

HETHERSETT ONLINE

April 2016

Number 6

Flags Out For Queen

HETHERSETT Queen's Head had the flags and bunting out at the end of March ahead of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in June. To see just why the pub was featured in local newspapers turn to page three.



Parking Problems

HETHERSETT Parish Council has received an increasing number of complaints about inconsiderate car parking in the village, particularly in the Recreation Road/Firs Road area at the time of the morning and afternoon school runs.

“We would ask people to park with consideration in the village as vehicles parking on paths and verges cause an obstruction for parents with buggies, mobility scooter users, and other pedestrians,” said chairman of the parish council Jackie Sutton.

Parents dropping children off at Woodside School can use the car park at the Memorial Playing Field.

The parish council has been given the go-ahead for two parish partnership schemes with Norfolk County Council. This will see three new bus shelters in the village and crossing help for pedestrians wanting to go to Church Farm.

The exact location of the bus shelters will be decided in the near future. The parish council will be funding 50% of the cost of the projects.



They Cleaned for the Queen

HETHERSETT Environmental Action Team (HEAT) took to the streets of the village at the beginning of March for a special litter pick. Members took part in the Clean for Queen appeal which looks to clean up the streets of litter throughout the United Kingdom in celebration of the Queen's official 90th birthday in June.

HEAT has also played a major part in bringing a new seat to the centre of the village. The seat commemorates the centenary of the First World War and has been paid for out of proceeds from the 2015 open gardens event organised by HEAT. Part of the seat is pictured opposite.



Hollywood Comes to Hethersett

PLANS are being finalised to bring a village cinema to Hethersett.

Village Screen will utilise state of the art projection equipment on a newly installed large screen at Hethersett Village Hall. The plan is for monthly film shows from September to May with a mix of current releases and all time classic films. Six volunteers are needed to form a committee responsible for deciding the programme, advertising, selling tickets, providing refreshments and working the projector. Anybody interested in helping should contact James Utting on 01603 810739.

Extended Hours for Celebration

MANAGER of Hethersett Queen's Head Phillippa Bond is pictured opposite, with some of her regular customers celebrating news of extended opening hours to celebrate the Queen's official 90th birthday.

Prime Minister David Cameron has given the go-ahead for the extended opening hours on Friday June 10th and Saturday June 11th.



"We will try to get commemorative beer in and decorate the place with bunting," The last really big thing we did was the royal wedding. Everyone gets behind it.," Phillippa told the local Media.

Pubs will be able to stay open an extra two hours on both days until 1 am. The longer opening hours also co-incide with England's first game in the European Football Championships. England play Russia at 8 pm British Summer Time. on 11th June. Wales will also be in action, on the same night with a game against Slovakia kicking off at 5 pm

In Memory of Mary

A TREE has been planted in the grounds of Hethersett Old Hall School in memory of the Rev Mary Kerslake who died last September.

The apple tree commemorates the tremendous contribution made by Mary both to the school and the Hethersett, Great Melton and Little Melton communities in general.

Mary's husband Harold gave a helping hand to the planting ceremony with the Rector, the Rev Derek McClean, offering a dedication prayer.

Old Hall School Head Stephen Crump said: "Mary was a great friend to our school family and will be remembered with huge affection. We will greatly miss her at school assemblies and events such as our Christingle service, where her natural affinity with our youngest pupils was so clearly evident."

Harold Kerslake added: "Mary loved the school and it is very fitting to have a living memorial in the form of an apple tree that will live on and provide fruit the children can enjoy for years to come."

School's tree tribute to Mary

By Anthony Currell

www.hethersett-olddhall.org.uk

School and pupils of Hethersett Old Hall School have announced a touching tribute to the memory of the Rev Mary Kerslake, who had been closely associated with the school for many years.

"Mrs Kerslake died in September last year and we are honoured to have her name on the tree which we have planted in her memory in the school grounds."

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Harold Kerslake added: "Mary loved the school and it is very fitting to have a living memorial in the form of an apple tree that will live on and provide fruit the children can enjoy for years to come."

The apple tree, a Heritage Tree, is one of ten local heritage fruit trees the Hethersett Old Hall School has planted in its grounds as part of a renovation programme, in partnership with the East of England Apples and Orchard Project.

As part of the project, the school and pupils of Hethersett Old Hall School are encouraged to plant and care for their own trees in the school grounds.

The children have been learning about local heritage fruit trees in the school grounds, and are now planting their own trees in the school grounds.

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EVENTS: The tree planting ceremony and St Patrick's Day fun.



The apple tree is just one of 10 local heritage fruit trees the school has planted in its orchard as part of a renovation programme in partnership with the East of England Apples and Orchard Project.

Our photo opposite shows Mary pictured a few years ago decorating Little Melton Church for Christmas.

It's Showtime Again



YVONNE School of Dance will be presenting its biennial show at Norwich Theatre Royal on Sunday May 1st with performances at 2.30 and 7.30 pm. "Stepping into Stardom" will once again provide a colourful extravaganza featuring pupils from the Hethersett school of all ages from tots to adult. Tickets can be booked from the theatre

box office on 01603 630000 or from the theatre web site.

The photographs on this page are flashbacks to rehearsals for the 2014 show which was a great success.



Memories of Hethersett

Rod Nickalls was born and bred in Hethersett but now lives in Taverham. In an exclusive interview with Hethersett online, he looks back at his early life in the village.

ROD Nickalls was born at home in a cottage in Mill Road in December, 1944. His father was a baker by trade and some of Rod's earliest memories are of visiting the bakery in Oak Square which is now Tasty Bites. This was owned by his uncle and Kenny Wiles.

His father was born in Sutton near Wymondham, but his mother Hazel was also born in Hethersett, just across the road from the cottage where Rod himself first saw the light of day.

"My mother was born in a terrace house in 1912 and lived in the village for well over 70 years until the late 1980s. She died in 2003," he said.

Rod remembers life at home being pretty hard without the modern day luxuries. Anybody reading this who is of a certain age will have similar early life memories to Rod.

"We had no mains sewer and our waste was collected by the so called honey cart which came round on Friday night. We had an outside toilet and a tin



Rod and Helen

bath. It was long before the days of central heating."

Life for Rod as a lad included scraping ice off the inside of windows to see if it was snowing outside

As he grew up, Rod spent many happy hours at the village gravel pit and the surrounding woods.

"I remember Cedar Grange, which was close to the gravel pit, being owned by Robert Richardson who was a well known local Methodist. The gravel pit was used for cycle speedway and we used to play cowboys and Indians or Brits and Germans as the Second World War was still fresh in the memory," Rod added.

The young Rod also played football on a variety of meadows and pastures: “We used to mark the lines out with soot.”

He also spent time around Kissing Alley, which still exists, or fishing in a lake belonging to Humphrey Back.

When he was old enough, Rod attended what was then Hethersett National School (now Hethersett Junior School) in Queen’s Road.

“We were taught in the old school house which had just two classrooms with a folding partition between them.”

He remembers Thomas Hall as Headmaster. His wife also taught and another teacher was a Mr Catlin.

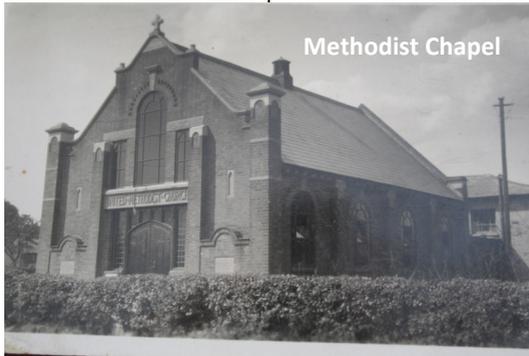
“The Head and his wife lived on the right hand side of the school building. Eventually I went to Costessey Secondary Modern and we would get there by coach. I enjoyed geography but on the whole hated school.

Rod left school at 16 and stayed in the village for just another five years.

“My first job on leaving school was with Lenny Thraxton, the builder. My parents had separated and one day I was painting my mother’s shed and was

offered work by Lenny himself. “ But the paint, with its high lead content, affected Rod’s health, so he changed jobs and went to work for Ralph Johnson and his company Castle Mouldings.

Ralph had set up his business in his mother’s garden in Mill Road. Rod helped to make coal bunker lids and wooden garage doors, working in the carpentry shop with Ralph’s brother Eddie. He continued to work for Castle Mouldings until it expanded and moved to Silfield near Wymondham.



His father didn’t serve in the Second World War as he had a protected occupation as a baker. He was, however, a member of the Home Guard.

Rod remembers the rationing after the war which went on until the early 1950s. He also remembers Walter Dann’s butcher’s shop on the site now occupied by the village dentist. and a grocery shop run by Kenton Woods in a shop that is now Stratford’s Estate Agents. He remembers the Greyhound Pub which was run by another of Ralph Johnson’s brothers – Eric

Other memories include the Memorial Playing Field being opened and mem-

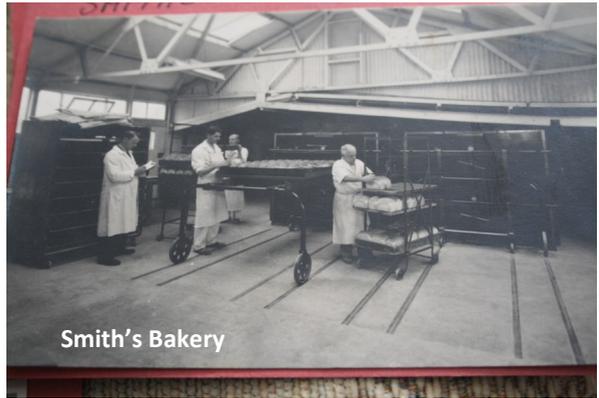
bers of the USAF mounting a display. He was in the church choir and also remembers playing football in the road and making slides in the middle of Great Melton Road in the winter.

His grandmother on his mother's side used to run a sweet shop which subsequently became a wool shop run by Edna Fiske. This was knocked down and replaced by a brick building which became Bunches and Munches and which is now the Co-op Funeral Home. He also remembers a cycle shop opposite what is now Tesco's

His mother and sister are buried in Hethersett Churchyard.

Rod moved from the village when he got married to Helen. Initially they lived in Queen's Road, Norwich, then Onley Street, Marl Pit, West Earlham and subsequently have spent 24 years in Taverham. When it came to work, Rod led something of a nomadic existence moving through many jobs before settling down and working for Jarrolds Printing for almost 34 years. Before that he had 13 jobs which included being employed at Thickthorn Farm for a day. He also worked for London Construction Company, Wicklewood Sewerage, and a shoe factory, amongst others.

Rod has thought about returning to live



in Hethersett at various points in his life but now says that he is settled in Taverham although he is always happy to seek out the areas of his childhood on visits back to the village. "I would have loved to have kept my mother's house and had it modernised but it just didn't happen," he said.

Along with Helen, he thoroughly enjoys the village pantomime which draws him back to Hethersett every year. Rod loves talking about Hethersett and below are just a few more of his memories.

"A man by the name of Baxter used to drop off milk every day whatever the weather. If it was frosty the top of the bottle would come off and the milk would freeze. The milk was dropped off at a garden in Lynch Green. Baxter would pick it up from there and deliver it early morning by lorry.

"Hethersett Social Club acted as the village hall. During the 1950s my father was captain of the Bowls club. Where the library now is was a field owned by

Wallace Poll. In 1953 in that field we had a Coronation Day fete. We all got a tin of Rolos. It was a cloudy drizzly day. I remember it as if it was yesterday. The whole village turned out.”

“What is now Rowan House was a grocery shop owned by Fred Day. There was a fish and chip shop at the side.”

“A Police Officer lived on Colney Road. I remember PC Lines and Johnson. I had a moped but let the tax run out. Somebody dobbed me in. Myself and Helen were having a canoodle at my mother’s when one of the officers knocked on



the door I got fined 10 shillings.”

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE

Quiz Success

Hethersett Netball Club raised £677 from a quiz evening in Hethersett Village Hall. Fifteen teams took part and the proceeds will be divided between the club and Alzheimer’s Research.

Garage Sale Date

The annual Hethersett village garage and car boot sale will take place on June 12th from 9 a.m until 1 p.m. The event is once again being organised by The Friends of Hethersett Academy. Maps of the garages taking part will be on sale at Hethersett Village Hall and the car boot sale will take place in the Academy car park.

News From The Village

Raising Funds - Hethersett and the Meltons continue to raise funds for a number of charities and good causes. The box collections in the three villages raised £811.39 for the Children's Society. The Christingle Service in St Remigius Church last December raised £233.85 for the charity. Donations made at the thanksgiving service for the life of the Rev Mary Kerlake raised almost £2,400 which will be split between the Children's Society (£797.66), MacMillan Cancer Support (£796) and Hethersett Dementia Support Group (£796).

Bowls Club Open Day - Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Bowls Club will be holding an open day on 16th April when the green is opened for the 2016 season. The club is looking for new bowlers - both experienced and newcomers to the game.

Short Tennis - Elaine Canning is looking to set-up a short tennis group for adults in Hethersett. Anyone interested can contact Elaine on 01603 958033

Quiz Fundraiser - A quiz evening at Hethersett Old Hall School raised over £600 for roof repairs to St Remigius' Church, Hethersett. The evening featured a home cooked meal. The money will go towards repairing the roof following the theft of lead which we have previously reported on.

New Head - Angela Jermy has been appointed Head Teacher at Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery School. The school also has a vacancy for a community governor. It is looking for someone with an interest in the performance of the school, with a desire to represent the community, with the ability to look at issues objectively and the confidence to ask questions and join in debates and a willingness to listen and make informed judgements. The successful candidate should also have the ability to work well with others. More information is available from clerk to the governors Jo Adcock on 01603 810674

Parish Precept

The Parish Council precept (budget) for 2016/17 will be £82,650, comprising of £78,346 precept and £4,304 council grant, a slight increase on the previous year.

The Band D charge for 2016/17 will be £39.02 compared with £38.69 for 2015/16.

Annual Parish Meeting - This year's annual parish meeting will take place in Hethersett Village Hall on May 4th at 7.30 pm. The meeting will receive reports from a number of clubs and organisations and also local schools. There will be plenty of opportunities for discussion on matters of interest. Residents can also discuss matters with members of the parish council at regular surgeries held in Hethersett Library on the second Monday of each month from 2 to 4 pm.

News From the Parish Council

HETHERSETT remains a very safe place to live with just nine crimes reported in the period from February 15th to March 20th, the parish council heard. Police Community Support Officer Darren Soar reported on a smashed car window in St David's Road. Cannabis was found on drivers stopped at Thickethorne Services and Little Melton Road, a gate was damaged in Muriel Kenny Court and a number of vehicles sustained damage in Southcroft after being driven into. The ninth crime revolved around an argument between two parents at a village school. Council chairman Jackie Sutton told the meeting that "Hethersett continues to be a low crime area."

The village skateboard park at the back of the village hall has been dismantled and equipment removed after being branded unsafe by the council. Attempts to find individuals or groups prepared to modernise and organise the park came to nothing.

The new First World War commemorative seat in the centre of the village has been well received: "The whole area in the centre of the village looks good and is a credit to the village," said chairman Jackie Sutton. It is likely that a nearby refuse bin will be moved closer to the seat in the near future.

A working group of the parish council is to make suggestions about road names on new development in the village. The group will look at themes as well as names for individual roads.

Hethersett Parish Council is in favour of street lighting on the major thoroughfares of new development in the village but not on more minor residential areas. After a lengthy debate at the latest meeting, members heard that lights could be provided by developers but the parish council would be responsible for paying for electricity.

The parish council is taking a count of how many trees in the village have tree protection orders on them. Members of the public can apply to the district council to have protection orders placed on trees to safeguard them for the future.

The next parish pop in event in Hethersett Library will take place on Monday April 11th from 2 to 4 pm. Residents will be able to talk to parish councillors on matters of concern or general interest. The next full parish council meeting will take place in Hethersett Village Hall on April 18th at 7.30 pm.

News From Hethersett Jubilee Youth Club

By Gillian Saunders

LOOKING for something to do after school? Want to meet with friends and make new ones and take part in activities, games, craft and a tuck shop? Then Jubilee Youth Club is for you. We meet Wednesday evenings in term time - Years five and six from 5.45 until 7.30 pm and years seven to nine plus from 7.30 to 9.15 pm. Fees are £1.50 per week plus tuck shop money. The club is in Back Lane, Hethersett, opposite the village hall, and is supported by the parish council.

Forthcoming Event

The club will be holding a fete and fun dog show on Saturday, 25th June, from midday to 3:30 pm. There will be stalls, games, a barbecue, refreshments and of course a dog show.

Stalls and pitches are £5 each and can be booked on 01953 607566. Items needed for the fete include a large tent or marquee for the dog show in case of wet weather, a gazebo or small tent for stalls in case of rain or hot weather, gift bags for bottles and tombola items

Vacancy

The club is looking for an assistant to work alongside its youth worker on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9.30 pm in term time. Hours may increase as numbers do so this may become 5.45-9.30 pm in the future. Salary at present is £10 an hour. If interested please contact me on 01953 607566 as soon as possible for details and an application form.

Online Magazine

HETHERSETT online magazine is published monthly with news and views from the village. If you have anything you would like included please send it by e-mail to petersteward@lineone.net. More village news is available on our web site at www.hethersett.org.uk.

The next edition of Hethersett Online magazine will be published the first week in May

Fab Four to Play Hethersett?

Hethersett Online Exclusive

THE greatest pop/rock band the world has ever known could be re-forming for a special one off concert in Hethersett Village Hall.



The world famous Beatles could be on their way to our village. We can exclusively reveal that a one off hush

hush concert featuring Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr is being lined-up for the summer.

Sadly two of the Fab Four are no longer with us but we can reveal that cardboard cut-outs of George Harrison and John Lennon will be on stage as well.

And you could find yourself playing alongside the Fab Four. It is our understanding that the management company for the Beatles are looking for stand-in guitarists for Lennon and Harrison.

The management company have tried to keep a lid on the concert but rumours and leaks have resulted in a spokesman admitting that a concert in Hethersett is "a distinct possibility."

"We would really like to make it happen. We have been inspired by the community spirit in Hethersett and would like to reward the village with a one off concert. We are looking for stand-ins to replace George Harrison and John Lennon. The only criteria being they must be able to play guitar and have the surnames Lennon and Harrison. We are also looking for a back-up for Ringo Starr in case he falls asleep at the drum kit," the spokesman added.

Plans are only just being finalised for the concert but it is likely that it will be recorded for a Beatles Live in Hethersett CD and download.

Hethersett Dementia Support

Speak Up For Dementia! – a positive vision for the future

**By Chairman of South Norfolk Council and representative for Hethersett,
David Bills**

FRESH from being named South Norfolk Community Group of the Year, Hethersett Dementia Support Group is continuing to grow in providing a valuable facility at Hethersett Methodist Church Hall for dementia sufferers and their carers.

The café has been open for almost a year and has proved to be a success.

The group has a very active committee which works with its “patrons” to

ensure dementia sufferers are provided with interesting activities which they can take part in. These are, needless to say, varied and require enthusiastic caring volunteers to help.

If you could assist us in these activities or in serving coffee and teas, we would be delighted to hear from you. The café is open on the third Tuesday of the month from 10 am until noon.

Do you know of anyone who would be prepared to be treasurer to the group as we are in real need? It would only involve a small amount of time as our transactions are few and far between. However, attending monthly committee meetings would be necessary. We are looking to get the younger generation involved in some way so would ask if schools would be interested in helping with fundraising events and also in setting up a Facebook site for us?

If you can help in any way please contact me on 01603 813041

Our photograph at the top of the page shows Dementia Group secretary Stephen Baxter receiving the Group of the Year award from South Norfolk Deputy Leader Martin Wilby and BBC Television personality Louise Priest.



From the Archives - 2000

The following stories appeared on our web site between January and March 2000.

Re-cycling Centre at the Village Hall

A new mini re-cycling centre has been set-up at the village hall for newspapers, glass and plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans. The centre is open 12 hours each day from 8 am to 8 pm. The surface at the village hall car park has broken up and the whole area is being re-surfaced with the cost being met by the parish council and the village hall management committee.



Youth Parish Council

A youth parish council has been set-up in the village with ten youngsters taking on the role. The ten councillors are Kaye Benfield, Elena Brown, Christina Dowson, Andrea Legatte, Vicky Poole, Sarah Reynolds, Alison Utting, Rachel Utting,

Sam West and Adam West. Hethersett is the first place in Norfolk to have a youth parish council. Members, who are aged between 13 and 18 and who all live in the village, agreed their aim was to be a voice for the youth of Hethersett. Vicky Poole, aged 17, of Firs Road, was elected chairwoman and led a two hour meeting during which discussions included the need for more street lighting, litter bins, basketball facilities, seating and a cashpoint machine in the village. The youth parish council's immediate priorities are to help make the youth club more attractive and better used, to promote use of the basketball facilities at the rear of the village hall by suggesting free use at certain periods and to improve the facilities for young people at the Memorial Playing Field, particularly the lighting and seating. The youth parish council is assisted and supported by the parish council, which has awarded them a grant of £250 for the first year's running costs. The Hethersett Pantomime Committee has also given a grant of £50. Other plans include a Hethersett Youth Celebration of the millennium and the need for a new facility for BMX/skating.

Hethersett in Bloom

It is hoped to hold a Hethersett in Bloom event to co-incide with village Millennium celebrations during the summer. Shops, businesses, schools and village organisations are being invited to take part.. There will be a competition for the best front garden in the village.

Rev Phil Unsworth to Leave Village

The Rev Phil Unsworth, village curate, has left the village to take up a new post at Blofield. Phil came to Hethersett in 1997 after retiring from teaching. During his stay in the village he was involved in numerous groups and was chairman of the Choral Society.

New Head for School

A new head teacher has been appointed at Woodside First and Nursery School. Helen Lamb took up her appointment at the beginning of the spring term and replaces Vivienne Horobin who retired in the summer. She comes to the village after four years as head of Horning First School and previous experience as deputy head in a Norwich school.

Hethersett Athletic Take Title

Hethersett Athletic Football Club men's team have become runaway winners of Norwich Sunday League Division Four B in their first season in the league. The team, with an average age of below 20, lost just two of their 24 league matches with 21 victories and one draw. The team stepped up from youth football last season when they were runners-up in the Under-17s section of the Norfolk Youth Combination. In a remarkable season they have scored well over 100 goals and led the division from the first to last match.

Another Success for Hethersett Pantomime

This year's Hethersett pantomime was "Dick Whittington and His Cat" which took place at the village hall in January. It was another colourful evening full of humour, songs and fun. Following the pantomime the following donations were made to charity: St Remigius Parish Church £250; Methodist Church £250; Wymondham Catholic Church £250; National Association for Colitis and Crohns Disease £200; Leukaemia Research £200; Marie Curie Nurses £200; Chatterbox Talking Books for the Blind £150; Jubilee Youth Club £150; Village Hall

£100; Hethersett Ducklings £100; Youth Council £50; Care of Disabled (Wymondham) £50; BEARS £50.

Hethersett Middle School Praised

Hethersett Middle School has been praised for its standard of teaching and management in an inspection by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED).

Millennium Mugs

Special millennium mugs have been given to children under the age of 12 in the village. A number of events are being organised in the village including a carnival procession and fete on June 24th and a millennium ball at Old Hall School on July 15th. There are also proposals for a lasting memorial to celebrate the beginning of the new century. Ideas being discussed include a memorial stained glass window, millennium garden and walk, and an archive record of the year.

Village Appraisal

A steering committee was formed following a public meeting in January to organise a village appraisal. Backed by the parish council, the survey will ask questions about the community and the opinions of residents.

Tuesday Club Disbands

Hethersett Tuesday Club has been forced to disband after almost 34 years in existence. It was founded to welcome newcomers to the village and as a focal point for villagers to meet and get to know one another. In the early days there was a membership of almost 100, but membership has declined so that it is no longer feasible to carry on. The small amount of remaining funds has been sent to the Salvation Army in memory of former Hethersett resident Madeline Lee, who was a salvationist and president of the club for three years until her death last summer.

Threat To Local Facilities

Hethersett Parish Council has written objecting to proposals to close the local branch of Barclays Bank on April 7th. The council has also raised its concerns about the threat to Hethersett Post Office by the change in the payment system of state benefits, which could mean a loss of 40% of the post office's business.

IN SHORT.....

The charity shop in the village has presented a further cheque for £30,000 to MacMillan Cancer Relief. This brings the total amount raised to £140,000.

Residents have been concerned about low flying military aircraft over the village.

Children of the Methodist Church Sunday Club raised £115 from a car wash and bring and buy sale. The money will go towards church funds.

Library Celebration Event

Hethersett Library will be celebrating the Queen's official 90th birthday by inviting local residents to an indoor street party on Thursday, 21st April from 2 pm. There will be tea, cake, activities and displays showcasing royal life. The library can be contacted on 01603 810188

April Dates at the library include the following:

Monday 4th	14.00	Book Group
Wednesday 6th	10.30	Adult colouring in session
Thursday 7th	14.00	Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind
	14.00	Social/board games afternoon
Friday 8th	11.15	Bounce and Rhyme time with Children's Centre
Monday 11th	14.00	Craft Group
	14.00	Parish Pop In
Wednesday 13th	10.30	Adult colouring in session
Thursday 14th	14.00	Social/board games afternoon
Monday 18th	14.00	Craft group
Wednesday 20th	10.30	Adult colouring session
Thursday 21st	14.00	Indoor street party to celebrate Queen's 90th.
Monday 25th	14.00	Craft group
Wednesday 27th	10.30	Adult colouring session
Thursday 28th	14.00	Social/board games afternoon

What's On in April

BELOW are just some of the many events taking place in Hethersett in April. For regular updates and more information go to www.hethersett.org.uk/what.htm

April 4th - Hethersett Parish Council Planning Committee in Hethersett Village Hall at 7 p.m.

April 6th - Rheumatoid Arthritis Group The RiNG, Hethersett Village Hall, 2-4 p.m. Looking After Your Eyes

April 11th - Hethersett Society meeting - "Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope" with Victoria Bacon. Hethersett Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.

April 11th - Parish Pop In, Hethersett Library, 2-4 p.m. Members of Hethersett Parish Council will be present to discuss village matters with residents.

April 11th - Hethersett and the Meltons' Sports Association meeting at Park Farm Hotel, 7.30 p.m.

April 16th - Hethersett Bowls Club Open Day - Memorial Playing Field.

April 17th - Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club charity match in aid of Starthrowers Cancer Charity. Hethersett v Tony Selby's Norfolk XI.

April 18th - Hethersett Parish Council Planning Committee in Hethersett Village Hall at 7 p.m, followed by full council meeting at 7.30 p.m.

April 20th - Hethersett and District Horticultural Society - The Making of a Garden.

April 25th - Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club with Anne Colby "All Good Things." Hethersett Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Hethersett Library has a full programme of events scheduled for the month and these are detailed on page 16. Updates on coming events can be viewed at www.hethersett.org.uk/what.htm.

To have events included e-mail petersteward@lineone.net

Media Watch (continued)

The Wymondham Mercury carried a story about the possible closure of a Hethersett Playgroup. First Steps has been unable to cover its costs in recent months due to a fall in numbers. The group meets weekly in Hethersett Village Hall. It has set up a crowdfunding page online with hopes of raising at least £150 to secure the future. Any funds raised above the £150 will go towards buying new toys for the children. Donations can be sent to <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-hethersett-first-steps-playgroup/>

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Playgroup closure fears over its running costs

A village playgroup fears it may have to close at the end of the month after a quiet spell left it unable to cover its running costs.

First Steps in Hethersett meets weekly at the village hall, with families relying on it as a chance to socialise with other parents.

But a quiet spell over the last few months has seen its numbers dwindle - and organiser Holly Lambert-Flude says they are now not able to renew their insurance at the end of the month.

They have set up a crowdfunding page online, with hopes of raising at least £150 to secure their future.

Mrs Lambert-Flude said: "We wouldn't be able to open anymore if we don't raise it by the end of March.

"It would be really sad as it's important to parents, grandparents and carers who use it to meet up and have a chat with others."

She said many of the children previously coming to the playgroup had moved on to school in September, but that, in recent weeks, numbers had started to recover.

"We put an email out to the schools to let them know what was happening and it has helped, but not everybody has come every week," she said.

Any funds raised above the £150 would go towards buying new toys for the children.

The group meets at the village hall, on Back Lane, from 9.45am to 11.15am each Tuesday.

To donate, visit <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-hethersett-first-steps-playgroup/>

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Fire staff move to police HQ as blue light services join forces



Norfolk police and the county's fire and rescue service - including the fire officer Ray Handal, seen - are now sharing the new headquarters in Wymondham.

Norfolk's police and fire services are to share a brand new site as part of a growing partnership aimed at saving millions of pounds.

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The Eastern Daily Press carried an article that Norfolk Fire Service and Norfolk Police are to share headquarters at Wymondham.

The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service senior management team has already moved from Hethersett to Wymondham and the plan is eventually for the fire control room to also move from Hethersett

Pioneering Norfolk scientist Dr Anne Edwards has once again been featured in the Eastern Daily Press. Anne was the first to identify the potentially deadly Ash Dieback Disease. The latest story looks at the continued battle to fight the disease and save thousands of trees. Anne, who lives in the village, is a Hethersett Parish Councillor, chair of the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) and a trustee of Hethersett Memorial Playing Field.

NEWS local

Ash trees are facing a battle to survive

All trees in a local park in Norfolk and parts of East Angles are being checked for the deadly ash dieback disease.

Dr Anne Edwards, a Norfolk scientist, is leading the effort to identify and remove infected trees to save the species.

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Organic Deliveries for Hethersett

ARTHUR'S Organics, an organic food-box scheme based in Norwich, is expanding its home-delivery service to include Hethersett.

Tony Park founded Arthur's Organic Deliveries in South Norfolk in 2002, having run Arthur's Wholefoods in Dereham since 1985. It has since expanded to include delivery to Norwich and parts of Suffolk. All of the produce they offer is guaranteed to be GM free and free from artificial chemicals.

Organic food sales have soared in the past year and UK shoppers are now spending an estimated extra £1.73 million on organic produce. According to the Soil Association, independent organic producers have seen an increase in sales by 7.5% compared to sales last year.

Tony is a keen environmentalist who believes that it is vital that communities support their local organic farmers and producers and this message is conveyed in his business model. Not only do they offer vegetable and fruit boxes, but they have also partnered with local businesses to include wholesale wholefoods like organic pasta, soya milk and environmentally friendly household cleaning products as well as Norwich baked bread and organic Norfolk free-range eggs.

"Buying local organic produce not only helps to support ethical farming but it also gives you the chance to support your local farmers, producers and businesses," Tony says

Tony explains why he is expanding his

delivery areas:

"I have been working alongside local organic businesses and farmers for 30 years. In the past few years we have seen an increase in demand for organic produce across our delivery routes in Norfolk and Suffolk and sometimes have been inundated with enquires about our services from new potential customers. In order to fill the demand and further support our suppliers, I am delighted to announce that we are expanding our delivery areas to include Hethersett. I look forward to seeing what 2016 has in store for Arthur's Organics," he said.

For more information contact 01603 743363 or visit the Arthur's Organics web site at

<http://www.arthursorganics.co.uk/>

Date For Fun Run

Hethersett's annual two mile village funrun will take place on June 26th.

The ever popular event has attracted hundreds of serious and fun runners since it started in 2010 as part of the village's run up to the 2012 London Olympic Games.

A six week running course under the leadership of former Olympic athlete Paul Evans will begin on May 19th and be held on the six Thursday evenings leading up to the funrun.

National Award for Badminton Club

MANY months of hard work by Hethersett Badminton Club has paid off with the presentation of a national award.

The club is the first within a 25 mile radius of Norwich to be awarded Badminton England Premier Club (Clubmark) status. The club meets on Thursday evenings at Hethersett Academy from 6.30 until 7.30 pm for beginners and adults wishing to improve and at Hethersett Old Hall School from 8 until 9 pm for advanced juniors.

“The award is a tribute to all the hard work and commitment of the coaches and volunteers, It is recognition that we are now a major coaching facility for the sport” said chairman Peter Hoult.

Hethersett Badminton Club was founded in the 1980s and lead coach David Bunn has led the top class coaching, for all ages from seven, since 2012. The club currently has two level two coaches, a level one coach and two other players who are working towards their coaching badges. All coaches have first aid, safeguarding children and up to date DBS certification. Anyone wishing to take advantage of the facilities that the club has to offer should get in touch with Peter Hoult on 01603 811337.

Charity Game Remembers Les

A SPECIAL cricket match on April 17th will raise funds for a local cancer charity and also remember Wymondham's Les King who died in February.



Hethersett and Tas Valley will take on a Tony Selby Norfolk Select XI for the Les King Memorial Trophy. It is anticipated that the Norfolk team will be full of top class local cricketers who will provide tough opposition for Valley. The match will be 40 overs per side and will take place at Valley's home pitch in Flordon. The match starts at 1 pm and will conclude with a barbecue.

Over the past few years the match has been played for the Les King Patron's Trophy, but it will now serve as a memorial to remember Les' support for both cricket and other local sport.

Big Year For Hawks

By Mel Perkins

HETHERSETT Hawks Cycle Speedway Club is gearing up for a big year as it celebrates its Golden Jubilee. A special day of events is planned for Saturday, May 21st, and the club will also be competing on foreign soil for the first time when it contests the European Club Championships in Ostrow, Poland over the May Bank Holiday weekend. The season started on March 20th with South East League matches against Norwich Stars which saw the club's first team achieve a credible 80-80 draw. Action from the match is shown on this page.



Members at the club's annual meeting heard of a new sponsor coming on board and the club will be making an announcement early in April. The Club will again contest the South East League with teams in Division One and Division Two, both of which will add fixtures against Sussex side Hellingly Lions for the first time.

The transfer window threw up a couple of surprises with last year's top scorer and team manager Lee Grange moving back to Norwich Stars for family reasons. Former top scorer Oliver Riley, who took a year out in 2015, has also transferred to Norwich while Suffolk based Richie Williamson, has moved to Suffolk Club Great Blakenham.

On the credit side former British Finalist Lee Smith has moved to Hethersett. Lee now lives and works in Peterborough after starting his career with Sandwell and having spells with East Park and Birmingham.

