happy with the way the Arnold Charity was being administered at that time.

William's elder brother, the first child of Joseph and Charlotte, was named Thomas Claridge Mann (1831-1921). Tom almost certainly attended Bliss School. He followed his father into the shoemaking trade, working in several places in Nether Heyford. Eventually, he met a girl from Cogenhoe called Charlotte Smith, whom he married in 1852 at Cogenhoe Church. Charlotte came from a family of shoemakers in Cogenhoe. It is from this Thomas Claridge Mann (also known as “Old Tom”) that I am descended.

Old Tom and Charlotte settled in Cogenhoe and Thomas started making shoes in a room in Church Street, Cogenhoe. Eventually three of Tom's Heyford brothers, Joseph (1836-1921), John (1839-1931) and George (1844-1932) followed him to join him in the business, but for some reason not William. They set up the company of T.C.Mann and Brothers, later to be dissolved in 1883 and renamed T.C.Mann and Sons. The company flourished, making the highest quality shoes, and they opened shops at 160, Regent Street, London and two more in Manchester, at 12, Cross St. and 123, Market St. They made shoes for foreign dignitaries and boots for one of
Shackleton's Antarctic expeditions. The Mann family in Cogenhoe, just like Joseph in Heyford, were chapel people and they built the Chapel in Station Road and a terrace of houses for some of the workers in the factory. At one time the firm employed about a hundred workers, some of whom walked from Wellingborough and Piddington to work. And all this started from their experiences in Nether Heyford. The Story of Heyford states that William Mann lived to the ripe old age of 92, but Old Tom lived to 90, Joseph to 85, John to 92 and George to 88, so there must have been something in that Heyford air!

Old Tom and Charlotte had five children, including William Charles and Thomas Claridge (known as “Young Tom”), and Young Tom also had five children, the eldest being another Thomas Claridge (known as “Young Tom's son”) and the fourth child being my maternal grandmother. At one time there were so many family members in Cogenhoe that it was often said that “nearly every other woman that you see is probably a Mann”, but now I don't think there are any left in either Cogenhoe or Heyford.

In October 1967 I got married at Cogenhoe Church to Ann, a Cogenhoe girl, and we made our home at Nether Heyford, basically because we could just about afford the house, and it was about halfway between Cogenhoe and Charwelton, which is where I was working at the time. In May of that year we had seen an advertisement in the evening paper for a cottage in Furnace Lane and as I was working at Charwelton on the Saturday, my mother brought Ann over from Cogenhoe to look at it. As they drove up the lane, my mother said to Ann that this was the village that her great-grandfather came from, and until then I knew nothing about the Mann connection with Nether Heyford, so it was a bit of a coincidence that we brought the family back to the village just over a hundred years after Old Tom left. We still live in the same house and have been here in Heyford for 53 years because we find the village and the villagers so friendly. We have almost been accepted too, I think!

Since then both our daughter Sarah and our son Kit, granddaughter Beckie and grandson Kyle have all been educated at Bliss School, and then they all went on to Campion School, where Kyle is still studying. Beckie was assisted by the same Arnold Charity that William Mann was so critical of, and then went on to University at Middlesbrough where she still lives, but the fact that the rest of us have remained in the village speaks volumes for Heyford village life. Kyle is the eighth generation of the family since Joseph married here in 1820.

I have attached two photographs, one showing Old Tom, and the other showing, left to right, Young Tom, Old Tom (seated) and Young Tom's Son.

If anyone can add to this story, especially regarding the people mentioned, or if they know that I have made errors, please let me know on 01327 340599

Pat Andrews
**Daventry Food Bank**

Food Banks are and will be a vital helping hand for so many people and families. Referrals are rising each week and sadly will continue.

As a church family we regularly collect for the Food Banks with drop off boxes in our churches. However, towards the end of February this year, it was becoming increasingly difficult to source dried and tinned goods from the shops and once sourced, items were restricted. This made it more difficult to support the Food Banks with suitable goods. When we had to close our churches, owing to the pandemic, we set up drop off points for donations in Upper Stowe, Heyford and two points in Flore.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has and continues to support the Food Banks. I have been overwhelmed by such generosity. In conjunction with food donations we have also raised over £200.00 which has been donated to Daventry Food Bank so far, by various fund raisers, which included a “Back to School” quiz organised by our church secretary and sewn items for a golf tournament to name but a few.

Daventry Food Bank acts as a hub and supplies Weedon and other local Food Banks in Daventry District. They are always grateful for tinned, dried goods, cereals, toiletries, toilet rolls and fresh produce. Their web site [www.daventryfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.daventryfoodbank.org.uk) has a list of stock shortages for ideas. Deliveries from Nether Heyford are made twice a week. Donations can be dropped off in the box outside 15 Middle Street, or I can arrange to collect donations if you would like to phone me 01327 349754.

Whatever we can give, no matter how small will help. Matthew 7:12 puts this beautifully “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you”.

Thank you once again.

*Maxine Edginton*

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info@netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk
www.netherheyfordpreschool.co.uk
And the snow falls, the wind calls,  
The year turns round again  
And like Barleycorn who rose from  
the grave  
A new year will rise up again.

And there will come a time of great plenty,  
A time of good harvest and sun.  
Till then put your trust in tomorrow,  
my friend,  
For yesterday's over and done.

I'll wager a hat full of guineas,  
Against all the songs you can sing,  
That some day you'll love,  
And the next day you'll lose,  
And winter will turn into spring

The Year Turns Round Again, by John Tams,  
featured in War Horse and Lark Rise to Candleford

For the last seven years I have written articles for the Prattler and each September the focus has been the same, the joy and anticipation of the autumn return to rehearsals for Heyford Singers members, and for the return to clubs and other organisations for lots of other folk. Sadly this year it is not the case, for whilst the enthusiasm is there, the unpredictability of Covid 19, our small indoor spaces and the vulnerability of participants, has led committees to be understandably cautious and to delay their return until 2021. Singing in groups is high on the list of restricted activities, so whilst it is good that children will be going back to school this month, the thought that there will be no rousing choruses of “Big Red Combine Harvester”, throughout the country, is sad.

But music continues in all our lives. It is a means of relaxation, a relief from stress, it provides skills to be practised and shared, and above all it gives us enormous pleasure and enjoyment. We were fortunate in the last few weeks to acquire a Sonos speaker, and “Alexa” has set up permanent residence in our home to the delight of the grandchildren. One asks her for yet another joke, another for yet another rendition of “Wheels on the Bus”, and a third for Radio 1, Radio 1 and even more Radio 1! We laugh and enjoy this shared experience, even when we mistakenly find ourselves listening to Radio Malawi or the Breakfast Show from Nova Scotia! However when the little people have gone we have found even greater pleasure in creating our own playlists, exploring musical memories, our wide-ranging musical tastes, plus favourite songs. We may not have managed our Desert Island Disc choices (despite several attempts to whittle the number down below fifty!) but we have successfully, and very enjoyably, created themed listening choices – instrumental jazz, political folk songs, UK musicals, Bernstein, film themes, etc and we haven’t even touched on classical music, the Beatles and the 1960s, music to dance to, or opera yet! Great fun and it shows that music is alive and well in this household.
Quiz question. What is your favourite film theme tune?  
What do you think is likely to be the nation’s favourite choice for this No 1 spot?  
Film themes was an interesting play list for us to consider, and it unwittingly coincided with the Radio Times vote for the nations all-time favourite film theme. Will it be ET, Jurassic Park, Schindler’s List, The Dambusters, Titanic, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings?  

I shall reveal the Answer in the October issue for those who don’t have the Radio Times.  

Take care as these summer days gently ease towards autumn and we look towards a new year and new beginnings. May the days be warm and sunny, may you stay healthy and content, and may music feature somewhere in your every day.

Jill Langrish

Congratulations

Joseph (Joe) and Joan Garrett received a card from the Queen recently congratulating them on their 74th Wedding Anniversary.

They married on the 8th June 1936 at Nether Heyford Church and they lived in a cottage in Labrams Yard in Church Street when Joe returned from Army service in the Sudan and Joan worked in the war effort making aircraft parts for the Lancaster Bombers in the St James area of Northampton.

They settled in the village then brought up a family and were moved to the new Council Houses after about 5 years and continued to work and enjoy village life. Unfortunately Joe had a recent fall and was hospitalised with a damaged hip – the first time apart in all those years.

Joan says her family, friends and neighbours are a great support and thanks them all.

Jean Spokes

The Prattler team send them warmest congratulations on this special anniversary and wish Joe a speedy recovery.
Our second summer on the wildlife area has been interesting. The hedge plants that were put in in the autumn have survived the dry spring and summer and are growing well. The seeding of the meadow area was less successful as the winter was so mild there wasn't enough cold weather to promote strong germination of the wild flowers. Hopefully another winter may help. The corn flower annuals did much better and made a colourful show as well as being a resource for the bees and butterflies.

The pond initially filled with life; newts, frogs various beetles and other aquatic insects soon moved in. However after the drought in April things seemed to go a bit flat. We had to constantly top up with tap water and maybe this didn't suit the pond life. However recent heavy showers have brought the water level back up and it seems much livelier again. Interestingly I noticed a large tadpole swimming around in August, long after most have already turned into frogs and left the pond.

Dragonflies
The pond has proved a great draw for dragonflies. At least four different species have been seen. In the early summer there were broad bodied chasers, the males of which are light blue. Then we saw four spot chasers, which are more sober coloured. Later on an emperor dragonfly turned up, and we were excited to see that this was a rare variety where the female is blue like the male instead of green. However she still has a green head and eyes. Now in late summer there are common darters there, a smaller species where the males are red. All these different species have laid eggs in the pond and it was fascinating to see the different methods of egg laying. The emperor perches on a plant stem and carefully places its eggs well below the water surface, whereas the chasers just place them onto weeds on the surface only briefly coming to rest. The darter just flicks its eggs onto the surface as it flies across above the water.

The larvae (nymphs) of the dragonflies will now be in the pond for a year or two before emerging as adults. During this time they will be fierce predators and will eat any of the other pond life, including no doubt each other!

Butterflies
We have clearly now got healthy colonies of several species of butterfly; the tortoiseshells are breeding on the nettles. The grass areas are being used by ringlets, meadow browns, skippers and gatekeepers, there are common blues on the medick and clover, and small coppers on sorrel and dock. This year however there have so far been no painted ladies despite our leaving some thistles for them.
Heyford Bowls Club

Heyford Bowls Club is up and running again, but in a restricted way. The green is open for roll-ups. You have to book a rink with our Chairman (only rinks 1/3/5 or 2/4/6) and a number of restrictions apply. Sanitise the jack and mat, before and after play, and no use of the scoreboards and bowls pushers. Social distancing at all times, which you soon get used to, and no physical contact, which means an elbow “handshake” at the end of the game. Twenty of our fifty members have availed themselves of the roll-up facility and on some occasions all three rinks have been used at the same time.

We’ve written off the 2020 season as far as matches with other clubs, internal competitions, and external leagues are concerned. We have also decided not to hold our annual presentation night this year (no competitions = no trophy winners), and our popular social events (quiz nights, race nights etc) have also been put on the back burner. Shirley and Mick Collins have never had so much time on their hands.

Daventry Indoor Bowls Club is re-opening on 31st August for roll-ups with similar restrictions as we are imposing. I know they are hoping to run an internal league programme throughout the winter, but no details have yet been published.

Off the green at Heyford, the clubhouse extension is progressing nicely. The walls and roof are in place, and it won’t be long before the windows and internal walls are complete. It’s a pity the clubhouse is out of bounds under the current restrictions. We live in hope that we will be back to normal soon.

It’s life Jim, but not as we know it.

Quiz Answers

37. Happy 38. Tree 39. Bird 40. Fish

Geoff Allen
349909
Arnold Trust Charity

The Arnold Trust was founded by the Will of Edmund Arnold, in or about 1689. The Charity was set up to help five Parishes in the County of which Nether and Upper Heyford are one. The grants which can be applied for are varied and are

The Trustees of the Charity can provide small cash grants in approved cases to or on behalf of persons who have not attained the age of 25. Applicants must be resident in the Parishes of Nether and Upper Heyford or have been educated for over one year and in need of financial assistance for educational purposes, subject to the terms of the scheme.

Social Grants
To help those who may be struggling. A grant can help with bills i.e. heating, clothing medical etc.
Small grants are awarded to organisations and clubs which help in the community for their parishioners.
The applications are considered by the Trustees at their meetings. The Trustees meet twice a year, April and November.

If you would like an application form please contact, Mrs M Eaton at Wilson Browne Solicitors, meaton@wilsonbrowne.co.uk
Flood Watch

The summer solstice on the 20th June marked the change from spring to summer with the longest number of daylight hours, namely 16.75. The month ended with average rainfall and three days when the temperature rose above 30 degrees centigrade. A notable event in the early hours of the 26th was a totally red sky often associated with the saying “a red sky in the morning—shepherd’s warning” indicating the replacement of high pressure with more uncertain weather to follow.

July returned to more typical temperatures until the last day when a record 36.1 degrees was recorded. Thundery conditions across the UK gave rise to a local tornado on the Saturday 25th which started in Weedon and tracked across Flore, Nobottle, Harlestone Heath and Moulton, lasting 15 minutes in total. The local ITV News recorded the devastation to allotments in Moulton. Again the month ended recording average rainfall.

The beginning of August was marked by an African heat-wave when temperatures again rose to over 30 degrees for three consecutive days accompanied with night time temperatures over 20 degrees known as “tropical nights”. Inevitably these extreme conditions gave rise to thunderstorms which caused surface water flooding nationally. Locally our first rainfall of the month fell on the 13th with a 15 minute deluge. The longer term weather forecast for the remainder of the month looks to be unsettled with cooler, showery weather. As a result another month will end up with average rainfall resulting in the years total so far being average (brought about by extremely wet February and dry May).

23rd September will mark the autumnal equinox or start of autumn when day and night will be of equal length.

On the 3rd July a willow tree which was causing a complete obstruction to the free flow of river water was finally removed by E/A contractors.

For those interested in cosmic events a comet was forecast to be visible on 23rd July and extended meteor showers from mid July to the end of August. Given a clear sky these are best seen around 5 am just before sunrise.

In spite of all the problems caused by the introduction of Permitted Developments whereby properties could be extended without planning application which resulted in breaches of compliance with planning regulations and the continued building on floodplains, the Government has recently announced its intention to allow conversion of shops and offices to homes without formal planning application. It looks as though this marks the end of enforcement of strict building regulation and standards.

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