



A NEW bench outside the pavilion on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field has been dedicated to the memory of a village stalwart who died last year.

You can find out more about this by turning to page 17.

What Does The Future Hold For Hethersett?

THESE are uncertain times for our village and in this edition of Hethersett Herald we highlight just a few of the problems facing Hethersett in the next five years.

Inadequate health provision, an ever expanding population, a cut in village infrastructure, pressure on local schools, poor street parking and many more challenges are facing the village.

In a special article starting on page five we look at what the future holds for Hethersett and how it will survive under considerable pressure.

This comes after the chairman of the parish council and the newly appointed clerk both resigned, citing “personal reasons” for their decisions. You can read about the resignations on page four.



Queen's Head In Safe Hands

Hethersett Queen's Head is in safe hands as a recognisable face to many prepares to take over the reins.

The lease of the pub/restaurant will be taken over by Michael Bond, son of the present landlords Richard and Phillippa Bond.

And improvements are on the cards as the Bonds keep the venue in the family. To read more on this story turn to page 13.



Special Features and News

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Hethersett Parish Council has been rocked by the resignation of its chairman and clerk. Find out more.....Page 4

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In Memory of Steve

A new bench on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field has been dedicated to the memory of a well known village character. Read more about this.....Page 17

Open Day For New Pavilion

Residents are being invited to look round the new pavilion on

Hi Everyone

Welcome to the October edition of Hethersett Herald and it's certainly been a much busier month after a relatively quiet summer.

It's always good to have some good news to report and this month it came in the shape of a sixth day of opening for the community post office in Hethersett Library. The PO will now be open every day apart from Sundays. It's good to hear about a service expanding as some of this edition tells an altogether different story.

What does the future hold for Hethersett and how will facilities keep pace with development? We don't pretend to have the answers but at least we can ask the questions.

Do get in touch with us if you have any comments on this thorny subject. Many have already done so through my daily blog and we include some of their comments.

There is so much going on in the village at the moment that it is difficult to keep track of it all. Firstly there's the suggestion that Hethersett could get a second surgery. Then there's news about the future of the Queen's Head and our main article also touches on the difficulty of getting school places for children moving into the village.

There was even time for Hethersett to become the wettest place in the East of England when the rains came on a particularly wet day during the month.

All this and much more is featured in a very newsy edition of Hethersett Herald. I hope you enjoy it and just a reminder that if you have stories or information about our village we would love to hear from you. I can be contacted on petersteward@sky.com.

We also welcome Sophie Stanley who is joining the editorial staff (voluntary) and will be looking at various issues in our village.

Peter

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Hethersett and Little Melton has a new bus service to the retail park at Longwater. We decided to climb aboard to try it out and we found a personal and friendly new service for the villagePage 19

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Hethersett Athletic Football Club is looking to re-start a women's and girls section. You can read about a come and try event for girls..... Page 20

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Harold Page was deluged with cards and visitors as he celebrated his 100th birthday at Hethersett Hall Care Home.....Page 21

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A bike ride around local churches raised money for

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Youngsters completing this summer's reading challenge were awarded certificates at a special presentation event in Hethersett LibraryPage 29

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Parish Rocked By Resignations

WE were on the point of fixing up an interview with newly appointed parish clerk Julie Ringer when we heard that she has resigned after less than a month in the position and at the September parish council meeting chairman Sarah Lawrence also announced her resignation. Over the next few pages we try to make some sense of all that is going on in the village at the present time.

Chairman and Clerk Step Down

HETHERSETT Parish Council has been rocked by two more resignations.

Chairman Sarah Lawrence (pictured on the right) and new clerk Julie Ringer have both resigned.

The latest resignations came just a few months after previous clerk Annette Palmer stepped down to be replaced by Ms Ringer. It is understood that the three resignations aren't linked but have been due to "personal reasons."

Sarah Lawrence announced her decision to step down towards the end of the parish council's September meeting which was attended by just seven of the 12 elected councillors.

She informed the council and members of the public present that she was resigning due to "personal reasons."

"I wanted to be chairman but my mental health has been suffering and my children are suffering from the number of meetings I am attending and the amount of time I am spending on council business," Sarah said.

She took over as chairman of the council following the resignation of Adrienne Quinlan through ill health.

She then announced that recently appointed clerk Julie Ringer would also be standing down "for personal reasons" before the end of the month.

Current vice chair Bridget Williamson, who gave her apologies and wasn't at the meeting due to holiday commitments, will take over as interim chairman and the process will begin to find what will be the council's third clerk in a matter of months



Herald Comment –1

THERE is no doubt that being chairman (or chair person) in a village the size of Hethersett can be a full time job. And the point is that it's a voluntary position where the weight of responsibility can weigh heavy.

This has led to the resignation of two fine people over a very short period of time. Adrienne Quinlan achieved a massive amount for the village before being forced to stand down through ill health.

Now her replacement Sarah Lawrence has announced her resignation and alluded to the ever-increasing workload involved as a factor in her decision, stating that the role was having a detrimental affect on her mental health.

We owe both of them a debt of gratitude for the enthusiasm that they brought to the role of chairman. Their resignations highlights the pressures of serving in such a voluntary capacity.

And it wouldn't be right for me to finish this comment without a big thank you to Sarah who is one of the truly most selfless people I have come across in over 50 years of journalism. Thankfully Sarah is involved in so many areas of village life (including writing in Hethersett Herald) that her skills will be far from lost to the village.

The village is also once again looking for a parish clerk. This is a full time paid position but we have seen the resignation of two clerks within a very short period of time.

Since I started Hethersett Herald seven years ago, I can't remember such a time of uncertainty in the village with so many vital issues raising their heads.

Peter Steward

IT'S the debate that needs to be had. What does the future hold for Hethersett and what will the village look like in five, ten and 20 years time?

Herald editor Peter Steward took to his daily blog to discuss the big questions facing the village and the obvious problems brought about by facilities not keeping up with development. In a special feature we reproduce that blog in full which includes comments about the national political situation as well as that in Hethersett and we follow this with an interview with a new resident of Hethersett who underlines some of the education problems facing the village.

What Is The Future Like For Hethersett?

A NUMBER of years ago as part of a writers' group in the village I had the enjoyable task of judging the entries in a competition organised for the village schools.

The competition asked for pupils to submit up to 1000 words on the topic of how they saw the village in 50 years' time.

The subject was chosen because we were aware that in half a century many of those pupils would be pensioners and some would have lived all their lives in or around the village. The winning entries were published in Hethersett Herald.

Most evoked a fantasy world of hover boards and technological breakthroughs, the kind of thing that AI could potentially bring us.

But amongst the fantasies were some harsh realities of youngsters writing about their fears of not having enough money and the occasional comment about not being able to buy anything in the village because all the shops were shut—a kind of dystopian view of a Norfolk village.

But whilst I would never subscribe to this view, there are trends that we all know about that are extremely concerning to those of us that have lived most of our lives in Hethersett and also of serious concern for others coming to our village.

And a lot of soul searching has to be done. We want to welcome new people to the village and want to welcome new development but we are all aware that facilities are nowhere near keeping up with any development.

This is a cause for serious concern for me and many others as we see facilities and services diminishing rather than increasing.

Education and health are two of the primary areas that we should expect to be top class—isn't that what we pay our council tax for? But there are holes in both.

Serious concern has been expressed about health facilities in the village being inadequate and almost

on a daily basis people take to social media and other forms of publicity to complain about not being able to get a doctor's appointment.

Only this month I heard about a lady in her late eighties who walked to the surgery to get an appointment only to be told there were none available for that day and suggesting that she return the following day. This she did only to find the surgery shut.

Interestingly when I compose one of my blogs about the state of facilities and post this on social media, I receive a lot of comments and "likes" in support of what I have written but virtually no claims that "everything is fine and acceptable" and that speaks volumes to me as to how this country in general just isn't getting things right at the moment.

On the next page I reproduce a blog written on September 17th about the general condition in this country but focusing on the particular state in Hethersett of health care and education.

If you have any comments on what I have written I would love to hear from you. They can be left on my Facebook blog or sent directly to me by e-mail at petersteward@sky.com.

Some of the comments already received are featured on the next few pages.

But of course identifying the problem is one thing, doing something about it is another. I wish I had the answers as well as the questions.

"Write to your MP expressing your concerns" is one comment I've heard. I wrote to our MP almost two years ago about the state of things in Hethersett and am still awaiting a response, as are many others.

Sometimes I find myself just screaming in frustration at what is going on and what seems to be obvious faults in the system.

And most of the time we find people trying to paper over the cracks which will just continue to get wider and wider.

Facilities Should Come First

Here we print the blog in full.

I THOUGHT I would do a slightly more serious blog today about the challenges facing villages and towns over the next decade or so.

Obviously I can only speak for my home village of Hethersett but I bet that what I am going to write applies to hundreds of other places on the UK and even further afield.

I feel that issues in Hethersett can be split into national and local ones. Some are brought about by national trends and others because of the make up and nature of our specific village.

So what gives me the right to write these things? Well I feel that I have as good a grasp on issues as anyone else in the village. To start with I'm not aligned to or with any political party. I have lived in the village for over 40 years and come from Norfolk. I spent many years reporting on the village for local newspapers, have been involved with starting and running many village organisations and for the past eight years have produced an e magazine Hethersett Herald for the village which I hope has reflected the issues, the successes and the failures of the village. Additionally for the past 21 months I have edited the village "Good News" magazine.

There is a distinct difference between the two publications. The Herald discusses and highlights the issues facing the village, whilst "Good News" is a Christian based publication that looks more at the success of the village - hence its title.

So what are the issues facing us over say the next five years? As you get older your time frame of years ahead shrinks. You are more likely to think about today and tomorrow rather than five years hence. I remember once asking someone what their hopes were for the next five years and they said "to still be breathing."

But for this blog we will dismiss those thoughts. As I sit writing this I can't help but feel that the political colour of our country will change in just over a year's time, going from Tory blue to Labour red. I feel this is inevitable. Obviously what follows are my own views but I would underline what I continually say - I support no particular political party. I just comment as I see things and as I see things at the present time we are under the rule of the worst Government I have experienced in my lifetime. And yes I have voted Conservative in the past which I guess in some ways gives me the right to make that comment.

This Government has procrastinated to such an extent that things have ground to a halt. The reality of situations doesn't measure with the nonsense that comes out of the mouths of Government Ministers.

Do I think this will change if we have a Labour Government - no I do not. Our Government model is broken with the main parties continually sniping at each other instead of doing what is best for the country.

Take the pensioners triple lock. Both the Prime Minister

and the leader of the opposition were asked recently if they would keep this if they won the next General Election in 2024. Both avoided answering. That tells me everything I wanted to know as obviously both intend ditching it but know that admitting such would be a vote loser amongst older people. Ask a politician a straight question and expect a straightforward yes or no answer is like expecting the moon to be made out of cream cheese.

So back to my initial question. What are the major issues facing our village in the immediate future and top of the list by a country mile is village expansion.

Both parties seem hell bent on building as many new homes as they can. I know this leaves many older villages aghast.

"Where are all these new people coming from?" is a regular cry I hear.

I never have an answer but all the new housing gets filled. North Hethersett is a vast new development, almost a village within a village and there's much more to come.

I'm not against new development, far from it. I love living in Hethersett and want others to love living here as well. But facilities must keep pace with development, but they just don't. Yes we had a new primary school and yes we are getting a new co-op on the new development but this is far from being enough.

Take the centre of the village, or what might soon be known as the centre of the old village. We are scarcely awash with shops and facilities and health is my number one fear along with schools being inadequate to cope with pupil numbers.

The idea of a new health centre - seems easy when you put it into words doesn't it. With a population that will eventually gravitate towards the 10000 mark, we need first class health facilities. These should be a right and not a luxury.

But what we currently have is an inadequate facility. Hethersett surgery is so often hit by staff shortages and unavailability that it closes on specific days. Residents complain about the time it takes to get an appointment and this is a real concern. Gone are the days when everyone had their own GP and simply made an appointment. When I have to fill in a form giving the name of my GP, I haven't a clue what to put and just have to put a general address.

So it has to be accepted that we currently have a medical service that isn't adequate. Then we hear that land has been set aside for a new medical centre on the new development. But how will this be staffed if the current facilities are struggling?

This has been asked numerous times on social media.

Just this week there was another suggestion that the former Woodside School could be turned into a second

medical centre. But once again the same question arises. "How will this be staffed if the existing facilities often struggle."

As one resident said on Facebook "It's all well and good having a dedicated building but not a lot of use if there's nobody to staff it."

And that conveniently brings me round to the thorny question of pharmacies. There have been plenty of rumours that Boots Pharmacy in Hethersett will be amongst those culled in the near future. If I was a betting man I would put money on Hethersett Boots closing within the next year and that makes a mockery of the Government's idea of putting pharmacies at the centre of health care and to have chemists take some of the pressure off doctors. If the shop is shut, that just isn't going to happen.

The idea here is that everyone living near a bus route can travel to a pharmacy. This is a real nonsense. Taken to its logical conclusion that means virtually every pharmacy could potentially close apart from a few in cities, after all virtually every town in Norfolk has a bus service into Norwich. And what happens if public transport is subjected to cuts?

Elderly people cannot be expected to get on a bus to travel miles to pick up regular prescriptions. Yes they can have their medicines delivered but when pharmacies close this will be a service that becomes overwhelmed.

All of this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the diminishment of village services. We used to have a bank in the village, we used to have a Building Society. The important phrase here is "we used to have."

Let's move onto school places. When I was chair of governors at what was then Hethersett Middle School we were often taken to appeal by parents who had been refused a place for their children at the school. It was a horrible situation and one of the reasons I resigned from the post of chair.

It was very much a Catch 22 situation. For many years the maximum class size was set at I believe 32 with two classes at each age group. We looked at the possible likely number of new intake pupils and felt this was the right number. I remember raising this to 33 per class but stating that this was the maximum that could be allowed, thinking about the well being of the existing children and the staff and stopping a class from becoming unwieldy.

In those days we didn't have major development in the village so it was reasonably easy to assess how many children would be looking to enter the various year groups. Now making that assessment must be a nightmare if not a possibility.

The Catch 22 situation came from having to have a ceiling in numbers but wanting to be an open and welcoming school. A number of parents who had children turned down for places appealed to the county council but, as far as I can remember, those appeals were always turned down.

It was a horrible situation and one that is rearing its ugly head once more.

I had a long conversation recently with Charlotte

Screech who is just moving into the village from Buckinghamshire. Her son Elliot has just been accepted into year two at Hethersett VC Primary School.

Charlotte had to fight tooth and nail to get him there and it was only thanks to the support of the Head Teacher that Elliot has been accepted - something Charlotte says she is very grateful for.

Her frustrations are only too easy to understand and remember this is just one family moving into the village - there will be many more.

I agree with her that children living in Hethersett should be guaranteed places in the village schools. If they aren't there is an obvious knock on effect. If they have to travel miles to school they could be denying a boy or girl living locally a place in that school. "That doesn't seem right," Charlotte said.

In any logical world facilities should come before development but I'm not naive enough to think this will ever happen. I know that money and economics dictate otherwise, but surely as development grows and more people move in we should be able to expect facilities to at the very least keep pace and not be eroded. We have a right to have these problems sorted out whatever colour is in power in Westminster.

Below are just some of the comments the blog provoked:

"I agree with every word of your blog today (I don't always!). It is not just Hethersett, all villages are suffering the same problems as well as Norwich itself. There is money about but it is often for unwelcome projects especially around roads. Millions of pounds are made available but for little, if any benefit.."

"I've lived in Hethersett for the last 44 years and, although I love being here, I am sad how much has been lost. There were three mini supermarkets, a bank, a post office, excellent chemists and approachable doctors. Now as you say the surgery occasionally has to close due to staff shortages and the chemists does also have the same problem."

"Hethersett has an Essex twin! exactly the same is happening in our small town. Surgery and schools are at breaking point, pharmacies are closing, few and far between public transport, banks closed, overdevelopment with no infrastructure put in place. Local Development Plan ridden rough shod over and us residents drawing the short straw all round while the beautiful countryside is concreted over before our eyes. So sad it's happening in so many places."

"I agree with all the above comments re the surgery. One dreads being ill. In desperation on three occasions I have taken my husband to the walk in centre and he's received excellent service. On two of the occasions he was admitted to hospital. This is not the way forward. You can't rely on pot luck for your health. Something needs to be done."

Please keep the comments coming.

Bursting At The Seams

We talk to new resident Charlotte Screech about moving into Hethersett and her battle to get a place for her six year old son at one of

WHEN Charlotte Screech moved to Hethersett she immediately found herself scabbling around to find a school place for her six year old son Elliot.

She subsequently contacted Hethersett Herald:

“I’m new to the area and think we need to publish more awareness on this school place crisis,” she told us.

Charlotte admits that she has a “forceful” personality and that has resulted in her son being offered a place at Hethersett VC Primary School in Queen’s Road thanks to the intervention of the Head Teacher Matthew Parslow-Williams for which Charlotte says she is very grateful.

But Charlotte has identified another real problem in village life that just isn’t going away as more and more people move into Hethersett.

She admits that she had to knock down a number of “doors” to get Elliot into a local school and it concerns her that other parents might not be so lucky and find their sons and daughters having to travel to schools in other towns and villages, sometimes having to travel miles. This in itself she feels is highly unsatisfactory as it could have a knock on affect of denying a place to somebody living in the close proximity of that school.

Charlotte is certainly not alone in her concerns. Before this article was published she had been contacted by two more families:

“I’ve had two more families contact me saying they can’t get a year two place locally,” Charlotte said.

“I knew it might be difficult getting a school place but didn’t realise quite how difficult. When all schools are over-subscribed where are children going to go?”

Charlotte found that she had to make numerous phone calls and, as a result, the start of the school year for her son was delayed. As a teacher and former governor herself, she is well aware of the problems but says that finding a solution is a very



Charlotte and Elliot

Herald Comment—2

Finding school places is certainly not a new problem but it is one that seems to be getting worse.

On the face of it, Hethersett is well served by schools with two primary and an Academy. But the fact that they are already becoming inadequate is worrying.

For years this publication has argued that infrastructure and facilities should come before development. But we are not naïve enough to think that this will happen. It’s always the other way round. National Government is hell bent on providing new development but shouldn’t those people moving into those new developments have the right to have their children educated where they live?

As we have said elsewhere it’s a Catch 22 situation. Very shortly we will be told that the schools cannot cope with the numbers wanting places. It’s not the fault of the schools. They have to impose restrictions on numbers for obvious reasons.

But school building and extensions are very unlikely to keep up with demand and that will result in people like Charlotte Screech having to spend precious time just trying to achieve what should be theirs as a right.

complex matter: "I found it very stressful as I had to push, push, push to get anywhere. The assumption that parents have that their children will automatically get places in local schools has now gone as there is more and more pressure on village infrastructure.

"I have no problem with change as long as the fundamentals are provided. Perhaps we should have a system where children are allocated school places before they get addresses. I was on the phone every day trying to sort out a school place for my son," Charlotte added.

Things have worked out well for Charlotte and her son Elliot:

"I am over the moon. Hethersett VC Primary is a great school."

But she is concerned for others who are highly likely to find themselves in the similar position of having to fight just for the right to have their children educated.

Could Woodside School Become A Second Surgery?

MANY residents have been concerned about the state of the former Woodside School in Firs Road and just what the buildings and land will be used for.

Now it seems that there is a possibility that this could become a second surgery for the village.

The reaction to the news has been mixed due to the obvious staffing problems suffered by the existing surgery in Great Melton Road which has had to shut on numerous dates this year. Other surgeries in the Humbleyard Practice at Mulbarton and Cringleford have also suffered periods of inactivity.

Discussion about the possibility of using the former Woodside building with its unique shape which saw classrooms opening off a main hall area, are at a very early stage but are taking place between local councillors and health service officials.

"There is a critical need for another surgery in Hethersett," said Kathryn Cross, South Norfolk district councillor for Hethersett.

"This has to happen as soon as possible because the community is continuing to grow and people are already struggling to get appointments."

Her comments were backed up by fellow Hethersett South Norfolk Councillor and Norfolk County Councillor David Bills.

But residents weren't quite so sure about the plans, despite agreeing that there is a desperate need for more medical facilities in the village.

Comments on social media included the following:

"The old Woodside school is a perfect shape for a doctors and health centre. The only trouble is we have no doctors for the existing surgery."

"The shortage of GPs and health professionals needs to be addressed first."

"Yes please, a new surgery asap. The Humbleyard practice is unable to cope."

"How are they going to staff a new practice when they can't staff the one they have now?"

"We 100% need a new surgery with more staff to cope with the expansion of Hethersett"

"Who is going to staff it? It's all very good having a building and plans but not if there isn't any staff to go in it.

"What's the point in having new premises only to have the same issues and put more strain on the NHS?"

And where does this all put the proposed new health centre planned for the North Hethersett development? We hope to answer that question in coming editions.

It is our understanding that a new practice manager will shortly be in place for the existing surgery in Great Melton Road.

Herald Comment –3

Residents could be excused for feeling confused about medical care in the village.

I think everyone accepts that the current surgery is too small to cope with the numbers coming into the village. Staffing issues have been well documented and there have been days during 2023 when the surgery has had to shut.

Firstly we were told that land has been set aside for a new health facility on the new North Hethersett development and this month comes news that the former Woodside School could become a surgery

It is difficult to pick the wheat from the chaff on this subject and we can understand how residents can be confused as to whether we will end up with one, two or three surgeries and where they will be situated.

All we do know is something needs to be done to improve the current situation.

The Day The Rain Came Down

(No, not the ballad popular back in the 1950s)

HETHERSETT was the wettest place in Norfolk on Tuesday September 12th as the village recorded over 50 mm of rainfall in a short period of time.

The village was even featured on BBC Look East at the top of the rainfall charts in the East of England.

Torrential downpours over a lengthy period of time saw fields and roads around the village flooded. Keen local photographers were out and about, braving the rain to take some snaps, some of which are featured here along with a piece about the conditions written by keen village meteorologist Gary Wyatt.

IT'S been an interesting year so far for the keen weather observers amongst you. I'll be reporting on 2023 as a whole early next year but the month of September has provided a snapshot of the highly variable conditions we have experienced in recent years. From international reports it seems we are not alone in that.

In the UK we have just experienced a record-breaking heatwave for the month of September when, for the first time, seven consecutive days with temperatures in excess of 30 degrees centigrade were recorded nationally. This was followed, in Hethersett at least, by an exceptional rainfall over a short period of time.

This year I acquired a new weather station which continuously uploads data to the internet, enabling me to view it in real time from anywhere in the world, should I wish to do so.

The data is automatically graphed which allows easy visualisation of the conditions over any desired period. The heatwave shows up clearly in the graph below, with the temperature climbing daily from about 23 degrees centigrade on 3rd September to peak around 31.5 degrees centigrade on the 9th and 10th September.

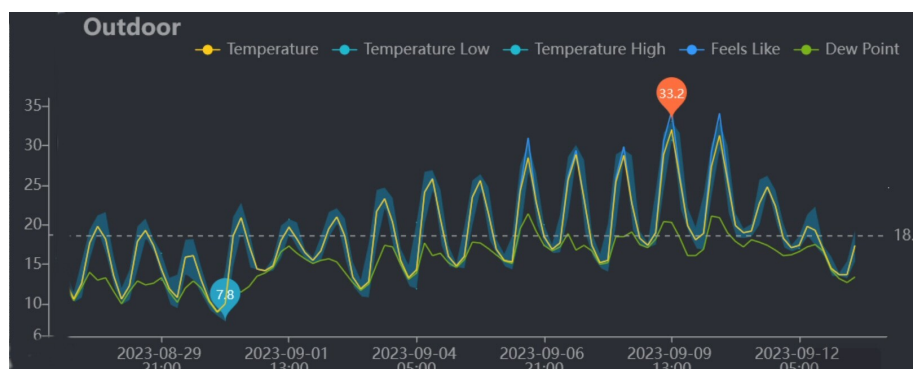
This was combined with high humidity making it feel even hotter, with the 'feels like' temperature hitting 33 degrees centigrade, resulting in even the normally keen Hethersett croquet players not turning out to play on the Saturday afternoon!

After that the temperature fell quite rapidly, and this exceptional hot spell ended with an equally exceptional rainfall event on the 12th September.

I was in Norwich at the time visiting the Bishop's Garden which was open as part of the Heritage events that week. The rain started about 2.30 pm and quickly became torrential, causing everyone to seek shelter under trees. However, the rain soon penetrated the foliage and eventually I gave up and walked through the city, where the streets had turned into rivers in places. Back in Hethersett the rain eventually

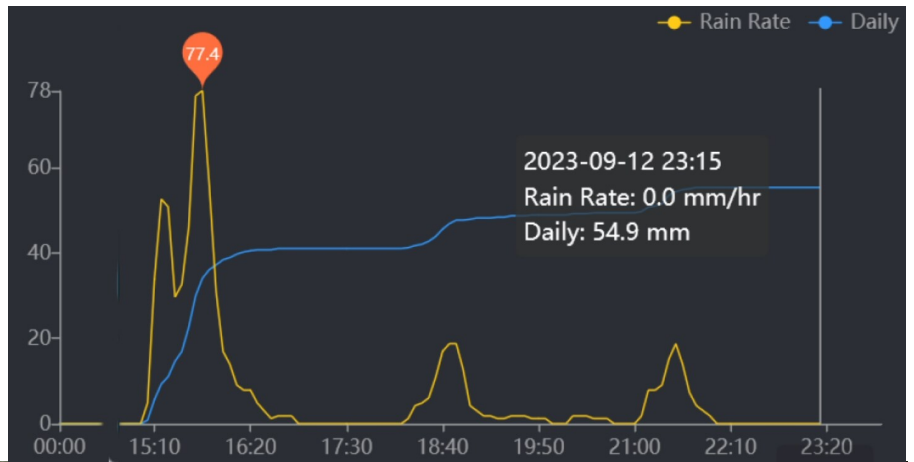


HETHERSETT Athletic football Club Secretary Mike Kenny took this photograph of the Memorial Playing Field and car park.



eased and the storm petered out at around 4pm.

There were two further bursts that evening as can be seen clearly in the rainfall graph on this page, but the bulk of the total of almost 55mm fell in about an hour and a quarter in the afternoon, with the peak intensity (equivalent to the highest speed attained on a journey, if you like) of about 77mm per hour. Exceptional indeed.



David Wyatt took the two photographs of flooded roads in Hethersett. The photograph on the right is of a car trying to negotiate the Waitrose roundabout on the B1172 and was taken by Linda Taylor. Linda said that the situation was so bad, cars were having to go the opposite way round to normal just to get through the water.



We are very grateful to our intrepid photographers for permission to reproduce their photographs of the flood on these pages

Panto Dates Announced

THE dates have been announced for next year's annual Hethersett Village pantomime.

Jack and the Beanstalk will run in Hethersett Village Hall for 10 performances from January 20th until January 27th, 2024.

Performances will be as follows:

Saturday 20th—2 pm and 7.30 pm

Sunday 21st—11 am and 3 pm

Monday 22nd—No performance

Tuesday 23rd—7.30 pm

Wednesday 24th—7.30 pm

Thursday 25th—7.30 pm

Friday 26th—7.30 pm

Saturday 27th—2 pm and 7.30 pm.

Cast members took to social media to announce the dates:

"We are so excited to announce that the pantomime will be Jack and The Beanstalk. We are huge fans of this classic tale and can't wait to share our own unique retelling of this firm favourite."

The group also has a new website which includes details of past productions. It can be viewed at:

<https://hethersettpanto.org.uk>.

Tickets for Jack and the Beanstalk are priced at £8.50 and will be available shortly from www.hethersettboxoffice.org.uk.

Each year the pantomime raises money for charity. Pantomime in Hethersett goes back over 50 years with the first in 1970 being a production of "Sleeping Beauty" in the Church Hall in Henstead Road (now a mosque).

LATE NEWS: It has just been announced that panto tickets will be on sale in Hethersett Queen's Head on the following dates:

Saturday 30th September 10-11.30 am

Saturday 7th October 10-11.30 am

Saturday 11th November 10-11.30 am

In between those times as normal they are available on line at the box office at:

<https://hethersettboxoffice.org.uk/>

We're looking into the problem



We're sorry you're experiencing low water pressure, or no supply at all. Our engineers are working hard to put things right.

We're doing everything we can to fix a burst main as quickly as possible and we expect to have everything up and running again by 12:00 tomorrow.

You don't need to do anything for the moment – we'll keep you updated every step of the way. Thanks for your patience.

Homes Left Without Water

HOMES in the village were left without water or with seriously restricted water levels after a watermain burst.

Roads that reported either no or reduced pressure on September 13th included the Heathfields estate, West Croft and South Croft, New Road, Childs Road, Hall Close, Bailey Close and Norwich Road.

The burst watermain wasn't in Hethersett but affected a large area. All sources were restored within 48 hours.

Keeping It In The Family



Above—Lorraine Miller, Michael Bond and Richard Bond outside Hethersett Queen’s Head. Below—The trio in the bar.

By Peter Steward

THE running of Hethersett Queen’s Head is to become a family affair.

Current licensees Richard and Phillippa Bond will be handing over the reins to son Michael in the near future.

The lease of the popular Hethersett pub and restaurant has been up for sale for a number of months but now the Bonds have decided to keep things in the family with Michael taking over at the helm from the beginning of December.

Richard and Phillippa will be taking more of a back seat role but will still be around to help and advise when needed.

Michael is no stranger to the licensed trade and is currently employed by the Chestnut Group and general manager at the Wiveton Bell in North Norfolk, following a period at Holt Feathers.

“I am really excited to be taking over at the Queen’s Head in Hethersett. It’s a place that I’ve known all my life,” Michael told Herald.

Michael was born in Hethersett and his parents took over the lease of the Queen’s when he was just nine or 10. He attended Woodside School, Hethersett Middle School (now Hethersett VC Primary) and Hethersett High School (now Hethersett Academy) before going to Norwich City College and subsequently the University of Bournemouth.

Michael worked for a number of different hotels in the New Forest but always had a hankering to return to his roots and moved with his wife Tiffany back to Norfolk to find a “better work life balance” which is something he realises is important with the couple’s first child, a son, due in October.

Michael is certainly looking to tread a similar path to that of his parents. “I know people enjoy our current menu and we will be continuing with Sunday roasts,” Michael said.

Dad Richard outlined a number of improvements they hope to make at the venue including re-laying the car park and improving outside patio areas and Michael



hopes to improve the venue’s online presence with an improved website and the introduction of online bookings..

The Bond family’s lease still has eight years to run and there is also an option to extend it. Michael still has friends in the area and will be keeping the essential character of the Queen’s along with existing staff.

“Some of the staff have been here for 20 years or more. They are a team and I would hate to think of them leaving,” Michael said.

One valued member of staff Lorraine Miller has decided to step away from frontline service and will be undertaking bookkeeping and financial assistance.

Michael admits that it will be good to have mum and dad behind him, helping with advice if and when needed. He admits that it will feel slightly strange to be in charge of staff, many of whom watched him grow up. But he is confident this is something that can and will work.

Richard summed up his feelings with just three words: “We are thrilled.”

The Continuing Saga Of A “Short Term” Car Park



THE saga of the short term car park in Great Melton Close rumbles on with another full discussion on its abuse at the September meeting of Hethersett Parish Council.

The car park has signs indicating that it is for “short term” stays only but local residents point out that vehicles are parking there all day whilst their owners either work in nearby businesses or take the bus into Norwich.

Business owners have claimed that if their employees don’t park there they would have to leave their cars on the side of the road, adding to the congestion. One said that employees had to have somewhere to park their vehicles with Oak Square already making it plain with signs that vehicles cannot be left there long term.

At September’s parish council meeting, residents of Great Melton Close provided evidence of the same vehicles being parked in the short term car park throughout the day from early morning until late afternoon. In addition cars not being able to use the car park because it is full have taken to parking alongside the kerb on Great Melton Close, causing an obstruction for local residents.

“It is only time before a child or somebody gets hurt,” one resident said.

The parish council has written to local businesses asking owners to inform their staff of the nature of the car park but this has made little difference. They have also recently put up a sign stating that the car park is restricted to stays of 30 minutes. But enforcing this limit is a different kettle of fish altogether.

One resident has been keeping a log of vehicles “abusing the nature of the car park” with the same vehicles parking there on a daily basis. The resident went as far as to ask the council to consider shutting the car park during the day and only opening it at weekends and in the evenings when motorists are more likely to abide by the short term nature.

“Some cars are bullying the use of the car park and park there from 9 am until 5 pm,” a resident said.

The nearby Methodist Church has turned down a request for vehicles to be left there all day on the grounds of insurance coverage, damage to the car park through wear and tear and the need for the car park to be fully available for those attending services and events in the church and its community hall.

Herald Comment –4

Short term should mean short term.

That’s the message from Hethersett Parish Council and local residents who are getting fed up with vehicles parking in the short term car park for entire days.

One resident has even advocated that the car park should be shut during the day to prevent long term parking.

This is countered by business owners who seem to see no problem in vehicles being parked there for the entire day.

One has already pointed out that if vehicles are not left there long term the car park would be virtually empty. That really is missing the point. Short term should be for residents needing to pop to the supermarket or possibly who have a dental appointment or want to pick up a takeaway. If there are gaps that is what a short term car park is about—providing places for vehicles who stay under half an hour and then move out, leaving spaces for others.

By parking there all day, car owners are depriving residents of an amenity designed to help the flow of vehicles in the village.

Unfortunately the parish council and nearby residents seem powerless to do anything to stop long stay parking.

So on this issue we seem to be somewhere between a rock and a hard place or to use another cliché, in a Catch 22 position.

It seems very unlikely that those prepared to park there all day will abide by any signs pointing out the short stay nature of the car park and, at the same time, the parish council is pretty powerless

It all comes down to appealing to people’s better nature and I’m sure I don’t have to make a comment about that.

PS

Introducing Our New Roving Reporter

EIGHTEEN year old Sophie Stanley (pictured opposite) has joined the voluntary staff of Hethersett Herald as our roving reporter.

Sophie is taking a gap year before going to University to study journalism and we are delighted to give her the opportunity to report on some of the issues affecting our village and other features on subjects that interest her. Here Sophie introduces herself.

“My name is Sophie Stanley. I am 18 years old and currently on a gap year before attending the University of Sheffield to study journalism. I am currently working at the Queen’s Head in Hethersett as a waitress and have done since I was 16, whilst also part-time pup sitting my new dog Hope (which feels like a full-time job in itself)!”

“I am passionate about many things: travelling, exercise, the environment, animals and most importantly writing. As part of my gap year, I hope to be able to gain some experience writing and have been given the opportunity to do so for this magazine.

“Writing has been my passion ever since I was young. I would often craft stories and journals for the fun of it. Now, I hope to produce articles that all readers will enjoy, involving topics including Covid-19, Social Media and technology and the importance of small businesses in our community, as well as many more.”

Sophie starts off with an article about banned dogs prompted by a meeting with a dog owner in the village and then talks to a number of Hethersett Academy pupils about their social media usage.



Just Who Is To Blame?—The Dog Debate

WHO is to blame: Breed or the breeder?

Currently in the media there has been a huge debate over the violence of the pitbull and bulldog breeds.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has ordered a ban on the ‘American bully XL’ calling them “a lethal danger to our community.” This being a response to fatal dog attacks in the UK, 6 out of 10 last year being linked to that particular breed, making them the first to be banned in the UK since 1991.

The breed’s large strength and size are also part of the ban as, when aggressive, they can be much more dangerous than others. However this has caused a nationwide outrage with owners of these pets unwilling to give their dogs away.

Having taken a walk in the village with my puppy, I happened to bump into a man walking his Staffordshire Bull Terrier, a dog which is not banned in the UK, but still receives caution by other members of the public. You can see a picture of one of these with this article.

He stated that his dog is very friendly when my puppy came over to say hello, and admitted that it makes him sad that many people see it, and “cross the road” to



get away from it. “At the end of the day”, he stated, “the dog doesn’t understand, he’s so friendly, he wants to say hello to everyone.”

The alternative debate in the media is that Pitbulls are not genetically aggressive, with the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), supporting this viewpoint, mentioning that each individual is moulded by their environment.

So can the breed be to blame for any attacks? Is it the owners and the environment that are causing these dogs to act this way or are these dogs inherently dangerous?

A SOCIAL MEDIA PANDEMIC

By Sophie Stanley

IT is clear that today's youth certainly know their way around technology, more so than any other generation.

Whilst this does have its advantages, it has had an additional impact on the mental health of children and young adults nationwide. Yet this leads us to question, how badly has social media affected our younger generation?

Within an interview with three students in Hethersett, aged 13, 16 and 18, all admitted that they have downloaded a social media platform, including TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook, spending a staggering three hours or more online each day.

In fact, a report by the Royal Society for Public Health entitled "status of mind," found that 91% of 16-24 year olds use the internet for social networking. Due to this, rates of anxiety and depression have increased 70% in the past 25 years.

As a result, I decided to take this further and interview the parents of the students, to discover their own opinions on the platforms and their views on their child's usage of it. The mother of the 18 year old student admitted that "social media can be a good thing, however for teenagers especially there can be a 'dark side' promoting unhealthy diets, body images and 'trends' that impressionable children pick up on and want to follow."

She additionally added that she believes 13 years old is an appropriate age for children to own such platforms, which is the standard age requirement for many social media apps.

It's not all bad though! Many platforms have acknowledged the mental health issues corresponding with social media and are striving to decrease them creating a more positive and safe online community.

Instagram, for example, has created tougher guidelines including higher age restrictions as well as banning and filtering negative posts and comments. New apps such as 'BeReal,' have also become extremely popular, where its users will receive a notification on their mobile devices at a random time each day so that they can take a photo of themselves showing what they are doing at that time.

The intention here being all users will be showing an unfiltered and 'real' version of themselves, unlike many posts on other platforms which consist of models and influencers that have been highly edited. However, it is still important that you restrict your children from using social media until they reach the required age and can be safe and responsible online.



Hethersett Road scenes

In Memory Of Steve



FRIENDS and relatives of village stalwart Steve Walker came together on September 10th for the unveiling of a bench in his memory.

Steve died last year but his memory will live on in the wooden bench which is outside the new pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field.

The bench has been purchased following donations. Originally plans were for a plaque to Steve inside the pavilion but it was felt that a bench would be more apt as friend Tim Hudson-Church explained.

"We couldn't let Steve's passing go without providing something to his memory." The bench was supplied by Church Farm in Hethersett who also gave a healthy discount as their way of showing support. It was purchased through donations from a number of Steve's friends.

Steve was an integral part of Hethersett life, running numerous youth football teams and being loved by everyone, always ready for a laugh and a chat.



Open Day For New Pavilion



HETHERSETT'S spanking new pavilion on the memorial Playing Field has a new name and is inviting residents to an open day in October.

The pavilion has been renamed the Hethersett Hub and will be opening its doors on Saturday 7th October between 10 am and 2 pm for anyone wishing to have a look round.

Bookings are also now being taken and the memorial Playing Field Trustees are looking to launch an improved website in the near future.

The Hub has a large community function room which is supported by a kitchen. There is also a small meeting room together with changing facilities and rooms for sporting events.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the open day or hiring the facilities should contact:

mpfthethersett@gmail.com.

New Theory on How Hethersett Got Its Name

HOW Hethersett got its name has always been a matter of debate. The usual suggestion is that an enclosure for deer was known as heedra which also means heather or heath and "set" or sett is a dwelling place, camp, stable or fold. This would give the meaning of the word Hethersett as a camp or enclosure of heath.

But now historian Lewis Buckingham has come up with an alternative theory after looking at historic documents for the late 12th century. Lewis explains:

"I thought you might be interested in something I came across recently in regards to Hethersett's name: in the pipe rolls for the late 12th Century, "Queen's Hithe" in London is written as "Hedder Regina." 100 years earlier in Domesday, "Hethersett" is "Hederseta." The double "d" or sometimes "d" with a stroke through it were representations of the "th" sound in "thin."

With a Beckhithe "landing place on the river/stream," it makes sense that Hederseta could be "Settlers (saeta/seta) at the Landing Place". It almost seems necessary when you think about it, because Beckhithe is a description of a location, not a village."

So could Hethersett actually mean "settlers at a landing place?"

All Aboard A New Bus Service

AS my wife and I sat in the bus shelter outside the Methodist Church waiting for the new bus to appear, I couldn't help but wonder what that new service would be like.

The answer was effective and pleasant. A few months ago I tried the new number 11 service that goes via the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and then onto Norwich and through to Sprowston.

So with new services apparently coming thick and fast it was time to try the 806 to Longwater. We may have been filled with anticipation but one of our fellow passengers was radiant with excitement. Yes she really was.

This lady has been taking a taxi to Longwater to do her shopping. Now she can get the bus three times a week instead.

The new service comes through Hethersett at just after 9.30 and ours arrived at the retail park at about 10 am which gave us an hour and a half before the return journey at 11.30 am.

It takes a roundabout route, going down to the B1172 via Queen's Road and then out onto the B1172 and turning left into Churchfields and along Steepletower before turning right into the new North Hethersett development and making its way to Little Melton and then onto the Southern Bypass and so to Longwater.

The trip was made particularly enjoyable by a very friendly bus driver who apparently comes from Hungary. It felt more like a half day outing than a bus ride. I must point out that it's one of those small buses but there were plenty of seats as there were only five of us going and the same number coming back. It will be interesting to see if the numbers increase as time goes by.

The driver only had one practice drive of the route and so was ok getting there but not certain about where to turn on the way back. We were very happy to be able to help her (our good deed for the day).

An hour and a half is just time to do some supermarket shopping or, as in our case, have a cup of coffee at Marks and Spencers and then a general look round. This included buying some photographic materials at the Range which gave me the opportunity on the way home to say:

Hethersett Herald climbed aboard the new 806 service for the best part of a couple of hours on the Longwater Retail Park. The editor sampled the delights of Hethersett's latest bus service.

"Call the Police. I've been framed."

Of course there is always the alternative of getting a bus from the retail park into Norwich and then a bus back to Hethersett if you want a bit more time shopping. For me time shopping is time wasted but I'm sure you won't agree with that.

Overall it was a very enjoyable experience and one I will certainly be repeating, preferably when the temperatures drop significantly though.

The bus connects Hethersett with Longwater on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. It also provides a service from Little Melton to Longwater every weekday morning.

Number Nine Service Set To Finish

THE number nine bus linking Hethersett to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital will be ending in October, it has been announced.

Our County Council representative David Bills has told us that talks are ongoing to find an alternative to the current situation which links Hethersett, Little Melton and the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

We will update this story as and when we receive new information

Hethersett Herald is a non profit publication for the village of Hethersett in South Norfolk and the surrounding areas.

We are happy to take contributions either about the village or on other subjects written by residents of Hethersett or nearby villages.

Copy should be sent to the editor by the 15th of each month.

petersteward@sky.com

Does Hethersett Have the Next Lauren Hemp*?

WERE you inspired by the success of the Lionesses at the Football World Cup.

Hethersett Athletic is holding a taster session for girls on Sunday 1st October.

The session will run on the Memorial Playing Field from 2 to 4 pm and will include football drills and fun games as well as football.

Interest in attending can be registered with Matt Frost on m-frost@hotmail.co.uk.

David Powles from the football club said:

“Hethersett Football Club is delighted to be able to announce that we are hosting a girls football taster event as part of our first steps towards forming a girls section within our ever growing football club.

“A team of qualified coaches will be on hand on Sunday, October 1st for a two-hour taster session for school aged children.

“Once we know the interest in the village - and more importantly find volunteers willing to coach the girls in the long run, we will reveal our next stage,” David said.

The club is hoping to re-start a girls and ladies section. A number of years ago the club had one of the best set-ups in the county with its ladies team winning the Eastern Area Cup three years in a row along with a number of league championships. We will look back on those successful days in a future edition of Hethersett Herald.

* For those not interested in football, Lauren Hemp from North Walsham was an integral part of the England team that were crowned European Champions and which reached the final of the recent Women's World Cup.



Hethersett Athletic FC
Girls Football Taster Event

Inspired by the England's Lionesses?
Interested in playing the beautiful game?
Is the next Lauren Hemp hiding in Hethersett?

Hethersett Athletic Football Club is hosting a girls only football taster day!
The session will include fun games and drills suitable for all ages and abilities

Sunday 1st October 2023
2pm – 4pm (TBC)
Memorial Playing Field, Park Close, NR9 3EW

To register your interest please email Matt Frost on m-frost@hotmail.co.uk or fill out the online form using this link <https://forms.gle/XpHuTBbaHF9RCBGt7>

Latest Speed Figures

The latest speed figures in the village have been published. Between 17th July and 2nd August a SAM 2 mobile speed detector was operating in Great Melton Road close to Great Melton Close. This is a 20 mph limit. The data shows that of 50,538 vehicles passing the machine, the majority were keeping to the speed limit as our table shows.

The figures help the parish council and police to pick out trends for speeding in the village.

The figures show that just over 13,000 vehicles exceeded the speed limit on that stretch of road but only 93 exceeded 30 mph.

There are signs clearly showing that the stretch of road through the main centre of the village is restricted to 20 mph.

SPEED	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
10 mph	1976
15 mph	14,412
20 mph	21,026
25 mph	11,919
30 mph	1112
35 mph	84
40 mph	7
45 mph	2

Harold's Big Day Marked with Hundreds of Cards and Some Little Visitors



HETHERSETT centenarian Harold Page made the headlines in more ways than one as he celebrated his 100th birthday.

With the big day approaching, Hethersett Care Home, where Harold lives, put out a plea in the local press for cards for his big day. And the response was overwhelming.

On Saturday September 2nd, Harold was delighted to find hundreds of well-wishers had sent cards to mark his big day and there was also a party involving babies from the Friend In Deed charity which regularly visits the home where Harold has lived for the past year.

Harold told the local media that a gypsy had once told his fortune and told him he would live to be a hundred. You can see more photographs of his big day in our usual Hethersett Hall section later in this edition of Hethersett Herald

The home posted the following message on social media:

"We would like to say a massive thank you from all the staff at Hethersett Hall for all the wonderful cards our lovely Harold received for his 100th birthday. A big extra thank you to Friend in Deed who helped us so much and all the children who took the time and effort to go buy cards and make special ones and the lovely mum who made his beautiful cake. Well done everyone."

Compassionate and Enthusiastic Person Needed for Rector's Post

THE search is on to find a new rector for Hethersett and the Meltons.

The Benefice, which covers the parishes of Hethersett, Little Melton and Great Melton, has been without a rector since the departure of the Rev Derek McClean who left to take up a new post in Gorleston.

A committee was formed made up of two representatives from each parish. The Benefice Standing Committee (BSC) distributed a questionnaire and held a discussion day for parishioners and this has resulted in a profile being put together which will be sent to potential applicants.

This profile is a public document and anyone wanting a copy should contact:

churchwarden@hethersett-church.online.

So what kind of person should the new Rector be? A number of qualities were agreed upon through the questionnaire and open day and these included somebody who is compassionate, enthusiastic, inspiring, creative, approachable and a leader who is at the heart of the community.

"We are looking for someone who can offer collaborative and sensitive leadership. A team builder who rejoices in encouraging, enabling and releasing the gifts of others and supporting them in their calling.

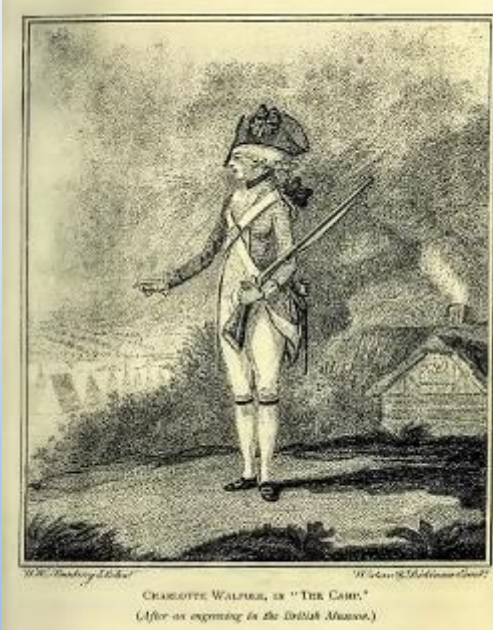
"We are looking for somebody who can accept, love and value the existing congregations whilst supporting, nurturing and enabling the introduction of new ideas and being recognised, and an approachable figurehead," the document states.

The profile goes on to give details of the Rectory in Hethersett along with details of the local area and schools and the three churches—St Remigius at Hethersett, All Saints and St Mary's at Little Melton and All Saints at Great Melton.

Details are also given of the Benefice team which includes the Rev Christopher Mallett, the Venerable Martin Gray and the Rev Michael Kingston.

The document also highlights some of the "other forms of worship" at the three churches including Messy Church at Little Melton and Hethersett, Toddler Group sessions at Hethersett, Hethersett and District Churches Together and Garden Church.

The post will now be advertised and we will keep you informed of progress being made.



Who is this actress and just what is her connection with Hethersett? To find out turn to page 69 to read historian Lewis Buckingham's final instalments about the Lords of the Manor at Hethersett and to find out why the woman on the left caused quite a stir in the village and further afield.

Otto Comes to Hethersett

HETHERSETT Village Screen returned in September with a good attendance despite the hot weather for the film “Living” which starred Bill Nighy as a terminally ill man who decides to change his character to bring joy to people in his last days.

The next film in the Autumn series will be on 1st October when Tom Hanks stars in the feelgood film “A Man Called Otto”. Otto turns from grumpy old man into a local hero.

Other films in the Autumn Season will be “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry” on 5th November and The Fabelmans on 3rd December.

All films take place in the village hall at 3 pm on a Sunday afternoon and tickets are £5. The main film is usually preceded by short films, often with a local angle/connection.

The dates are subject to alteration. Other dates looking ahead are as follows.

2024— 7th January, 4th February, 3rd March, 7th April, 12th May, 8th September, 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December.

2025—5th January, 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April, 11th May.

You can see a poster for the events in our What’s On section.



Peter’s Classical Outlook

CLASSICAL guitarist Peter Turrell is certainly making a name for himself in Hethersett.

Peter, who can often be seen busking in Norwich, has appeared on a number of occasions in our village over the past month.

Firstly he entertained residents at Hethersett Hall Care Home and then he played at a 90th birthday celebration at Woodcote Sheltered Housing complex in Firs Road for resident and friend of Hethersett Herald Richard Headicar.



Peter was also quoted recently in the Norwich Evening News about problems he had encountered whilst busking in Norwich.

Meanwhile Richard is preparing to publish his book on Hungarian activist Albert Reynolds. We will have more on this and a review of the book when it is published which Richard estimates will be in about six weeks’ time.

Tony's Marathon Effort

DESPITE a horribly hot day, Wymondham-based playwright Tony Vale pulled off a marathon effort in producing just under 50 of his plays in 500 minutes at the North Wymondham Community Centre.

With "A Little Help From His Friends," Tony rattled through dialogue featuring everything from knives and forks talking to each other to animals having conversations, pigeons getting injured and chance meetings on railway stations.

There were even monologues, including one from a talking cashpoint in Wymondham High Street.

Tony is a leading light in Hethersett Writers' Group which meets monthly in homes of members and which has writers from Hethersett, Wymondham and Attleborough.



Sponsored Play Reading
50 Plays
(by Tony Vale)
in 500 Minutes
Saturday 9 September 2023
9.00am – 5.20pm
North Wymondham Community Centre
Lime Tree Avenue, Wymondham, NR15 0HH
Drop in at any time.
Free Refreshments (donations welcome)
In aid of Hall funds.
Registered Charity No 266932
Supported by Four by Four

Council Vacancies

THERE are a number of vacancies on Hethersett Parish Council.

The council has issued an appeal for new blood. This comes after the resignation of chairman Sarah Lawrence which you can read about elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

Community and Projects Officer Sara White said:

"You can make the greatest difference in your community in the smallest of ways. Becoming a Parish Councillor requires only a few spare hours a month."

Hethersett can have up to 14 parish councillors. At the present time it has 11. Anyone interested in joining the council should contact the parish office at hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk or call 01603 810915 to find out more.



Contact Hethersett Parish Council for more information on becoming a Parish Councillor:
hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk or 01603 810915

Gin Festival Success

A GIN festival has been heralded a success.

Home Farm Gin in Ketteringham Lane, Hethersett, opened its doors to the public at the beginning of September and has vowed to repeat the event after a steady stream of people turned up in the afternoon and evening to enjoy the distillery's award winning gin and also cocktails.

Nev Leverett from Home Farm Gin is pictured opposite. He took to social media with the following message.

"We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our Gin festival We had a lovely day for it and plans are already in progress for some next year."

The event also included pizzas from The Simple Slice Company from Barford and cakes from Hestia Patisserie.



Cost of Cutting Churchyards Is Spiralling

THE cost of keeping graveyards clean and tidy is spiralling as churchwarden of All Saints Church at Great Melton Mary Tuddenham has found out.

Writing in our sister publication "Good News," Mary says that it hasn't been possible this year to keep on top of grass cutting and strimming in the churchyard:

"We know many people have been disappointed to see it has become overgrown in places. We have deliberately left a few areas for 'wilding' as in previous seasons but this year it has been more than we hoped for. We chased and chased for a quote from our usual contractor which we finally received at the end of March and were really shocked to find that the price per cut had more than doubled from last year.

"Because of limited reserves with which to subsidise the cost, we had no option but to look at alternative contractors, but we were not left with much time to do so. We receive an annual grant of £400 from Great Melton Parish Council which has remained unchanged in the past 20 years and used to cover about 70% of the costs of keeping the churchyard – today it covers less than 25%.

"We managed to get a quote from a new contractor which was in line with last year's charge and the plan had been to cut initially adjacent to the church and once a fortnight to expand the area of cut – however because it has been exceptionally wet this summer we have only been able to maintain a limited area as the grass has grown so quickly," she said.

Mary believes that the only option for the future is to take the maintenance of the churchyard back "in house" but that means asking volunteers to do the work

"To this end we are looking to get a shed and our own equipment before the start of next season. We will then be appealing to a workforce to meet at the churchyard once a fortnight.

"On behalf of the parochial church council, I apologise to those who have found the state of the churchyard distressing and especially if we have not managed to cut round the graves of your loved ones but trust you will understand the predicament we find ourselves in. In order to maintain the churchyard in pristine order we would need to receive funds of over £1000 per year unless as suggested we do it ourselves. Please contact me if you are willing to help with strimming the long grass before winter sets in," Mary added.

She can be contacted at mary@ublgroupp.co.uk.

Continued Success For Cricket Club

HETHERSETT Cricket Club continues to be in celebratory mood after one of the most successful seasons in its history as chairman Matt Bird told Hethersett Herald.

“The competitive fixtures are completed for the 2023 season and we can now relax and move into the celebratory phase of what has been a season of unprecedented success for both the club and our 15 plus teams.

“A huge thank you is due to every single person who has volunteered, coached, captained, prepared one of the 100 plus pitches for matches, tidied, cleaned, painted, poured drinks, spent time at the grill or supported the bar. These efforts do not go unnoticed and help to make the club the special place we all know it is,” he said.

This season has seen:

- The Men’s First Team achieving the club’s highest ever league finish—sixth in the Premier Division of the Norfolk Alliance.
- The Women’s softball team win the Norfolk Plate competition.
- The club’s Saturday second and third teams successfully integrating young emerging players into the teams, ensuring a bright future.
- The fourth team enjoying their best ever season with their highest ever league position. This team is a mix of experience and youth.
- The Under-9s winning the county softball tournament.
- The Under-11s reaching the semi-finals of a county competition
- The Under-15s winning their league and reaching a cup final
- The Under-17s reaching the final of a cup competition with a very young squad.

Off the pitch the club membership is at its highest level ever with women and girls making up 33% of that membership.

The clubhouse at Flordon has been refurbished and improved.

Coming events at the club include presentation evenings, a Christmas meal in Norwich and a fireworks’ evening.



All Hail The President

HETHERSETT and Tas Valley wrapped up its season with a special President’s Day on September 17th.

Heavy morning rain couldn’t dampen the spirits as players old and new took part in a number of T20 events where the onus was on fun as much as competitiveness.

“Today is a day to have fun and celebrate what we have achieved this season,” said chairman Matt Bird.

President Richard Ellis was thanked for his family’s outstanding contribution to the club on their land at Flordon.

This season marks the 20th anniversary of the club’s move to the ground from Hethersett Memorial Playing Field. Since that time the club’s Saturday first team has risen through the Norfolk Leagues, gained entry to the Norfolk Alliance and reached the top tier of that league.

In the photograph above, club members raise a glass to president Richard Ellis (in the yellow shirt) and below former club all rounder Matt Ellis rolls back the years with a rare club appearance.





NORFOLK Churches Trust's annual sponsored bike ride and walk took place on Saturday 9th September with Little Melton, Great Melton and Hethersett Churches all open on the day.

Many of those taking part were sponsored for their efforts on what was an extremely hot day.

Lavinia Ganley from Little Melton was one of those taking part and said:

"It was probably the hottest day of the year, not ideal for cycling so thank you to those who did start early and ride around the countryside.

"As one of the cyclists I can say that the first two hours were very pleasant cycling along the very quiet back roads between churches, but by 11 am it became very hot and by midday it was definitely time to return home.

"One good thing was that we could appreciate the coolness inside the churches we visited. For the first time in many years, we were able to provide welcomers throughout the day to riders who visited our church at Little Melton."

"A big thank you goes to the riders, welcomers and sponsors who took part for All Saints, Little Melton," Lavinia said adding that the total raised for the local church will soon be known.



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October 2023

New Shirts For Riders

By Mel Perkins MBE

HETHERSETT Hawks/Yellow Brick Mortgages had seven riders in the North of England adorned in new-style YBM shirts in the British Individual Championships. Returning to Norfolk they can feel very proud of their efforts with two medals in their kitbags and some other outstanding performances including four fifth places.

Glyn Morgan looked in good form in the Over-60s at Hull but one mistake meant he had to face a race-off against two Poole riders for second and third place. Drawn on the outside he had to work hard but took full advantage when opponents slipped to storm home to the silver medal.

The other weekend medal went to Lola Martin who has shown consistent improvement this season and achieved third place in the Under-12 Girls at Sheffield. She then went on to compete as a late entry in the Under-14 Girls and gave one of her best performances to finish fifth.

The three Hawks in the Under-12 Boys were all stepping up from last year's Under-10s so to achieve 5th, 6th and 12th places augurs well for the future. Luca El-Labany was challenging the older riders and deserved his 5th place. Frank Spauls improved in each race and secured 6th place while Austin Brailey had some good moments.

Harley Hamill was the sole representative from Hethersett in the Open event and faced two qualifying rounds against the country's top riders at Hull. He was in the thick of the action but points were hard to come by and he scored nine and six on the consecutive days.

Mason Martin was close to lifting the Junior (Under-18) title - he was leading after four races each but got little change from a difficult grid four in his final ride which relegated him to fifth overall. This put him in good stead as the only club representative on the big finals day at Astley and Tyldesley. Again he was well in contention but just outside the main contenders in the Under-16 Final and that is where he finished - another fifth place.

* * *

Hawks concluded their South-East League programme with two victories over Sussex side Hellingly Lions at the Memorial Playing Field track. In the Division 2 match the Hawks built up a 12-point lead by the interval thanks to three wins by the Harley Hamill / Mason Martin pairing and good teamwork elsewhere. The use of a Hawks substitute in heat 13 gave the Lions an opportunity for a heat win and an exclusion in the final heat gave them their only other success.

They relied heavily on the Hollebbon brothers, Martyn looking very impressive but the Hawks had too much depth with Paul Delaiche having a much improved performance.

Hethersett 89, Hellingly 70. Hethersett scorers:- Paul Delaiche 19, Mason Martin 17+2, Harley Hamill 16+2, Dave Martin 14+3, Jamie Neill 11+1, George Larter-Dixon 8+2, Lola Martin 4.

Mason Martin, in his final Youth League match, and George Larter-Dixon were unbeaten in the Youth League match which ebbed and flowed until it came down to the final heat with the scores level. With Martin and Larter-Dixon selected, the visitors decided to give younger riders a race which rather gifted the match to the Hawks without a contest.

While top riders were outstanding it was a couple of good rides by Frank Spauls and one excellent third place by substitute Hugo Kemp which ensured the Hawks held the advantage to the end.

Hethersett U16 82, Hellingly U16 78. Hethersett scores:- Mason Martin 24, George Larter-Dixon 19+5, Amelia Dodson 11+1, Frank Spauls 10, Aiesha Musa 8+1, Lola Martin 7, Hugo Kemp 2+1, Jamal Musa 1.

Referee for both matches was Paddy Wenn.

The previous day three young Hawks went to Poole for the final round of the British Youth and Junior League. Nyla El-Labany continued her good form to finish 2nd in the B Final of the Under-8s making her fifth overall in the series. Brother Luca had a tough draw in the Under-12s but also finished second in the B Final and a sixth place overall in the series.

Amelia Dodson was leading some key rivals in her first race in the Girls section but suffered a fall. This dented her chances and her pride but a fourth place in the B Final ensured she finished sixth overall in the series.

In the team competition, Hethersett finished in fifth place overall over the four rounds.

Hawks have announced the date of their annual Hethersett Charity Cup, again sponsored by Breckland Autos.

The match will take place on Sunday October 15th at 3 pm and riders from all clubs are welcome to apply to take part on a first-come first-served basis.

The selected charity this season is the East of England Paediatric Diabetes Group which provides support and respite for young diabetics and their families. This group has been a big support to one of the young Hawks and his family after he was diagnosed as Type 1 Diabetic last winter.

There will be an entry fee of £5 to take part which will go towards the Charity - the club will pay the BC Rider Levies.

Anyone wanting to take part please contact myself at babylon5sp@aol.com.

Reading Their Way Through Summer

YOUNGSTERS completing this year's summer holiday reading challenge were presented with certificates by Hethersett's County Councillor and chairman of the Friends of Hethersett Library, David Bills. We have a gallery of photographs over the next two pages of those presentations. The youngsters set their own aims but most read at least six books during the holiday.



This year's Big Read was entitled "Ready, Set, Read" and was a partnership initiative between Norfolk Libraries and the Reading Agency.



Summer Is Over

HERALD Associate editor Sarah Lawrence continues her look at all things Hethersett and how September is a reset month for her and her family.

SEPTEMBER always feels like a bit of a reset. The summer of late nights and lay-ins, beach days and fun day outs is over. But that's not to say that September is boring! It's full of new starts, shiny new shoes and the start of my favourite season - Autumn.

September saw the start of our biggest girl starting high school at Hethersett Academy. I think we were all nervous for this massive change for Amelia. It's a big step, moving from the only school she (and we) have ever known, going from comfortable polo shirts and sweatshirts to a shirt, blazer and tie. It's a massive change for our whole family, making sure she is well equipped for each day and homework is done.

She's even started walking there and back on her own, something which has never happened before. I feel like it's a good change though. Although I cried my eyes out when she left Woodside, I feel like I needed to do that. It was the end of an era, and I feel like after mourning the loss of her primary school years, I was finally ready to accept the start of this new phase in her life.

Amelia said that her first few days were quite boring. Unfortunately the new term started at the beginning of our September heatwave, so that wasn't the best way of christening their new uniforms! The black blazer must have been sweltering hot for them all and they need to ask permission to remove them.

I just hope the teachers took pity on them and told them all to take it off before they had to pluck up the courage to ask. The very first day, I'm told, was all about learning the 'Hethersett 10' - a set of rules that the school ask the children to abide by in order to create an ideal environment for learning. Do I think a whole day learning the school rules is overkill? Yes. However, if it works, which I'm led to believe it does, who am I to question?

By Friday, normal lessons seemed to have started and she was settling into the pattern of the day, and the homework that goes alongside that. One piece of advice that we gave Amelia was to take hold of any opportunities which present themselves to her.

She seems to listened, with her putting her name into the hat for drawing School Council, and taking an interest in the coming Youth Parliament scheme. She also heard about Choir, which she's very keen to join. I know she'll



do really well at Hethersett Academy. We're so proud of her.

Hattie has now started back at Woodside in year 2 and was very excited to start back too, though she was not so happy about the news that they'll be sitting at desks more often rather than their previous free play! Woodside has had a lot of changes too, with some work in the gardens of the Nursery and Reception areas taking place over the summer.

They also have a new headteacher, Mrs Mainwaring, who I had the pleasure of meeting over the summer. Mrs Mainwaring seems like a fantastic addition to the Woodside school management, and I'm sure she's just the right person to steer the school in the right direction after a turbulent last few years.

Speaking of Woodside, I had a successful summer of uniform selling. For those who don't know, I took charge of the preowned uniform selling a year or two ago after seeing the potential there for helping people buy

Sarah's World with Sarah Lawrence



affordable uniform for school, alongside making a small income for the Friends of Woodside (the PTA). Although not ideal, I store the majority of donated uniform at our house.

I run a Facebook group taking photos of uniform which people then comment to buy, or if they're not on Facebook, they email the school office with what they require. I then bag up their uniform with their name stapled to a carrier bag, take it up to the school office, and they pick it up, paying either cash on collection, or bank transfer. The uniform is all donated from people keen to get rid of all of their old items of uniform, so it really is a win/win!

Over the summer we took over £85 with people collecting mostly from my house. When I saw Ms Adcock at the school office (who is also the Treasurer of the Friends) she told me that over the last year, we raised £394.95 from the sale of preowned uniform and that's without the amount raised over the summer! I'm so proud that what started as a small project, is making such a big difference to the school.

Youth Club has now resumed after the children started back to school. The first Wednesday back was great fun, with some new faces, and the old regulars back again. Our new Treasurer, Matt Knights, who took over from Kevin Jermy, has massively helped with our rebranding.

To go along with the new logo (designed with input from young people who attend), Matt has printed posters to dot around the Youth Centre.

The posters look really smart! During the first session, our young people played swingball and football, table football, pool, and played with hama beads and air-dry clay. I was charged with ironing the hama beads. Something I was a bit nervous about, but managed to somehow not ruin! It was great to hear the buzz and chatter back in the hall again. I hope they keep coming, and next time bring their friends!

Lastly, over the summer we had a session at the Youth Club garden weeding the raised beds with Sandra, the new Chairman of the Youth Centre, taking over from Samantha England. We came across all sorts of weird and wonderful bugs, like the ginormous slug you can view later.



Sarah's World with Sarah Lawrence



As a committee, we really could do with a little help maintaining the garden around the club, none of us have the know-how really. If you would like to volunteer to help us look after it, if you could give us some advice, or even if you would like to help us teach the children how to grow vegetables, we'd love to hear from you. Drop me an email at sarahlawrence87@live.co.uk if you could spare any time at all to help us with this, and we can have a chat.

More from me next month.



News From The Parish Council

Below are details of the current 11 parish councillors. There are still three vacancies

Position	Name	Address	Telephone
Chairman	Vacant		
Vice-Chair	Bridget Williamson	8 Churchfields	810259
Councillors	Paul Everett	7 Haconsfield	07871 700228
	Heath Dakin	c/o Parish Council Office	Via the clerk
	Leslie Dale	46 New Road	810952
	Salena Dawson	c/o Parish Council Office	Via the clerk
	Anne Edwards	6 Queen's Road	812309
	Kelsea Law	c/o Parish Council Office	Via the clerk
	Jonathan Loomer	6 Miller Close	077996 08978
	Eileen Mulvaney	c/o Parish Council Office	811997
	Habib Ur Rehman	14 Miller Close	07899 719173
	Jennifer Walpole	16 Cann's Lane	811932

Meeting Dates

Full council meeting dates for the remainder of 2023 are: October 16th, November 20th and December 18th. There was no meeting in August.

The council meets monthly usually on the third Monday of each month.

Council meetings begin at 7.30 pm. For other committee dates refer to the council's website which can be accessed at:

<https://hethersett-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>

The website includes agendas, minutes and supporting documentation for items to be discussed at meetings.

Committee and full council meetings are open to the public. Residents are given the opportunity to make comments at the beginning and towards the end of each full council meeting.

News From The Parish Council

How To Contact The Parish Council

The parish clerk can be contacted by telephone on 07902 322729 or via email at hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk.

The council has a website at

www.hethersett-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

and also a Facebook page. A full list of councillors appears elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald along with contact details.

Parish Shorts

Concrete Facts

No schools in Hethersett are affected by the current crisis involving “soft concrete”, the September meeting of the parish council heard from the village’s district and county council representative David Bills.

New Crossing Is Coming

Work on a new zebra crossing in Back Lane aimed at making roads in the area safer for children and local residents is due to begin shortly. The crossing will be opposite the entrance to Hethersett Jubilee Youth Club.

Car Park Repairs

Work to repair holes in the car park at Hethersett Village Hall will start at the beginning of October. Improved lining on disabled bays has already been completed.

Buy A Brick

The buy a brick campaign to raise additional funds towards the new pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field wasn’t a success with only two bricks being purchased. As a result the purchasers will receive a rebate.

Rising Costs

The cost of cutting grass on the Village Hall field has risen to £594 per visit which equates to £4257 plus VAT. As a result the parish council is claiming that CGM is in breach of its existing contract and is looking to exit that contract. The parish council has been unhappy with the service supplied by CGM referring to it in a report as “appalling.” At a meeting with the company CGM was unable to find the contract they had with the parish council.

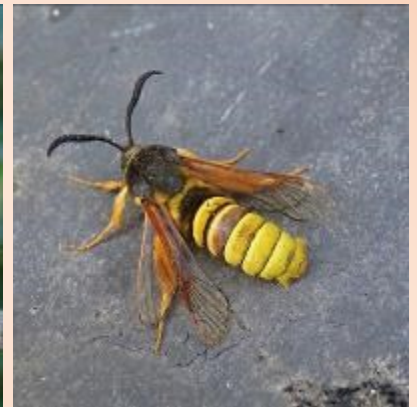
Playing Field Resignation

Bridget Williamson has resigned as a parish council representative on the Memorial Playing Field Trustees. To date no replacement has come forward.

The Moths of Hethersett—Continued



KEEN wildlife photographer Matthew Casey posted a number of photographs of moths on social media that he had come across in the village. We are grateful to Matthew for giving us permission to publish them here in the second of our features.



This month moths pictured include the Scorched Carpet Moth and a number of others.

Road Subsidence Likely To Have Been Caused By Heavy Rain

THE heavy rainfall we experiences in September is likely to have been responsible for washing away part of Little Melton Road in Hethersett.

Part of the road had to be fenced off due to subsidence.

The photograph opposite was taken by one of our district councillors Kathryn Cross who told the BBC:.

"There clearly needs to be remedial work and permanent fencing in future. We certainly don't want motorists, pedestrians or cyclists falling into the pond.

"It's particularly dangerous, especially at night and who knows what weather we'll get this winter."

The subsidence occurred close to the home of the Crusaders Rugby Club.

Storms and torrential rain hit the village in September and you can read about this and view some more photographs by turning to page 10 of this edition of Hethersett Herald.



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT

Hethersett & District Aid In Sickness Fund?

(Formerly known as the Hethersett Nursing Association)



DO YOU LIVE IN

Hethersett
Ketteringham or Little Melton?

ARE YOU

or is someone you know, in need of financial help
because of illness or disability?



Examples of help available

Grants are available towards:

- Car adaptations.
- Wheelchair or other mobility items.
- Support during a sudden medical crisis.
- Nebulisers and other equipment.
- Pre-payment certificates for prescriptions.

For further information or to apply for a grant please telephone one of the trustees listed below. If you have a need for something which is not mentioned above please apply and we will try to help.



Alex	07805 242326
Rachel	01603 812596
Mary	01603 811330
Barbara	01603 810502
Christopher	01603 811010
Debby	01603 812221

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Registered Charity Number 211284

News From Hethersett Hall



Professionals' Breakfast Banter

at Hethersett Hall Care Home

Last Friday of each month starting 29th September
from 10am - 11am

You are invited to pop in for a relaxed breakfast of home-made pastries and bacon sandwiches. You'll have a chance to meet our General Manager and her team, network with other local professionals and take a tour of our beautiful home.

Hethersett Hall Care Home

Norwich Road, Hethersett, Norfolk, NR9 3AP

Tel: 01603 810478 • www.barchester.com

Residential Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks



News From Hethersett Hall



Beside The Sea

“Oh I do like to be beside the seaside.”

We took some of our lovely residents to Great Yarmouth and enjoyed some beautiful sunshine, felt sand run through our fingers, had some fish and chips and even went on the 2p machines..

We all had a lovely time.

News From Hethersett Hall



We took our residents to Wroxham Broad where they boarded a beautiful boat in glorious weather to sit comfortably to enjoy the local wild life that passed us by. This included Cormorants, Geese, Black Headed Gulls and ducks of many different varieties. We were given lots of really interesting information about the Broad by our tour guide.

We also had a marvellous afternoon playing garden bowls with the sunshine on our side. There were lots of winning smiles as residents played a friendly game against each other. Everyone was a winner that afternoon and residents are looking forward to the next game. The game is pictured far right.

On October 7th at 1.30 pm we will be welcoming the Norfolk Military Group to Hethersett Hall.



News From Hethersett Hall



More photographs from resident Harold Page's 100th birthday celebrations.

You can read more about this on page 21 of this edition of Hethersett Herald



John Head's Photographic Diary



“On 26th August, blessed with a sunny day, we utilised our garden in Firs Road for a ‘Coffee and Cake’ morning to raise funds for St Remigius Church Car Park Lighting Appeal.

It was a wonderful, social occasion and we raised £350 for the project which is presently half way towards the target figure of £15,000 required.

Thanks go to all who contributed to the project during and following our event. The completion of the project will see access to the church made safer, especially for the



John Head's Photographic Diary

choir and bell ringers who practice in the church during the evening and for those attending services and concerts over the winter months especially at Christmas."

Any person wishing to contribute towards this appeal, donations can be sent to John Head c/o 42, Firs Road Hethersett NR9 3EH. Cheques made payable to Hethersett PCC.



John Head's Photographic Diary



Our Village 2023

Simply some more photographs of our village in 2023 for you to enjoy



Left to right we have Oak Square followed by the opposite side of Great Melton Road and then the Memorial Playing Field



Top left is the Dawson's Law offices on Great Melton Road. In the centre is Rowan House and Café Kin and on the right Kett's Kabin Charity Shop.



Here we have Café Kin on the left, new development signs on the middle and part of the new North Hethersett development on the right and below that is a shot of the historic Miller's Row cottages in Henstead Road.





On the left is the dental surgery and on the right the PACT charity shop.



On the left is the Sunrise Chinese takeaway and on the right is Oak Square with Tasty Bites on the right of the photograph.



Finally we have Stratfords Estate Agents on the left and Hethersett Library on the right.

Join The Email Group

We currently use Social Media to inform residents when a new edition of Hethersett Herald is published.

We also post copies of new editions, along with an archive of editions from the past seven and a half years, on the website www.hethersettherald.weebly.com.

If you would like to be alerted via e-mail of the publication of a new edition please send an e-mail requesting this service to the editor—petersteward@sky.com. We will now be sending the Herald as an attachment to those who have registered their e-mail address with us.

Your e-mail address will not be disclosed to any third parties and will be used exclusively for notification of new publications.

The November 2023 edition of Hethersett Herald will be online at the end of October, bringing you news and views from the village.

News, features and photographs should be with the editor by October 15th at the latest.

We are happy to consider items for publication either on Hethersett or written by Hethersett residents on other subjects and they can be sent to

petersteward@sky.com

We Are On Facebook

Hethersett Herald is on Facebook. You can follow us at

<https://www.facebook.com/Hethersett-Herald-196216690775010/>

Please share details of the Herald so we can increase our readership.

Council/Government Contact Numbers

Below are the contact details for people you may want to get in touch with on village matters:

Member of Parliament

Our MP is Richard Bacon who can be contacted through the following:

Email - Richard@richardbacon.org.uk.

Address: Grasmere, Denmark Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4LE.

Telephone: 01379 642097

Web site: www.richardbacon.org.uk

Facebook - Bacon4SouthNorfolk

Twitter - @Bacon4SNorfolk

Norfolk County Council

Our Norfolk County Council representative is David Bills who can be contacted on 01603 813041.

South Norfolk Council

Our South Norfolk Council representatives are John Morland, Kathryn Cross and David Bills. David Bills can be contacted on 01603 813041 or at dbills@s-norfolk.gov.uk, Kathryn Cross can be contacted on 0722 019116 and John Morland can be contacted on 01603 813247.

Hethersett Parish Council

The council can be contacted on 01603 810915. Currently the council does not have a chairman or clerk. Individual contact numbers can be found elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

The Parish Council usually meets on the third Monday of each month at the Village Hall. The planning committee meets on the first and third Monday (depending on planning applications).

Agendas of meetings are displayed on village noticeboards at Churchfields, Hethersett Library, Hethersett Post Office, the Memorial Playing Field, and Hethersett Village Hall.

Copies of minutes are held at the library or are available from the clerk. The parish council office is currently closed but will eventually be open in the Back Room at the Village Hall (upstairs) on Monday and Thursday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon.

Email: hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk

HETHERSETT HERALD

Your Monthly E-Magazine

News, views, comment, information and photographs keeping you up to date with what is happening in our village. Hethersett Herald is published on the first day of each month exclusively at:

www.hetherssettherald.weebly.co



HOW TO CONTACT US

HETHERSETT & MULBARTON Safer Neighbourhood Team



Insp Louise BISHOP
Local Policing Commander

The Local Policing Commander is responsible for a group of Safer Neighbourhoods teams. The Inspector also works with our partners and communities to reduce crime in your neighbourhood and focus efforts on the priorities that matter to you.



101 Ext: 5635



Louise.Bishop@norfolk.police.uk



PC Vicky BAILEY
Engagement Officer

Your Engagement Officer is here to provide communications and updates regarding your neighbourhood as well as co-ordinate volunteers, specials, community speedwatch and / or cadets.

Contact them for local enquiries that affect your neighbourhood.



101 Ext: 1113



Victoria.Bailey@norfolk.police.uk



PC Stu BARNARD
Beat Manager

Your Beat Manager PC is here to engage with the local communities and work to solve local issues and priorities within your neighbourhood.

The Beat Manager's aim is to keep your neighbourhood as a safe place to live, work and visit.



101 Ext: 2386



SNTHethersettandMulbarton@norfolk.police.uk



SNTHethersettandMulbarton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk



[/SouthNorfolkPolice](https://www.facebook.com/SouthNorfolkPolice)



[@SouthNorfPolice](https://twitter.com/SouthNorfPolice)



Where To Eat In and Around Hethersett

Janey's Village Café

32A Mill Road. Telephone 01603 811234 e-mail—janeyd11@yahoo.co.uk. Janey's is open from 9 am Wednesdays to Sundays inclusive

Hethersett Queen's Head

12 Norwich Road. Telephone 01603 810226

Food served Monday to Thursday 11.45 am to 2 pm (lunch) and 6 to 8.30 pm (evening meal). Friday and Saturday 11.45 am to 2.15 pm and 5.30 to 9.30 pm. Sunday carvery sittings at midday and 2 pm. Sunday evening meals from 5 to 8.30 pm.

Hethersett King's Head

Old Norwich Road, Hethersett. Serves food seven days a week from midday to 3 pm and 6 until 9 pm.

Park Farm Hotel

On the B1172 at Hethersett. NR9 3DL. Telephone 01603 810264. e-mail enq@parkfarm-hotel.co.uk

Park Farm is a luxury country hotel with spa and fitness facilities and a number of places to eat throughout the day. For more information visit their website at <https://www.parkfarm-hotel.co.uk>

Café Kin

Rowan House, Queen's Road, Hethersett.

Café Kin is part of the Rowan House Vets on Queen's Road. Food and coffee Mondays to Fridays 8 am until 4 pm. Dogs welcome.

* * *

You will also find a variety of eating outlets close to the Thickthorn Services area off the B1172. These are technically in Hethersett although they are two miles from the village centre. Outlets include Burger King, Subway and McDonalds and there is also a petrol station and Travelodge.



Hethersett Herald



Comparing Petrol Prices

	Unleaded	Change	Diesel	Change
Asda, Hall Road, Norwich	155.9	+6p	157.9	+5p
Tesco Express, Hall Road, Norwich	156.9	+7p	158.9	+6p
Sainsbury's, Queen's Road, Norwich	154.9	+6p	157.9	+5p
Tesco, Harford Bridges, Norwich	156.9	+7p	158.9	+6p
Sainsbury's Longwater, Norwich	154.9	+4p	158.9	+5p
Abbeygate, Wymondham	161.9	+2p	166.9	+3p
Waitrose, Wymondham	163.9	+6p	169.9	+8p
Thickthorn Services, Hethersett	161.9	+5p	167.9	+6p

EACH month we check prices at eight petrol stations in easy reach of Hethersett and see how much prices have risen or fallen.

Unfortunately the three stations closest to Hethersett—Abbeygate at Wymondham, Waitrose at Wymondham and Thickthorn Services, continue to be the most expensive fuel around.

This month has also seen price rises across the board for the second month running.

Please Send Us Your Reports

WE are looking to improve and expand our groups and societies section. If you would like your organisation to be featured in Hethersett Herald please contact the editor via e-mail at petersteward@sky.com

Reports of events and meetings can also be sent to the above e-mail address.

The deadline for copy and information is the 15th of each month. Hethersett Herald is published on or around the first day of each month via the website

www.hethersettherald.weebly.com

Announcement of publication is also made on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Next Door. You can also be notified by e-mail by sending a request to the editor at:

petersteward@sky.com.

If you enjoy reading Hethersett Herald please pass details on.

Groups and Societies

First Steps Stay & Play Playgroup

Hethersett Village Hall

9:30 – 10:45 every Tuesday during term time



£2 per child (£1 each for additional children within your family group)

Babies under 6 months are free!

Email: firststepshethersett@outlook.com

Booking essential – booking window opens the Wednesday before the next session.

To book, please email the address above. You will receive a confirmation reply if space allows. Spaces are limited!

Find us on Facebook – First Steps Hethersett Stay & Play Playgroup

Groups and Societies

Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club

Forthcoming events:

Crystal Dyball will be demonstrating 'Junk and Jumble' on Monday October 27th.

Our Open Meeting will be held on Monday 27th November and we have the fantastic national demonstrator Jonathan Mosley. His title is 'Festive Floral Fabulousness'. This will be a ticketed event with mulled wine and mince pies to get us in the seasonal spirit.

For further details contact Chair Lynn Rawlings on 07307886902 or 01603 457888.

Follow us on our Facebook page Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club.

The RiNG (Rheumatoid in Norfolk Group) with Viv Hawes

What a summer! I know I have found it too hot at times whereas my husband loves it, so "one size fits all" is never a good thing, and the same thing is true of the subject of our August talk. The orthopaedic surgeon Keith Tucker gave us a fascinating insight into how the committee he sits on review all the replacement joints used in Britain and parts of Europe.

He explained how, at points in the past, such bad examples had been made that they required removal and revision of the procedure, having caused real harm in some instances. No surgeon wants to see his work undone so Keith and some colleagues set up a review body to set standards for the manufacture of prosthetic joints, everybody giving their time on a voluntary basis. I think we can all rest a little easier knowing our wellbeing is taken so seriously.

Professor Karl Gaffney speaks in September about Rheumatology and I think we are all going to have many questions for him.

The 25th October meeting is one a lot of people are looking forward to as Maria Pennington will be talking about Lalique, an interesting subject as anyone who watches the many antiques shows on TV will know.

Our talk on November 22nd will be by an occupational therapist who will no doubt have many tips and advice on looking after ourselves in the best way.

If you feel like joining us, we meet at Hethersett Village Hall at 2 pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Entry is £4 and includes tea/coffee and home made cakes etc.

For additional information please contact me on 01603811347 or by email at viv.hawes@talktalk.net

Community Post Office

It will be a year on October 24th since Hethersett Post Office was taken over by the Hethersett Hearts Community Group.

The post office has been a roaring success and is now open six days a week in Hethersett Library. We will have more on its first year in the November edition of Hethersett Herald.

In the meantime the post office is looking out for more volunteers and current volunteer Don Williamson posted an enticement on social media.

"All our Volunteers can enjoy a nice cup of tea when they do a two hour shift helping out at our Community Post Office," he said. If you would like to help just pop into the post office during opening hours. Don posted a photograph of a cup of tea with his comment just in case people were unsure what one looked like!



Groups and Societies

Forget Me Not Café

Michael Delph entertained at the Forget-Me-Not Café on September 19th with his reminiscences of growing up in Hethersett with humorous anecdotes of his memories of the village's past. Accomplished musician, Michael also performed a number of musical items, accompanying himself on the guitar.

The previous meeting enjoyed a morning of old fashioned games including a card game that was popular in the 1960s and which just happens to be the national card game of Nigeria.

WHOT is a simpler version of the very popular Uno game. Members enjoyed refreshments. The programme up until Christmas is printed above.

The café is under the auspices of Hethersett Dementia Support Group and everyone is welcome irrespective of whether they are living with dementia or not. The café meets in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 10 am and enjoys a mixtures of games, talks, presentations and much more.

Anyone needing more information can contact Anne Steward on 01603 811052.

Oct 3rd	Bingo
Oct 17th	Taverham Choir
Oct 24th	Hethersett Hall
Nov 7th	AGM/Time For A Chat
Nov 21st	Christmas Crafts with Georgette Vale
Nov 28th	Hethersett Hall
Dec 5th	Carols with the Methodist Singers
Dec 19th	Christmas Traditions with Angela Bishop



Hethersett Woman's Institute with Margot Markham

During the summer we have few formal meetings and many coffee mornings and tea parties. In August most members piled into my garden for tea .

There were even two intrepid men. The ladies came in their pretty " frocks " and they obviously didn't represent a labour force or more casual help " volunteers" as they are called.

There was lots of chatter and laughs. The sun shone and they left before supper time. Perhaps next time they will come with a trowel and their marigolds! It didn't mattera really good time was had by all.

Groups and Societies

Music and Tea Afternoon

OVER 50 people enjoyed a music and tea afternoon in Hethersett Methodist Church on 15th September.

Songs and readings accompanied by instrumentalists on the theme of "Praise for the Harvest" were presented by the church's Singing Fellowship led by Leonie Pritchard.

Prayers and thanks were offered by the Rev. Steve Cullis who has just returned to the church after a three month sabbatical spent touring England's coastal paths and areas of Australia.

Tea was served after the musical entertainment. The next music and tea afternoon will have a Christmas theme and will be held on 8th December.



Friends of Hethersett Library

The Friends of Hethersett Library enjoyed a highly informative talk by Paddy Anstey about the Mid Norfolk Railway.

Paddy looked at the railway from the past, the present and the future, from the days when it carried passengers from Wymondham all the way to Wells Next The Sea to its present form as a heritage railway running from Wymondham to Dereham.

He also gave an overview of Norfolk Railways including the day that the Beeching cuts hit home, although he was quick to point out that the Mid Norfolk Railway wasn't technically a victim of the cuts with Beeching giving Norfolk County Council the opportunity to finance the line—an opportunity it turned down.

His talk was extremely well received and Paddy has already been asked back for a second talk on railways in April 2024..

The group is organising a quiz in Hethersett Village Hall on October 28th. Entry will be £5 per person with tables a maximum of eight. To book a table please contact Angela Farrington on 07564 982236. The quiz will once again be compiled by Mike Anderson and Roger Morgan. Please bring your own food and drink.

The Friends will also be hosting a children's party in the new pavilion on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field on December 2nd from 2 to 4 pm and we will have more details of this in the next edition of Hethersett Herald.



Friends of Hethersett Library

Kindly supported by
Tesco Express Hethersett

The Friends of Hethersett Library present

A Fun Quiz

Saturday 28th October

at 7pm for 7.30pm in Hethersett Village Hall

Join us for a devilish fun quiz organised by quizmasters supreme Mike Anderson and Roger Morgan in Hethersett Village Hall

**Tickets £5 per person—tables of up to eight.
To book a table ring Angela on 07564 982236**

For more information, speak to staff or email us at hethersett.lib@libraries.norfolk.gov.uk

Vandalism Hits Community Garden

JUST before going to publication with this edition of Hethersett Herald we heard about a spate of vandalism to the community garden at the back of Hethersett Village Hall in Back Lane.

The garden has been lovingly put together by an army of volunteers but has now been subjected to wanton vandalism as was explained on the Hethersett Parish Council's Facebook site.



“The Community Back Garden at the Village Hall field, Back Lane, has been subjected to acts of vandalism over the last two weeks. Last night at around 9.30 pm (26th September) there were youths seen in the garden and this morning we found an attempted fire, broken plants/canes.

“Last week there was more damage, with outdoor furniture pushed over, bricks thrown and more plants damaged. We have reported this to the police and they will be making regular checks in the evenings.

“Please report any relevant activity to the Police on 101. This is a community garden built and run by volunteers with funding raised by the group.”

One supporter described the vandalism as “disgusting” and another described it as a sad event bearing in mind all the hard work put in by so many people.”

Hethersett Herald What's On and Opening Hours

Upcoming Events at Hethersett Social Club:

Friday October 13th—Bullseye Themed Night—Darts and quiz for teams of two from 8 pm in the hall.

Friday October 20th—Quiz Night—Registration from 7.30 pm. £10 per team (maximum of six).

Saturday October 28th—Hallowe'en Party from 7 pm.

Hethersett Community Post Office—Opening Hours

Opening hours for Hethersett Community Post Office in Hethersett Library are as follows:

Monday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Tuesday: 9.30 am until 5.30 pm

Wednesday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Thursday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Friday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Saturday: 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Sunday—Closed

Library users with Open Access will be able to get into the building using their library cards. Those without Open access wishing to use the post office will need to ring the doorbell and will be admitted by one of the post office volunteers.

The Post Office is closed for lunch between 1 pm and 1.30 pm.

At your Library

in Hethersett



Knit, Stitch and Natter - Mondays, 2 - 4 pm

Baby Bounce and Rhyme - Mondays, 2 - 2:30 pm

Stay, Chat and Play - Mondays, 2:30 - 3:00 pm

Colour Me Calm - Wednesdays, 11 am - 12 pm

Just a Cuppa - Wednesdays, 11 am - 12 pm

Board Games for Families - Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Board Games for Adults - Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Autism Café - 1st Friday of the month, 5 - 6 pm, drop in event so no need to book

LEGO Club - Saturdays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Community Puzzle - Every day, come and help us complete the jigsaw!

Tricky Period - Free sanitary products in grab and go bags, available to anyone in need

See staff for more details, visit
www.library.norfolk.gov.uk, or call 0344 800 8020

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 **Norfolk** County Council

Hethersett Herald What's On

The following are just some of the regular events taking place in Hethersett. If you have an event you would like to see featured in Hethersett Herald, please send details including its date, time and venue to the following email address: petersteward@sky.com.

You can also visit Hethersett Parish Council's community directory on its website.

Hethersett Croquet Club meets on the Memorial Playing Field from 2.30 pm on Wednesday and Saturdays during the summer. During the winter the group play indoor games in Hethersett Queen's Head.

Hethersett Methodist Church Art and Craft Group meets in the Methodist Church Hall from 10 am on Wednesdays. Further details available from Tina Greenhalgh on 01603 810364.

Hethersett Methodist Church now offers Wednesday morning coffee from 10 am.

First Steps pre-school Group meets in Hethersett Village Hall. See poster in this edition.

Hethersett Forget Me Not Group's (formerly Hethersett Dementia Support Group) monthly cafés take place in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall from 10 am every first and third Tuesday. There is a social morning meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from 10 until 11.30 am. A more structured meeting then takes place on the third Tuesday from 10 am until midday.

Hethersett Short Mat Bowls Club plays each week in Hethersett Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons. The club opens at 2.15 pm for a 2.30 pm start and finish around 4.30 pm with a tea and biscuit break also included.

Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Bowls Club meets on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2 pm from April.

If you would like your event featured in Hethersett Herald just send an e-mail to the editor with details.



St Remigius Church Baby and Toddler Group

Our Baby and Toddler Group is held on the first Tuesday of the month 10-00 – 12.00 in St Remigius Church.

A friendly and fun time for everyone with babies and toddlers. We look forward to welcoming you at our next session on TUESDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2023.

**Future Dates:
7th November 2023
5th December 2023**

For more information tel: Pauline 01603 812610

Wartime Records Seeking A Home

GREAT Melton Parish Council is looking for a home for some very important research.

For some considerable time the Great Melton History Group has been collating the service records of residents who served in the First World War.

Council Chairman Bruce Fleming said:

“The dedicated work of the Great Melton History Group and its collation of the service records of those Great Melton residents who had served in World War One, was acknowledged at the latest parish meeting.

“Discussion centred on the appropriate repository for such material and other artefacts of historical interest and importance in the life of Great Melton.”

The meeting agreed that the chairman should seek guidance from the Norfolk Record Office and liaise with the members of the History Group.

Hethersett Herald What's On

Open Library

Extending opening hours at your library

Open Library gives you access to the library when the building is unstaffed, making your library available at times that are more convenient for you.

Library Available*

Monday	8am – 7pm
Tuesday	8am – 7pm
Wednesday	8am – 7pm
Thursday	8am – 7pm
Friday	8am – 7pm
Saturday	8am – 4pm
Sunday	10am – 4pm

Staffed Hours

Monday	1.30pm – 7pm
Tuesday	Unstaffed
Wednesday	11am – 7pm
Thursday	1.30pm – 7pm
Friday	1.30pm – 7pm
Saturday	11am – 4pm
Sunday	Unstaffed

*During times when the library is available but not staffed, you can access the library using our Open Libraries system. Please visit www.library.norfolk.gov.uk or call 01603 774777 for more information

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Methodist Church dates for your diary include the following.

The Art and Craft Group meets every Wednesday at 10 am. Please contact Tina Greenhalgh for information on 01603 810364.

The **Wednesday Coffee Stop** is open every Wednesday from 9 am until noon. Fresh coffee will be served. Please come and enjoy with a group of friends.

Men's Mardle meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

Hethersett Herald What's On



A Man Called Otto (15)

Sunday 1st October, 3pm

Based on the international bestseller, Tom Hanks stars as grieving widower Otto who discovers that maybe there are still things worth living for.



The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry (12A)

Sunday 5th November, 3pm

Jim Broadbent stars as a retiree who impulsively decides to walk across the country to visit his terminally ill friend.



The Fabelmans (12)

Sunday 3rd December, 3pm

Acclaimed director Steven Spielberg dramatises his own childhood in this beautifully realised paean to his youth.



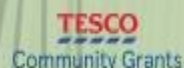
HETHERSETT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM



Bringing back the buzz!

Community litter pick dates

- Saturday 14th October, 2pm -
Hethersett Village Hall



hethersettcommunityprojects@gmail.com

Hethersett Pantomime Group

Presents

JACK

&
The

BEANSTALK

January
20th-27th
2024

at
Hethersett
Village Hall



Tickets £8.50

Proudly supporting local
charities, groups & good causes

For Tickets Visit www.hethersettboxoffice.org.uk

www.hethersettpantomime.org.uk

Matinees: 20th & 27th at 2pm
Evenings: 20th, 23rd - 27th at 7:30pm
Sunday 21st Performances 11am & 3pm

Wymondham Helicopter Group presents the following Charity Shows in Aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance Charity at Wymondham Central Hall



Wymondham Helicopter Group
presents
Charity Show

HEY BEATLES

The Wymondham Central Hall
Sunday 14th May 2023
Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm - Tickets £18
Norman & Helen - 01953 600563
George Reeve Book Shop Market Street Wymondham
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-helicopter-group

**Dates for
your Diary:**

**Hey Beatles
14th May**

**Freddie &
Queen
8th July**



**THE FREDDIE & QUEEN
EXPERIENCE**

FEATURING
60 SONGS
40 FRENCH WORKS

UK'S PREMIER TRIBUTE

The Wymondham Central Hall - Wymondham Central Hall
Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm - Tickets £18
Norman & Helen - 01953 600563
George Reeve Book Shop Market Street Wymondham
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-helicopter-group



Wymondham Helicopter Group
presents
'An Evening of The Four Seasons'
A Tribute to The Four Seasons

The Wymondham Central Hall
Saturday 16th Sept 2023
Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm - Tickets £18
Norman & Helen - 01953 600563
George Reeve Book Shop Market Street Wymondham
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-helicopter-group

**Evening of
Four
Seasons
16th Sept**

**ABBA - Kiss
the Teacher
11th Nov**



Wymondham Helicopter Group
presents

Kiss the Teacher

FOUR GREAT ABBA TRIBUTE SHOWS

The Wymondham Central Hall
Saturday 11th Nov 2023
Doors 7pm Show 7.30pm
Tickets £18
Norman & Helen - 01953 600563
George Reeve Book Shop Market Street Wymondham
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-helicopter-group

**Tickets: Norman & Helen - 01953 600563
George Reeve Book Shop Market Street
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-helicopter-group**

Tickets for the above concerts are also available from Hetherestt Butchers.

Hethersett Herald What's On

Hethersett WI Meetings Coming Dates

Monday, 16th OCTOBER, 2023

The Yellow Caravan
Juliet Webster
Table Flowers: Susan Turk
Raffle

Monday, 20th NOVEMBER, 2023

Murder Mystery
Julie Porter
Toys & Tins Appeal
Table Flowers: Karen West
Raffle

Monday, 18th DECEMBER, 2023

Social evening with fun and games
Table Flowers: Margot Markham
Raffle

Monday, 15th JANUARY, 2024

Norfolk Fringe Project: Managing our
natural heritage and green spaces
Matt Davies
Table Flowers: Eileen Chapman
Raffle

Monday, 19th FEBRUARY, 2024
ANNUAL MEETING
Craft and Nature – Creating Together
Debbie Perriss & Katie Kaydn-Slater
Table Flowers: Jenny Hallett
Raffle

Monday, 18th MARCH, 2024
Hands-on Craft Making Evening
Christine Dale and Friends
Table Flowers: Lesley Chamberlin
Raffle



MacMillan Coffee Mornings

On **Saturday 30th September**, Hethersett Methodist Church will be holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning from 9.30 am until midday. The church will be open for coffee/tea and cake and there will also be fun activities for all ages. This event will raise funds to help people living with cancer.

A MacMillan Coffee Morning held at Woodcote Sheltered Housing Complex in Firs Road in September raised £400. We will have more on this in the next edition.

Hethersett Herald What's On



www.hethersett-yc.co.uk

Back Lane, Hethersett
NR9 3JJ

Youth Club

During term time

Wednesday 5:45 - 7:15
(School Years 5 & 6)

Friday 7:00 - 8:30 (Year 7+)

£2 per session (Tuck is also available for a small amount on the night)

 @Hethersett Jubilee Youth Centre

Made with PosterMyWall.com

YOU can read more about Hethersett along with Little and Great Melton in our sister publication Good News which can be delivered to your door at the end of each month.

The magazine has been in existence for over 150 years and includes news and coming services for the three Church of England churches in the Benifice—St Remigius at Hethersett, All Saints at Little Melton and All Saints at Great Melton. There is also news from Hethersett Methodist Church.

Good News also includes adverts for local businesses and trades people. Each edition costs just 50p and an annual subscription is just £4 for 12 issues. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact Kim Arnall on 01953 308309.



The Last Lords of The Manor of Hethersett

Historian Lewis Buckingham concludes his piece on the Lords of Hethersett by bringing us right up to date.

The ATKYNS Family Dynasty

1742-1750—Edward ATKYNS

From a wealthy family in Gloucestershire. He numbered among his forebears a Baron of the Exchequer, innumerable lawyers and merchants and one inveterate spendthrift.

Edward made his money as a Hamburg Merchant. He purchased the Manor of Ketteringham in 1717 and that of Hethersett in 1742.

Edward died in 1750.

1750-1765—Edward ATKYNS Esq

Inherited from his Great Uncle Edward, who died without issue.

Edward seems to have been quite gifted at inheriting things, and by the time of his death, the properties from many branches of the family had all consolidated themselves with him.

When he passed away in 1765 his children were still very young.

1765-1794—Edward ATKYNS Esq

Edward inherited aged eight years old.

Once he came of age, he found that where his father was a great inheritor, Edward Jnr had taken after Richard ATKYNS, one of his 17th Century forebears - he was great at spending money. As soon as he was of age he took charge of his own affairs and did what many 21 year olds with a lot of money in their pockets do - spent it on night life in the big city.

Aged 22, he became captivated by an actress named Charlotte Walpole on the stage at Drury Lane in London. He bought box seats night after night, before ruining her stage career by promptly marrying her.

They moved to his Ketteringham estate for the country life, but soon found that the local gentry were a bit sniffy about actresses - especially one who had dressed up as a man in one of her plays.

Reading the room, they found new friends in Versailles, and soon Charlotte was quite close with Queen Marie Antoinette herself. Perhaps the ardour of their impulsive marriage waned, or perhaps he felt intimidated by her far more skilled profligate ways. Soon enough Charlotte was listed independently as Milady Charlotte, and Edward had fathered an illegitimate son in Lille.



Charlotte ATKYNS, dressed as a soldier in "The Camp"

After the French Revolution, Charlotte became embroiled in plots to free the Queen. On one occasion it is said she met with her in prison and pleaded with the Queen to exchange clothes with her so as to escape. Marie refused to leave without her son. After the Queen's execution, Charlotte schemed to free the Dauphin of France. It is said she managed to procure the escape of a child, believing it to be the Dauphin, but instead it was a mute boy the jailor had used to trick her.

Amidst the trouble of the revolution, Charlotte returned to England with their son Wright Edward ATKYNS, the new Lord of the Manor.

1794-1804—Wright Edward ATKYNS

Wright inherited aged 14 upon his father's death.

His mother Charlotte, however, was his Guardian, and she mortgaged Ketteringham Manor in order to raise money to support various schemes to save the Dauphin.

Wright had little direct connection to Hethersett's affairs. His mother looked after the estate and, when he was able, he joined the Army. As a member of the Dragoons First Regiment, he spent little time at home as he rose to

the rank of Captain. During Wright's time in the unit, they were restricted to England.

Wright was a sickly boy and was sent home to recover from an illness in 1804, to which he succumbed two months later.

1804-1821—Charlotte Atkins

Wright had willed all his belongings to his mother, "in trust" that she would see them rightfully distributed back into the Atkyns family. This would cause some legal wrangles later on.

While lady of more than one manor in Norfolk, Charlotte's heart was in France. Her debts mounted as she focussed her efforts on a Restoration of the Monarchy. It's thought now that most of the schemes she became involved in were in fact concocted by swindlers intent on making a quick buck.

When the Bourbons returned to power for a brief period in 1814 (before Napoleon's return and Waterloo) she made a request for reimbursement of £30,000 spent. The funds were not forthcoming and she found herself increasingly unable to assuage her creditors.

Eventually as you will see below, she gave away the Manor to her sister-in-law.

1821-1824—Thomas Trench Berney and Elizabeth Berney, Widow

By 1821 Charlotte was in considerable debt. Finding it near impossible to keep up with payments on the Mortgage for the Manor of Ketteringham, she was forced to put up Hethersett Manor as a surety for payment. And so she mortgaged it to the Berneys, whereupon it effectively became theirs (barring a few law suits from Atkyns family relatives).

Elizabeth Berney was Thomas's mother, and was Lord of Bracon Ash Hall until her death, when Thomas took over. Thomas was High Sheriff of Norwich in 1813.

1824-1824 -Mary Atkins

In 1824 Charlotte gave the heavily encumbered Manor of Hethersett (alongside that of Ketteringham) to her sister-in-law Mary Atkyns in exchange for an annuity. Mary then paid off the mortgage and regained the manor for the family.

Charlotte then left for France and is said to have been buried in a pauper's grave there in 1836, although others say her body was returned to Ketteringham.

Mary seems to have been spurred to her purchase of the manors by the impending marriage of her daughter Harriet to Nathaniel William Peach, and she immediately settled both Manors on them for their marriage. Harriet was an Atkyns, as her mother Mary had married her own cousin John Atkyns.

1824-1835—Nathaniel William Peach

Unfortunately Harriet died within a year of her marriage, and the Manors remained with Nathaniel.

Peach was from a leading clothier family from Bath. Harriet had been his second wife and he had three children from his previous marriage. He based himself in Dorset, and was returned as a Member of Parliament there between 1829 and 1832. In 1834 he ran for parliament in Norfolk by virtue of his Ketteringham Estate but was not successful. Nathaniel died in 1835.



Monument to Edward Atkyns (died 1794) and his son Wright Edward Atkyns (died 1804) in

1835-1837—William Nathaniel Peach

William was Nathaniel Peach's son by his first marriage. Unfortunately Harriet Atkyns died so soon after her marriage to Nathaniel, they had no children together.

Soon after inheriting Hethersett Manor (alongside those of Ketteringham and Barford), he put them up for auction. They sold on the 26th May 1837. And so Hethersett left the hands of the Atkyns family and their relations after almost 100 years of Lordship.

1837-1851 -James Cuddon Esq (the elder)

The Fourth son of a Suffolk Gentleman, James studied Law at Gray's Inn and built up his own firm as a solicitor in Norwich. He bought the Manor at Auction from Nathaniel's son in 1837, and died in 1851.

By the 19th Century, many Lords of the Manor were fairly hands off. Their Stewards looked after the business of the manor and forwarded the earnings on. Solicitors often took on this role, and James had been Deputy Steward of the manor under Nathaniel William Peach. By the 1840s Manor Courts as an event had all but ceased, and all transactions were being recorded and taking place in the office of James Cuddon Jnr in Norwich.

The accession of the Cuddons to the Lordship coincided with a sudden increase in the Enfranchisement of Manorial Lands. They held a bit of a fire sale whereby they sold off any rights they or future Lords of the Manor had to various properties in exchange for a bit of cash. To a suspicious mind, it almost looks like they were asset stripping the manor.

James Snr, as Lord, kept his fingers out of this. His two sons James Jnr and Francis Thomas acted as Stewards while he was Lord.

1851-1871—James Cuddon and Francis Thomas Cuddon

Both sons of James Cuddon, they had trained as solicitors at the Middle Temple.

They became co-owners of Hethersett Manor upon their father's death.

Initially working as conveyancers in Norwich, Francis moved to Hampshire, and in the 1860s James moved to London. Around this time James set himself up as a Barrister there, and it was perhaps the capital required for this - and the shift of their interests away from Norfolk - that led them to put the Manor up for Auction in 1871.

1871 - 1884—Rev John Bailey MA

Bought at auction 11th February 1871. John was the Vicar of Stoke Holy Cross in Norfolk, having previously been based in Norwich. His father had been a well respected manufacturer there. He studied at Oxford, and was involved with a charity for the Blind in Norwich, as well as the Norfolk and Norwich General Hospital.

John died in 1884 without marrying.

1884 - 1888—Elijah Crosier Bailey

Younger brother of John. He did not follow John into holy orders - perhaps given his name he felt he'd contributed enough.

Elijah didn't long outlive his brother. He was father to many children, and by his Will the Manors were sold in order to provide bequests for each of them.

1888 - 1920—William Henry Back

The Back family had been connected with Hethersett since the early 1800s. It was they who built Hethersett Hall. William was raised there, and trained as a solicitor.

He bought the Manors of Hethersett at auction on the 27th July 1888, while living in Eaton and running his own practice. By the turn of the century he was living at Hurn House in Hethersett, where he lived for the remainder of his life. He was the first resident Lord of the Manor since the Flowerdews - although the Atkyns had lived next door in Ketteringham.

1920 - 1968—Henry William Back

Henry was the eldest son of William, and was raised in Hethersett, eventually training to be a solicitor.



Francis Thomas Cuddon, Steward, and then co-Lord of the manor

He was mobilised as a Lieutenant in the Norfolk Regiment during the First World War, seeing service in France, Italy and Belgium. He ended the war at the rank of Major.

Henry's Mother was a member of the Browne family of Hill House, and by the time of his inheritance to the Lordship of Hethersett he lived there with his own family.

1925 - The Extinguishment of Manorial Tenure

1925 saw the effective end of Manors in England.

Copyhold tenure, the device whereby the Lord of the Manor technically owned your property, was extinguished. A bit like leasing to buy, you could pay a lump sum to finally own your property after the 1000 years or more of it being leased from the Lord of the Manor.

As an entity, the Manor of Hethersett Cromwells no longer really existed.

The Lordship still did - though it was more for bragging rights than for anything else.

By 1939 Henry no longer listed himself as a solicitor, but as a farmer. That was essentially what the Lord of the Manor had always been - but a lot fancier. The Lords of Richmond had allowed the Lords of Hethersett to farm or "ferme" the rents of the manor.

So after a journey of 870 years and 70 Lords, we have reached the last lingering embers of medieval Hethersett in the person of Henry William Back.

He died in 1968, and the following year 300 years of records for the manor were deposited at Norfolk Archives by the Back family.

Who is now the Lord of the Manor?

Henry has grandchildren still living, some of whom are still involved with Hethersett. Whether they are aware of it or not, one of them is now the Lord of the Manor of Hethersett, about the 72nd since Ulf son of Manni Swart, whose family arrived with King Canute.

Next time you pop by the Queen's Head, the Lord of the Manor just might be queuing ahead of you for their Sausage and Mash.



Major Henry William Back, effectively the last Lord of Hethersett Manor

A Brooding Presence

HETHERSETT resident, historian and Herald columnist John Head looks at a memorial to a Canadian soldier and the Second Battle of Ypres during the First World War. The date is 22nd April, 2015, and there is about to be a gas attack.

The Brooding Soldier Memorial (part 1)

The 'Canadian', as the memorial is locally called, stands at the Keerselare crossroads ('Vancouver Corner') of the Brugseweg and Zonnebekastraat in Saint-Julien. The

memorial is known as one of the most beautiful monuments of the front region.

The Canadian Soldier, with his head bowed and with arms reversed, appears to be thinking of the fate of his fallen comrades as he faces towards the place where a strange deadly cloud crept towards him in April 1915 during what was known as The Second Battle of Ypres.

A design competition organised by the Canadian Battlefields Memorials Commission in 1922 saw this moving memorial 'runner up' to that which was placed at Vimy Ridge.

The Second Battle of Ypres

The Second Battle of Ypres was fought between 22nd April and 25th April 1915 and comprised of a series of encounters classified as follows;

Battle of Gravenstafel: Thursday 22nd April – Friday 23rd April

Battle of St. Julien: Saturday 23rd April – 4th May

Battle of Frezenberg: 8th –13th May

Battle of Bellewaarde: 24th–25th May

It has been accepted that the Second Battle of Ypres saw the first major use of poison gas in warfare. However, shells containing chemical irritants had been used before this.

Article 23 of the 1907 Hague Convention, which Germany had been a signatory to, forbade the use of poisons or poisonous weapons.

The use, however, of such a weapon by Germany could provide a quick breakthrough on the 'Western Front'. Ypres was considered the best place for it to be activated as the Ypres Salient was the only significant part of Belgium yet to be occupied by Germany.

It was estimated that about 30,000 canisters of chlorine gas were brought up to the front as rumours began to circulate of a potential gas attack. Whilst the British and French did not take these rumours seriously enough to take



Vimy Ridge



defensive action the Canadians were fully aware of the possibilities from a French intelligence bulletin.

The First Gas Attack

On 22nd April 1915 at 1600 hours the Germans released more than 160 tonnes of the gas from the thousands of canisters arranged along German lines.

The Canadians 3rd Brigade were below the Pilckem Ridge with the French-Algerian troops manning the trenches to their left. They watched as a mysterious yellow-green cloud appeared; first over no man's land between the opposing armies and then drifting with the wind southward over the Allied lines.

The heaviest part of the gas cloud hit the Algerians with the chlorine burning their throats and causing their lungs to fill with foam and mucus, effectively drowning the men in their own fluids. They finally broke from their lines, many fleeing in panic which left a 6 km gap in the front lines on the Canadians left flank.

By 1900 hours the way to Ypres was open.

German forces moved from behind the drifting gas cloud toward the now-empty Algerian trenches. Canadian and British battalions, including soldiers suffering from the gas, moved to plug the gap. During hours of desperate fighting that day they managed to prevent the German forces from marching on towards Ypres.

The German objective was to take the Pilckem Ridge by the evening. In the morning they realised how close to Ypres they had been.

The Canadians around St Julien had reacted to the gas with determination even though the French panic had left their northern flank unprotected.

The Second Gas Attack

Canadian and British forces spent the next few days launching counterattacks and fighting a series of chaotic engagements to hold the lines outside Ypres



However, on 24th April 1915 at 0400 hours the Germans released a second gas cloud close to Keerselare which hit the Canadians head-on forcing them to withdraw to second-line positions (Keerselare is now the site of the Brooding Soldier Memorial).

None of the troops carried gas masks at this point in the war. Some Canadians fled and many sought refuge by lying face-down in the crevices of their trenches where the green, hazy gas cloud, heavier than air, found them and killed them.

Many others survived by holding urine-soaked cloths and handkerchiefs over their mouths and noses after being instructed to do so by medical officers who had identified the gas as chlorine. The next day the Germans made a determined effort to break through the lines. Whilst there were small gains, the line held firm.

The Canadians who stood and fought through the gas attack suffered less, especially those who stood above the parapet, as the gas was denser nearer the ground. The sufferers were the wounded lying on the ground and those who moved back with the cloud.

The Brooding Soldier Memorial (part II)

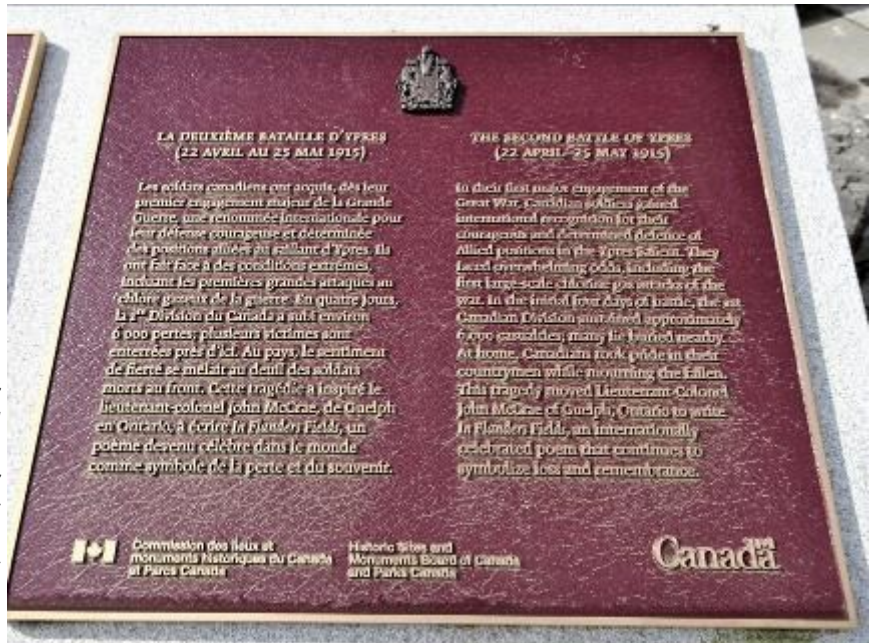
This column indicates the battlefield where 18.000 Canadians on the British left flank stood against the first German gas attacks of 22nd - 24th April 1915. Two thousand fell and are buried nearby.

The final words on the Second Battle of Ypres I have taken from an excellent Battlefield Guide written by Major Tonie and Valmai Holt of whom I have long been an admirer.

“In the World of ‘If’, the Germans might have taken Ypres and then the Channel ports: if they had not used gas just as a tactical distraction, but part of a major attack; if they had reserves ready to follow up the initial success; if the wind had been in the right direction early on 22 April, they would have seen how successful the gas had been and could have called up forces to exploit the break in the French lines.

“If they had used their secret weapon properly, say many, they could have won the war with it. The ‘after-the-event’ experts say the same thing about the British use of the tank on the Somme.

Perhaps the most relevant ‘if’ belongs to the Canadians, courtesy of Rudyard Kipling, because they kept their



heads when all about were losing theirs”

* * *

In July this year I visited Clitheroe Castle where, in the grounds of the castle, I found our own version of the Brooding Soldier as he faces Pendle Hill. I hope you find the photographs as moving as I did.

Photographs: All from the John Head Collection.



A very poignant photograph as a soldier looks into the distance

Business Opening Hours

This is a free service for businesses in Hethersett. If you would like your opening hours posted here please e-mail details to petersteward@sky.com

Kin Café at Rowan House in Queen's Road is open on Monday to Friday from 8 am until 4 pm, You can find the café as part of the Rowan House complex in Queen's Road.

Hethersett Butchers in Great Melton Road is open from 7.30 am until 5 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 7.30 am until 1 pm on Wednesday and from 7.30 am until 12.30 pm on Saturday.

Group Meeting Dates

Paint With Us Art Group—The Paint With Us Art Group meets in Hethersett Village Hall on Thursdays from 1.30 pm until 4 pm.



Come and Join Us
at the

Coffee Stop

9am to 12pm
Every Wednesday

Hethersett Methodist Church

Gt Melton Road, NR9 3AB

is offering

a **Gathering Space**

A space for all, as well as an opportunity for Ukrainians settling in the area, to meet each other.

a **Coffee**

(Tea and Squash is also available!)

a **Warm Welcome**

Hethersett Herald

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Information, reports and photographs are always welcome. These can be e-mailed to petersteward@sky.com. Everyone who works or contributes to Hethersett Herald does so on a voluntary and unpaid basis. We are happy to hear from anyone who would like to help us increase and improve our coverage of village life.

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Regular Columnists - Sarah Lawrence and John Head.

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Thank you to everyone that has contributed to this edition of Hethersett Herald. If you have enjoyed reading this e-magazine please pass on details to friends and relatives so that we can increase our readership.

To contact us e-mail petersteward@sky.com.