The End of An Era— In a Very Quiet Way

IT should have been a month of memories, but coronavirus put an end to celebrations as Woodside Primary and Nursery School said goodbye to its home in Firs Road.

It was just over 46 years ago that Woodside School was opened on January 11th, 1974, by the then Education Minister Margaret Thatcher, a fact that is marked by a plaque in the entrance to the school.

It was with mixed feelings that current staff said farewell to what has become an iconic and unique building whose future now seems uncertain.

Whilst there is sadness at the closing of the building, staff and pupils alike are looking forward to moving to their new home in a purpose-built school on the North Hethersett estate. Sadly Woodside has just outgrown its current building:

“If we could have built onto the existing building we would have, but we have outgrown it,” said Head Angela Jermy.

Sadly the coronavirus pandemic washed out any real celebrations to remember the iconic Firs Road building.

Lots were planned including inviting former teachers and staff back to say goodbye, but everything had to be put on hold. We hope that, in some small way, this edition of Hethersett Herald will act as a commemoration of the school building and its history. An 18 page special of school photographs, memories and much more starts on page nine.
A Message From The Editor

I don’t remember the opening of Hethersett Woodside School. No I can’t claim I was too young but I can claim it was before we moved to the village. In fact on January 11th, 1974, I was working on the Norwich Evening News (then known as the Eastern Evening News) and Hethersett was just a twinkling star in my future and not somewhere I had envisaged spending (probably) the rest of my life.

In fact, in those days, I remember Hethersett just for two things—a place along the A11 that had a rather picturesque pub and a place where the BBC Look East garden was situated. That pub must have been the King’s Head which sadly now seems to be in serious decline. Let’s hope that decline isn’t terminal. As for the garden. That was featured in a weekly slot. I have tried to find out exactly where it was situated and been told that Mill Road is the likeliest location. I would love to hear from anyone who can confirm its exact location—let’s just say it is to assuage my village curiosity.

But back to Woodside School. I clearly remember the 40th anniversary celebrations in 2014. Who would have thought that just six years after those celebrations the school building would become redundant and the school would be preparing to move to a new purpose built building on a new major housing development?

One of the things that strike you as soon as you walk through the doors of Woodside is its unusual shape with the classrooms leading off the central hall. This shape was mentioned by the then Education Minister Margaret Thatcher when she opened the building. I wonder what happened to her?

In this month’s major feature we look at the history of Woodside School with plenty of archive photographs. I am so pleased that, with this magazine, we now have a vehicle to record village events for posterity. I wonder whether people will be reading back copies of the Herald in 100 years time! I know I certainly won’t be editing it! Many thanks to the increasing number of people who are contributing to the success of this humble publication.

We have some rather offbeat features in this edition. I particularly like the one on the group of retired men proving that you are never too old to play the sport of cricket—even if running quick singles is no longer part of the agenda.

As lockdown restrictions continue to be relaxed we will see a gradual return to some form of normality. We look forward to serving the community long after lockdown has been consigned to the pages of history.

PETER
Helping on a Permanent Basis

A major village initiative introduced in Hethersett to help people during lockdown is set to become a permanent part of village life.

Hethersett Hearts was founded as a community group to support South Norfolk Council to help the elderly, vulnerable and those self-isolating during the pandemic. The group continued to evolve and it is now hoped to establish it as a permanent support group after the pandemic as an “integral part of the village.”

And the pledge from organisers is “Hethersett Hearts is here to stay and we want to help.”

The group will be looking to help families and individuals in the village and the local area who need help in their everyday lives.

This could include picking up shopping, posting mail, helping with chores, speaking on the telephone, putting weekly bins out, picking up prescriptions and urgent supplies and even providing contact details where people can get help on various worries and concerns.

The group is also looking for volunteers as it looks to expand. “If you are furloughed, retired or just wanting to lend a hand, we’re looking to expand our volunteer bank. There would be no obligation as we are looking for people who can help us as and when you can or have the time,” the group state.

Anyone interested in joining Hethersett Hearts or finding out more about the initiative can telephone 07716769124 or email hethersetthearts@outlook.com. The group also has a Facebook page.
Hethersett’s annual pantomime is the latest village event to fall foul of the pandemic.

The 2021 show has been cancelled—yet another victim of Covid19. The decision brings to an end an unbroken run of 51 pantos going back to 1971.

Hethersett Pantomime Group has vowed to come back with “a great show in 2022.”

Chairman of the pantomime committee Neville Greenhalgh said:

“It is with regret that I have to announce that next year’s proposed pantomime will not take place.

“The committee decided to leave it until the end of June to make a final decision but it is now clear that, as a result of the coronavirus, it would be impossible, following the guidelines, to rehearse safely or have our usual size cast. Also social distancing requirements are very likely to still be in place for theatre audiences meaning that our potential available size would make putting on a show untenable.

“We hope that everybody understands the situation and we are determined to put on a great show in 2022.”

Meanwhile the Hethersett Players Drama Group has beaten lockdown by producing an online episode of Flash Gordon with a script taken from an original radio show of the 1930s.

The actors performed their parts at home and collated all the individual clips into a final piece lasting 18 minutes.

“With the unfortunate news that we had to cancel this year’s first production, we couldn’t be beaten so we went virtual,” the Players said.

The group has just reformed after a hiatus lasting a number of years. Its scheduled VE Celebration evening including an episode of Dad’s Army scheduled for June had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus.

Hethersett Players’ virtual production of Flash Gordon can be viewed on its website at: https://hethersettplayers.co.uk/
Littering On The Increase

HETHERSETT has seen an increase in the amount of litter in the village since lockdown restrictions were relaxed. In a special report we look at steps being taken to re-start village litter picks and Associate Editor Roger Morgan reports on an increase in face masks and other PPE equipment being discarded around the village.

THE amount of litter in parts of Hethersett has doubled during the pandemic, it has been claimed.

The problems caused by littering in the village were highlighted at the July meeting of Hethersett Parish Council with the Memorial Playing Field and the open area around the village hall both seeing big increases.

There is also concern at the amount of litter being generated from nearby food takeaways which has also seen a large increase.

The parish council discussed whether the regular monthly litter picks arranged by the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) under the auspices of the council should re-start, but it was thought to be too early. The council supported the idea of individuals or small groups observing social distancing carrying out their own litter picks, however.

One of the HEAT litter pick organisers Geoff Dyett commented: “There seems to be more litter around since lockdown and we want to get our village as tidy as possible. With a lot of new houses and new families moving into the village there are more areas for HEAT to work on,” he said, adding that HEAT also had a programme of bulb planting. The council agreed to provide funding for tools to help with the planting programme.

After the meeting Geoff took to Facebook urging a return to personalised litter picks while lockdown restrictions continue to exist:

“I virtually attended the parish council meeting to discuss the possibility of re-starting the litter picks. Whilst there is no objection from the council, it should be understood that it would not be under the auspices of the council and as such any attendees would not be covered by the council’s insurance and it would also not be under the HEAT (Hethersett Environmental Action Team) banner.

“However, we can use the equipment and the litter bags but participants would need to bring their own gloves,” Geoff said adding that all equipment used would be fully sanitised and social distancing would be observed.

At the parish council meeting Geoff said there had been a substantial increase in
Councillor Mike Stark agreed that there had been an increase in the amount of litter since lockdown: “There has been a significant increase during lockdown. The amount of litter on the Memorial field has doubled,” he said.

The council agreed to contact McDonalds asking for help in cutting down on the amount of branded rubbish being left around the village. It was also suggested that larger bins could be placed on the Memorial Field and that the situation should be monitored.

Anyone interested in joining Geoff Dyett on an informal litter pick can contact him on: Geoffreydyet@gmail.com.

The New Normal?

*The discarding of face masks and PPE equipment could become the “new normal”*  
*fears Associate Editor Roger Morgan*

WITH the government’s decision to make the wearing of face masks compulsory in all shops and enclosed spaces from the 24th July, can we expect a new kind of rubbish to be littering our streets? These pictures of discarded masks and plastic gloves were taken in Hethersett just a few days after the latest ruling came into force.

The widespread wearing of face protection will hopefully help to prevent the spread of the Covid 19 virus, but careless disposal like this is surely the height of selfishness and ignorance. Leaving potentially infected material at the sides of the road like this is a risk to public health. This kind of irresponsible behaviour places an unnecessary burden on others to clear up the mess.

All kinds of littering are clearly antisocial, but this must be one of the worst kinds. I urge people to use face protection sensibly and dispose of it properly without risking the health of others. In these strange and difficult times, it is essential that we are a lot more considerate.
Warning Over Possible Dognapping

HETHERSETT residents are being warned to be on their guard following reports of attempted dognapping in the village.

A sign has been put up on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field asking people to be wary and on the lookout for a black Hyundai car.

In an unprecedented move, the sign warns dog owners to be wary of any contact from the occupants of this car after a resident was approached.

“A lady in Hethersett was approached by two white males in a black Hyundai. They said they liked her dogs and, fearful for her safety, she immediately contacted the police. Dognapping has become a problem in some areas. If you are approached, get into a nearby drive and ring the police,” the sign says.

Norfolk Constabulary has warned dog owners to be on the lookout for anything suspicious and it looks likely that dognapping could be a county-wide problem.

Chief Superintendent Dave Marshall told the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper: “We understand that dog thefts are an emotive crime and although in law our pets are classed as property, they are so much more than this: they’re an integral part of our families.”
“Reported thefts of dogs in Norfolk are low and we have investigated six thefts since May this year. However, we are aware that number is larger in other counties and the number of crimes is on the increase, which may suggest more organised crime than opportunistic theft. We take the thefts of pets seriously and an officer will always be allocated any of these crimes to investigate the incident. As a force, we have also invested in the micro-chip scanner technology that is located in all our patrol hubs. This equipment allows officers to scan a dog’s microchip to quickly establish its registered owner and helps to recover stolen or lost pets. “Like other types of crime, we ask dog owners to ensure their premises are secure and pets are supervised.”

- Anyone who has information relating to the theft of pets or is concerned after witnessing suspicious activity should call police on 101.

Theft of dogs is on the increase nationally and can be a very lucrative trade for criminals who either hold the owners to ransom or use the dogs to illegally breed. Thousands of dogs are stolen in the country each year, many being taken by organised gangs.
It’s Party Time Again

HETHERSETT is being to go out onto the streets and party once again in August.

Having celebrated VE (Victory in Europe Day) with street party in May, the village is being asked to “do it all again” to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VJ (Victory over Japan) Day on Saturday 15th August.

The day will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the official surrendered of the Japanese which effectively ended the Second World War. The Japanese fought on in the Second World War for three months after the German surrender but signed a peace treaty after the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August.

The British and Americans celebrate VJ Day on different days. In the UK the surrender is marked on 15th August which was the day of the initial announcement of the Japanese surrender. Americans mark the day on 2nd September when the surrender documents were signed on the USS Missouri battleship.

The idea of street parties observing social distancing rules is being fully supported by Hethersett Parish Council:

“Unfortunately due to Covid and social distancing regulations, it has not been possible to arrange a community event to mark the occasion but the Chairman and her fellow Councillors will be raising a glass at 3pm on the 15th August to remember the many unsung heroes of that time.

“The Parish Council would like to invite parishioners, from the safety of their front gardens, to join them in raising a glass and reciting the toast:

“To those who gave so much, we thank you”

“In May it was wonderful to see so many ‘social distancing’ street parties in the village. The Parish Council hopes that many parishioners will mark VJ Day 75 in a similar way and look forward to seeing the photographs in due course,” said Hethersett Parish Clerk Annette Palmer.

Will you be celebrating VJ Day with a street party in Hethersett? If so we would love to receive your photographs. They can be e-mailed to petersteward@lineone.net. We will include a selection in the September edition of Hethersett Herald.
Village Screen Set To Return

HETHERSETT Village screen is set for a September return.

A number of films were cancelled due to lockdown but the 2020/2021 series of films is now due to commence in September with films being announced for the remainder of the year.

The organisers say that screenings will be fully Covid-safety compliant and will follow Government Guidelines and the Village Hall risk assessment policy.

All films will be shown in Hethersett Village Hall at 3 pm with doors open from 2.30 pm.

The season will launch with the latest adaptation of Jane Austen’s “Emma” on 6th September.

This 2020 version of Jane Austen's beloved comedy about finding your equal and earning your happy ending sees the classic reimagined in a satire of social class and the pain of growing up. The film stars Anya Taylor-Joy, Johnny Flynn, Josh O'Connor, Callum Turner, Mia Goth, Miranda Hart and Bill Nighy.

On 4th October the feature will again delve into the classics with a new interpretation of the Charles Dickens classic David Copperfield. “The Personal History of David Copperfield” stars Dev Patel alongside Aneurin Barnard, Peter Capaldi, Morfydd Clark, Daisy May Cooper, Rosalind Eleazar, Hugh Laurie, Tilda Swinton, Ben Whishaw and Paul Whitehouse. It is described as a comedy drama.

Other films lined-up for the Autumn season are the war drama “1917” on 1st November and “Harriet” on 6th December. We will have more about these later films in coming editions of Hethersett Herald.
Mixed Feelings As Building Closes

(Continued from the front page)

Peter Steward reports on the final days of an iconic school building

GENERATIONS of children have been educated at Woodside School in its 46 year history.

Many would have liked to help celebrate the closure of the iconic building in Firs Road as it shut its doors as an educational establishment for the final time on 22nd July.

There was a sadness about seeing such a vibrant building filled with stacked up furniture and packing cases. There was obvious regret at the end of the building’s life as a school but understandable excitement about moving into a brand new two storey building when the new school year starts on September 7th.

Since lockdown, the Firs Road building has still provided education for up to 120 children, but this all came to an end on 17th July when the final group of youngsters wound their way home.

The main regret for staff, however, was not being able to invite former staff and pupils back to celebrate the closure of the building. The pandemic put an end to the planned festivities but the school will celebrate when it moves to its new site and when it is safe to do so.

It was a poignant time for Head Angela Jermy who has been teaching at the school since 2001 and who has been Head for more than six years. She admitted it will be hard to leave such an iconic building:

“It will be difficult to leave the building behind but we will make sure our new school is still Woodside. We will celebrate the old building and the new when it is safe to do so.
"It has been a very special building. A lot of staff members have been here for some considerable time," Mrs Jermy said.

Towards the end of term, some of the children helped with the packing process and this was carried on by staff. Much of the equipment will find its way to the new school, but some will be sold off.

Mrs Jermy is due to pick up the keys to the new building on the North Hethersett development on 5th August with all the equipment in place by 28th August ahead of children returning in September.

Work on the new Hethersett Woodside Primary and Nursery School began at the end of July 2019 as part of a multi million pound educational revolution in the village which will also see major development at the former Hethersett Junior School which has also been changed into a Primary.

Speaking in July at a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Woodside school, Mrs Jermy told the Eastern Daily Press newspaper:

"This is an incredibly exciting time for pupils, parents, staff and all our stakeholders and we are all looking forward to seeing this new school take shape over the next few months.

"We are all confident that, by working together, we can extend our current outstanding practice to key stage two and ensure that our children get the best possible start for their future development."

Over the page is a photograph of the current staff outside the Firs Road building taken on their penultimate day and also a photograph from Construction Company Morgan Sindall taken in July last year at the ground-breaking ceremony.
WOODSIDE First School began its life in 1972 and was officially opened on Friday, 11th January, 1974, by Margaret Thatcher, who at the time was secretary of state for education and whom of course went on to be one of the country’s best known and controversial prime ministers of the twentieth century.

The opening ceremony took place in front of many county dignitaries including the Dean of Norwich Cathedral (again underlining the strong Christian connections). The school’s stated aims were: “To provide an environment where children entering school for the first time can grow in confidence and competence.”

The school had an unusual look with the individual classrooms leading off from a central hall used by the children for assemblies and other functions. A nursery unit was subsequently added to the side of the main building.

The following is a description of the opening taken from the website www.margaretthatcher.org: “It is ten o’clock on Friday morning at Hethersett and Education Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher is formally opening the Woodside First School. She is bright and alert, relaxed and charming, faultlessly groomed and dressed with careful simplicity in a plain, short-sleeved dress with one small ornament on the shoulder.

During the rest of the day she will be visiting three other schools in mid-Norfolk, then driving across to King’s Lynn to see the technical college. Finally to a political dinner at Wisbech, before returning to Norwich to stay the night.

Saturday morning finds her, on the dot at 9.30, at Thorpe Grammar School. Then out to How Hill to see the county’s further education establishment. Finally back into Norwich to Wensum Lodge.

And throughout that time, a close observer would find her taking a real and lively interest in everything she sees, with time for a word with everyone, from tiny kids to prosey local worthies.

So what, you might say? All that should be in the line of duty for a Minister.
But before you reach that conclusion, it might be useful to add that on Thursday, the day before she came to Norfolk, Mrs. Thatcher had a morning Cabinet meeting in London. The afternoon and evening were spent in the House of Commons taking part in the crucial economy debate. She left the House at 10.30 p.m., drove to Liverpool Street Station—and arrived at Norwich at 1.36 a.m. Friday.

In other words, she had about five hours' sleep before her gruelling Friday diary began. And when an “E.D.P.” reporter managed to get a snatched five-minute interview with her before she left for London at lunchtime on Saturday, she was still as relaxed and fluent as if she were settled in a comfortable chair in her own drawing room with an hour to spare for a chat. On arriving back in London she had a quick dash to the shops to get in some provisions for the weekend. For Margaret Thatcher still runs her own London home with only a daily-help coming in a few mornings each week.

Just how do you do it? we asked. “It is a matter of having the right constitution,” she said in a matter-of-fact way which indicated that she herself didn't see anything particularly special in her demanding routine. “Happily I happen to have that constitution,” she adds with a grin.

And the family? “We always have breakfast together, no matter what. And no matter how late it is when I'm in London I see Denis Thatcher my husband and sons [sic] at the end of the day. I always see there is plenty of food in the fridge. So when I'm not around it is no hardship for them to help themselves.”

Fast forward 40 years from that day and an open day, plenty of dressing up and a special assembly were just some of the highlights as Hethersett Woodside Infant and Nursery School celebrated four decades. Past and current pupils, staff and governors all came together for the 40th birthday celebrations of the school. A display in the main hall looked back at changing times in fashion and education and visitors were able to browse minute books and many other items of memorabilia. Francis Dearnley was a pupil at the school from 1996 until 2000 and today is a history graduate and president of the Graduate Union at Homerton College, Cambridge. “I remember my time at Woodside vividly from the architecture of the building to the location of the trees outside. I had some very happy times and good memories of the school,” he said before posing for a photograph with four of the original dinner ladies, former Head Teacher Vivien Horobin and current head Nicola Cushion who is pictured above. The following day after the exhibitions, staff dressed up in their best seventies gear with flares being the order of the day. This was followed by a family 70s disco. The school has been given many photographs and documents from the past and will continue to work towards putting together a full archive of memorabilia in the years leading up to its 50th anniversary.
A Day To Remember

ONE of the 20th century’s most famous faces—Margaret Thatcher—officially opens Hethersett Woodside School in January 1974 and takes time to talk to pupils.

Fast forward to the 40th anniversary celebrations of the opening of Woodside School. Photographed with 1970s memorabilia are. Back row—original dinner ladies Monica Moore, Janet Frosdick, Brenda Grimes and Ruth Denmark. Front row—the then head Nicola Cushion, former pupil Francis Dearnley and former head Vivien Horobin. Sadly Vivien died earlier this year.
Two photographs of the class of Mrs Munford. The top one is from 1979 and the bottom from either the early or middle 1980s.
“When I was chair of the Woodside Friends, we managed to get the children's author Val Biro to visit the children at Woodside. He drove in his famous car called Gumdrop, about which his books are written. We still have a signed copy of one of his books. It must have been around 1989/1991, Matthew and Abi were still at Woodside but I think Leah had gone to Wymondham college by then. There may be some parents with better memory than me who may remember the occasion, Liz Hovey was on the committee. I remember that the children were really excited to see the car.” - Carole Morrison.

“We came to the village in 1975 and our two girls started at the school. I don't think the head was a Mrs Williams but can't remember at present the name. The Welfare Assistant was Mrs Finney who was very kind. She lived in Cann’s Lane but died a good while back. To finish.....part of Alan's brief as a County Building Surveyor was the care and maintenance of the Hethersett schools ( obviously including Woodside), police houses, fire service houses and the fire headquarters as well as a chunk of Norwich. He knew the Woodside headteacher well and she was always accommodating and kind.” - Barbara Holmes.

Over the years Woodside School has been featured in a number of stories written for our former village web site and also stories in the local Media. On the next pages we re-visit just a handful of these stories.

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**A Unique Shape**

IN 2014 Woodside School held the kind of celebration it was looking to replicate for the 2020 closure of the building. Pupils and former members of staff got together to exchange memories and there were displays to mark the Ruby Anniversary.

Then head teacher Nicola Cushion looked back on the day when such a high profile politician as Margaret Thatcher had taken a specific interest in the new Hethersett School and much of the reason was its unique shape as she explained at the time. This was also something Margaret Thatcher commented on.

“It was a very innovative school for the 1970s because it’s got 10 sides so the hall is in the centre and all the classrooms come off it,” Mrs Cushion said.
CHILDREN and parents from Hethersett Woodside First School joined head teacher Helen Lamb and chairman of Hethersett Parish Council George Beckford to plant a tree to help launch Anglia in Bloom 2007.

A 12-foot Whitebeam was planted in the school’s grounds and pupils from the school council also planted a number of perennials and shrubs around the tree. The symbolic planting coincided with similar events throughout East Anglia to help launch this year’s competition:

“Despite the cold this is the official first day of spring and the launch of Anglia in Bloom which saw us receive a silver award last year. This year we will be going for gold,” Mr Beckford said.

Over the past few months the school has been working closely with the Hethersett Environmental Action Group (HEAT) with volunteers helping to tidy-up the grounds as well as installing hedgehog boxes and making a variety of other improvements.

“HEAT and the Friends of the School group, along with scouts, brownies and guides, have been working very hard to improve the environment both at the school and in the village,” Mr Beckford added.

Mrs Lamb praised the efforts of HEAT: “It is very important for our school to be part of the community and involved in the excellent work that HEAT are doing both at the school and in the village,” she said.

The top photograph on the next page shows Chairman of the Parish Council in 2007 George Beckford with some of the children helping to plant a Whitebeam tree in the grounds of the school.

Below that is Mr Beckford with 2007 Head Helen Lamb.
Hethersett Woodside First School is top of the class after a stunning Ofsted report which ranked it as “outstanding” in 26 out of 27 categories and “good” in the 27th.

Staff and pupils are celebrating the achievement that puts them in the top 5% of schools nationally.

The school was praised throughout the report for its consistently high standards and outstanding achievement, with all pupils making very good progress whatever their starting point.

There is also praise for “outstanding teaching and an exceptionally rich curriculum contributing to pupils’ huge enjoyment of learning with learning being made very interesting.”

The children are singled out for special mention: “Pupils volunteer ideas and opinions with remarkable maturity. They have a strong sense of justice, their behaviour is impeccable and their understanding of mutual responsibility and healthy lifestyles is extraordinary for their age.”

Head teacher Helen Lamb’s leadership is described as “excellent and exceptionally skilled and supported highly effectively by other managers and governors with the governors keeping an exceptionally close check on the school’s work.”

The school received “outstanding” for every single overall category – overall effectiveness of the school, achievement and standards, personal development and well-being, quality of provision, curriculum and other activities, care, guidance and support and leadership and management.

“This is an outstanding achievement for our school and we are very proud. I’m very pleased that Ofsted recognised that we go the extra mile to support every single pupil. Our school aim is excellence and enjoyment and that is reflected 100% in the report.

“The success is a tribute to the hard work and excellence of strong teamwork with children, parents, staff and governors working together with superb results, it is truly a privilege to be part of it, “Mrs Lamb said adding that the school was also very proud of its close links with the local community.

The Ofsted inspectors have written to the children to thank them for their hard work.

“We enjoyed meeting you enormously. Thank you for being so kind, considerate and helpful. We know you rate your school highly and we agree with you and your parents; we think you go to an exceptionally good school,” they said.
Head teacher Helen Lamb became a celebrity for the day as Woodside Infant School held its annual summer fair.

Mrs Lamb retires at the end of the year after 11 years as Head and was invited to open the event.

“This is the best weather we have had in my 11 years of being Head and over that time the school has had wonderful support from family, friends and the community. The Friends of Woodside work extremely hard every year to raise funds to provide the children with special extras that the school would not otherwise be able to afford.

“The limited budgets that schools receive make their efforts and the support that parents generously give to the school increasingly important, especially so this year as they have raised funds to purchase a fabulous outdoor cover,” Mrs Lamb said.

The cover will be used as a shaded area for youngsters during the summer months and as an area to encourage outdoor learning in the winter. Mrs Lamb also mentioned a number of other facilities that money from the Friends group has supplied including a trim track and an outdoor pavilion.

Mrs Lamb said that her 11 years as Head had “flown by.” “I have been very happy at Woodside. I will miss the school and everybody very much,” she said.

The day featured a World Cup football theme with a parade of children and their football hats featuring everything from football pitches to player pictures. There were also songs from the youngsters and traditional maypole dancing and all the usual stalls and attractions, along with a grand draw.

UNDATED

Youngsters from Hethersett Woodside First School are helping to make Christmas a little sweeter for those without homes this year.

The children have been busy preparing and donating bags of sugar for the homeless. Before Christmas these will be sent to the Norwich-based Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal and used for baking and hot drinks for homeless shelters during the festive season.

Woodside Head Helen Lamb believes in teaching the children how to give as well as receive at Christmas:

“Christmas is a very special time for us all and we celebrate by giving gifts to the community as well as receiving.”

The school has also donated 74 shoe boxes containing presents for the
What Will Become of the Building?

THE future of the iconic Woodside building hangs in the balance with no definite plans for its use.

Hethersett’s Norfolk County Council representative David Bills confirmed that the county council’s children’s services are not interested in keeping the building and no other positive signs of interest have been received.

“If there is no interest it will be offered to the open market as per the old Fire headquarters on Old Norwich Road,” David said adding that Norfolk County Council would welcome any ideas for future use of the site.

We will have more photographs of Woodside from the archive in the September edition of Hethersett Herald and will have full coverage of the opening of the new building in September.

Christmas Child appeal. The boxes have been added to thousands being sent from Norwich to Novi Sad for distribution in Serbia and Montenegro at Christmas.

The children have been celebrating Christmas with their own concerts with Reception and Year One performing “It’s a Baby” and Years Two and Three performing “It Was on a Starry Night.” They have also enjoyed a special Christmas dinner, had a visit from Father Christmas, watched a performance by puppeteers funded by the Friends organisation and taken part in the annual Hethersett Schools’ Carol Service in St Remigius Church where children from Year Three provided a choir. Next Monday the youngsters will be visiting Woodcote Residential home to sing to the residents.

The school has turned a former shed in its grounds into a crib and stable for “Baby Jesus.” The all purpose shed has previously provided home for Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

The stable is particularly popular with children from the school’s reception class who can visit it in all weather thanks to a donation of wet day play suits by the Friends organisation.

“The introduction of wet suits is something we will be developing in the school. It lets the children go out in wet weather,” Mrs Lamb said.

On the following pages you can see photographs of some of the many school memories from the past four decades.

______________________________________________________________
Above pupils with road safety posters and below a photograph from the summer fete of 2008.
Summer fetes and Christmas Fayres
Christmas celebrations at Woodside
Shaping Up At Hethersett First

The first Head Teacher of the new school was a Mrs Pearce and she was in charge from the building of the school until about 1980 when she was succeeded by Marie Williams who lived in the building next to the school.

She was succeeded by Vivienne Horobin and then Helen Lamb, Nicola Cushion and the present head Angela Jermy.

Below is a cutting of an article on the school from 1980. This was sent to us by keen local historian, retired head teacher and parish councillor Stephen Slack.

You can read a transcript of the article on the next page.
Explaining the Shape

HERE is the wording of the article from the newspaper on the previous page. It is thought that the newspaper is probably the Norwich Mercury although the publication is referred to as The Journal which could be a touch confusing. If anyone can shed light on the publication we would love to hear from them.

A Hethersett school hall with classrooms and entrance foyer arranged round it, gives Hethersett Woodside First School an individual appearance and open plan atmosphere.

It is an unusual design but one conducive to the aims of the school as outlined by Head Teacher Marie Williams.

“We hope we have the sort of atmosphere in which children develop—a supporting and reassuring environment to expand their personality and develop their skills,” she said.

The most important aims are to develop social skills because this is the first going out into the world for them.

Developing their English language through reading and mathematics are also high priorities for this school, built seven years ago and which also has a pagoda shaped annexe to house the nursery group.

In all, 225 pupils from Hethersett attend the school which was a church school before re-organisation. It receives close support from parents who have recently helped to form a Friends of Woodside First School Association. Its first fundraising function, a fete, is at the school tomorrow.

At the moment the school is also receiving help from two students from Norwich High School Jemma Brooks and Emma Franklin. Who, as part of their community work, are assisting with classroom tasks such as listening to children read.

Mrs Williams has been head teacher since January, having moved from Horsford and has a staff of seven full time teachers and one part time.

One addition she would like to see is a covered link between the main building and the nursery block and the Friends fundraising may help towards this.
Suffering Burn Out During Lockdown

One of the primary areas that was affected by Lockdown was the church.

Writing in the July edition of the village Good News magazine, the Rector of Hethersett, the Rev Derek McClean (pictured opposite), spoke about people suffering “burn out” and exhaustion which may seem a little strange as residents were confined to their homes.

“There is no easy way to say this, but it needs to be faced. Lockdown has affected us all in very different ways. Perhaps one way that people don’t want to look at is the possibility of burn out. Sheer exhaustion. A huge pressured change was brought on us all. We all had to learn to do things differently. And change like that can cross from healthy change to unhealthy change subtly, but rapidly.

The Rector goes on to say that some of the changes have been positive such as video calls to members of an extended family and finding new ways to be with our own family.

Others have been more difficult – such as learning to work from home or working on the frontline:

“There will also have been the stresses and pressures of worrying about income, job security and not being able to be with family when we so desperately want to be there.”

“There is no panacea for this. Each person has had to face the joys and stresses of this time. And each will have reacted differently.”

Rev McClean then goes on to give some advice for avoiding burnout which he has taken from a book entitled “Zeal Without Burnout”. It advocates giving permissions along the following lines:

Give permission to trusted friends to point out that something may be wrong.

Giver permission to yourself to relax and enjoy family, friends and hobbies.

“It is much easier said than done, but it is admitted by all health professionals that we are hardwired for regular rest and relaxation. May a positive that comes out of these times be that we have learned these values again,” he added.

Throughout lockdown, Rev McClean has been streaming daily prayers on Facebook and putting weekly sermons on Anchor and Spotify under the name RevDMaC’s Sermons.

You can also listen to the sermons on the internet at https://anchor.fm/derek-mcclean.
Ketteringham Tip Closure Plans

Plans to replace the Ketteringham Recycling Centre which is used by many people from Hethersett and the surrounding area have been published.

Comments can now be left on the proposed new £1.9 million centre to the south or Norwich on an underused part of the Harford Park and Ride site which will replace the current site at Ketteringham.

Councillor Andy Grant, Norfolk County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, said: “I’m very grateful to everyone who took the time to let us know their thoughts on our plans earlier this year as this helped us to shape the scheme that we’re now seeking planning permission for. The £1.9m site is a significant and vital investment in making sure that we are providing a service fit for the future and that can meet the needs of a growing population.”

Feedback from consultation on initial designs, which ran from 17th February to 30th March this year, has helped shape the plans for the Norwich South site which will incorporate low-level bins meaning people will not have to climb steps to recycle their waste. The design incorporates plenty of parking for cars, bicycles and vehicles with trailers, and a one-way traffic system to smooth traffic flow and reduce queues. The planning application is open for feedback until 13th August.

Initial reaction to the plans from Hethersett residents seems to be positive. We left a message on the All Things Hethersett Facebook page asking for comments and many welcomed the idea of a new and improved site with no steps up to the bins and didn’t seem concerned about the additional travelling distance. Below are a few of the comments received:

“Ketteringham Lane has been totally destroyed by traffic over the last 20 years, a lot of that traffic using the dump. Many Wymondham folk don’t like using their own tip (the staff are fantastic but the location is diabolical) so they also use Ketteringham and, since the Station Lane junction was closed, their
options are the old A11 or High Ash and all through the centre of the village.”
These thoughts were backed up by another Ketteringham resident who hoped that the shutting of the site would help stop speeding through the village.

Another respondent said she would use the Harford tip on her way to having her car cleaned at a car wash on Ipswich Road.

A Hethersett resident welcomed a new centre with no steps: “I think it would be an improvement. I find the steps to the bins are very difficult with heavy things in your hands, so low level bins would be great.”

“Modern designs for recycling centres are very user friendly so let's hope the new centre is built and open as soon as possible,” was another comment.

Another resident said:
“I think it’s a great idea, no more dragging things up steps to the bins! I have always found the staff at Ketteringham very helpful though! It’s on the way to Tesco, B and Q, Homebase etc so could be incorporated into other needs.”

Another resident felt that the county council should be addressing the problem of an underused park and ride at Harford rather than considering putting a new recycling unit there.

Only one response spoke of Ketteringham being more convenient for Hethersett people.
South Norfolk COMMUNITY AWARDS 2020

Say thank you to local volunteers in your community

Nominate a shining star for a South Norfolk Community Award and they could be in with a chance to receive £250 for a charity or community group of their choice.

Award categories are:
- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Lifetime Community Hero
- Community Wellbeing Champion or Group of the Year
- Community Fundraiser of the Year
- Environmental Champion of the Year
- Business Community Champion of the Year

Nominate by 4 September by visiting: south-norfolk.gov.uk/champions or call: 01508 533945

Saffron Housing Trust

South Norfolk COUNCIL
Gunshots Heard in Hethersett

Was it a serial killer on the loose or a re-enactment of the Gunfight at the OK Corral?

Local people could be forgiven for thinking that there was a major shoot-out in Hethersett when a series of shots were heard in the village at the end of June.

The answer was something much simpler, however. Norfolk Police were using its new facility on the former Old Hall School site for training involving the use of firearms.

A number of residents took to social media concerned at “hearing gunshots.” Norfolk Police were quick to respond to reassure everyone.

“We have had calls into our control room today from concerned residents in Hethersett around noise issues. We can confirm that officers were at Hethersett Old Hall site for a training exercise today and we apologise for any noise/disruption this might have caused,” they said.

Hethersett In Bloom Update

Jill Williams updates us on Hethersett in Bloom

“WHEN the lockdown started and the Anglia in Bloom competition was cancelled for the year, we had made a start by weeding the shady area we had been allocated in the Woodcote Sheltered Housing grounds.

We had 130 plants in pots ready to plant up underneath two birch trees. On news of the lockdown, we returned the plants back into garden soil to prevent them deteriorating. They all squeezed into my garden and I have been looking after them since.

“It has been frustrating, of course, but has given us a chance to get to know the plants really well and to bulk them up by taking cuttings, splitting bigger plants and potting up seedlings. We have also been successful in our fundraising efforts. Starting with an initial £300 from a ‘Go for it’ grant we have secured an additional £500 from the fund allocated by the three district councillors, called members' ward funding.

We are very grateful for this and it will give us a real chance of success. During the lockdown many people new to gardening have been growing their own vegetables, potting up planters and window boxes and have discovered how much they enjoy the fresh air and the pleasures of gardening. If you would like to continue this exploration into plants and planting, why not email us on hethersettinbloom@gmail.com? We'd love to hear from you.
HETHERSETT’S gradual move out of lockdown continues with news that there will be a garage sale in the village in August.

The event is being organised by Clare Sayer and her six year old (soon to be seven) daughter Isabelle with proceeds going to Cancer Research UK.

Clare explained the motivation behind the idea.

“In January my daughter Isabelle asked how we could raise money for charity following the recent loss of a relative.

“In May, myself and my daughter were due to take part in the Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research. Due to the pandemic, this was cancelled. We wanted to do something to raise money for an amazing cause as Cancer has affected our friends and family. Covid-19 has left Cancer Research facing one of the biggest challenges in its 108-year history. They expect to see a 30% drop in fundraising income this year and the impact on research could be devastating.

“I am aware that in previous years there has been a garage and car boot set up in the village. I have some bits I would like to sell,” she said.

So Clare and Isabelle hit upon the idea of exchanging running shoes for tables and holding a sale with the aim of raising £200. Over £100 has already been raised via the Just Giving page and pitches booked.

Isabelle would like the event to raise thousands of pounds but Mum Clare is slightly more realistic about that.

Clare’s idea immediately gained support on social media and a date of Saturday 22nd August has been set from 9 am until 1 pm. Details of houses taking part will be available on social media from the beginning of August.
The cost per pitch will be £5 and the money will be donated to Cancer Research. Social distancing rules will be in place.

Clare can be contacted via e-mail at clare.sayer1988@gmail.com. She has also set-up a Just Giving page. Just search for Clare’s Hethersett Garage Sale.

Meanwhile mum and daughter are already in training for next year’s Run For Life event when they are hoping to run the five kilometres and raise even more money for such a good cause.

They still have their race numbers from this year as an incentive and have also been taking part in the couch to 5k training programme.

King’s Head Update

WITH news that Norfolk Table have pulled out of taking over the King’s Head we asked owners Ei Partnership what the latest position is in light of the appearance at the end of June of decorators.

They have assured us that they are still looking for new tenants and are hopeful that the pub will open again. Below is their statement:

“We are currently in discussions with a new publican about potentially reopening the King’s Head, Hethersett, and hope to be able to announce something soon. We’d like to reassure you that we are committed to operating a great pub in the heart of the local community.”

Our understanding is that a number of potential buyers are currently considering taking on the venue. We will keep you up to date on this story in coming editions of Hethersett Herald.
IN the July edition of Hethersett Herald we posed the question What Do You Miss During Lockdown? This month we thought we would ask the opposite question: “What have you enjoyed about Lockdown?”

Below are just some of the responses received, showing that some people have enjoyed having extra time on their hands.

“Spending time with my husband and going on long walks to different places.”

“My three year old has been off nursery which has meant I have had quality time with her and she’s had quality time with her baby brother before starting school in September.”

“Not having to clock watch. Time to go to work. Time to go home. Time for bed to get up for work.”

“We’ve both been lucky enough to work from home during lockdown so no fuel bill!”

“It’s meant I have used the local butchers for meat and enjoyed a big fat juicy steak on a Saturday night.”

“Seeing plants grow and develop in my garden. My veg patch has never been tended so much as it is now. Putting some surplus plants out for people to take and thinking of the fun people will get out of growing them on. Especially the young children in our community. Less traffic thundering past our house. although its up to high levels again now. And reading Peter Steward’s Blogs!”

“Being with my family; playing games, craft activities. All without time pressure.”

“Quality time with my husband with no pulls on our lives.”

“Seeing our Community pull together to help people that are struggling, or just for moral support.”

“Not having to commute.”
“Restoring a sense of community, which begins at our front door and over the garden fence.”

Virus Restrictions Relaxed

Virus restrictions have been relaxed in the village as more and more outlets open their doors. But from July 24th it has been made compulsory to wear masks or face coverings in shops with the threat of a £100 fine for people not complying unless they are exempt for medical reasons or under 11 years of age.

There follows our rundown of the latest situations in the village. If there is anything we haven’t covered please let us know and we will post on Facebook sites.
Kett’s Kabin charity shop in Queen’s Road is back in business after re-opening on 20th July. Its hours are now Monday to Friday (9 am until 4 pm), Saturdays (9 am to 12.30 pm). Closed on Sundays. The colourful display put together for re-opening day is photographed on the previous page. Many other businesses have relaxed their lockdown rules.

Sarah Lawrence updated us on the latest position with regards to Tesco Express: “From 24th July the law will require everyone to wear face coverings while shopping in shops and supermarkets and those who do not wear a face covering risk a fine of up to £100.

“This will obviously be a big change to the way we shop in Hethersett, though it will no doubt be something we all get used to with time.

“At Tesco, we do not have the authority to refuse entry or insist people wear face coverings, though we will be reminding those that do not adhere to the Government guidelines that they are risking a fine.

“Please remind those who may not have seen the news (or have access to social media) about the importance of wearing a mask or face covering, partic-
ularly the elderly.

“Let’s all work together to make this a smooth transition and keep Hethersett safe!”

Tesco Express is now open from 6 am to 11 pm seven days a week.

Janey’s Café in Mill Road is now open and serving its full menu. Opening hours at the present are—Wednesday and Thursdays (10 am to 2 pm), Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (9 am to 2 pm). It is advisable to book on 01603 811234, however, although there are also tables outside.

The Queen’s Head has fully re-opened with restrictions as outlined in our last edition of Hethersett Herald. The pub/restaurant is taking part in the 50% off scheme for eating in August. That basically means that you will be able to eat there half price with the offer also applying to soft drinks. The shortfall in payment will be made up by the Government.

The weekly street food at Rowan House continues on Saturdays from 4 until 8 pm and Elsie’s Pizzas have had been given permission to trade from the village hall car park on Saturdays throughout August with the permission being possibly extended to September if the village hall remains closed.

Café Kin at Rowan House will be serving food on Fridays and Saturdays as well as a full list of coffees, teas, smoothies and shakes. These can all be consumed at tables at the front of the café. Current opening hours are Mondays and Wednesdays (8 am until midday), Fridays (8 am to 2 pm) and Saturdays (9 am to 2 pm).

Hethersett Social Club is still closed but due to re-open on Friday, 14th August. The venue will be open on Fridays from 5 until 10 pm on Saturdays from 4 until 10 pm and on Sundays from 2 until 6 pm. Customers will be directed to a table by a member of staff and there will be no standing or sitting at the bar. Drinks will be ordered from tables and customers will be asked to leave their names and contact details for track and trace. There will be social distancing inside and limited seating outside. The snooker room, pool table, darts board, fruit machines and children’s play area will stay closed and beers will be served from bottles only.

Park Farm is back in action and is open all day, everyday. The owners have used lockdown to carry out major renovations to the hotel and we hope to have more about this in the next edition of Hethersett Herald. Walk-ins will be
possible providing customers leave their contact details at reception.

Fitness Express at Park Farm re-opened its doors on July 25th. Staff will be using germ protection sprays and increasing the frequency of cleaning. The gym has been re-designed to allow for social distancing and members are being asked to limit their workout sessions to one hour. Members are also being asked to avoid using changing rooms wherever possible, although they will remain open. The sauna and steam rooms will continue to be closed. Spa treatments began again on July 20th.

Hethersett Methodist Church remains closed, but St Remigius Church has re-opened.

Hethersett Library Remains Closed

There is no definite date set for the re-opening of Hethersett Library.
There has been a phased re-opening of libraries in Norfolk but Hethersett looks like being one of the last to open.

Library Manager for Hethersett, Hingham, Wymondham and Costessey, Jo Shelton said: “I haven’t got a date for Hethersett as yet. I know that we are keen to get all libraries open by the end of August so hopefully I’ll hear soon.”

There seems to be no specific reason why Hethersett has been left to the end of the re-opening process.

Whilst the library remains closed there are a number of clubs operating online. All of the clubs mentioned below can be found on the main Norfolk Libraries Facebook page.

Storytime every Monday at midday.
Bounce and Rhyme every Tuesday at 10 am.
Storytime every Wednesday at midday.
Brick Building Club alternate Wednesdays at 4.30 pm.
Summer Reading Challenge recommendations every Thursday at 10 am.
School Readiness every Friday at 9.30 am.
Story and Activity every Friday at midday.

There are also Zoom clubs
Also there are Zoom Clubs as listed below.

Email libraries.ICONNECT@norfolk.gov.uk stating which group you would like to join and an invitation will be sent to you.

Mondays
  Zoom Just a Cuppa 2 pm.
  Zoom Book Group 4 pm.
Tuesdays
  Zoom Just a Cuppa (Babies and Toddler edition) 11 am.
HETHERSETT Hawks Cycle Speedway Club is back on track—literally.

The go-ahead has been given for club members to dust off those lockdown blues and begin to exercise with some major differences.

Hawks has become one of the first cycle speedway clubs in the UK to put Covid secure measure in place, allowing them to safely start up regular training sessions.

Not that cycling is new this summer as the track on the Memorial Playing Field has been left unlocked during the pandemic and attracted lots of people on bikes enjoying the exercise.

The new style training sessions are very different to the normal club nights with three sessions on Tuesday evenings and three on Saturday mornings with a maximum of six riders for each slot.

“We can’t offer our usual come along and try events but we can accommodate up to two new riders each session booked in advance,” said club chairman and founder Mel Perkins MBE.

The club accepts riders from the age of five up to adult. The first session for new riders is free and then it’s £1 a session after that. For footage of the club taken before lockdown pop along to https://www.hethersetthawks.co.uk/videos.

Mel Perkins spoke to the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper about the importance of the club to the village: “It's important we keep it going, it’s a village amenity that is well respected. Over the years we have had 500 people have a go at it. It is a challenge but we have a can do attitude and we can only do what we can and work within the rules,” he said.

“The club knows how keen everyone is to get back to normal racing. The new training sessions will be a good start and scalable for when restrictions relax further,” Mel added.

More details about those training sessions: Initially riders can book only one time slot with each session lasting 45 minutes. Time slots are: Tuesday evenings – 6-6.45, 7-7.45 and 8 to 8.45 pm. Saturday mornings—9.30-10.15, 10.30 to 11.15 and 11.30 to 12.15. Riders aged under-16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult from their household who will need to stay during the session. The pit area will be divided up for safety. Riders are encouraged to bring their own helmets and gloves, although these can be borrowed from the club who will clean them at the end of each session. Social distancing will be in force both when riding and when waiting to ride. More details are availa-
ble on the club website at www.hethersetthawks.co.uk

“Whether we will be able to restart any competitive racing is still in the hands of British Cycling but we are hopeful of running some local competitions in the Autumn.” Mel added.

The Next edition of Hethersett Herald will be published exclusively on line towards the end of August.

With the coronavirus still restricting activity in the village we would be delighted to receive features and photographs from residents.

Mood Music of the Skies

THIS stunningly beautiful photograph of a Sunday morning sunrise was taken on 19th July by David Bowden and reproduced with his kind permission. On the same day Mike James took the photographs on the next page—this time at sunset. What’s the old saying: “Red sky at night shepherds’ delight, red sky in the morning shepherds’ warning. Many thanks to both David and Mike for permission to reproduce these photographs.
A group of enthusiasts are proving that you are never too old to play cricket. Quick singles may be out and running between the wickets a thing of the past but the Norfolk Cricketers in Retirement (NCIR) group has proved that age is no barrier to playing their favourite sport.

The average age of the group is 70 plus with a current range from the youngest player at 62 and the oldest at 87, soon to be 88. Many of those taking part have played cricket for over 50 years, some to a relatively high level in the county.

The group usually play at the University of East Anglia in the summer but, due to lockdown, have now re-located to a new all weather wicket on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field which was put in place thanks to grants from the English Cricket Board (ECB) and Norfolk Cricket Board (NCB).

The NCIR game has been adapted to take their senior status into consideration. Runs are assessed by a club scorer whose decision is final. These can vary from a single for a shot straight to a fielder to fours and even sixes for shots judged to be boundaries. The fall of wickets is agreed by all and there are no run outs. There is only one batsman in at a time and all the bowling is done from one end. Innings’ usually consist of 18 standard six ball overs, although this can vary according to how many players there are in each team and this is decided by the number that turn up on the day. Teams are picked before the start of each game with a view to making contests as even as possible.

Each batsman faces a set number of balls, losing four runs each time he is out, before giving way to the next player. There is no limit to how many times an individual batsman can be out during his stint at the wicket. Apart from that
all the usual cricket rules apply.

Primarily, however, matches are a social occasion and not just a summer sport as, in the winter, the members retire indoors to play at Norwich Sportspark.

The group is hoping to stay in Hethersett for the remainder of the summer season. Players come from as far away as Cromer, which is a round trip of well over 50 miles, and also Attleborough, various parts of Norwich and many other parts of Norfolk.

Nobody can remember how or when exactly NCIR was formed although it is thought the group goes back as far as 1987. The original organisers have long passed on and as one member said: “They are probably playing a game in heaven.”

There are a number of qualified first aiders in the club and one member is back playing after suffering a stroke (not on the cricket pitch he was quick to point out).

The oldest and youngest players come from the same family and have a combined age of just under 150. Rick and Dean Critchfield have decades of cricket experience behind them. Rick, who is 88 in August, learnt the game from his sport mad father who represented the Royal Navy at cricket and who was also an accomplished swimmer, boxer and soccer player.

Rick has played cricket for around 76 years and played for Earlham Lodge, Cringleford and St Andrew’s Hospital amongst other teams. He and Dean both live in Sprowston and Rick admits that he will continue playing “until the others tell me I’m no good.” Another member added that the club is already planning for Rick to have a game on his
100th birthday!

There are no strict age rules but a minimum age of 60 is suggested and the club has some solid insurance in place. Most players provide their own equipment but the club also owns everything from bats and pads to gloves and helmets.
Is Vandalism Inevitable?

IT seems to be the nature of a village of our size that there will almost always be incidents of petty and mindless vandalism.

The latest to come to our attention surrounds the Book Swap in Back Lane where books have been ripped up and strewn across the road leading to an outcry on social media where those involved have been referred to as “mindless morons.”

Some people put forward the age old argument when vandalism takes place that it is carried out by youngsters who have nothing to do and are bored. As one commentator on social media points out this is absolute nonsense.

Of course we are assuming here that the acts of vandalism are carried out by young people and, of course, this seems highly likely. But please don’t tar all young people with the same brush. The majority love living in the village and have pride in where we live.

But it still remains that a small minority seem to enjoy bringing a degree of chaos to the village through their actions as was the case during lockdown of part of the village nature trail being vandalised.

We have also had an incident this month of the young children’s swings being looped over the top. This action is simply done to annoy and infuriate right-minded people.

Then came news at the parish council meeting that the table tennis table has been damaged as our photograph on the next page shows. Now this just makes a mockery of the “there’s nothing for them to do” camp. Provide facilities and things for the vandals to use and they still deface or damage them.

It’s so difficult to get into the minds of people who destroy as an entertainment. What makes them tick, what are their thought processes (always assuming they have the ability to think)? Does it go along the lines of:

“Oh there’s something new that people will enjoy. I must wreck it.”

Hersethew Herald  48  August 2020
And why do they wreck things? Well probably because they are there and they can. It’s often as simple as that.

Certainly it’s not only young people that are anti-social. Dog mess continues to be a problem. One resident has been round with a spray paint indicating where dog mess exists.

It doesn’t seem to matter how much publicity is given to this subject and how many dog bins are provided by the parish council, the problem continues.

Of course it’s easy to identify the problems but less easy to find solutions.

One thing we can all do, however, is keep an eye out and report any vandalism to Norfolk Police who have already said that they are stepping up their patrols of the village in an attempt to combat anti-social behaviour.

Hethersett Pictorial

St Remigius Church taken from across the B1172 on a rather dull day. The church is now open again for private prayer and some services.

The Rector of Hethersett the Rev Derek McClean has also been posting sermons and prayers online.
The Picture That Launched An Idea

IN the July edition of Hethersett Herald, Associate Editor Hannah Harrison wrote about local photographer Warwick Cooper who has been making an historic record of local residents taken during lockdown (at a socially acceptable distance of course).

Warwick was inspired by a 1946 photograph of his grandparents captured as part of a post war record. Warwick has kindly sent us a copy of that photograph which we reproduce opposite.

Warwick was also featured in an article in the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper which is reproduced below:

Memories Are Made Of This

A faded photograph taken decades ago has been the inspiration for a Hethersett man to record social history during lockdown.

Keen photographer Warwick Cooper hit upon the idea of capturing images of local residents on their doorsteps during the pandemic.

“I saw that people were taking photographs of the colourful windows during lockdown. That gave me the idea of making some kind of permanent record of lockdown. I liked the idea of taking photographs of people. I wanted a project I could make my own and also which would give people something to look back on in the future and prompt memories,” he said.

Then he came across a photograph of his maternal grandparents, Russell and Doris Vincent, taken in Hethersett around 1946 and his idea began to develop into a reality.

As Warwick was born and bred in Hethersett, attending Woodside School, Hethersett Middle School and Hethersett High, it seemed logical to base his project within the local community.

“I could have knocked on doors or charged for the service, but I wanted it to be free and I wanted to work with people who wanted to be part of the project.”
The idea came to me when I found an old photograph of my grandparents. They lived close to Hethersett Memorial Playing Field and were standing on their doorstep. I had the idea of replicating the photograph to give people something they can look back on in years to come and say ‘hey that was when we were in quarantine.’

“Suddenly I had a project that would be ideal for lockdown and one that could go on in the future and capture images for future generations to enjoy,” Warwick said adding that he advertised his free service on various social media sites and then used word of mouth as people began to contact him as they realised the importance of the project.

Warwick (22) has been a keen photographer since childhood when he used a small 1.2 megapixel camera. Today he photographs weddings, takes studio shots and street scenes and much more as his photographic world con-
continues to expand. Over the past few years, since leaving Hethersett High School (now Hethersett Academy), he has travelled the world capturing landscapes and people. He is hoping that Project Hethersett Front Door could lead to a full-time career in photography.

The essence of his project is to make his subjects feel at ease: “I have taken some formal photographs, but also crazy ones with people pulling faces or using props. Some people have dressed up and others have been photographed in their pyjamas. I have depicted them however they feel comfortable,” he said.

To date, Warwick has taken photographs of individuals, couples, families, pets and also featured people’s hobbies. He has also captured two proposals of marriage, two anniversaries and birthday celebrations.

The images are currently available on the All Things Hethersett Facebook page which has over 3,100 members. Warwick is hoping to set-up a dedicated web site in the near future as his portfolio of photographs expands into the hundreds.

Warwick’s project is also dedicated to the memory of his father Simon Cooper who died earlier this year from cancer. Warwick admits that it has helped him to grieve for a father who was always hugely supportive of his three children:

“People grieve in so many different ways. Dad loved looking through the photos I took from all over the world. This project is just a small way of thanking him for all his support.”

In February, just a few weeks after Simon died, Warwick’s sister Quenby and her boyfriend Connor Worby, raised hundreds of pounds for the Big C Cancer charity from a performance of the play “Lungs” in Hethersett Village Hall. Warwick’s brother Nathan has run marathons in Simon’s memory.

If you would like your photograph taken you can contact Warwick on 07 476 411118 or via e-mail at warwickcooperphotography@gmail.com.
EAGLE eyed Hethersett residents may have caught a glimpse of an historic Spitfire going across the village and Wymondham on 10th July as part of a tribute to the work of the National Health Service.

Resident John Mountain travelled to Old Buckenham Airfield and captured the following images which are reproduced here with his kind permission.

A number of residents confirmed sightings on Facebook and social media.

Temporary Closure of Part of Queen’s Road

PART of Queen’s Road will be closed for five days in August for water main connection work.

A 60 metre stretch from the junction with Norwich Road will be closed, apart from access, from 17th to 21st August.

Diversions will be in place during the five day period.
Laurie Celebrates 90 Golden Years

A Hethersett author with world renowned ancestors has celebrated his 90th birthday.

Laurent “Laurie” Brettingham was born in Barking, Essex, in July 1930.

Laurie’s daughter Viv Mountain, a keen family historian, discovered his glorious ancestors whom he knew nothing about. Matthew Brettingham the Elder (1699-1769) was his 5x great grandfather and Matthew Brettingham the Younger his 4x great grandfather.

Both were internationally renowned architects with the Elder acting as clerk of works for the building of Holkham Hall and then remodelling Norwich Shirehouse, designing Lenwade Bridge and overseeing repairs to Norwich Castle, Norwich Cathedral and St Margaret’s Church, King’s Lynn. He designed Hanworth Hall, Gunton Hall and properties in London, Sussex and other parts of the country.

Matthew Brettingham the Younger (1725-1803) worked largely for his father and also became an architect of some repute.

As a schoolboy Laurie, who has the middle name Matthew, lived through the London Blitz, leading to an interest in wartime history.

After leaving school he worked for a news agency in London as a copy boy and then did national service in the RAF before becoming a police officer in London and subsequently a primary school teacher in Hertfordshire.

Laurie met his wife Daphne Christine Thrower (1931-2016) in 1952. Daphne came from Rockland St Mary. They married in 1954 and Laurie was a frequent visi-
tor to Norfolk and moved to the county permanently 15 years ago.

He turned his hand to writing when he retired. His first book “Beam Benders: The Story of No 80 (Signals) Wing RAF 1950-45” describes the work of the unit set up to help combat, by means of radio countermeasures, the threat to the UK of Luftwaffe attacks from occupied Europe.

He followed this up with “Even When the Sparrows Are Walking” which describes the work of No 100 (Bomber Support) Group RAF and the part it played in the Allied bomber offensive upon occupied Europe from 1943 to 1945.

Laurie has also written “Secret Wartime Mundesley – A Norfolk Village Story From the Second World War.” His books can be purchased from his website at http://www.lauriebrettingham-beambenders.com/

If you want to read more about Laurie and his ancestors visit www.hethersettherald.weebly.com

FOOTNOTE—Brettingham Avenue in nearby Cringleford is named after Matthew Brettingham the Elder.

“IF you run a business in Hethersett have you been in contact with South Norfolk Council to ensure that you have received the full monetary support you are entitled to?”

That’s the question being posed by one of our district councillors. David Bills is keen that all businesses ensure they have had the correct level of support.

“Some businesses may feel that they are not due anything but I would please ask them to check,” Councillor Bills said. To check please ring 01508 533701.
HETHERSETT resident Richard Headicar has been featured in the local Media.

An article on Richard’s life has appeared in the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper.

Richard, who lives at Woodcote Sheltered Housing complex in Firs Road, has packed plenty of colour into his 87 years of life and the feature looked at his fight for social equality, his love of history and people and the many facets of his life and activism that brought him into contact with many famous people. We featured an extensive article on Richard in our March 2017 issue (number 17).

You can read that article by going to our archive section of our website at www.hethersettherald.weebly.com.

The EDP 24 feature on Richard is available at:

Norfolk’s New Travelling Street Food Fayre
Calling At Diss and Wymondham*

One of the organisers of a series of food fayres has praised Hethersett for giving the idea a “warm welcome.”

Julie Briggs is Director and founder of ClearCompany whose fayres have been touring Norfolk communities and which regularly comes to Hethersett on Saturday evenings.

“We have had such a warm welcome from the towns and villages we have visited including Hethersett, Attleborough, Wymondham, Diss and areas of Norwich,” Julie said.

Now artists, craftspeople and musicians are teaming up with street food vendors for a new series of travelling fairs showcasing their produce and talent at outdoor venues in Diss and Wymondham with ample space for social distancing.

ClearCompany, a non-profit community interest company established to support and nurture local enterprise, launched a food only version of the touring fayre in May. The initiative allowed street food traders to serve pre-ordered food to communities with staggered collection times during lockdown after their summer festival trade was cancelled.

Now that social distancing measures have eased and other service sec-
tors can safely resume, ClearCompany is introducing art, crafts, food produce and music to the travelling fayre.

The venture will be returning to Diss and Wymondham following two highly successful first visits in July. It will be bringing an increased number of stalls and music alongside quality food, cocktails and refreshments from the venues’ licensed bars.

Wymondham Football Club is the first stop on Sunday, 2nd August, moving to Diss Football Club the following Sunday (9th August). Both fayres will run from 11 am to 5 pm and the organisation is requesting a £2 donation per adult for entry to cover costs of musicians, security and running costs.

Julie Briggs, who used to live in Hethersett said: “The ClearCompany fayres are the result of traders and volunteers uniting to showcase Norfolk produce and skills. Touring Norfolk communities as a collective enables us to support each other and explore ways to connect with people who want to shop local.

“We are extremely mindful of the challenges Covid-19 raises, so we have purposefully started out carefully, in a scaled down way, and we’re growing at a pace comfortable for the communities we visit and our traders. We are so excited that we can now include artists and musicians in these events as they too have had so much of their trading opportunities wiped out.

The Hen House Kitchen, BBQs For You, The Potato Pod, Cocky Dogs, The Waffle Wagon, Nanny’s Cakes, The Globe Trotter Cocktail Bar and Society Alive African Caribbean Street Food are just some of the vendors who will be arriving at Diss and Wymondham. Music and stalls are being lined up to showcase Norfolk skills.

Plans are afoot to visit other market towns in the region with venues and dates to be announced and the collective aim is to continue making monthly visits to Diss and Wymondham.

The pictures on the previous page show: Chef Sam Bianco of The Hen House Kitchen with his assistant Becky Wattam and brother and sister team Isa and Alhaji Afonso who run The Waffle Wagon.

Street food comes to Hethersett on Saturday evenings from 4 to 8 pm in the car park at Rowan House in Queen’s Road.

* - And Saturday late afternoon/early evening to Hethersett.

You can read more about ClearCompany by visiting their website at:

https://clearcompany.org.uk/
The trustees of Hethersett Memorial Playing Field have certainly not been resting on their laurels during lockdown, taking the opportunity to spruce up the children’s play equipment on the memorial field as our photographs show.
Ever wondered how the Memorial Playing Field came about? Turn to our Down Memory Lane feature to find out.
Cyclepath Update

The final stretch of the cycleway linking Thickthorn to Wymondham was completed during the month with a stretch of the B1172 being closed over the weekend of July 11th and 12th for resurfacing.

It is now possible to cycle on cycle paths from Wymondham to Norwich.

This has been welcomed by Hethersett’s County Councillor David Bills: “Having seen the growing use of the cycleway by cyclists and walkers both young and not so young during the past months, I am sure the latest section will also be well used,” he said.

It is hoped that some kind of official opening ceremony will take place in the future although the full stretch is now open for use.

We Want Names

In previous editions of the Herald we asked readers to name their community heroes. Now, in partnership with South Norfolk Council, we would like you to nominate individuals and businesses who have gone that extra mile during the pandemic.

We would like the chance to fully recognise and thank them. Please send your nominations to petersteward@lineone.net.
Angela Eden has been out with her trusty camera again and here we bring you her latest album simply entitled “Sunday Morning.”

More photographs by Angela on the next page.
Mark Billingham is the author of nine novels, including “Sleepyhead,” “Scaredy Cat,” “Lazybones,” “The Burning Girl,” “Lifeless,” and “Buried”—all Times (London) bestsellers—as well as the stand-alone thriller “In the Dark.” For the creation of the Tom Thorne character, Billingham received the 2003 Sherlock Award for Best Detective created by a British writer, and he has twice won the Theakston’s Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year Award. He has previously worked as an actor and stand-up comedian on British television and still writes regularly for the BBC. He lives in London with his wife and two children.

The Tom Thorne series is set in London; the stories follow a middle aged detective inspector who is known for being unpredictable. There are 16 novels in the series, of which Lifeless is the fifth.

At the start of the story, Tom Thorne's career is on the skids. Having seriously crossed the line on his last case and depressed over the recent suspicious death of his father, the once ambitious police detective has been reduced to pushing papers . . . and is being encouraged to take a prolonged leave of duty.

But someone is stalking the city’s most destitute citizens. Three homeless men have recently been kicked to death; each brutalised corpse discovered...
with a banknote pinned to his chest. With nothing to lose, Thorne volunteers to try to find the killer—taking to the streets he knows so well from his days as a beat policeman and as a homicide detective, but this time joining the squalid ranks of life's rejects he works undercover disguised as a homeless man. In this harsh and harrowing netherworld with its own rules and moral codes, a shocking link between the brutal crimes and a fifteen-year-old atrocity could end up costing Thorne what little life he has left.

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There is No Planet B

Penelope Brown continues her series of features on environmental matters

The Importance of trees - nine reasons to plant a tree

Did you know planting a tree is one of the easiest and most powerful things you can do to have a positive impact on the environment? Trees clean the air, prevent rainwater runoff, help you save energy and even combat global warming. And they are so easy to plant. You may only be able to fit one tree in your garden but just that one tree will make a difference in so many ways. Here are nine reasons to get planting.

Trees fight climate change

Wish you could do more than recycling and reducing your carbon footprint to combat climate change? Plant a tree – through photosynthesis, trees absorb harmful carbon dioxide, removing and storing carbon and releasing oxygen back into the air.

Trees clean the air and help us breathe

Trees don’t just absorb carbon dioxide, they also absorb odours and pollutants like nitrogen oxide, ammonia, sulphur dioxide and ozone. It’s estimated that one tree can absorb nearly 10 pounds of polluted air each year and release 260 pounds of oxygen.
Trees prevent soil erosion and rainwater runoff

During heavy rains, water runoff finds its way to streams, lakes, wetlands, and marshland – but if there is simply too much at any one time the potential for flooding is created. Water runoff also picks up and carries pollutants along the way. The importance of trees in managing runoff is now widely recognised. Leaf canopies help buffer the falling rain and the roots hold the soil in place encouraging the water to seep into the ground rather than run off.

Planting trees is easy

Gardening can be intimidating for many people because there are so many variables. Which plants and flowers should you put next to each other and which colours will create the look you are after? Which bloom in the summer and which create a feature in the autumn?

When you are dealing with trees it is much simpler – choose a spot in your garden and find a tree that will grow to the size you are after.

Trees will save you money

Trees conserve energy in summer and winter, providing shade from the hot summer sun and shelter from cold winter winds. With trees standing between you and the elements, you will spend less on your energy bill to heat your home.

Trees increase your home’s value

Studies of comparable homes with and without trees show that, if you have trees in your garden, your home’s value can increase by up to 15%. Trees increase the curb appeal of a property.

You will attract birds and other wildlife

Trees provide nesting sites, food, and shelter for birds. Hanging feeders and nest boxes from trees encourages birds. Insects and invertebrates will also increase in the habitat created by each tree.

Trees are good for your mental and physical health

A view of trees in urban areas has been proven to reduce stress, anxiety and even the crime rate. Tree filled gardens on hospital grounds speed healing in patients.

You will be giving your descendants a gift

Trees can live for hundreds of years so, when you plant one, you are giving a gift to your children and grandchildren. It’s a symbol of your commitment to the environment and the beauty of the world around you that will live on far beyond your own lifetime.
What’s To Love About Hethersett?

We are contacting prominent people in the village and asking them the question “What Do You Love About Hethersett.” This month we posed the question to Sarah Lawrence.

Hi, I’m Sarah. Long time reader of the Hethersett Herald and thrilled to have been asked to write about why I love Hethersett. Where on earth do I start?

I have lived here since the age of 13, having lived in Cambridgeshire, Gorleston and Wymondham prior (we moved around a lot when I was younger) but I am so glad that my family chose Hethersett to stick around in. It’s the type of place where you can really feel part of a community and the perfect place to raise children - of which I now have two of my own!

I’ve seen Hethersett change so much from when I was younger until now. The schools have changed from First, Middle and High Schools to Primary Schools and an Academy. Hethersett has grown by a massive amount with all of the new homes, and my favourite the One Stop shop changed to a Tesco Express. That last one changed my life!

I’m not ashamed to say, I’m a big fan of the shop that I work in! It changed to a Tesco Express in August, 2006, and I started there on the opening day. It was there that I met my husband and lots of good friends that I hope will be friends for life.

They promoted me to shift leader and it has enabled me to use Tesco to help the community. With the help of one of my best friends, Hannah Harrison, we set it up as a Refill station - we were one of the first Tesco Expresses in the Country to sign up. We donate leftover food to charity, we donate raffle prizes and hold raffles for local charities, the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) use our bins for the litter they collect during litter picks. I’m insanely proud of the work our little store does in the community.

Prior to Coronavirus, along with my friends Jade and Hannah, I run First Steps Playgroup (held on Tuesday mornings during term time). We love running it and I really miss it. We took it on in January, 2018, and have turned it into quite the successful playgroup! I adore seeing the babies and toddlers, but I love having
a natter with the parents, grandparents and carers more! It’s a real hive of activity when it’s on. We can’t wait until we’re able to open up again and carry on where we left off.

My daughter has attended Woodside School since nursery and my other one will attend in September. We love Woodside. At the helm is the wonderful Mrs Jermy and the rest of the teaching staff are so kind and nurturing. I would not send my children anywhere else! I’m actually on the Friends Committee there too, as we love the school so much. Exciting times lay ahead for Woodside as they move to the new premises on Coachmaker Way in September, we can’t wait.

Living and working in Hethersett has enabled me to meet the most wonderful and inspiring people.

These include Hannah, who I previously mentioned, who is one of my favourite people in the world. She’s the kindest person I know and does so much for the community. Geoff, who organises the Hethersett Litter Picks and has inspired our family to join in and take pride in our village. Jade and Andre (I work with Jade) who ran around getting shopping for people when COVID-19 first took hold, amongst others. I’m very proud to know them all and consider them friends.

Finally, I love the fact that if someone is struggling, there’s always someone there to help you out. The All Things Hethersett and Hethersett Hearts Facebook pages have been perfect to enable this.

If that’s not what community is about, I don’t know what is.

On the next page we feature a piece of creative writing from Sarah’s eight year old daughter Amelia who gives us her own take on Hethersett and her family.
Amelia’s Letter

Amelia wrote:

“Hi my name is Amelia and I am Emma and Simon’s niece. I live in Hethersett with my mummy and daddy and Hattie my little sister.

I am in Year 3 but I am sad because in a few months I am going to year 4.

Coronavirus has stopped me going to school. It has stopped me seeing my friends and it has stopped me going on day outs. It has let me spend more time at home and it has let me read more books.

My mummy and my daddy work at Tesco Express and they have been working the whole of lockdown. So I haven’t been able to see them as much but it has been nice to spend more time with Hattie.

I’m looking forward to going back to school and seeing more of my friends and family.

The above letter was published in a Christian magazine.
In his regular column Hethersett Methodist Minister The Rev Steve Cullis talks about a big change he has experienced since lockdown.

For those who have known me for a really long time, the shock news is that I have - for the first time in my 55 years - enjoyed being and working in our garden. Before that point, the word “wild” would be the best way to describe what happened to any plot of land under my care. Grass would be mown, but that was about it.

Whereas I have a long way to go before calling myself a gardener (my front garden needs a bit of TLC), the back garden is now producing vegetables. We have more courgettes than I know what to do with and neighbours are receiving parcels of rhubarb. I can’t credit the excitement of watching something grow from seed, nor the giddy feeling of bringing in our first new potatoes.

Those plants grew through cold spring nights, unseasonable gales and one of the driest springs on record followed by what seems like the wettest of Julys.

So here’s what I’m thinking about:

I know that the last few months have been brutal for many people, but I hope that there have been some things which we’ve managed to “grow” and perhaps change in our daily habits that we can take out of the last few months as we begin getting out and about again.

Anything you have learnt or grown through over the last few months has been hard-earned.

As a sense of some normality returns, keep hold of the good things you grew over the last few months, so that it becomes a new thing in whatever “normal” means for you at this time.

Wishing you and your loved ones blessings.
They’ve Got Hethersett Archived

HETHERSETT History is being brought back to life by a Google-backed project which will give access to over 150 years of news items from the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper.

Local Recall has digitised the entire EDP archive which means millions of articles on and about Norfolk.

And hidden amongst those pages will be hundreds of articles on our village. Up to now the Archant-owned archives have been open to the public through personal visits on three days of the week. But looking for articles has meant time-consuming pouring over fragile volumes of newspapers.

In 2017 Archant—publishers of the Eastern Daily Press—received a six figure grant to allow it to launch the Local Recall project.

The project began in early 2018 and – with help from Norwich-based artificial intelligence and chatbot company Ubisend along with specialist historical scanning companies TownsWeb Archiving and Find My Past – Local Recall has since digitised an estimated 750,000 pages of EDP newspapers.

In the process, more than seven million articles have been uploaded online through a process of high-resolution photography, optical character recognition software and key word extraction, which helps improve search accuracy.

Over 800 volunteers were then called in to proof read and check texts and articles ahead of the official launch. Apps will allow subscribers to use voice controls to call up articles, although there will be search facilities for those who prefer to type in their queries.

Users of local recall can explore the EDP archives from October 1870 right up to the latest breaking news through a subscription service available on monthly and annual price plans. The cost is £5.99 per month with an annual subscription of £59.99 also available. More information on the service is available from:

https://www.edp24.co.uk/features/local-recall-digital-newspaper-archive-launched-1-6752082

You can sign up for Local Recall by going to localrecall.co.uk

We will be having a good look round Local Recall to report back on what can be found out about our village for a special feature in the September edition of Hethersett Herald.
OVER the years, I have spent hundreds of hours on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field in many different guises.

Firstly it was teaching my sons how to kick a football, then there were the various fêtes and events and come and try sports on the park, and later visits to take photographs for the press of the bowls club, the cycle speedway club and the croquet club.

Then there were many many afternoons spent running youth and adult football teams or running round the field as a member of the Hethersett Social Running Group and finally, taking it up to date, taking grandchildren to the children's playground.

All that doesn't take account of five-a-side football tournaments, dog shows and many other events held there. Whilst attending all these events I have always been keenly aware of the history of the playing field and just how it came into existence.

The word "Memorial" has always been an important one for me in this context. Many of you will probably be interested to know that the field was set up through public subscription after the Second World War in memory of those who died and those who fought.

The end of the war saw a national mood of celebration, relief and a determination to build a better future for all the community. As early as May, 1945, the Hethersett Welcome Home Fund was set up to show appreciation to all those returning from service.

In the first year a combination of subscriptions and proceeds from fundraising events saw over £1395 collected. This gave the village the chance to give every returning serviceman £10. A similar amount was given to families of those who lost their lives in the war. This amount is the equivalent of about £400 today.

In November 1946, the Welcome Home Fund was closed and the balance used to start up the Hethersett Peace Memorial Fund. Clearly, those that had come back from military service wanted to have a fitting and permanent memorial to the local men that had sacrificed their lives in the conflict. They wanted
to provide a lasting recreational amenity for the growing village.

A number of ideas were put forward, subscriptions continued to be collected and further fundraising events were organised until there was enough money to buy land from local farmer Mr P. H. Curson. This was to be used to make a playing field. £880 was handed over to Hethersett Parish Council and the purchase was completed on 17th March, 1959, with Hethersett Parish Council being the Custodian Trustee of the charity.

Trustees were needed to manage the amenity and the Charity Commission registered the approved scheme through which a committee of three Parish Council nominees and four members elected at the annual parish meeting were responsible for the upkeep and development of the playing field.

Preparations were made and by June, 1961, the playing field was ready to be formally opened by the Managing Director of Mackintosh Chocolate and a local resident, Charles Wood, the Second Earl of Halifax. The plaque erected to mark the occasion gave the name of the playing Field as Hethersett Memorial Field and Garden and a photograph of it is on the previous page.

At that time the playing field was on the fringe of the village and extended further towards where West Croft now begins. In 1967, the need for access to new housing meant a trade between developers and the trustees to allow Recreation Road to be built. This left 7.5 acres of the original playing field and 1.5 acres traded with developers. Then, in 1984, a further 2.5 acres was purchased from Norfolk County Council.

In the decades since the playing field was first developed its formal title seems to have varied, but the published object of the charity, now called Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Trust, has remained constant.

It is the “provision and maintenance of a recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Hethersett without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said
inhabitants.”

Today the Memorial Playing Field is home to a number of sports clubs including Hethersett Hawks Cycle Speedway Club, Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Bowls Club, Hethersett Athletic Football Club and Hethersett Croquet Club.

There is also a basketball and kick wall structure, a children's playground, an all weather cricket strip and a table tennis table. There are active plans to replace the antiquated pavilion with a new building.

Some of the information printed above has been taken from the Memorial Field’s official website at https://www.hmpf.co.uk/. Photographs courtesy of Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Trustees.

Mill Road, Hethersett, at the turn of the last century. This is one of the images from the collection of Stephen Frosdick. For more about these please turn to the next page.
Keen historian Stephen Frosdick was brought up in Hethersett and has a fine collection of old photographs of the village.

Stephen has been posting these on his Facebook page and we are very grateful to him for allowing us to reproduce them in Hethersett Herald.

We will be featuring some of Stephen’s photographs in the next few editions and we are sure that they will prompt some memories. Please send any comments you have on the photographs to petersteward@lineone.net.

The photographs were originally used in a booklet on Hethersett’s history written in the 1980s by Miss Gwen Hughes who Stephen’s mother cared for.

The photograph above is of Herbert Curson, just one of a long line of Cursons to have come from Hethersett. The photo over the page depicts Dibbling Wheat on land behind the brick and flint house on Mill Road Hethersett. It features Mrs Carter, Mrs Child, Mrs Beaumont and Mr Crowe who was also a postman. Dibbling was used for planting wheat in heavy soil. Individual holes were made by the dibblers and seeds dropped into the holes. This photograph is from the original collection but has been enhanced by Gary Watkins who has added colour.
IT is likely that the “dibbling” was being done at the back of Don Cottage. This Flint cottage (pictured opposite) was demolished to make way for the current Flint House Gardens in Mill Road in 1995. Many of the historic images were taken by famous Norfolk photographer Tom Noakes who we have featured in Hethersett Herald in the past.
July 6th, 2017, and the fire brigade turn up in St David’s Road to pump out water after a torrential downpour. Other parts of the village including Southcroft were also flooded. The water was pumped into a field across from New Road.
In the July edition of Hethersett Herald we remembered village stalwart Elizabeth Capleton. Here she is unveiling a plaque in Hethersett Middle School in 2000 to officially open the new design and technology block. Picture courtesy of Archant and reproduced with permission.

A lovely photograph of Viv Horobin who we also paid tribute to in the July edition of Hethersett Herald. Once again picture courtesy of Archant and used with their permission.
Occasionally Hethersett Herald will be undertaking consumer surveys on topics of importance to the village.

In the first of our series we asked the question on All Things Hethersett Facebook page: Which Broadband provider do you use and are you satisfied with the service?

The response was excellent but, after sifting through the replies, it does seem that it’s something of a lottery. And it seems that people living on new estates in the village may not be getting a top service as yet.

The main complaints were: Lack of speed, lack of reliability, prices too high and confusion over which company to go with. Some areas of the village seem to be well served but others are experiencing real problems.

Below are just some of the replies we received. If you are looking for fast and efficient Broadband the message seems to be shop around and get recommendations from people you know and trust.

We start with the large companies that everyone has heard of:

“With BT but buffers regularly, sometimes better being off Wi-Fi and using data, not that bad though that I can face going through the process to try another provider.”

“Sky, and I’ve got nothing to complain about really. I was sorry to have to leave Virgin, who I’d been with for ages, because we’re not cabled here. I felt Sky were slow to connect, maybe 10 days, but no complaints since then. When my system got struck by lightning Sky talked my very clearly and patiently through trying to get the box working again. When it wouldn’t work, I was still under guarantee and they sent me a new one within a couple of days. Too scared to do a price comparison.”

“We have Sky Broadband on the new Heathfields estate. It is rubbish, there is no fibre optic either on our estate which doesn’t make sense to me that they wouldn’t put the infrastructure in on a new estate.”

“We have Sky and have never had a problem in Southcroft.”

“We are with Sky, never had a problem in the 12 or so years with them. Moved house three times with no issues there either.”

“With Sky, Campion Way, it drops out several times a day at least twice a month, engineer has checked but no problem found. Am changing to BT.”
"We are with BT. No problems here (off Mill Road). When we have been with others they have blamed BT for any problems and BT blamed them so it took ages to solve problems. Now we have everything through BT so they can't blame anyone else! All fine and we have very fast Broadband."

"I'm with EE. The signal quality has deteriorated significantly over past few weeks. I was with Talk Talk and they were terrible. I am reluctant to change because of the hassle and I feel that the providers reduce power after you have been with them for a while."

"On Harvey Close, I used to be with Talk Talk, not much of an issue apart from being a bit slow. Decided to change to Sky. My Internet is brilliant now no drop in speed and I got a really good deal paying a lot less for a much better service."

"On Malthouse Road, with BT, on the whole very good. Occasionally get drop outs, but much less now. Just had BT in the hole outside checking, as we were experiencing problems with FaceTime, not connecting etc. All fine in the hole but he checked inside and has suggested an extra boost for the lounge, which we are going to look into. Seems you can get dead spots within the home."

"We are with BT and not really had any issues but the price is ridiculous now we are out of contract so we are going to change provider or try and get a better deal."

"BT and it’s brilliant."

"Grove Road, we’re still on the old copper lines, but we’re paying for super fast broadband and not getting it as BT have only gone to the box at the end of the road. Not brilliant."

"BT and for some time it’s fast and more importantly reliable. All the others use the BT infrastructure and who is it who turns up if you have a fault? BT Openreach. My only gripe is that it seems expensive for what is a basic package."

"I use Vodafone (am just off Great Melton Road). Have no problems with it and use all the streaming sites as well as working from an iMac and laptops/phones on Wifi with no issues. Have had Sky and PlusNet before and Sky was rubbish. PlusNet was ok but did buffer using iPlayer and Amazon Prime."

"I am with Vodafone. Normally ok, but on Sundays gets slower. I spoke to an engineer who said they often do maintenance on a Sunday and take kit down. Everyone then has to cram through a smaller space in the system."

"Mill Road, I used to be with Talk Talk which were awful. Now with Vodafone. Very happy with their service and they do a great deal if you have a contract mobile with them too."

"I’m on Talk Talk. A lot of the time it’s very slow."

"I was with Talk Talk but their service was appalling with regular drop outs and their customer service was even worse. I changed to Sky and everything improved.”
“We're with Talk Talk and it's awful. I really should change.”

Now for some of the smaller and lesser known companies:

“We use Breezetel as we’re on the new Heather Gardens Estate and all of the Taylor Wimpey houses have fibre to the home so you have a choice of a few suppliers, not heard of most of them. We’ve had no problems with ours, always been fast and no dropout at all. About the same as what I was paying before just for fibre broadband so no complaints.”

“I'm with Plusnet, when I had a problem they very quickly fixed it.”

“I'm with See the Light. All the companies we have to choose from on the new estate are extortionate in price. But I've never had any problems with them. My internet wasn’t running up to speed apparently, I had no idea. They contacted me to say they were sending out an engineer and within a few days it was all sorted.”

“Sawyer Crescent and we are with See the Light. No problems so far. Been with them over two years, happy with the price.”

“I am with Plusnet (owned by BT). The problem I have is down to the poor wiring in the road which is aluminium. Openreach have visited at least five times in the past 18 months and made various improvements to junctions in the road but this cannot fix the speed and reliability issues we have. Only FTTP will fix this in the long term, as witnessed by the comments from those on the new developments who have it. There are no plans to implement this in Hethersett at present.”

So we asked our district and county councillor David Bills who has a keen interest in improving Broadband in Hethersett for his comments.

He sent us a lengthy response which is included below and on the next pages:

“Although I don’t have data at village level, I can provide information at district level and as Superfast coverage (24Mbps+) is now high across the district at 94%, this information is replicated across the district. This means most properties have access, but there are a small number of properties in most areas which do not have Superfast broadband, usually remote properties.

“The following South Norfolk information is from the independent Think Broadband website which sources its data from infrastructure suppliers and Internet Service Providers and includes data for all deployments, commercial funded and those using public subsidy. This means it provides the ‘whole’ picture:


“In July, 2013, prior to Better Broadband for Norfolk, only 14% of South Norfolk properties had access to Superfast Broadband (24Mbps+). 94% of South Norfolk properties now have access, the England wide level is 97%.”

There are some other points of interest for South Norfolk:

“Properties with access to a speed of less than 10Mbps are negligible at
0.01%. On 20th March, 2020, the Government introduced a Universal Service Obligation which was set at 10Mbps. This is the download speed Ofcom has said is required by the ‘average’ household. The England wide level is 1.03%.

“In terms of both commercially funded and public funded rollouts such as Better Broadband for Norfolk, deployments are now typically Full Fibre.

“In general terms, Hethersett has had good Superfast coverage for some time. However, it is important that new developments implement good broadband infrastructure. State aid rules mean that public subsidy can’t be applied to new developments, so developers need to make suitable arrangements and we still see sites where this is not the case.

“Infrastructure suppliers may be able to provide Full Fibre at no cost to the developer, for instance Openreach will install at no cost to the developer for sites of 20 unit or more. It is vital developers register their sites early:

http://www.ournetwork.openreach.co.uk/property-development.aspx

“Take-up of Superfast services in Norfolk is good, circa. 70% of those that could take a service have. This still means three in ten households or businesses that could access a Superfast service haven’t. If people want to check to see what’s available they can use on-line checkers. For instance, Openreach have a new online checker: https://www.openreach.com/fibre-broadband/.

Having used this link:

Press ‘Use our fibre checker’ button

Enter your postcode, tick the box to say you’re not a robot and then click on green search button to the right of the box where you entered the postcode

Pick your address from the list

It then either shows services as available, or says whether something is planned

When services are available it has a ‘View Providers’ button. This shows which Internet Service Providers are offering services at your address.”

*                         *                   *

Greg Sayer also gave us a lengthy response with some warnings about the difficulties of comparing Broadband.

“You do need to be careful when comparing Broadband, as you may not be comparing apples with apples.

Without the likes of Virgin Media (or similar presence) the original part of Hethersett is limited to what is installed in the Hethersett BT Exchange.
This means that you are restricted to what BT Openreach have available, which appears to be ADSL2+ (up to 24mps) and Possibly some FTTC (up to 80mb, Fibre to the cabinet, what is commonly sold as "fibre Broadband", but in effect is still using the same copper wiring from the local cabinet into the home).

Currently the Only third party companies offering their own product is TalkTalk and Sky, through a process known as Local Loop Unbundling (LLU), any other company you can buy from is just renting capacity off Openreach. (see: https://availability.samknows.com/broadband/exchange/EAHET)

It does look like the majority of Hethersett is still on ADSL2+ with some green street cabinets recently upgraded to "FTTC" including Heathfields, which arranged its own upgrade via a Community Fibre Broadband Bid.

BT is slowly upgrading urban areas to new technology such as G.Fast (which is a reworked FTTC offering) and Fibre to the premises, both offering between 100mb and 1gb speeds, some parts of Norwich are now getting this. (slowly) the biggest issue with ADSL2+ and FTTC, however, is the further you are away from the green cabinet, the slower your broadband is.

You can check what services BT Openreach can offer (and therefore what Sky and TalkTalk can), along with a estimate of the speed at: https://www.broadbandchecker.btwholesale.com/.

What makes Heather Gardens and Ketts Park different, however, is that there is no BT infrastructure at all. A Company Called GTC (and its subsidiaries) have installed Gas, Electric and Fibre optics to every house (you'll see their name on your gas meters etc).

GTC through its subsidiary then allows smaller companies to resell internet and phone services direct to homeowners, that's why there are only about nine companies that you've never heard of before.

These connections are true fibre to the home and will eventually be able to support 1gb+ speeds, the costs may seem slightly more than what traditional Internet companies are charging, but you are getting a much quicker service, without the same levels of contention and, in some cases, a better upload speed.

One issue with these services is that, unlike BT, in the event of a power cut you will lose your telephone, although these companies have to supply battery backup on request to vulnerable people.

Lastly one of the companies on the list "See The Light" has been bought by Sky, so expect to see rebranding early next year.

By the way I don't work for any of these companies, I just work in the public sector as an IT consultant.
Wymondham Walks and Talks Goes Virtual

If you have ever wanted to find out more about the history of our nearby market town of Wymondham, the Wymondham Walks and Talks initiative is going electronic as organiser Georgette Vale explains.

“As we cannot do our usual programme of live tours, Wymondham Walks and Talks is offering “A guided tour” of the town’s history by means of Zoom and Powerpoint, all from the comfort of your own home. The session will last about an hour and a half and will be repeated on five separate occasions throughout August. Tickets cost £4 and are available via Eventbrite. At:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wymondham-walks-and-talks-virtual-guided-tour-tickets-114468311802

(Ticket sales close the day before the event so your Zoom link can be sent to you). Dates for the virtual talks are:

Saturday 8th August 2.00 pm
Tuesday 11th August 10.00 am
Tuesday 18th August 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 19th August 2.00 p.m.
Sunday 23rd August 2.00 p.m.

For more information please email

Bookings@WymondhamWalksAndTalks.co.uk

and include a phone number. Alternatively, you can telephone 07867 681839.

Find out: What the bishops said to the monks on their regular inspections, Where there is a reference to a dormouse and a leech, how Wymondham is connected with diamonds from South Africa, who designed the Norwich Gates at Sandringham, why the town caught fire in 1615, when Queen Elizabeth came on her Royal Progress.

And much more!
LAST month I delved into the land on which Pump Hall Farm now stands. As I said, it's difficult to give any exact picture of those fields back in 1650.

What I can tell you about is the people who owned the land at that time. Those who farmed the land themselves won't become clear for another 100 years or so.

Before I move on to speak about who owned the land there, I should let you know that a little more has come to light in the last month or so.

If you cast your mind back to the beginning of July, you may remember that a fellow named Nicholas Breviter lived next to the site of Pump Hall. I'd found someone named Edward Breviter in Hethersett in 1590, but there was no sign of Nicholas.

Recently I turned up a record of Nicholas selling a piece of land in Shovel Field, right next door, in 1634. So the description of the land we looked at last week could well be from the 1630s.

A further bit of breaking news (if you can call it that) concerns Bracket Field.

If you recall the map last month, Bracket Field lay quite a few fields East of Pump Hall, hanging off the Southern side of present day Suckling Lane. At that time Suckling Lane was known as Overgate Way. Between then and now it has also been known as Harlowe Lane, Cuckoo Field Lane and possibly Bracket Street, but I digress.

Back around the 1650s, there was a place called Braygate where Ketteringham
met Hethersett on present day Ketteringham Lane.

"Brae" is likely derived from either Old Norse or Anglo Saxon - either of which make perfect sense for a land feature in East Anglia. It means "hillside, slope, edge of hill, projecting upper edge of a steep hill."

If you look at the map on the previous page of Ketteringham Lane (or simply recall your walks down there, for those of you who have the advantage of actually living in Hethersett) you'll see that the land rises as you reach Ketteringham, to reach the same level as the fields of Pump Hall Farm that overlook you as you pass down the lane.

This must be the slope that lies in the name Braygate. Over time Braygate became Bracket and gave us not only Bracket Field, but also Bracket Green which sat where Ketteringham Lane met the highway, and Bracket Street, which was either Suckling Lane or the Bottom half of Ketteringham Lane.

Now that I've asked you to recall last month's article in the Herald, I'm going to ask you to cast your mind back a little further to the beginning of June.

So much has changed since back then. I hope for most of you for the better. You may remember we were speaking of the Flowerdew family.

I perhaps took a bit of the mickey out of them back then, but it's hard to resist. They really seemed to enjoy getting into strife, and are ripe for a bit of soap opera.

Christopher Flowerdew - the earliest known owner of the site of Pump Hall - was no exception. He was the great grandson of John Flowerdew, the man who first bought the Manor of Hethersett into the Flowerdew family and also jump started Kett's Rebellion.

Our earliest description of those fields around Pump Hall comes from the records of the Hethersett Manors when Christopher sold them off.
How he came to have them is unclear, although I wouldn't be surprised if his father Raphe Flowerdew had given them to him.

Christopher was his second son, his older brother Raphe having died early. When Christopher was born in 1617, his father was the Lord of the Manor of Hethersett Cromwells, by far the largest manor of the three in what was then known as the Town of Hethersett.

As lord of Hethersett Cromwells, he not only held sway over most of the land within Hethersett, but he also had the right and obligation to hold what were known as Courts Lete. These were law Courts held for minor offenses within the town. As lord of the Manor he was both judge and jury.

But around the age of eight, Christopher's father sold off the Manor. It left the Flowerdew family then after around 80 years of Lordship in Hethersett. It may be that Christopher had seen that manor as his birthright. The Flowerdews in general seem to have held that opinion, as in 1692, Thomas Flowerdew of Eltham in Kent - the scion of another branch of the Flowerdew family - bought up all three manors in Hethersett, and so brought them back into the family fold.

Christopher's father was still wealthy - and would have been more liquid than ever after the sale of the Manor - but that magic touch with money seemed to elude Christopher himself.

In the late 1640s he met Susan Reeve, and planned to marry her. As was the custom in those days, his father bestowed upon him an enticing estate. This was to make sure that Susan's family felt she would be well taken care of.

Raphe Flowerdew was a god fearing man and didn't feel he needed too much in the way of worldly goods. He gave his son three quarters of his considerable estate, including the mansion house. He moved into a smaller house he thought would be more manageable for him in his riper years.

Upon receiving this gift, Christopher lost no time in complaining that the new mansion was in a sorry state, so Raphe spent £200 on repairing the buildings. This was the equivalent of around £55,000 nowadays. In spending power, it would have paid the wages for 6,666 days' work by a skilled tradesman. With that much work required, perhaps Christopher had been right to complain.

Anyway, in return, all that his father Raphe requested was that Christopher would keep Raphe's own house in good repair, as the bulk of his income from leasing his land had all gone to his son Christopher.

A simple request, and fair enough after the considerable gift and outlay he'd given his son, but Christopher ran into money trouble almost immediately.

Between his marriage in 1647 and the birth of his first child Susan in 1648, he'd mortgaged off 12 acres of land for around £125. Money makes money, so I feel he can be given the benefit of the doubt here. But if he had started off with a great money making plan, it seems to have fallen over somewhere
along the way.

You see, in 1651, he finally paid off that mortgage, and the same day re-mortgaged the same land to the same person.

This was a signal that things were not going too well for him financially.

It's especially the case as he had to sell some more easily moveable property in order to pay off that first mortgage on time. And this is how the site of Pump Hall first enters the records - as a quick sale to cover Christopher Flowerdew's mortgage repayments.

It's not just the mortgages and the sale that make me think he had money trouble. It comes from the words of his own father Raphe.

Raphe's will was written a couple of years after Christopher sold the site of Pump Hall. In it you get the impression that Christopher had in the meantime been doing his best to scrape together a little more money and had ruffled the odd feather in the process.

The first indication of trouble was that Christopher was passed over as Executor of his father's will. His brother in law William Eyre was made Executor instead, Christopher being named Supervisor instead. This meant he could give advice, but had no real power. Alongside this appointment, it was made clear to Christopher that if he took Raphe's executor to court, all legal fees from both sides of the case were to come from Christopher's inheritance.

Raphe's fear was that - in his own words: "my son Christopher perhaps will be vexatious, not suffering his father's old withered bones quietly nor in peace to remain in my grave having expressed to molest my executor for reparations."

Nevertheless, after laying down the law, Raphe did try to keep the peace. He put aside 20 shillings a year in his will for the in-laws to have an annual family dinner together and a "friendly meeting". This was about a month's wages for a skilled tradesman, so quite an outlay to keep the peace.

Something was required, because it seems Christopher didn't just have trouble with his in-laws.

When Raphe bestowed a gift upon his niece Alice, he felt it necessary to give her a very clear warning of the perils she faced from her cousin. He told her that "by extremity of lawe my son Christopher may challenge the same, which
was never intended to be for him as he well knoweth, having given him and his Heirs a large estate."

To be certain she received her bequest, he made sure that before his death he handed the land over to the local Lord for safekeeping.

It may be that Christopher was desperate to pay off his debts, or it may be that he was grasping, like his relative Baron Flowerdew. Whatever it was, mention of Christopher pops up throughout his father's will, and rarely in a flattering light. He was the child that garnered most of his attention but Raphe still took the time to note the character of his other children and to demonstrate his perspicacity.

He gave £4 to his daughter Anne "to buy her a Gown (yet noe mourning gowne) but onely to save her husband's purse which she like a good wife have always beene sparing of it, which I suppose he very little regardeth."

He was a Godly and pragmatic man, and I think had clear views on what did and did not resemble propriety. Perhaps he was making a subtle comment to her husband.

Another example of his God fearing nature (apart from the odd quote from the book of Revelations) was that he asked that no-one at his funeral wear mourning clothes at his death "which among some is pride, others custom or superstition & amongst all vanity & noe way befits the dead Carcase".

While Raphe did his best as Christopher's father, he seems to never have found a way to make peace with his son. He died four years after making his will, and never felt there was any cause to alter its contents.

The saddest indictment upon their relationship is contained in a few lines from Raphe's will.

He recounts how he found himself vulnerable and ill as he lay for some time in a "languishing sickness."

When he recovered, he looked about himself and called Christopher to task as "since it has pleased God to restore me to better health, contrary happily to his {Christopher's} expectation, & verily and indeed utterly to mine own, whereby is found in some places in the house it rayneth now downe."

Raphe had given Christopher (and repaired at great expense) the better part of his estate, on condition that Christopher would keep Raphe's own home in repair. Yet while he lay perhaps dying Christopher let the house fall to ruin.

It may be that Christopher was more akin to his great grandfather John and his grandfather's brother Baron Flowerdew than to his own father. A more generous appraisal could be that he was just never able to get himself organised, and things fell through the cracks. It's very hard to tell for certain after so many years, though I don't feel I'm reading too far between the lines here.

Christopher's stepmother Susan knew Christopher far better than we ever will,
and perhaps she can have the last word.

She penned her own will not long after Raphe’s death and, no doubt, was as religious as her husband had been. When writing her will she must have considered eternity, and how what we do in this world is weighed and judged in the next.

She gave nothing to Christopher, but she did give his wife something.

She gave her a solitary pair of scales, *“with all the lead weights belonging to the same.”*

Old Norwich Road looking back towards the former Fire Headquarters building which is currently up for sale. Just a little further ahead is the King’s Head pub which is looking for new tenants. The photograph shows one of the many hedges in the village encroaching on the path, something highlighted at the latest parish council meeting. For more on this see page
ONCE again this month we looked at petrol prices with our survey taken towards the end of the month. Our aim is to compare garages within easy driving distances of Hethersett to let you know where the best value is.

Prices have begun to rise again after some dipped below the £1 per litre price a couple of months ago. The closest stations to Hethersett at Wymondham and Thickthorn continue to charge the highest prices with Thickthorn 12p per litre and Waitrose 10p a litre more expensive than other places.

Each month we will be using the eight garages listed below to show how prices have increased or decreased over the past month. The best value petrol and diesel is highlighted in red.

There may be even better value if you go slightly further afield and please note that these prices were checked near the end of the month but may have changed further before publication.

Once again our advice if you want the best deals is shop around. You could save yourself hundreds of pounds over a year and that’s a lot of additional motoring.

### Herald Petrol Watch

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HOW TO CONTACT US
HETHERSETT & MULBARTON Safer Neighbourhood Team

A/Insp. Dave BURKE
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: 4151
David.Burke@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

PC Andy HUDSON
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: 2377
Andrew.Hudson@norfolk.police.uk

PC Chris BODEN
Beat Manager

Your Beat Manager 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: 2955
Christopher.Boden@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

SNTHethersett@norfolk.pnn.police.uk
/SouthNorfolkPolice
@SouthNorPPolice
RECREATIONAL cricket is back.

Players from Hethersett and Tas Valley took to the field for the first time this year over the weekend of Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July.

The club organised a number of T20 games with spectators and players observing new safety rules.

Club Development Officer Matt Bird said: “It was brilliant to have everyone back together. On the Saturday 80 players and supporters attended throughout the day, all observing appropriate social distancing and hygiene protocols.”

The club then started competitive fixtures against other clubs, starting with a comfortable win over Bradfield in a friendly and then proved that the weather can be almost as destructive as covid by forcing the abandonment of the first teams game at Ashmanhaugh and Barton Wanderers on July 25th. Hethersett bowled Ashmanhaugh out for 90 with spinner Sam Morton taking 4-14. Hethersett had reached 13-1 when the rain started. The seconds had an excellent nine wicket win over Ashmanhaugh and Barton Wanderers Seconds.

Ashmanhaugh hit what looked to be a good score with 176-9 off of their 40 overs, but Hethersett made light work of winning the game with 180-1 off just 24 overs with Nick Burrett (103 not out) and Matt Ellis (55 not
out) putting on an unbeaten 156 for the second wicket.

The usual Norfolk Alliance and Norfolk League seasons have been cancelled due to the virus but the Norfolk Cricket Board has organised a series of mini-leagues through to the end of August matching up teams according to their abilities and league standings.

The matches began on July 25th with 65 clubs entering 102 teams which were split into 17 groups of six.

Hethersett Firsts are in group four where they will come up against Ashmanhaugh, Bradfield, Bungay, Martham and Lowestoft.

Hethersett Seconds are in group seven along with second teams from Ashmanhaugh, Acle, Cromer, Brooke and Winterton.

Hethersett Thirds are in group 13 with Colney. Hardingham, Great Ellingham, Ketteringham Hall and Coltishall and Hethersett Fourths are in group 16 with Bungay. Hingham, Hardingham, Hales and Gillingham.

On the opening day of the new leagues, Hethersett and Tas Valley Thirds match against Colney was abandoned through rain. The Fourths went down to Gillingham. Hethersett batted first and were all out for 131 and Gillingham replied with 133-2.

For full results and coming fixtures please visit the club’s official website at https://htvalley.play-cricket.com/home.

Meanwhile the club will also be running a Sunday side in the National Village Cup and friendlies and youth teams at Under-9s, Under-11s, Under-13s, Under-15s, Under-19s and a ladies team.

The Under-9s are pictured above after their match against Great Ellingham Under-9s.

They are photographed with coaches Matt Steward and Sara Worley.
Our Pre-School is run by a team of experienced, qualified and caring staff.

Open Monday-Friday during term time.

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Open to children from 2 1/2 - School age.

Providing Quality Childcare for over 30 years.

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01603812362

www.littlemeltonpreschoolnursery.co.uk
Registered Charity No:1028459

This organisation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all its staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
The September edition of Hethersett Herald will be online at the end of August.

News, features and photographs should be with the editor by August 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@lineone.net

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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 five 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@lineone.net.

We will then draw up a group for circulation. Your e-mail address will not be disclosed to any third parties and will be used exclusively for notification of new publications.

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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.
Advertise In Hethersett Herald

Hethersett Herald is a monthly e-magazine published in the last week of each month. We are now happy to take advertising. If you want to promote your business to a wide audience and support our aims of bringing village news and views to as many people as possible why not take out an advert? Our rates are detailed below.

If you wish to advertise in Hethersett Herald please contact the editor Peter Steward on petersteward@lineone.net or 01603 811052.

Artwork should be supplied by the advertisers in Jpeg format.

Contact Us

petersteward@lineone.net

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How To Contact The Parish Council

THE parish council office in the village hall is currently closed to the public due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Parish clerk Annette Palmer 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.

News From The Parish Council

A Hazard to Pedestrians

Overgrowing trees and hedges are once again concerning the parish council. A number of complaints have been forthcoming from residents and the parish council has been told that Norfolk County Council Highways Department would be investigating the matter once the “birding season” has finished.

Councillor Mike Stark questioned whether the safety of wildlife should take precedence over the safety of people forced to go into the road because of overgrown hedges and trees. The problem is particularly prevalent in the area around Henstead Road and Queen’s Road.

Councillor Leslie Dale said he had drawn up a list of between 10 and 20 problem areas whilst walking round the village during lockdown. Where necessary the parish council will be contacting residents to ask them to cut trees and hedges back.

District Councillor Adrian Dearnley also reported on a number of vehicles parked “in dangerous locations and on grass verges.” He asked councillors to let him know of any problem areas. Council chairman Adrienne Quinlan referred to bad parking and parking on grass verges as “an annual problem.”
News From The Parish Council

Transport Boost

There were a number of boosts transport-wise announced at the meeting by district and county councillor David Bills who told members that work on the cyclepath on the B1172 is almost complete and there would be an official opening in the near future. In addition a bus will now run through Little Melton at times suitable to take children to and from Hethersett Academy (we covered this fully in the previous edition of Hethersett Herald).

Funrun Grant

A £1,000 grant has been approved by South Norfolk Council to support the 10th Hethersett funrun scheduled to take place next July. The money was originally set aside for this year’s run which had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. District Councillor Phil Hardy explained that the grant has now been rolled over for the 2021 event.

Freedom of Use

Hethersett Parish Council has agreed in principle to groups using the field at the back of the village hall free of charge whilst the hall is closed.

Groups must adhere to social distancing rules and music will not be allowed.

“We want to encourage people to get out and do things whilst protecting ourselves and the village,” said council chairman Adrienne Quinlan.

Councillors felt that many of the groups likely to use the field were hirers of the hall and should be supported.

Takeaway To Continue

The takeaway pizza outlet which has been visiting the village hall car park on Saturday evenings will continue to operate for at least the next month, parish councillors have decided.

Hethersett-based Elsie’s Pizzas has been given the go-ahead to continue trading whilst the village hall is closed.

It is felt that it will be “several months” before the village hall is re-opened as a venue and the pizza takeaway’s presence will continue to be allowed on a month to month basis.

Members heard that the fish and chip van which has been operating during lockdown is no longer visiting the village.
Skateboard Park Update

A group set up to look into the possibility of a new skateboard park in Hethersett is still researching ideas, the council heard.

It is now likely that the group will report back to the September meeting of the parish council.

“The group is investigating the feasibility of a site on the North Hethersett development, doing research and gaining support for its ideas,” said council chairman Adrienne Quinlan.

Above is another of Graham Fisher’s Foon Family cartoons which we have been featuring during the current lockdown. We hope they bring a smile to your face.
Go Go Go In The Garden

AS usual, it's all go in our garden!

Our resident Collared Doves are nesting again for the fourth time this year. Their last brood was yet again successful, so we are expecting to see two more new babies any day now. They will be the fifth and six babies, all since lockdown. Collared doves sure like being busy.

We've had a couple of days here and there where the birds have seemingly vanished from the feeders, almost as if a Sparrowhawk has been about... but, I think it's just because of the time of year and that there is an abundance of natural food around for them, so they don't particularly need us at the moment.

We've had a few Jackdaws coming and going, they brought their baby along with them. What a noise those little ones make! One of the proud parents is a Jackdaw that we call Penguin, as he has part leucism – which is the partial loss of pigmentation in their feathers, almost like they've got highlights! Which makes him a striking black and white.

We've had the Great Spotted Woodpecker back again which was a very welcome visitor, as well as fleeting visits from hedgehogs and now regular appearances from Goldfinches, one of my favourite birds. We even had a few visits from an illusive Jay with his/her youngster.

I bought a squirrel feeder using my birthday money recently. However, the squirrels aren't bothering to even try using it, they'd rather chew through the plastic feeders meant for the birds to get to the sunflower hearts. Why do I bother eh?

Wood Pigeons are here in abundance as usual. We've
spotted a few juveniles too which is lovely.

*          *          *

Since the last issue I've had short visits from two hedgehogs, not in my garden though.

Some lovely people in Hethersett have been finding
baby hedgehogs in their gardens and not knowing what to do with them. With rescue centres being fit to bursting, ordinary folk like you and I have had to step in. I’ve had an enormous amount of help from Emily Draper who runs Carrot and Biscuit Pet Services (highly recommended, by the way) who acted as a hedgehog taxi no matter what time of night it was.

First of all we had Adam (later named Flip), a tiny hoglet found at Cromwell Close - who is suspected to be the sibling of two other babies that had been found previous nights on the same road and are still thriving under Connie Tindale's care as we speak. We kept him on a heat pad for an hour or so, until Emily came to fetch him to take to Connie. He was the smallest hog I've held in my hands, dear little thing! However, despite Connie's best efforts, sadly he didn't make it.

A number of days later, Emily brought me another hoglet named Boycie. We had him for around two to three hours and again he spent some time on a heat pad. I removed numerous ticks and fly eggs and attempted to rid him of his fleas. He was very lively (but wobbly!) and happily had some cat food 'sauce' via syringe. Again, Emily picked him up and took him to a hedgehog rehabber. Lyz from Hallswood Animal Sanctuary took him from there and he is slowly recovering.

Thank goodness for the vigilant residents of Hethersett who knew that something was amiss when they saw small hedgehogs out during the day.

I won't go into more detail as I know Connie will cover anything hedgehog related in her column. Speaking of which......

For Connie

A few weeks ago, I put a call out on the All Things Hethersett Facebook group to see if anyone would be happy to contribute to a collection for Connie Tindale from Hethersett Hedgehogs.

As usual, Hethersett didn't disappoint. We put together £215
which was spent on gifts for Connie. I knew she wouldn't accept a cash donation so decided on showering her with gifts instead. People were so generous.

I can't even recall exactly what we got her but part of it was a sparkling afternoon tea for two at Park Farm for Connie and her husband Mick to take some time out together. There were also some plants for her garden and home, lots of cat food and hog food (for the hogs of course). lots of hedgehog themed gifts – mainly bought from The British Hedgehog Society - a hedgehog cake and much, much more.

Connie has a terminal illness so is not in good health, but she does not let that stop her from living her life to the full and dedicating her time to hedgehog care (and now a tortoise too). She also has three rescue cats and a garden full of wildlife and plants to care for. She deserves every good thing she gets and more. She has a wealth of knowledge and is a fantastic role model to many. Thank you for all that you do, Connie. Hethersett is a better place with you in it. Thank you also to the many, many people who contributed to getting her such an abundance of gifts.

ANON Street Team are back out in Norwich, feeding our homeless and vulnerable friends.

Things are of course different to what they once were. We no longer have the stall to serve food from (thanks to Norwich City Council, who tore it down) but we probably wouldn't be able to use it at the moment anyway due to social distancing. Rather than us physically serving the food, we portion it all up into individual disposable containers for people to take away with them, which helps us to keep everyone safe.

Anon always need volunteers, so if you think you can help cook meals or do food pick-ups from supermarkets (there are other things that can be done to help, too many to list) please get in touch. You can be involved as much or as little as you wish, your support would be greatly appreciated.
Peregrine Mad

IT’S no secret that I’ve been obsessed with the Peregrine Falcons at Norwich Cathedral this year. I did watch them fleetingly last year but I wasn’t as invested as I am this time around. My four-year-old daughter and I have watched them most days, sometimes for hours at a time, since they hatched. GA and Norman, the Falcon and Tiercel (mum and dad) had four successful chicks; three girls and a boy. The boy was ringed as TC, the three girls TA, TB and TD which is how they are now known. I love all of them, but TD fast became mine and many others’ favourite; she was often seen hanging around on the nest even after fledging and she even landed near to the ground at the Cathedral on a number of occasions, allowing some of the dedicated peregrine watchers to get some superb photographs of her.

TD was such a favourite of mine that I decided to ask Chris Skipper, Peregrine enthusiast and wildlife photographer, if I could use one of his photos of TD to use as a reference for a paper quilled picture of her (paper quilling is the art of rolling thin strips of paper into shapes to create a bigger picture). Chris thankfully agreed, so I decided that when the piece was finished, I would gift it to him and his fiancee, Kim (also a peregrine enthusiast and photographer). It took around 20 hours to complete. Little did I know that whilst I was midway through the piece, TD was involved in an accident with a plane at Norwich Airport and she died on impact. It is such a tragedy and I have a tear in my eye whilst writing this. Chris says that usually only 50% of the juvenile Peregrines make it anyway, so I suppose it was to be expected at some point. There has also been no reported sightings of the first to fledge chick, TD (the only male), for a number of weeks. This could be because he’s travelled further and taken up home elsewhere, but it shows how important ringing them is, if they weren't ringed we wouldn't have known of TD's fate.

Anyway, I was invited to the Cathedral by Chris and Kim to present them with their gift. What a fantastic experience it was! Eva and I were so very lucky to see GA and Norm, the adults, and TA and TB, the remaining girls. We witnessed GA come home with a Pigeon, being chased by a Gull. It was such a fantastic experience which I will look back on fondly. I hope to be much more involved next year and maybe even see next year’s chicks fledge.
Some of my images of the Peregrine Falcons at Norwich Cathedral including one of my daughter Eva taking a very keen interest in them.
On the left is our presentation to Kim and below my interpretation of the Peregrine Falcons that we presented to her.

Opposite is my artwork which we presented to Chris skipper and his fiancée Kim.
Hannah’s Hethersett Life

Partial lockdown Birthday

On 7th July, I celebrated my 30th Birthday. I couldn't celebrate it exactly how I wanted to, thanks to the coronavirus, but I still had a lovely day.

Thanks to the easing of some restrictions, a few family members were able to visit.

At the end of the day, there was a knock at the door and when I opened it I was greeted by most of my neighbours standing there and singing Happy Birthday. They had put
up a table in front of my door which held flowers, presents, chocolates and a delicious hedgehog birthday cake. It was such a lovely thought and I really appreciated such a special end to the day. Thank you very much, Drake Close neighbours.

I hope that everyone who has had birthdays and other special occasions fall during lockdown, has managed to enjoy them.

Join me next month where I'll update you on our garden wildlife again and I'll hopefully have an independent article about a certain Derek the Horse.. watch this space! Take care all.

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Group Updates

Hethersett, Wymondham and District Probus Club have cancelled all its meetings until at least the end of September.

The Messy Church picnic scheduled for 11th July was cancelled. The group is hoping to return before the end of the year but only when it is safe to do so.

Heart of Hethersett Bereavement Group and Hethersett Dementia Support Group continue to be closed with no date at the moment for resumption.

Hethersett Methodist Church is still closed to all groups.

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Just one shot of the beautiful wild flowers growing in and around the fields of Hethersett.
Recycling and Upcycling

Elaine Canning is a regular reader and contributor to the Herald and wanted to urge more people to sell on or give away items rather than taking them to the household recycling centre.

“Recycling is yet another of my soap boxes! I can’t believe what goes in the tip (recent visit this week). I know charity shops are overflowing at the moment but I have recently used Gumtree for getting rid of free things. I also use Next Door and Facebook Marketplace whilst in the process of re-organising my house and garage which is ongoing.

“As for plastic. I wish we could have an upcycling group in Hethersett to share ideas and skills and show people what can be done. There might even be ideas out there how to reduce the use of plastic. Wouldn’t it be great if Hethersett could show others how to do it.”

We would love to hear from anyone who has ideas on the above.

Questions, Answers and Letters

We received a query from resident Audrey Cooper about a very old tree that once stood in the grounds of the former Hethersett Old Hall School (now owned by Norfolk Police). Audrey wrote:

“While reading about the Tulip Tree outside the library and its possible age, it triggered a memory of the very large tree that I saw in the grounds of Old Hall School when attending one of the fetes. Does anyone know how old this tree is and if it’s still there?”

Sadly the 300 year old beech tree was condemned as being diseased and unsafe and was taken down in February, 2015. It is pictured above.
Walking to Kett’s Oak, my mind far away so as not to hear the sounds of the
B1172, I felt again that I was ‘under a Lionel Edwards sky’. Time and time
again these words spring to mind when walking in the Norfolk countryside.
Yet the words come from John Betjeman’s poem ‘Hertfordshire’ and Lionel
Edwards was famed for his painting of horses; but take your eyes away from
his subject matter then those skies, so synonymous with
Norfolk, will appear in many of
his paintings. If you have time
please read the poem
‘Hertfordshire’. It is all about
Betjeman, as a young lad,
mishandling a gun on a syndi-
cated shoot with an unforget-
table ending.
Across the fields of Hethersett by John Head

John’s image of Kett’s Oak has a dreamlike quality to it that makes you think of days gone by when life was somewhat slower.

Summer flowers sparkling in the sunshine
POLICE are warning residents to be on their guard after receiving reports of doorstep cold callers trying to sell household cleaning products.

This follows an incident where a young male cold called at a property in South Norfolk claiming he was from a ‘youth offending team’ and was selling items ‘donated by charities to gain marketing skills’.

The advice is NEVER deal with anyone who cold calls at your property offering to sell something.

It is possible these sellers will continue to move onto other locations in Norfolk. Anyone sighting these sellers should contact Trading Standards through the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone 0808 223 1133 or to Norfolk Constabulary via 101.

If you feel intimidated or sight these cold callers and are concerned for vulnerable neighbours call 999

As lockdown eases, Norfolk County Council’s Trading Standards are urging residents to beware of rogue traders who are turning up on doorsteps to scam people out of thousands of pounds.

Three residents near Norwich lost more than £17,000 to fraudsters who had told their victims that they had ‘seen problems’ with their homes, including cracked and unsafe chimneys.

The incidents saw three men pressuring residents into agreeing to work by claiming that urgent repairs were needed to prevent chimneys falling or collapsing.

After quoting prices of several thousand of pounds and completing a small amount of work, claims were then made that more issues had been found and the price for the job increased dramatically.

At this point the fraudsters said they needed payment in full to buy materials or hire equipment. But once the money was handed over they left the work incomplete and never returned.
Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Norfolk County Council Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships, said: “It is disgusting that as we are coming out of lockdown so too are the unscrupulous fraudsters trying to scam people in our communities. The fraudsters struck near Norwich but they could be moving to other areas of Norfolk so I’m urging people to be on the lookout.

“The simple message is that we should never agree to have work done by somebody who is ‘just passing’ or take their word that the work needs to be done at all.

“Our Norfolk County Council Trading Standards team recommends that we should only deal with reputable companies you have researched and chosen yourself to work on your home.”

In the recent incidents two of the three males involved are described as mid-twenties in age and are believed to be using a white Ford Transit with ladders on the roof.

If you see these cold callers in Hethersett, call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on freephone 0808 223 1133 or Norfolk Constabulary via 101. If you feel intimidated, or see these cold callers and are concerned for vulnerable neighbours, call 999.

Norfolk County Council Trading Standards advise to:

• Never deal with cold callers.
• Never agree to have work done by somebody who is ‘just passing’ or is 'working at a neighbours.'
• Never allow a cold caller access to your home, roof or gardens even if they are offering to do tasks for a small fee or free.
• Never pay for work before it is completed.
• Always deal with reputable companies you have researched and chosen yourself and get a written quote first.

Looking for a Trader you can Trust? Try a Norfolk Trusted Trader. To search the directory and read feedback from their customers visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/trustedtrader
Progress on School Building

The photograph above was taken from Back Lane, looking across to the new Woodside Primary School building. The story of the last days of the Woodside Building in Firs Road is told extensively elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

News From Dawson’s Law

As a local business we remained open during lockdown to support our clients in the community and to provide peace of mind through visibility.

We quickly adapted and, in order to remain physically distanced (we are always sociable), we commenced taking instruction through Zoom (and other video platforms) and telephone.

The community has really supported us as a local business too and kept in contact and kept us busy. As a result we have taken on another solicitor to join our Private Client Team. Susannah is also Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEPS) qualified and accredited with solicitors for the elderly. Susannah joins us in preparing Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Probate applications and administration. Susannah is particularly experienced in assisting in assessments for capacity of the elderly, Trust and Will disputes.

We are also pleased to announce that new legal secretary solicitor Ellen Brown, who assisted throughout the lockdown period, will be joining the team permanently from September 1st and will undertake legal qualifications with Dawsons Law so one day she too can practice law locally.

We will have more on the staff at Dawson’s Law in the next edition of Hethersett Herald.
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 Adrian Dearnley, Phil Hardy and David Bills. David can be contacted on 01603 813041 or at dbills@s-norfolk.gov.uk, Phil on 07985 695668 or at phardy@s-norfolk.gov.uk and Adrian on 07957139880 or at adearnley@s-norfolk.gov.uk.

**Hethersett Parish Council**

Clerk to the council Annette Palmer can be contacted on 01603 810915. Parish council chairman Adrienne Quinlan can be contacted on 01603 814379.

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). Currently all council meetings are being held on the zoom social media platform.

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 at the Village Hall (upstairs) on Monday and Thursday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon.

Email: hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk

Website – hethersettpc.info
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.hethersettherald.weebly.com
IT’S time to come clean. Scott Willoughby doesn’t exist. It was a pen name used by Hethersett Herald editor Peter Steward. So we have decided to send dear old Scott off on a well deserved retirement where he will be tending to bees in Sussex (that’s a reference to Sherlock Holmes for those in the know). In his place the editor will be featuring excerpts from his daily blog. You can read the full blogs at www.peterowensteward.weebly.com.

These will mainly be personal reflections on anything Hethersett-based that takes his fancy. We start with musings on the closure of the Woodside School building in Firs Road which is covered extensively in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

Thursday 2nd July

It's a rare thing for me not to have anything to write about. Today was such a day. So I decided to have a trawl round various files to find something that might be of some interest to readers of this blog.

And the result was a few memories prompted by the photograph opposite which shows Elizabeth Capleton unveiling a plaque to the new technology block at what was then Hethersett Middle School. The photograph was taken by an old colleague of mine - Paul Hewitt - and appeared in the Eastern Daily Press and Wymondham and Attleborough Mercury. It is reproduced here with grateful thanks to Archant for permission to use it.

Elizabeth died recently aged 79 and this photo was taken in 2003. I was chair of governors at the time and can be seen just behind Elizabeth to the right.

I have very fond memories of my time as a governor at the school, not the least of which was the fight we had to keep the school swimming pool open when it was under serious threat. We also managed to get an old asbestos
temporary technology classroom removed and the new technology block built. Another matter was moving the reception and Head's office from the side of the building to the front. Always the primary aim was to provide the best possible education for the children. I'm sure many of them will now have children of their own and hopefully happy memories of their time at the school.

Strangely on my study wall I have an end of year very long photograph of pupils and staff from 2000. Usually these are taken with people in a line, but on this occasion we all had our photographs taken individually and then printed in lines. Go down three lines from me and slightly to the left and you come to a girl by the name of Emma Frost. Emma is now our daughter-in-law. Isn't fate a strange thing?

Tim Strugnell was an excellent and much loved Head teacher who was very supportive of his staff. Hethersett seems to have been very fortunate in most of its choices of Heads over the years. I remember with affection Viv Horobin at Woodside who also died this year. Thankfully Tim is still very much alive and I believe he is living in Suffolk.

In the early days of my association with the school, we had a hugely active PTA led by Liz Hovey. I was vice chairman or chairman of vice as she liked to refer to it. When Liz decided to retire I ran a mile from taking on the role of chair. She was an impossible act to follow due to her boundless enthusiasm and energy. Liz still lives in the village and can often be found helping out in the family business at Hodge Podge in Oak Square.

There was a lot of madness about the PTA. We organised fetes, social events, discos and much more and had oodles of fun. How many people remember the Turkey Suppers around Christmas-time? These were legendary and sold out for the following year virtually the day after they had taken place. There was always a waiting list for tickets. There was nothing greatly original about them - just a turkey meal and disco - but people loved them as a chance to let their hair down. I know Elizabeth Capleton was a regular attendee.

Two things I remember about the annual May school fete were firstly getting gunged to mark my retirement as a governor and secondly a very strange competition where teachers were driven blindfold to an isolated location in the Norfolk countryside and then had to get back to the school as fast as possible. They weren't allowed to use public transport or have any money. I'm sure today this kind of "homing pigeon" thing would be against health
and safety. At times they hadn't reappeared before the event had finished and all the clearing up had taken place! Sometimes search parties had to be sent out to find them. Back at the fete, people would bet on who would get back the quickest.

And talking about health and safety, I remember looking a right mess after appearing in the gung tank. I was covered in this blue gunk. I think it was made mainly from Smash mashed potato and food colouring. The gung came out of an elaborate system of contraptions - most of which could be found in a toilet system. It wasn't all that unpleasant but being hosed down afterwards with cold water was. Good days though.

I would love to hear from anyone who has other memories of the Middle School, which subsequently became Hethersett Junior and now Hethersett VC Church of England Primary School to give it its full title.

**Tuesday July 21st**

It was a privilege to be able to pop down to Woodside School today to take photographs of staff and chat with Head Angela Jermy on the last week of the building. It's important to emphasise that it is only the building that is closing down - the school will be moving in September to a new purpose-built building on the new North Hethersett area.

There was a personal sadness about saying farewell to the building in Firs Road for me and Anne. About 30 years ago she began her teaching career at the school. It was the first school attended by our two sons and I used to go down on Friday afternoons to do some football coaching.

Over the years, I have also been down there on many occasions (particularly for Christmas and Easter performances and summer fetes) to take photographs for various Media outlets. There has always been a warm welcome and there have been a succession of first class Head Teachers which continues to this day with Angela Jermy.

Today staff were busy packing up and there was a sadness mixed with joy
at what they were doing. Angela was quick to point out that they will be taking the Woodside feeling of joy and love to the new building which, interestingly, will be two storeys. Took a number of photographs of the building for posterity and staff were only too happy to be pictured in front of the entrance.

Much of the sadness surrounding leaving the building is due to its iconic shape with a central hall and classrooms leading off it. Another sadness is the fact that no alternative use has been established for the building. Norfolk County Council's children's services are not interested in keeping it and that could mean it is offered for sale on the open market, similar to the sale of the former fire headquarters' site on Old Norwich Road.

These are changing and hugely interesting times for Hethersett. Old Hall School has closed and changed ownership, the Fire HQ is up for sale, education is in revolution and the future of the King's Head seems to be hanging in the balance. No doubt there will be many other changes as the village continues to grow. I wonder if in many years' time a couple of old timers will be in Firs Road.

"See that block of flats. That used to be where I went to school as a nipper."

"Nah. You mean it was a school?"

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**Have You Missed Out?**

YOU can catch up on previous editions of the Hethersett Herald by going to www.hethersettherald.weebly.com and following the links. Hethersett Herald is an independent publication for news, views and features about Hethersett and general articles written by residents.

It is currently available only online. If you have news or would like to be featured in Hethersett Herald contact editor Pfeter Steward on petersteward@lineone.net
Lots of baby hedgehogs about the village

IN the hedgehog world, July and August can be times of adventure and growth but for little ones who have found themselves lost, abandoned or orphaned they can also be times of being alone, frightened, hungry and most of all cold. Those things can be rectified if they are given immediate care but the longer they persist the harder they are to overcome.

If you find a baby hedgehog in daylight on your lawn or while out walking please do not just pop it in a box with the bit of food and then leave it until the next day before seeking someone to look after it. Those 24 hours or even 15 hours can mean the difference between life and death.

Warmth is what is needed. Something has to replace the body heat of its mother and its siblings. Its little body is not capable of generating sufficient heat to maintain its body temperature even in summer and it will slip into hypothermia. Babies cannot shiver and it will use every bit of its limited sources of energy to keep warm and then it will die.

The smallest hoglet we had brought in was 63 gm and it was so cold that we could not persuade it to eat. It had not eaten any of the food that had been placed in its delivery box and had tipped over its water making its T shirt bed even colder. Sadly it died after being with us on
Hethersett Hedgehogs

a heat pad for only a few hours. The loss of a baby is hard even if it is one that has just arrived. One loss was heart breaking; a tiddler weighing only 70 gm would not eat on its own and was syringe fed for eight days before it lost its fight for life.

On the other hand we had a pair of siblings (Zig and Zag—pictured above) who were brought in immediately they were found at the bottom of a hedge that had been removed from a garden.

They weighed 79 and 80 gm; now they weigh 390 and 450 gm so they can soon be released. They snuggled up together on a heat pad in their new home and ate well right from the beginning. I cannot stress enough just how important it is to act quickly. When looking at these two fatties it is hard to remember that only a few weeks ago they weighed only three ounces and were just about three inches long.

Soon they will be moved to the outside run as a halfway house to freedom. That is not as easy as it sounds either as they have not had experience of foraging for food and making their own nests. Freedom will be exciting but hard so they have to be somewhere where food is readily available every night and they have somewhere to shelter from cold and bad weather. (The outside run already has a resident rescued tortoise which will either have to share its space or move into another smaller one).

In all my years of caring for hedgehogs I have never accepted monetary contributions towards their care although I am guilty of relishing eating the trout that Dr. Signy and his fishing partner brought in for me. Yum yum. It was, and is, a complete labour of love.

So, you can imagine my surprise when Hanna Harrison came to the door bearing gifts from Hethersett residents not just of various vital hedgehog foods but bags full of Connie shaped goodies including special stationery, flowers and a wonderful hedgehog shaped birthday cake.

I do not have the words to thank and show my appreciation to all those who contributed towards the gifts or to Hannah who secretly arranged it all. It is yet more proof of how kind and generous Hethersett residents are. Huge safe distanced hugs to everyone.

Follow Connie and her hedgehogs every month in Hethersett Herald.
Groups and Societies

Due to the current pandemic, groups and societies have shut down for the foreseeable future although we know that some are using social media platforms such as Zoom to have impromptu meetings. We will be expanding and improving our groups and societies section once the pandemic is over and meetings can re-start (please see the notice below).

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@lineone.net.

Reports of events and meetings can also be sent to the above email address.

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

www.hethersettheerald.weebly.com

Announcement of publication is also made on social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Next Door. You can also be notified via e-mail.

If you enjoy reading Hethersett Herald please pass details on.

Please Get In Touch

If you have any stories or information you would like to see in the Hethersett Herald, please get in touch with us. You can find the contact details elsewhere in this edition.
A Growth Spurt

The rain and warm weather has made the garden grow well recently and the spurt in growth needs to be managed. At this time of year there is always so much to do, here I make some more suggestions for jobs which you can be getting on with during August.

In the Flower Garden

Continue to dead head the plants in hanging baskets to encourage new flowers and foliage in order to revive the display. Make sure you feed your baskets once a week – ‘Feed Friday’ is a good way to remember this.

Keep perennial plants cut back to keep borders tidy and prune all summer flowering shrubs once the blooms are finished.

Dead-head lilies for a better flower display next year.

Stake tall or top-heavy dahlias and lilies to prevent wind and rain damage.

Deadhead sweet peas regularly to keep them blooming. Water daily in dry weather.

As penstemon flowers fade, cut them back to just above a leaf to encourage more flowers.

Take cuttings of your favourite tender perennials such as pelargoniums and fuchsia to propagate them for next year.

Look out for symptoms of ‘clematis wilt’ including black discolouration on the leaves and stems of your clematis. Cut out any infected plant material and dispose of it in your household waste.

In the Vegetable Garden

Pick your courgettes while they’re young. Regular picking encourages more fruit.

Continue to feed tomato plants with a tomato fertiliser and remove lower leaves to help with air circulation and prevent disease.
Pinch out the top of tomato plants to concentrate the growth into the fruit that has already formed. Aim to leave five or six trusses of fruit per plant.

Lift and dry onions, shallots and garlic once the foliage has flopped over and yellowed. Store them in onion bags to prevent mould developing.

Cut back herbs to encourage a new flush of tasty leaves that you can harvest before the frost. Dry or freeze excess herbs to use in the kitchen later on.

Thin out direct-sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings, then water the rows well.

Continue to harvest second early potatoes now - perfect for salads.

Start harvesting your maincrop potatoes as the leaves yellow and die back. Store your potatoes in hessian sacks which exclude light but allow ventilation.

Harvest French and Runner Beans little and often to prevent them from setting seed. Leaving mature pods on the plant can prevent further flowers forming and reduce your crop.

Harvest beetroot, peas, carrots, chard, potatoes, salad leaves, lettuce and tomatoes this month.

Check for cabbage white butterfly eggs under brassica leaves and squash any that you find.

Clear away any diseased and spent foliage around your veg plants to discourage pests and diseases spreading.

Water your fruit and vegetable crops daily in warm weather. Try to ensure that they’re consistently moist.

**Other jobs**

Give hedges a final trim before they stop growing.

Don't worry if your lawn is looking brown, the autumn rains will soon make it green again.

Use water butts as much as possible and water your containers and baskets well.

Recycle your water - collect washing up water in a bucket outside for watering beds and lawns.

Cut back the fruited canes of your summer raspberries, leaving the new green canes for next year's crop. Tie in next year's raspberry canes to support wires or fencing.

Harvest your fruit trees - cherries, plums, peaches, nectarines and apricots should all be ripe now! Early varieties of apple trees will be ready towards the end of the month.
News From The Allotment

The big news from the allotment this month is about the bitter tasting courgette plants. Several holders have complained about inedible courgettes harvested from plants grown from a particular batch of rogue seeds.

The bitter taste is caused by an over-production of plant defence chemicals called ‘cucurbitacins’ resulting from a mutation within the plant. Affected fruits **should not be eaten** as it causes stomach upsets and affected plants should be removed.

Cut the end off the courgette and taste with your tongue – any bitter tasting ones should be destroyed.

On the more positive side, the rest of the harvesting is moving on apace. All of the onion and garlic plants have been lifted and are being dried, ready for storage.

The second early potatoes are ready for digging and the main crop isn’t far behind. The French beans are producing an abundant crop and the runner beans are setting well.

Early sown carrots and beetroots are ready for pulling. More leeks have been planted out where the potatoes have been harvested and regular weeding is still necessary.

Take care and enjoy your gardening.
Where To Eat In Hethersett

Church Farm Shop and Tea Rooms -
Norwich Road (B1172). Telephone 01603 814151
Open Mondays to Saturdays 9 am to 5 pm. Closed on Sundays.

Janey’s Village Café -
32A Mill Road. Telephone 01603 811234. e-mail - janeyd11@yahoo.co.uk.
Currently open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am until 2 pm and Fridays to Sundays from 9 am until 2 pm.

Hethersett Queen’s Head -
12 Norwich Road. Telephone 01603 810226.
Food served Monday to Thursday 11.45 am to 2 pm (lunch) and 6-8.30 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. Evening meals 5 to 8.30 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.
The latest edition to Hethersett coffee culture, Café Kin is part of the Rowan House Health and Well Being complex on Queen’s Road. Food and coffee served during the day from 8 am until 2.45 pm Mondays to Fridays.

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 form the village centre.

Outlets include Greggs, Burger King, Subway and McDonalds and there is also a petrol station and Travelodge.

During the pandemic please check with the individual outlets. Many of them are now providing a takeaway service or shorter opening hours. We will inform you of re-opening dates as soon as we have them.
Hethersett Herald

HETHERSETT Herald is published electronically in the first week of each month via the Hethersett Village web site at

www.hethersettherald.weebly.com

Hethersett Herald is a non profit making and independent publication providing news, views and information about Hethersett. It has no affiliation to any specific group, organisation or political party.

Information, reports and photographs are always welcome. These can be e-mailed to petersteward@lineone.net. 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. Views expressed are those of the individual authors.

Herald Team

Editor - Peter Steward

Associate Editors - Roger Morgan, Gary Wyatt and Hannah Harrison.

Regular Columnists - Connie Tindale. Penelope Brown and Hannah Harrison

Proof Reader - Anne Steward.

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@lineone.net.
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@lineone.net

Please note that many of these events will not be taking place at present due to Coronavirus. We have decided to keep this page active in order to inform residents of what is available to them once the epidemic is over.

Regular Events:

Hethersett Croquet Club meets on the Memorial Playing Field from 2.30 pm on Wednesday and Saturdays during the summer.

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 Table Tennis Club meets in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall from 7 pm on Fridays.

Hethersett Methodist Church Shoppers’ Coffee takes place on Saturdays from 10.30 am until midday.

First Steps pre-school Group meets in Hethersett Village Hall on Tuesdays from 10 am during school term time.

The Heart of Hethersett Bereavement Group meets in the lounge of Woodcote Sheltered Housing complex from 5.30 to 6.30 pm on alternate Tuesdays. All welcome, light refreshments available free of charge.

Hethersett Dementia Support Group’s monthly café takes place in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall from 10 am until midday every third Tuesday. There is also a social morning meeting on the first Tuesday of each month from 10 until 11.30 am.

Hethersett Short Mat Bowls Club plays two sessions each week in Hethersett Village Hall. The first is on Tuesday afternoons from 2.15 pm for a 2.30 pm start and the second is on Friday evenings at 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start.

In the light of the Coronavirus epidemic we have suspended our normal What’s on listings. The listings will be re-introduced once groups and societies begin meeting again.
Hethersett Social Club will be re-opening on 14th August but with restrictions in place. To read about these please see page.

The new opening hours will be as follows:

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - Closed
Wednesday - Closed
Thursday - Closed
Friday - 5 pm to 10 pm
Saturday - 4-10 pm
Sunday –2-6 pm

For more information on club activities telephone 01603 811195 or visit the official website at:: www.hethersettsocialclub.co.uk

Check Out Facebook Pages

Lockdown restrictions may have been eased but there is still a need to be kept informed on the up-to-date situation. There are a number of village Facebook pages that will do just that. The best page to view is the All Things Hethersett site which has over 3,000 members and includes numerous postings from residents throughout the day.

There is also a Hethersett Facebook page and a Hethersett Herald page. Just pop along to Facebook and search for them.