



Hope For Post Office

THE future of a post office in Hethersett hangs in the balance following the closure of the existing office in the middle of the month.

But there are optimistic signs that an office will open in the village in the not too distant future either as a temporary pop up or a permanent structure. Hethersett Postmaster Kevin Salmon, who took over the running of the office in Oak Square 10 years ago, shut for the final time on January 13th.

In a post on social media, chairman of Hethersett Parish Council Adrienne Quinlan hoped that a new venue for a post office in Hethersett would be found: “The Parish Council has been in correspondence with Post Office Counters Limited since November 2020 in an attempt to retain a Post Office within the village. The Parish Council can confirm that one interested party remains in discussion with Post Office Counters Limited and we are working with Norfolk County Council and Post Office Counters to secure temporary accommodation in order for a Pop Up Post Office to operate in the village.”

Mrs Quinlan underlined her hopes at the January parish council meeting: “Talks are continuing for a permanent office in the village. We have people prepared to staff a pop up post office



but nowhere to locate it at the moment.”

Mrs Quinlan thanked postmaster Kevin Salmon for his “service to the village over many years.”

In a letter to customers, the Post Office said: “We are writing to inform you that regrettably following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing temporarily on Thursday 13th January,

The letter goes on to say “I would like to assure you that we are currently investigating the options available which will enable us to re-instate a post office service to the local community.

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The March edition of Hethersett Herald will be available exclusively online from the end of February. Please note that the editor's e-mail address has changed and items for inclusion should now be sent to petersteward@sky.com

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A Message From The Editor

Hello and welcome to the February edition of Hethersett Herald.

Our post office closed in the middle of the month but I feel pretty confident that a new office will open somewhere in the village before too long.

I was working on putting together the February edition of our sister publication "Good News" when I came across the fact that Kevin Salmon took over as postmaster 10 years ago.

Up to then it had been in the hands of the Keeley family for over 40 years. Firstly Randall and Shirley Keeley and later their daughter Heather and husband Phil Emery.

I remember the days when the post office was a large shop opposite the junction of Great Melton Road and Henstead Road. This shop was knocked down many years ago.

In those days the shop sold just about everything, one of those Aladdin cave style shops.

So let's hope that we haven't seen the last of a post office in the village. My understanding of the last few months is that Kevin Salmon was offered a new five year lease on the existing building but turned it down, having made it clear that he wanted to retire.

* * *

Huge congratulations and massive thanks to the Finnbar's Force charity for all their efforts again at Christmas (we should refer to this a last Christmas rather than this).

I think sometimes that people who

organise groups etc don't receive the appreciation they deserve.

Very few people will be aware of the amount of effort that goes into producing this festive wonderland.

Volunteers start putting the lights up in September and it takes them the best part of three months to get them all in place.

The thing I love about them is the thought that in 20 years time adults will remember the lights from their childhood. This will be one of the great things they remember from growing up in the village..

And the fame of the lights is beginning to spread further afield.

I was visiting another Christmas display in Wymondham in mid December when I overheard a woman say to the person they were with:

"I understand there's a marvellous display of lights in Hethersett as well and that they are well worth seeing."

January is often referred to as a dead month in journalistic terms—the month when people hanker down and very little seems to be happening.

I don't think this is the case anymore and I'm glad once again to bring you details of just some of the things happening in our village.

Peter



THE letter from the Post Office informing Hethersett residents about the closure of the village post office.

The current postmaster was offered an extension to his lease but turned it down and has retired.



Dear Customer

Branch Temporary Closure

**Hethersett Post Office
Great Melton Road, Hethersett, Norwich, NR9 3AB**

We are writing to inform you that, regrettably, following the resignation of the postmaster and the withdrawal of the premises for Post Office use, the above branch will be closing temporarily on Thursday 13 January 2022.

The provision of a Post Office service to our customers in the local community is important to us and we will continue to work hard to restore services in the area as soon as possible. We would welcome any applications from potential retail partners interested in running a branch locally on our behalf. The vacancy is currently being advertised on our website www.runapostoffice.co.uk and applications will be carefully considered. If you are aware of any interested parties, please do share the link with them.

I would like to assure you that we are currently investigating the options available which will enable us to reinstate a Post Office service to the local community. In exploring this, it is important that any future service is sustainable for the person operating the service, and for Post Office Limited.

Future provision will reflect customer numbers and usage and we may take the opportunity to establish an alternative type of service. This may be a local style branch which runs alongside an established retail shop in newly refurbished premises and creates a more modern and convenient experience for customers.

If you have any questions you would like to raise about this matter, please write to me via the National Consultation Team at the address shown at the end of the letter. Please note that your comments will not be kept confidential unless you expressly ask us to do so by clearly marking them "In Confidence".

Any future changes to service provision would be handled in line with our Principles of Community Engagement. An extract relating to Notification is available at the end of this letter.

We will display posters in the branch to inform customers.

The Last Bus Comes To Hethersett

THE next film in the Hethersett Village Screen series sees Timothy Spall starring in “The Last Bus.”

Spall plays elderly Tom whose wife has just passed away. He uses only local buses on a nostalgic trip to carry her ashes all the way across the UK to Land's End, where they originally met, using his free bus pass.



Unbeknown to Tom, his journey begins to capture the imagination of the local people that he comes across and his story hits the national headlines.

In March the feature will be “The Courier.” April will see “Supernova” and the season is rounded off in May with the Princess Diana biopic “Spencer.”



We will have more on the coming programme of films in future editions of Hethersett Herald.

Films are held on the first Sunday of each month from September to May at 3 pm in the Village Hall. Tickets are £5 for adults.



The group has a Facebook page to keep you up to date with coming features.

You can access this at:

www.facebook.com/hethersettvs

The Last Bus will be playing in Hethersett Village Hall on Sunday February 6th.



Father and Son Compete For Hawks

HETHERSETT Hawks/Yellow Brick Mortgages had a father/son representation at the British Indoor Championships held in Coventry and both gave a good account of themselves adjusting to the tight track and sports hall surface. Mason Martin raced in the Under-16 Final and finished 6th with 13 points and that included a race win in heat 11. This was his first indoor racing experience.

It was the challenge of Dave Martin to do better in the Over-40s Final but he was up against an array of former British Champions. He won two of his five races and finished in 7th place overall with 13 points.

Unfortunately, the Hawks had to pull out of the British Indoor Team competition due to illness and injury in the planned team. The event was won by regional rivals Ipswich.

Hawks had further representation on day two of the British Indoor Championships in Coventry. After his 6th place in the Under-16 section, Mason Martin stayed over to contest the Under-14 Championship, an event in which he finished third at the outdoor championships in August.

Despite his relative inexperience he performed well to again finish 6th, this time with 15 points after winning his first race. He will have picked up lots of tips and is expected to be a key member of the Hawks squad when the new outdoor season opens in March, ably supported by his Hawks legend father Dave.

Mel Perkins MBE

Magnificent Support For Poppy Appeal 2021

By Richard Gunstone—Poppy Appeal Organiser

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank everyone in Hethersett and the surrounding villages for their magnificent support of the 2021 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Thank you to all businesses and schools, willing to have collection boxes in place, and the added bonus that we were allowed to return to door-to-door collecting in 2021.

Then with the outstanding support of the public, a magnificent total of £3,308.85 was raised. An incredible 40% increase on the 2020 figure.

I am personally truly grateful for your support of this important charity and I now look forward to the 2022 Appeal.

If you would like to help with the next Poppy Appeal at the end of October 2022 by doing a bit of door-to-door collecting – perhaps just in your own road - please give me a call or drop me a text on 07977 530977.

A part of Hethersett will be closed for the first two weeks of February.

A stretch of Little Melton Road from the junction with Back Lane northwards will be closed except for access from 31st January until 11th February. This is for Anglian Water pipes work.

Traffic will be re-routed via Little Melton Road, Burnthouse Lane, Harness Maker Way, Colney Lane, Norwich Road,



Toadwatch Time Again

By Georgette Vale

Toadwatch volunteers are starting to prepare for the annual migration of the toads to see them safely across the roads to their breeding ponds. Volunteers spend a few hours week patrolling at dusk during the springtime to help the toads cross the roads. We mainly need people who can get to Wicklewood or Wramplingham Road (off Tuttlles Lane), Great Melton and Little Melton. If you would like to help please contact us info@toadwatch.org or go to www.toadwatch.org for more information. Do feel free to ring 01953 605434 or 07867 681839

Since 2004, the local toadwatch scheme has saved many thousands of toads, frogs and newts from being squashed by cars during the Spring migration, Without the efforts of volunteers the local toad populations would be severely depleted and this would mean many more slugs.

The local Toadwatch group will be holding a meeting at Hethersett Queen's Head on Monday 31st January at 8pm.

The group is also urging people to check their fences to make it possible for wildlife to migrate through their garden. Many hedges and old fences are being replaced with impenetrable concrete gravel boards which is likely to have a serious impact on hedgehogs, amphibians and even insects.

Street Art or Vandalism?

WHEN is graffiti street art and when is it vandalism?

That is the questions that has arisen from the latest example sprayed on one of the side walls of the village hall. The matter was discussed at the January meeting of Hethersett Parish Council (see report elsewhere in this edition) and the village hall management committee will be looking at ways of removing it.

Councillor Chris Morriss believes that all so called street art is graffiti and vandalism unless “the artists” have been given permission to adorn the walls.

Mr Morriss included the legendary Banksy in his views and he has a point. Banksy may be a nationally known artist but he practices his art on buildings and structures that he doesn't have permission to adorn. Of course Banksy's art is worth an absolute fortune. But the problem is for every Banksy there are thousands of others armed with spray cans making unwanted mess throughout the country.

Not so long ago bus shelters, road signs and other areas of Hethersett were despoiled by grotesque graffiti that has no artistic value whatsoever. Should we be deciding on the validity of something according to whether we appreciate it as a piece of art anyway?

The last thing we want is for the latest images to prompt copycat work throughout the village.

Unfortunately CC TV cameras are unlikely to provide images of the perpetrators as the graffiti was posted sometime over the Christmas holidays.

So I suppose we come back to our initial question:

When is graffiti street art and when is it vandalism?

The Herald Talking Point

With Peter Steward



Village Litter Pick

THERE was another excellent turnout from Hethersett residents for the latest village litter pick on January 15th.

Twenty four volunteers collected 17 bags of litter which was disposed of by Tesco's.

Pictured opposite is Ella who is working towards her Duke of Edinburgh Award. One of the items of litter recovered was the Chinese lantern pictured here just proving that you never know what you might find on a litter pick and also illustrating the possible dangers that these lanterns can cause



The next litter pick will be on Saturday 5th February starting from Hethersett Village Hall at 2 pm. All are welcome and equipment is provided.

WHAT CAN WE ALL DO TO HELP WILDLIFE?

Hethersett Parish Council continues its series on environmental matters with some hints on how to help our wildlife

WHILE a team of intrepid volunteers will be working to seed areas at the Village Sign and the Village Hall in February, what can we all do to help our wildlife flourish, no matter what size garden we have?

For bigger gardens, you could let an area of grass grow, so plants like daisies, buttercups and clover can flourish, all vital food for bees and other pollinators. No matter what size garden, grow climbers – both the flower and seeds of ivy, for instance, are good sources of food and pollen, and all climbers provide year-round cover for birds and insects.

You also don't need a large garden for a pond – you could bury a bucket or a trough, it doesn't matter how big the pond is, it will still attract wildlife. Please remember, if you do build a larger pond, to use stones or branches to allow for an easy exit should small mammals fall in.

You could also build an insect hotel – it doesn't need to be a grand affair – just leave a pile of rocks, twigs and rotting wood, and the insects will do the rest! Putting up bird boxes and feeding birds through the winter, with high protein food in the spring, will not only be a pleasure, but will also be a boost to the wildlife in your garden, no matter how much garden you have got.

While this is not so practical for smaller gardens, a compost heap is invaluable, not only for creating your own compost, but also as a habitat for worms, woodlice, and many other insects. However, no matter what size garden, we could all grow bee friendly flowers; these are not hard to spot at the garden centre – they will be the ones covered in bees! At the same time, learn to relax about weeds – buttercups, nettles and dandelions are all important food sources for bees and insects.

Finally, leave a gap in your fence for hedgehogs and frogs to get through on their nightly trundles.

After all this, sit back, enjoy your lovely garden and marvel at the amazing wildlife it attracts.

The Doctor Who Led The Local Pandemic Fight

A DOCTOR who masterminded the COVID vaccination roll out in the area has resigned.

Dr Siobhan Rowe has been a partner at Cringleford Surgery for over 27 years and a Norfolk GP for 30 years.

During the pandemic she has been responsible for keeping Hethersett residents up to date with the progress of the vaccination programme.

Dr Rowe started at Cringleford Surgery as a partner in January, 1995, joining Dr David Carle and Dr David Munson. Announcing her decision to leave the practice, Dr Rowe admitted it had been extremely difficult.

“Throughout my time working at Cringleford, I have had the enormous pleasure of getting to know my patients and their families and supporting them throughout their lives. I have been present at home deliveries and seen those same patients off to university and jobs beyond.

“My three children went to Cringleford Primary School when it was next door to the surgery. I served on the PTA and as a school governor. The decision to leave has



been extremely difficult.

Dr Rowe led the practice in its COVID response over the past two years. She worked with the Primary Care Network as a clinical lead to help set up the Kett’s Oak Vaccination Hub.

“We have vaccinated more than 70,000 patients. It has been an exhausting time, working many late nights and weekends in addition to the normal GP role.

“Seeing the tears of joy from patients as we delivered the first vaccinations in December 2020 will live with me forever. I didn’t, however, expect to be still doing it more than a year later,” Dr Rowe said.

The workload of general practice has changed dramatically over the years. As partners we are often working 12-hour days, dealing with hundreds of online requests, seeing patients face-to-face and supervising other clinical staff involved in patient care.

“With a surgery team of almost 100, it is a massive operation that brings huge satisfaction but also significant responsibilities.

“Whilst I do genuinely love my job and I am incredibly proud of my amazing team, I have not had the time to support my own and my family’s health and well-being. I therefore feel now is the right time to take a step back.

“My immediate plans are to marry my lovely partner who has been such a support over the last few years. I then plan to be more involved in our house building

project in Bracon Ash and spend more time with my friends and family. I plan to work again as a doctor in Norfolk and am considering various options but plan to have a few weeks off first. I will have a couple of weeks off to get married and then will be back for three weeks in February.

“It has been a huge honour to look after the village of Cringleford over the last almost 30 years. You have been my patients, my neighbours, my colleagues and my friends. I will genuinely miss you all hugely. The team left behind are strong and committed and I know will do a brilliant job.”

If you have a story for Hethersett Herald please send it to Peter Steward at:
petersteward@sky.com

Planning Decisions

THE following planning approvals affecting Hethersett have been granted by South Norfolk Council.

- Single storey extension to 72, Mill Road.
- Erection of a new custody training suite for Norfolk Police at the former Old Hall School on the B1172.
- Single storey side extension to 4, Buckingham Drive.
- Erection of conservatory to the back of 14 Recreation Road.
- Erection of a single storey front and rear extension with front porch at 11A Lynch Green.
- New dwelling with garage and access drive to the rear of 35 Lynch Green.

Re-Wilding Invitation

A special Re-wilding Hethersett event has been organised for Saturday 12th February.

Residents are being asked to turn up at 10 am at the Village Sign.

Hethersett Parish Councillor and village environmentalist Bridget Williamson said:

“We have been planning since the beginning of the year and now have the go-ahead to seed two areas at the village sign with a mixture including corn chamomile, corn marigold, corncockle, cornflower and field poppy.

“The rest of the area will have pathways cut to access the bench and the flower bed, which is already planted with daffodils, foxgloves and cornflowers.

“We also have permission to seed a metre wide corridor around the field at the village hall and will be using a mixture suitable for this site including bluebells, meadow buttercup, white campion and yellow rattle.”

Now residents are being asked to come along and help with the work.

“We will start at 10 am on Saturday, 12th February at the village sign. The ground will have had the turf cut, so we need people to fork it over, sow seeds and tidy up the area,” Bridget said.

Due to its closeness to the main B1172, the session isn't suitable for children. The working party will then move onto the village hall on Sunday



13th February at 10 am and this time accompanied children will be welcome.

Two further sessions are planned at the village hall on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th February starting at 10 am.

Those attending are asked to bring a pair of gloves and a fork if possible.

In order to help with arrangements those interested are asked to contact parish clerk Annette Palmer on 01603 810915 or 07902322729 or via e-mails at: hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk.

Bridget Williamson explained the importance of re-wilding with the Hethersett project being led by the parish council and the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT):

“Wildflower meadows were once present in every parish in the country, yet meadows and grassland now cover just 1% of the UK.

“Over 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s—7.5

million acres or an area one and a half times the size of Wales. Wildflower meadows and grassland provide shelter and food for important pollinators, including bees. The more diversity we have in our natural

habitats, the more seeds, birds, animals and other insects there will be. Wildflower meadows also capture vast amounts of carbon which has a vital impact on the air that we breathe.

Lights Dimmed But Only Temporarily

THE lights are out but will be back for Christmas 2022.

That is the message from the Finnbar's Force charity after it once again lit up the area around Park Green last Christmas.

On their Facebook page the charity thanked everyone for making it another Christmas to remember.



“It’s been another tough year but with the help of our wonderful volunteers and the fantastic support of the local community, we have made it through and now it’s time to start planning for the next 12 months. Hopefully we will be able to move on with our projects and support and of course our fundraising but one thing is sure we couldn’t do it without your help.

“A big thanks you to all of the residents of Park Green, Park Close and Great Melton Close not only for allowing us to put lights all over their houses and for supplying the electricity, but also for the copious tea and biscuits. The lights will be back. See you again for Christmas 2022.”

An army of volunteers was responsible for putting up the lights starting last September and for the first time the large Oak tree was lit with hundreds of lights following permission from its owners, Hethersett Parish Council.

Hethersett Jubilee Youth Club

Roof Is Holding Strong

By Gillian Saunders

THANK you to everyone who supported the club in 2021 in any way. We are grateful to all our volunteers. The roof has been well and truly tested the last few weeks and it appears to have stood up to the testing.

We need next to look at the outside lights on the sides and back of the building for security and safety and are awaiting the quotes from the electrician who did the front lights.

We are also looking at improving the outside area as a whole to include a seating area with tables and an area where we can grow some vegetables and flowers with the young people. If anyone with green fingers would like to be involved please get in touch, We will need some help with the what to plant and when! We are looking at raised beds and a nature area too as the young people have expressed an interest in making part of the area more attractive to the local birds and hedgehogs too.

We now have two youth groups running for our young people. Wednesday evening is for the younger members in the last two years of primary school (Year 5/6.) This is an exciting and busy group run by Alahna and Becca.

The second group is a Friday 7-8:30pm at the hall (except for the third Friday in the month due to a regular booking at the hall). This group is for those at High School age and is lead by Rebecca although the young people help plan the programme. We have a few more spaces in this group as it is a new group. There is information on the club Facebook pages if you are interested in joining. Or for this group contact Rebecca on 07857 547101 or email youthc89@gmail.com.

We are currently looking for an assistant to work with Rebecca on a Friday evening. This is a paid role (£13 an hour) so an application form would be required. Obviously experience of this age group would be ideal but experience of working with children or young people would be good. If you're interested and would like details please contact Gillian on 01603 759449 or gilliansaunders3@btinternet.com

Please consider volunteering. It need only be once a month or, if we get enough volunteers, every couple of months for a couple of hours. If you have any questions please see Alahna or Becca or get in touch with me.

Leslie Dale, decided after a long association with the club as Trustee, to resign his position. We are very grateful for all Leslie has done for the club over



a number of years. He has helped the club get started again and with overseeing the renovation work we had to do in order for this to happen. He has been involved in lots of behind the scenes work at the fete and the hall. We will certainly miss his expertise with the drainage system and with putting up the gazebos and tent for the fete!! Thank you for all you have done Leslie I will miss your valuable contributions especially to all matters property.

We are holding our AGM on Wednesday 16th February at 2 pm at the youth club hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Finally a big reminder and call out to anyone who can help in anyway at our Annual Dig Show and Fete on Saturday 25th June 12-3:30 at the hall! We have already booked a few stalls but have room for a few more. If you are interested in booking please contact me. I am also in need of someone who could take on the job that dear Rosie Hubbard did so well for a number of years with help from Dolcie Walters. Rosie was the lady who I relied on to sort the kitchen for the fete. She organised the teas and cakes with such experience and had

the whole thing running like clockwork. We know these are huge shoes to fill but if anyone would be willing to organise the teas this year it would be of enormous help!

I have got some help lined up for clearing the tables and we would support anyone who offered to help in the kitchen.

Please put this date on the calendar and come and support us as this is our main fundraising event of the year.

Dog show classes will be here next month so you can prepare your pooches for their big day! As it is a special year for the Queen there will be a few royal themed competitions. We also want to include a bake off style competition so please look out for what we want you to bake for the competitions. Adults and children's classes!

We would like someone to open the show for us. If you can think of anyone you might be able to approach or have a name and details of them please get in touch.

Thank you for all the support.

Here's to a successful 2022.

Helping With The Hidden

Former Hethersett resident Chloe Kidd has been featured in Hethersett Herald on a number of occasions for her efforts to get the medical condition endometriosis better known.

She is now promoting more awareness of so called “hidden disabilities” - conditions that may not always be apparent or obvious. She is supporting her friend Jessica Logan who has put together a website and had the following to say.

“I launched www.makingtheinvisiblevisible.org.uk in 2019 after two years of living with an invisible illness/disability.

“I had emergency stoma surgery in 2017 and was suicidal for the first six months because I never felt my body or I was good enough. I felt alone and didn't know where to turn.

“I was getting discriminated against when using disabled toilets because I looked 'normal' via my outside appearance but underneath they couldn't see what I was battling with my IBD, Mental Health, ME and issues caused by my four surgeries.

“That's why I started thinking of ideas to raise awareness of invisible illnesses/ disabilities and also represent that all bodies are beautiful whether they have scars, medical devices,

mastectomies etc.

“I launched images and created posters to visualise what could be hidden then this was turned into merchandise with 100% of the net profits going to charity and also teaming up with small businesses to make the products.

“I wanted to make a difference to others so that they don't feel alone in their battles but to also end the stigma we receive which can make our battles even harder. I've raised



£6000 in total through different fundraising events and from sales online.

“All sales/calendar funds get donated to my 10 chosen charities, which I am registered with as a fundraiser so I can provide official letters / charity numbers.

“These include Crohns and Colitis UK, Colostomy UK, UHB charity, Me Association, Samaritans, EDS UK, Endometriosis UK, Lipodema UK, National Autistic Society, FMA UK.

“I felt it was important to give back to those who saved my life but to also support other charities that support my community.

“I finally accepted my stoma after jumping back in front of the camera with an old friend of mine.

“I pushed myself out of my comfort zone even getting my stoma bag out on show and felt on top of the world for doing so. This is something I wanted others to experience to help them accept their true beauty.

“So I launched empowerment photoshoots in 2020 just before the pandemic hit and I've managed to hold five photoshoots across the UK since.

“Along with home photos, these have been created into an awareness / charity calendar for 2021 and this year, which raised £1000 between them.”

Jessica is now organising photoshoots across the UK for the 2023 calendar.

“This will bring a group of people

together to help represent that all bodies are good bodies and to feel understood by their peers who have been through similar journeys in life. We are all enough and worthy of self love.

“Unfortunately many brands do not represent real bodies and it has caused many insecurities, which needs to change. And through these shoots I have seen people change which is heart warming.

“I am searching for venues that will be happy to provide an open space for these shoots to take place. Whether it's for free or at a reasonable price with it being a charity project.

“It would need to be disabled friendly and big enough for approximately 30 people, which will allow room for changing and setting up the shoot area.”

Below is a list of possible dates for the shoot, however these could be subject to change based on the photographers availability:

April 16th and 24th,

May 1st, 8th, 14th and 15th,

June 5th, 25th and 26th,

July 3rd, 9th, 10th, 23rd and 24th,

August 6th, 7th, 14th and 28th.

A reminder that you can find out more about Jessica's initiative at www.makingtheinvisiblevisible.org.uk

We are pleased in some small way to be able to support this very worthwhile cause.



Hethersett Beavers learn about dental hygiene at their session on January 21st

The Brightest Smiles

THE biggest widest and brightest smiles met Hethersett youngsters when they attended their Friday evening Beavers' session on January 21st.

Health professionals Swati Mehrotra and Sheryl Bucknole visited the Scout and Guide headquarters to underline the importance of dental hygiene and the smiling youngsters listened attentively to the words of wisdom.

The youngsters brought their own toothbrushes as Swati and Sheryl showed them how to get the best from their brushing with the aid of a

huge mouth and giant toothbrush.

The youngsters learnt what foods are good for their teeth and conversely just what they should avoid like chocolate and heavily sugared foods.

The youngsters were encouraged to also floss their teeth and will remember this due to an impromptu flossing session (that's the dance rather than the teeth cleaning).

Swati's passion for dental hygiene shone through as she emphasised the need to brush for at least two minutes day and night and used egg



timers to illustrate her point.

Swati is an alumni of the Shree Bankey Bihari Dental College, one of the most prestigious dental universities and research centres in India.

She moved to the United Kingdom in 2011 and worked in the East Midlands before moving to Norfolk in 2015.

She has worked at various dental practices across the country and is an expert at managing anxious patients.

It takes only a few minutes chatting to her to see that she has a genuinely compassionate and caring nature linked to a huge passion and enthusiasm for what she is doing.

Swati's own smile is catching and she is committed to promoting oral health, enabling her patients to manage their own oral hygiene.

"My aim is to strive for excellence and to bring a smile to my patient's faces.



A smile is the best make-up any girl can wear," she said. Swati currently lives in Hethersett.

Sheryl is currently a dental nurse and is looking to also follow a career in dental hygiene.

She too bristles with enthusiasm for passing on

her knowledge to young and old alike.

Pictured on the previous page are the Beavers, their leaders and Swati and Sheryl.

On this page on the left are a group of very attentive Beavers. On the right three foods used to illustrate just what is good and bad for teeth. On the left is the apple (good), in the middle a chocolate bar (bad) and on the right a packet of cereal (medium bad).

Swati is pictured in the round photograph. Along with Sheryl she also gave a presentation to Hethersett Cubs later in the evening.

Calling All Sports Clubs

HERHERSETT and the Meltons' Sports Association is looking to re-generate following the enforced lockdown and would like to hear from sports and fitness clubs and groups.

The Association has given out numerous grants to various clubs since its formation in 2011 but, like every other group, has been unable to operate for the best part of two years.

The first meeting since lockdown restrictions were eased took place at Hethersett King's Head in January.

The meeting decided to contact sports groups and fitness-based clubs to invite them to the next meeting which will take place on April 19th at a venue to be decided.

Any club wanting more information on the association can contact stand in chairman Peter Hoult at hethersett@aol.com..

The association will be running a publicity campaign over the coming months . Over the past decade the association has supported many groups in Hethersett, Great Melton and Little Melton

Promoting Fitness

Hethersett and the Meltons' Sports Association was founded in 2011 to support sport, fitness, well being and the environment in the villages of Hethersett, Little Melton and Great Melton.

The association meets four times a year and membership is open to any group, club or individual working in the fields of fitness, sport and well being either in a professional or voluntary capacity.

Meetings of the association discuss matters of mutual benefit and also celebrate sporting success as well as discussing coming events and lobbying for improved facilities and starting up new social sports/recreation clubs.

THE RACE IS ON

THE 10th Run the Square event will take place either this July or in 2023, the latest meeting of Hethersett and the Meltons' Sports Association heard.

The event has been cancelled over the past two years due to COVID restrictions but organiser Shane Hull is working hard to bring it back.

In the past the event regularly attracted over 200 runners/walkers for the two mile course which starts outside Hethersett Junior School in Queen's Road and then takes a route along Great Melton Road, Mill Road and along the B1172..

Shane has promised "a big event" to mark the 10th running. Roads will be closed for the duration of the event and we will publish a date as soon as we have one confirmed.

Road Closures Update

Vehicles re-routed along B1172

WORK on stretches of the A11 continues following a break for Christmas that went into January.

The work started on October 24th and will continue in one form or another until its scheduled finish sometime this month. The work will see parts of the A11 repaired where the road has suffered cracks. Potholes will also be filled in. There will be new drainage and road markings and cat's eyes will be installed.

The northbound carriageway will be closed overnight until February 13th.

During the closures vehicles will be re-routed along the B1172 through our parish.

**RE-WILDING
HETHERSETT 2022**



**Wildflower meadows and
grassland provide shelter and
food for important pollinators,
including bees.**

**Wildflower meadows also
capture vast amounts of
carbon, which then has a
vital impact on the air that
we breathe.**

Run by HEAG/HEAT & Hethersett Parish Council

News From The Parish Council

Parking Concerns in Recreation Road

A Hethersett resident has expressed concern over parking at weekends in Recreation Road near the Memorial Playing Field.

The resident contacted the parish council about a problem he had encountered on Saturday, 8th January.

The correspondence stated: "My wife and I went for a walk and encountered the parking outside the recreation ground. We were able to get past the blockage by walking on the road, albeit with a close encounter with a car.

"Somebody in a mobility scooter, however, would have no choice but to go onto the road where the kerb drops at the main ground entrance, and would not encounter another such kerb drop until they get to the other end of the park.

"They would, therefore, be obliged to go along the middle of the road - in this particular instance for some five car lengths - whilst possibly having to face a car coming round the bend towards them from the Firs Road direction. This is an unacceptable risk for the elderly or disabled."

The response from Hethersett parish clerk was as follows:

"I'm sorry to hear of the difficulties you faced. As you say inconsiderate parking is very difficult to police. Enforcement of on street parking restrictions including double yellow lines and

Bike To Be Removed



The bike which has been chained to the noticeboard at the village hall for a number of weeks will shortly be removed. For more on this see page 27.

News From The Parish Council

time restricted restraints is undertaken by South Norfolk Council. Unfortunately, Recreation Road is not subject to any such parking restrictions. Although enforcement is now a civil matter, there are occasions where inconsiderate parking is regarded as a criminal offence with the police taking enforcement action.

In view of the location/time of your walk, the parking may have been a result of people using the Memorial Playing Field for sporting purposes.

I have therefore passed on your comments to the Management Trustees of the Memorial Playing Field and requested that they contact the various user groups to ask their members to park more considerately.”

The clerk added that she has also contacted the village’s police beat manager PC Stu Barnard (pictured opposite) who may be able to arrange additional police patrols of the area on Saturday mornings.

PC Barnard said that he would monitor the area: “To be fair that’s quite bad,” he said.

Council vice-chairman Stephen Slack referred to parking in Recreation Road as a “perennial problem” but something that now only occurs at weekends following the move of Woodside School from Firs Road.

“It is much quieter there now apart from at weekends,” Councillor Slack said.

Councillor Mike Stark pointed out that inconsiderate parking takes place throughout the village and not just in the Recreation Road area: “I sympathise with those trying to use the pavement,” he said.

The Memorial Playing Field Trustees have agreed to discuss the matter at their next meeting:

“As you know it is a public space and the Trustees have little or no jurisdiction over users or visitors and non at all on the public using the roads or footpaths outside the Field,” the trustees responded.

Hethersett Athletic Football Club are the main users of the field and will be asked to reinforce the need for footballers to park responsibly.



News From The Parish Council

Meeting Dates

Council meetings for the remainder of 2022 will take place on the following dates: February 21st, March 21st, April 20th, May 16th, June 20th, July 18th, September 19th, October 17th, November 21st, December 19th. There is no meeting in August. All meetings are on a Monday except for April which will take place on a Wednesday due to Bank Holidays. Council meetings begin at 7.30 pm. For other committee dates refer to the council's website which can be accessed at:

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

Committee and full council meetings are open to the public.

The 2022 annual parish meeting for residents will be held in Hethersett Village Hall on May 11th.

How To Contact The Parish Council

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. A full list of councillors appears on the next page in this edition of Hethersett Herald along with contact details.

News From The Parish Council



HETHERSETT PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman

Mrs A Quinlan, 8 Childs Road, Hethersett NR9 3HN

Tel: 814379

Vice-Chairman

Mr S Slack, 70 Priory Road, Hethersett NR9 3EY

Tel: 811824

Councillors:

Miss K Adams c/o the Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Hethersett

Via the Clerk

Mr L Dale, 46 New Road, Hethersett NR9 3HH

Tel: 810952

Dr A Edwards, 6 Queens Road, Hethersett NR9 3DB

Tel: 812309

Mrs S England, c/o the Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Hethersett

Tel: 07582 225895

Mrs S Lawrence, c/o the Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Hethersett

Via the Clerk

Mr J Loomer, 6 Miller Close, Hethersett NR9 3GD

Tel: 07799 608978

Mr C Morriss, 19 Haconsfield, Hethersett NR9 3AW

Tel: 810060

Ms E Mulvaney, c/o the Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Hethersett

Via the Clerk

Mr J Nightingale, 2 Buckingham Drive, Hethersett NR9 3HT

Tel: 811513

Mr M Stark, 61 Lynch Green, Hethersett NR9 3JT

Via the Clerk

Mrs J Walpole, 16 Canns Lane, Hethersett NR9 3JE

Tel: 811932

Mrs B Williamson, 8 Churchfields, Hethersett NR9 3AF

Tel: 810259

Above are details of the 14 parish councillors with their contact details.

Hethersett Social Club Opening Hours

THE latest list of opening hours for Hethersett Social Club are as follows:

Monday—Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—7-11 pm

Friday—5-11.30 pm

Saturday—midday until midnight

Sunday midday to 8 pm.

The venue has returned to bar service and the wearing of face masks is optional

News From The Parish Council

Parish Shorts

A pedestrian crossing in Back Lane to help regulate traffic around the schools is still a possibility, Hethersett's district and county councillor David Bills told the January parish council meeting.

The parish council has received the go-ahead for the damaged bus shelter on the B1172 to be demolished shortly. It is planned to replace the shelter with a four sided cantilever structure and not with another brick shelter. The current shelter was severely damaged when it was hit by a car.

Norfolk Highways is looking into whether a stretch of the B1172 should be cleaned more regularly than every three years. The inspection will come following complaints of localised flooding on the road between the new police training complex and Church Farm. It is thought this was caused by gullies being blocked by leaves. The next cleaning of that stretch isn't planned until September 2023 but it will be checked to see if more regular or earlier cleaning is necessary.

Opposition to Expansion

HETHERSETT Parish Council is opposing plans to extend the park and ride at Thickthorn.

The proposals are for additional car, coach, disabled and motor cycle parking, the provision of bus shelters, cycle storage and an Amazon hub facility, infrastructure and landscaping.

But the parish council is objecting on a number of grounds including the fact the proposed new land is within a Southern Bypass protection zone, close to a site of historic interest and within a protected strategic gap.

The planning application will be decided by South Norfolk Council.

Bike To Be Removed

THE mystery over the bike chained to the noticeboard at the front of Hethersett Village Hall Car Park remains, although the parish council is taking steps to have it removed.

At its previous meeting the council decided to wait a month before taking action to remove the bike in the hope that somebody would come forward to claim it.

But now councillors will employ a handyman to raise the noticeboard to liberate the bike without damaging either it, the lock or the noticeboard which will then be put back in place. The council have agreed to pay £50 for the work.

The liberated bike will then be taken by the police as lost property.

"It is time to get rid of it," said council chair Adrienne Quinlan.

News From The Parish Council



Graffiti Outbreak at Village Hall

THERE has been a spate of graffiti on Hethersett Village Hall that has concerned the parish council and village hall management committee.

A decision will be taken in the near future on what measures should be taken to remove it. Consideration will be given to sandblasting or simply painting over the unsightly graffiti.

The latest graffiti appeared over the Christmas holiday and Norfolk Police have been informed. It is unlikely that CCTV will be able to uncover those responsible.

Council vice chairman Stephen Slack urged quick action to remove the graffiti: "If you leave it there too long you will just get more. You must get rid of it as soon as possible to show whoever has been doing this that you mean business," he said.

The council has asked the village hall authorities to come up with a suggestion for getting rid of the graffiti.

See also our Herald Comment elsewhere in this edition.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT

Hethersett & District Aid in Sickness Fund?

(Formerly known as the Hethersett Nursing Association)



DO YOU LIVE IN

Hethersett

Ketteringham or Little Melton?

ARE YOU

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

**Infirm
Convalescing
Sick
Unwell
Disability**

Examples of help available

Grants are available towards:

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

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



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

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Registered Charity Number 211284



Cleaning Up The Village

HELLO lovely Herald readers. I hope everyone had a restful Christmas and New Year break, and that you managed to stay healthy and well.

A few days before Christmas we held the December litter pick. When we decided the date for the December pick at the previous Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) meeting. A couple of the members were concerned that a pick



that close to Christmas might not attract a large number of volunteers. Well, we proved the nay-sayers wrong! The December (Christmas themed) pick was probably one of our more successful organised litter picks, with 30 people taking part. One of which was Spiderman! It's lovely when we get so many enthusiastic volunteers wanting to keep Hethersett clean, it really makes me proud to live in Hethersett.

The week before Christmas for us was fairly quiet. We had visits with



Sarah's World

family and friends scheduled in the days leading up to the big day, but a coughing spell from the youngest Lawrence family member threw a spanner in the works.

After an evening of non-stop coughing, we booked a PCR test for her for the morning of 22nd December. We hoped the results would be back fairly quickly, with previous PCRs we'd gotten the results back within 12 hours or so.

Unfortunately, due to the overwhelming demand before Christmas, it took a bit longer and we didn't get the results back until 23rd December at 23:08. Late enough to disrupt most of our plans! Thankfully the results were negative, so our Christmas Eve plans were able to go ahead as we'd organised (after I'd finished work) and of course we were so relieved that Hattie was well!

Christmas Eve is always a fun shift at



work. We try to make it festive by dressing up. We organise a staff buffet (bacon rolls and hot chocolates for my team) and we play Christmas music. Generally everyone is in a good mood - customers and staff! It was obviously very busy, we seemed to be constantly working milk or baking things for the in-store bakery, but that's not to say we couldn't make the best of it by having some fun at the same time.

Most staff wore Christmas jumpers, but Duncan and I decided to up the ante with some fancy



Sarah's World

dress outfits that we'd bought, Mary and Joseph. While in theory the outfits sounded like a nice idea, it turns out that working at Tesco in a long dress isn't that convenient!

Customers seemed to get a kick out of it though, including one lady who was giggling to herself after asking where the eggs were. I told her "right at the North Star"!

Christmas Day itself was very quiet for us. We spent it together, just myself, Mr L and the girls. Mr L did a fantastic job of cooking a delicious Christmas lunch, whilst the girls spent the day playing with the copious amounts of toys they received from Father Christmas. It was lovely to have a day of not doing very much, a reward for our hard work working in retail during the festive season!

New Year tends to come and go for us with very little ceremony. In fact, it's not often I stay up to see it in. As far as holidays and events go, I rank it pretty low tier. I don't begrudge people celebrating, it's just not for me! Usually I work it, but this year I had the evening off. My Husband was working and the weather was mild, so I decided to take the girls for a walk around the Finnbar's Force Christmas Lights before they were turned off on the 5th.

This year, Tristan put together a tick sheet for children featuring pictures of various lit objects and animals that you can spot amongst the lights in Park Close. So, armed with our sheets, clipboards and a couple of pens, my children had great fun. They even



spotted one of their school friends doing the same thing!

Due to the rising Covid numbers (in Hethersett especially) we decided to postpone playgroup for a few weeks.

We should have started back after Christmas on 11th January, but myself and the other volunteers decided to take the step to postpone playgroup until 1st February.

It was a hard decision to make, but we feel it was the right one. We hope to give the germs and bugs a little more time to clear off. We've been so lucky with sickness and Covid so far, we don't want to tempt fate.

You can read Sarah's World every month in Hethersett Herald which is available exclusively online on the final day of each month.

Award-winning mortgage company changes lives in more ways than one

More than ever, businesses need to have a higher purpose understood. That's certainly the case for Yellow Brick Mortgages, which won the Changing Lives Special Recognition Award, sponsored by Norfolk Research Park, at the Norfolk Business Awards 2021.

On the surface, the company is a wholesaler of mortgage and protection insurance with over 40 branches working across Norfolk and beyond. However, it's the way Yellow Brick Mortgages supports the wider community that makes it more than the sum of its parts.

"We understand that those who buy a house and get a mortgage are the lucky ones," says Managing Director Stephen Perkins, planning work with charitable Yellow Brick Mortgages with Greg Marcham. "There are many in our society for whom, through no fault of their own, this simply will not be possible, so we have always believed it's important as a business to support the greater community and give back through our philanthropic position."

Yellow Brick Mortgages won the Changing Lives Special Recognition Award at the Norfolk Business Awards 2021. Managing director Stephen Perkins explains how and why the company does things differently to other mortgage brokers.

With every completed mortgage, Yellow Brick Mortgages contributes £10 of its earnings to one of three Norfolk based charities: PACT Animal Sanctuary, Nelson's Journey and Big C Cancer Charity. And it lets customers choose which charity they wish to support with their application.

In addition, the company now plants a tree for each completed mortgage, ensuring it took its list for 2021 onwards too. It started by planting 1,500 trees - one for each completed mortgage since its inception up to the end of October 2021. Monthly planting then commenced from November 2021. Since then established in 2018, Yellow Brick Mortgages has also offered free advice to

all Black staff - writing its usual line of operations - and currently sponsors over 40 local sports clubs and community groups. To date, it has raised over £20,000 for charitable and community causes.

Winning the Changing Lives Special Recognition Award is a forward for this ethical approach.

"To be recognised for something that is so fundamental to our ethos, and also from such a collection of amazing local companies who are having such positive impacts on our community, makes us very proud," says Stephen.

"We have all been on this journey together to create a company with a family and community core, so for this to be

highlighted by such an awesome award is an amazing award evening in the company of so many great businesses was truly special."

As well as going back to the community Yellow Brick Mortgages does everything it can to be the very best mortgage broker for its customers. "All of our customers have no surplus or margin, when the only expectation is your exceptional customer service," Stephen explains. "Our clients looking for terms also mean they can focus on quality not quantity - a very personal service for our clients."

"The 'very ethical structure' that comes with our management means 'all employees work together as a team for the common good of the business'."

"Most from all team members are always welcomed and encouraged, and can be asked to help us if they're seen as good improvements," adds Stephen. "We are always looking



at ways to improve our business, the services we provide and our impact on the community and environment."

Collaboration has been critical for all businesses over the past two years, although Yellow Brick Mortgages was well-placed for the changes brought about by the pandemic.

"Our team already worked remotely from home, so we were lucky to see no impact from many other businesses," says Stephen. "We managed to continue our growth over the pandemic, adding over 15 new advisors."

It is now looking to add more experienced advisors, plus returns such as rental agents - while spreading further the ethical and charitable ethos.

Longer term we would like to continue our expansion across the UK to eventually be a truly national company and one of the market leaders which does things differently to the large corporations," says Stephen.

News From The Media

A Former Hethersett man is managing director of a highly successful Mortgage Company.

Stephen Perkins is at the helm of Yellow Brick Mortgages which recently won the Changing Lives Special Recognition Award at the Eastern Daily Press' Business Awards.

Stephen was born and brought up in Hethersett but now lives in Wymondham. He is the son of Hethersett stalwart Mel Perkins MBE..

He started Yellow Brick Mortgages with Greg Marcham in 2018. The company, which is looking to expand into a national entity, won the award for its support of communities.

With every completed mortgage the company gives £10 to one of three charities—PACT Animal Sanctuary, Nelson's Journey and the Big C Cancer Charity. It also plants a tree for each completed mortgage, offering free advice to NHS workers and sponsors over 40 local sports clubs and community groups, having raised over £30,000 for these to date.

The company sponsors Hethersett Hawks Cycle Speedway Club. Stephen has ridden for the club and also played football for Hethersett Athletic Football Club.

"We have all been on this journey together to create a company with a family and community core, so for this to be highlighted by such an awesome award on an amazing awards evening in the company of so many great businesses was truly special," Stephen told the Eastern Daily Press.

Community launches fight to save post office

Article from the Eastern Daily Press

Residents in a Hethersett village are fighting to save their post office

Residents of a village in Hethersett are fighting to save their post office from being closed. The village is one of the poorest in the area and the post office is a vital part of the community. The residents are concerned that the post office will be closed as part of a government plan to reduce the number of post offices across the country. They are worried that this will leave them without a place to get their mail and parcels. The residents are planning to launch a campaign to save the post office. They are asking for help from the local council and the government. They are also planning to hold a protest in front of the post office. The residents are determined to save their post office and they are asking for your support.



Residents of a village in Hethersett are fighting to save their post office.

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THE battle to keep a post office in Hethersett was highlighted in the Eastern Daily Press and the Norwich Evening News.

You can read more about this in our article on the front page. It is hoped that an alternative office will be found in the not too distant future.

Press Cuttings—An Explanation

Readers have commented that they cannot read the cuttings that we feature in our “News From The Media” section.

This is intentional. The aim is just to give an idea of how the local media is featuring some of our Hethersett news. You will find many of the stories featured in the press also appearing in this and previous editions of Hethersett Herald.

News From Hethersett Hall

Stories by Charlotte Govier and Emily Parton

WE look back at some of the Christmas celebrations at Hethersett Hall.

OUR home was beautifully decorated throughout the month of December to celebrate Christmas.

Our lovely residents helped decorate too. We had several Christmas Trees including in the home and in the gardens. Our Head of Housekeeping decorated our reception to include a snowman made of plastic cups and a sleigh made from a mobility scooter!

Activities staff spent time taking photos of residents which were made into Christmas cards for residents to sign and send to their families.

Throughout the month of December, residents took part in many activities such as Christmas Carols, live entertainment from Johnny Cleveland for our party, a Christmas Market, scavenger hunt, a trip to watch Thursford's

Christmas Spectacular, carols from Hethersett Methodist Singers, a Zoom performance from Woodside School and even a special visit from Alpacas!

It was wonderful to see lots of smiling faces and residents enjoying themselves. Residents and staff had a lovely time browsing many of our stalls at the Christmas Market and treating their loved

Christmas Memories



News From Hethersett Hall

ones to presents. We had a great selection of stalls including Avon, Ketts Bookshop, Hodge Podge, Hurley Burley Jewellery, Angela's Cards, Wax Melts/Candles and many other craft stalls. Thank you to everyone involved.

On Christmas Day we had a very special visit from our very own Father Christmas who visited all the residents in their rooms delivering presents. It was such a special moment when residents' faces lit up as they were handed their gift from Santa and Rudolph.

Residents and staff gathered before lunch to raise a glass. We all had a relaxing afternoon opening presents, watching the classic film "White Christmas" followed by the Queen's Speech.



News From Hethersett Hall

And the Alpacas came to visit



A huge thank you to all our wonderful staff for making Christmas Day so special.

Keep up to date with what is happening at Hethersett Hall in the Hethersett Herald which is available online on the last day of each month.



Follow The Editor's Blog

By Peter Steward

And Help Raise Money For a Good Cause

SOME readers of Hethersett Herald may also read my daily blog.

They will know that I try to walk over four miles every day. When they heard that in 2022 I would be trying to walk at least 1,500 miles, two of my readers suggested that I should ask for sponsorship to raise money for a good cause.

So I decided to take their advice and raise some money over the year for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

My aim is to raise £500. Both my daily blog and Hethersett Herald are free and readily available online. If you enjoy either or both could I ask you to make a small donation via the Just Giving page. The Just Giving link is below:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/peter-steward

I am already 50% of the way to raising my target of £500 but would really like to blow this target apart. I am also well on target to complete more than 1,500 miles over the year. Oh and I have also pledged to write 365 daily blogs.

My blog is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/486377568989294>



My Photographic Diary *by John Head*

Hethersett resident and Hethersett Herald regular contributor, John Head, is a keen photographer who regularly posts his excellent photographs on Facebook. Here we feature a selection of John's photographs taken during his wanderings in and around Hethersett. You will also find other photos taken by John dotted throughout this edition of Hethersett Herald.



My Photographic Diary *by John Head*



Photographs taken in and around the Kissing Alley area of Hethersett in December.

My Photographic Diary *by John Head*



Hethersett
afternoon as the
sun goes down

My Photographic Diary *by John Head*

Sunrise along the B1172 with an incursion into Ketteringham Lane. Photos on this and the next page were taken on Saturday, 22nd January.



My Photographic Diary *by John Head*



From The Archives with Gary Wyatt

HETHERSETT HERITAGE ➔ AN ARCHIVE OF OUR VILLAGE HISTORY ➔



THE closure of the current post office in Oak Square brought memories back of a previous post office which older residents will remember. This was run by Randall and Shirley Keeley and was an all purpose store as well as a village post office. Everyone in the village is hoping that there won't be too long a gap before a new post office opens in 2022.

HETHERSETT HERITAGE



Hethersett Communicants Guild photographed in the late 1970s. Amongst them were the Rev Dan Shakespeare (left) and Humphrey Back (pictured right).



On the right is the playing field bowls club 2001 with a trophy



HETHERSETT HERITAGE



Little Melton Football Team 1936-1937



Hethersett Cricket Club 1906. Names include Mr William Rayner, Hubbard, G. Moore, Kingwood, Buckingham, Curson, G. Childs, W. Childs, H. Moore, Harvey and Bennett.

Join The Email Group

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

We also post copies of new editions, along with an archive of editions from the past six years, on the website www.hetherssettherald.weebly.com.

If you would like to be alerted via e-mail of the publication of a new edition please send an e-mail requesting this service to the editor—petersteward@sky.com.

We will then add your address to our 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.

The March 2022 edition of Hethersett Herald will be online at the end of February.

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

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

petersteward@sky.com

We Are On Facebook

Hethersett Herald is on Facebook. You can follow us at

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

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

Council/Government Contact Numbers

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

Member of Parliament

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

Email - Richard@richardbacon.org.uk.

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

Telephone: 01379 642097

Web site: www.richardbacon.org.uk

Facebook - Bacon4SouthNorfolk

Twitter - @Bacon4SNorfolk

Norfolk County Council

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

South Norfolk Council

Our South Norfolk Council representatives are 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).

Agendas of meetings are displayed on village noticeboards at Churchfields, Hethersett Library, Hethersett Post Office, the Memorial Playing Field, and Hethersett Village Hall. Copies of minutes are held at the library or are available from the clerk. The parish council office is currently closed but will eventually be open in the Back Room at the Village Hall (upstairs) on Monday and Thursday mornings between 10 am and 12 noon.

Email: hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk

Website – hethersettpc.info

HETHERSETT HERALD

Your Monthly E-Magazine

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

www.hetherssettherald.weebly.co



HOW TO CONTACT US

HETHERSETT & MULBARTON Safer Neighbourhood Team



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.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 Stu BARNARD
Beat Manager

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

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



101 Ext: 2386



Stuart.Barnard@norfolk.police.uk



SNTHethersett@norfolk.pnn.police.uk



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



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



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY
Our Priority is You

Where To Eat In Hethersett

Janey's Village Café -

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

Hethersett Queen's Head -

12 Norwich Road. Telephone 01603 810226.

Food served Monday to Thursday 11.45 am to 2 pm (lunch) and 6-8.30 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.

Café Kin is part of the Rowan House complex on Queen's Road. Food and coffee served during certain days. From July 26th opening hours will be Wednesday to Friday 8 am to 2 pm, Saturday 9 am to 1.30 pm. The café will be closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Hethersett King's Head

Norwich Road. The venue has re-opened with food served every day including Sunday lunch.

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

Where Are The Best Deals?

SOME petrol and diesel is going up and some is coming down giving a slightly confusing look to our table.

Herald Petrol Watch

Last month saw the increase of prices arrested or indeed going down.

Prices of petrol reached an all time high just before Christmas when they went over £1.50 a litre for the first time.

Now prices have been pegged back with the cheapest of our eight stations surveyed now down to 141.7 a litre.

Our closest three stations. Abbeygate and Waitrose at Wymondham and Thickthorn Services have remained close to the 150 mark. 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.

There may be even better value if you go slightly further afield and please note that these prices were checked towards 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 and avoid paying inflated petrol and diesel prices. You could save yourself hundreds of pounds over a year and that's a lot of additional motoring mileage.

	Unleaded	Change	Diesel	Change
Asda Hall Road, Norwich	141.7	-1p	143.7	-1p
Tesco Express, Earlham Road, Norwich	141.9	NC	147.9	+2p
Sainsbury's Queen's Road Norwich	141.9	-1p	143.9	-1p
Tesco Harford Bridges, Norwich	145.9	+2p	145.9	+2p
Sainsbury's Longwater, Norwich	141.9	NC	145.9	-2p
Abbeygate Wymondham	149.9	-2p	154.9	NC
Waitrose Wymondham	149.9	-2p	153.9	NC
Thickthorn Services, Hethersett	149.9	-2p	154.9	-2p

Groups and Societies

First Steps Stay & Play Playgroup

Hethersett Village Hall

9:45 – 11:00 every Tuesday during term
time



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

Babies under 6 months are free!

Email: firststepshethersett@outlook.com

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

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

Spaces are limited to stay Covid safe.

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

Groups and Societies

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

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

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 Peter Steward on

petersteward@sky.com



Groups and Societies



Events Lined-Up For Hethersett Library

The Friends of Hethersett Library group has organised a number of talks and presentations.

These will take place every two months on the second Wednesday, starting on February 9th when Hethersett Archivist Gary Wyatt will be giving an illustrated talk about Hethersett.

Events on April 13th and October 12th still have to be arranged. On June 8th The Widow Kett will be making an historic appearance and on August 10th Norfolk author Phyllida Scrivens will give a talk on her latest book which features the Great Thorpe Rail Disaster.

The Colour Me Calm group has re-started on Wednesdays from 11 am. This is a colouring group for adults and coffee will be provided.

Current opening hours for the library are as follows (open library is currently not available).

Monday—1.30 to 7 pm

Tuesday—closed

Wednesday—11 am to 7 pm

Thursday—1.30 to 7 pm

Friday—1.30 to 7 pm

Saturday 11 am to 4 pm.

Sunday—closed

Groups and Societies

Hethersett Gardening Club

By Leslie Dale—Gardening Club Secretary

In the Members' third meeting since the first "Covid lockdown", Ted Hallett gave a well illustrated talk about the National Trust's Hatchlands, a garden in Surrey, a "landed gentry" type of property which he had known from his days of childhood. It is situated next to the village of East Clandon, near Guildford, which is now a "Conservation Area".

Hatchlands is one of several such estates to be found in the scenic southwest corner of Surrey heading toward Hampshire. Currently it houses a collection of pianos and is home to the National Gardening Scheme organisation. Its parterre garden is now under restoration.

Humphrey Repton the landscape gardener, worked at Hatchlands and his works included an Orangery.

Young Ted's father gained employment as a gardener at Hatchlands around 1947. Ted and his siblings enjoyed the privilege of roaming the house's large estate, with its farm animals and fishing lake.

For the eight year duration of his father's employment, Ted's home was the rather internally basic gate house. The Hallett family had other duties, such as opening the gate to allow the then owner's motor car to drive through non stop. One enjoyment was the house owner's Xmas Party for his staff's children and another, was the hosting of the annual gardening show for the village.

The club meets on the third Wednesday of each month except December, which is usually on the second Wednesday, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Great Melton Road, Hethersett. All are very welcome - occasional visitors are charged £2, refreshments are included.

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In the Members' well attended January meeting our long standing friend, Ian Bedford spoke to us, Giving a talk entitled "Companion Planting for a Balanced Garden".

The thrust of Ian's talk was about trying to avoid using potentially noxious chemicals in our gardens and bring about pest control by use of cunning measures, such as bright flowers to encourage pollinating insect visits and noxiously smelling plants to discourage or confuse the pests.

Even if agro chemicals are used as directed, intended to be safe in our gardens, there may still be unintended consequences along the insect and mammalian food chain.

Groups and Societies

Ian's recommendation included planting onion family species to confuse and divert carrot flies, whilst marigolds can dual purpose as attracting both pollinators and act as a diversionary host for white aphids.

The Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month except December, which is usually on the second Wednesday, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Great Melton Road, Hethersett. All are very welcome - occasional visitors are charged £2.00; refreshments are included.

Our next meetings are on Wednesday 16th February when Kathy Grey will describe "A Little Bit of Chile" and on Wednesday 16th March Rosemary Ward is reliving "A Year in the Life of a Market Garden"

On Wednesday 20th April Matthew Willer will inform us about "The Papillon Project" which is about gardening projects within local schools.

Community Directory Available

HETHERSETT Parish Council has an updated version of its community directory available. This includes contact details for various groups. Details are available on the website at:

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

The directory is divided into six sections—Arts, crafts and hobbies; Children's activities and youth clubs; help, support, social and fundraising groups, Local Information; nature and environmental groups; sport and exercise groups.

Messy Church

St Remigius re-started its Messy Church sessions towards the end of November.

Activities during the session included making a Nativity display and decorations for the church Christmas tree as well as decorations and an advent calendar to take home. The programme for 2022 is currently being finalised.

Groups and Societies

Hethersett Mothers' Union

Hethersett Mothers' Union will be holding future meetings in St Remigius Church at 1 pm on the last Monday of each month. The group held its AGM towards the end of January. An interesting programme is being arranged for 2022 and new members will be most welcome. The group held its Christmas lunch at the Queen's Head.

Hethersett Women's Institute

By Margot Markham

Ursula Franklin gave a talk on Dolls' Houses. She brought along an array of her own houses. Dolls' houses have been in existence since the mid 16th century. They were produced individually until the Industrial Revolution when they became mass produced.

The interiors had detailed furnishings and accessories. The design was exactly like the houses of the time. They were not considered to be toys and were teaching aids intended to help young girls manage the house and its staff.

The WI finished the year with its festive party. The surge of Omicron deterred some members, but the stalwarts oozing with antibodies came and enjoyed the get together. We played many games, some a bit mind bending but it was all fun. It was lovely to get a letter from the Salvation Army. We had contributed a huge amount of "toys and tins" to their appeal. We do admire the work they do for the vulnerable throughout Norfolk

What a funny old year 2021 was. We hope that this year brings good health and happiness to all.

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We rose from our seats as her excellence Queen Victoria entered the hall. She came to speak to us about her life and reign.

She was born in Kensington Palace in 1819. She was an only child to Edward , Duke of Kent and Princes Victoria of Saxe-Coberg Saafeld and granddaughter of George 111. Victoria was the only legitimate heir of George and she became queen when she was only 18. It was expected that she would marry her cousin , Albert. She proposed to him and they were married in 1840. She had a white wedding. Her nine children came into the world. Sadly, many of the boys inherited from their mother, the gene for haemophilia. Victoria decided to buy Osborne House on the Isle of Wight as a palatial holiday home. There they were able to entertain Heads of State and Royalty of the British Empire.

Groups and Societies

Victoria achieved so much during her lifetime. In collaboration with Sir Robert Peel, the Peelers became the first Police Officers and helped to keep law and order. The Postal System, called the “ Penny Post “ was developed. The Mines Act no longer allowed the working of children in underground mines. Life for most was getting better. Along with her friends, Elizabeth Fry and William Wilberforce, they worked to abolish slavery. The Poor Law ensured the poor were housed in workhouses and they were clothed and fed.

Victoria was inconsolable with grief when Albert died at the age of 42. She didn't really return to public life. She had achieved so much in her reign. What would we do now without flushing toilets, a sewerage system, public lavatories,, nursing schools? Her Majesty gave us an excellent talk (thank you to Georgette Vale for taking on the role).

Hethersett Social Bowls Club by Club Captain Carole Slaughter

Hethersett Social Bowls Club is a thriving outdoor bowls club based at Hethersett Social Club on Queen's Road next to the Library.

Outdoor bowls is a sport for all ages and abilities. Many people do enjoy the game during retirement but we also have players from all age groups . We are a very friendly club run by volunteers and, although we play competitively in several local leagues, we also hold club nights and roll ups and welcome anyone that would like to learn to play the game.



Thanks to the diligence and hard work of our volunteer green keepers our facilities are among the best to be found in the local area.

We play from May to September in afternoons and evenings and all members also benefit from membership to Hethersett Social Club. This gives use of the social club including a bar, TV football screenings, snooker, darts, cribbage, petanque, a function room and live events. Find out more at: hethersettsocialclub.co.uk

Bowls players frequently enjoy sandwiches and drinks after a game.

Our season for 2022 begins on Sunday April 24th at 10 am. Find out more at our website hethersettsocialbowls.co.uk or contact cslaughter355@gmail.com

Groups and Societies

Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club with Jenny Walpole



We started our Christmas in style. National Demonstrator John Chennell showed us “The Magic of Christmas”. It was truly magical with lots of members and visitors joining us, fabulous flowers to enjoy and we rounded off with glühwein and mince pies.

Our first get together this year brought us local lady Crystal Dyball who took us “Up the Garden Path” and what a lovely stroll it was, with statues, a fresh trug and use of flower pots and garden chairs. Great attention to detail and a most enjoyable evening.

Pat Barton will be coming in February 28th 2022 to show us delights of “ Where in the world “

We will still only charge £5. Yearly membership subscriptions will start again in April.

We will hold our AGM on 28th March 2022 which is a ticketed event with a light supper.

We generally meet on the fourth Monday of the month (if it is a

Groups and Societies

Bank holiday, then usually the third Monday) at Hethersett Village Hall, at 7.30 pm when a qualified demonstrator will inspire us with beautiful flower designs as well as entertain and inform us.

You will have the chance to win one of the arrangements via a raffle at the end of the evening.

Please contact Chairman Lynn Rawlings, on 01603 457888 if you wish for more details.



Groups and Societies

Hethersett and District Churches Together

By Secretary Margaret Askew

This is the first annual review since our "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" service held at St. Remigius, Hethersett, on 19th January 2020. Lockdown and associated development caused by Covid-19 pandemic prohibited physical and active linkage in the normal way but Hethersett and District Churches Together has continued to support as much ongoing activity as possible within the limitations of covid-19 restrictions.

The foregoing is a general résumé of Hethersett and District Churches Together's working from January 2021 to 23rd January 2022. Current committee members are: Reverend Derek McClean, Reverend Stephen Cullis, Margaret Askew (Secretary), Anne Steward (Treasurer), William Twist, Maggie Murrell, Brenda Scholey, Lavina Ganley, Anne Hallam and Maureen Grasby.

Last year at this time, Christian Unity greetings from Reverends Derek McClean and Stephen Cullis were exchanged to respective Church congregations via online service arrangements.

January and May Committee Meetings took place via Zoom but in September we met for our first 'physical' meeting since 23rd January 2020. Recently, we had to revert back to Zoom!

A twice monthly Monday afternoon Ecumenical Prayer Meeting emerged and was generated from a Foundation of Prayer vision initiated within the Methodist Church but, similarly, there had been a feeling and realisation in the Anglican Church for a joint Prayer Meeting which in turn has brought the 'Churches Together'.

In August our dear friend, and Treasurer for nearly 31 years, Rosie Hubbard died and we are immensely grateful for all her accomplishments.

November enabled us to unite together 'physically' once more for a Service of Commemoration for All Souls' Tide at St. Remigius when we shared in a service of personal remembrance.

Community Carol Singing took place outside Hethersett Methodist Church on Saturday, 18th December 2021. A bucket collection in aid of the Finnbar's Force Charity was available within Tesco Express as well as with those singing.

Although in uncertain times, we seek more and more to work together in the unity and power of the Holy Spirit and go forward in the strength of the Lord".

Forget Me Not Café

The Forget Me Not Café takes place on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 10 am in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall.

Seven years ago as part of a country-wide initiative and with a grant from South Norfolk Council, Hethersett Dementia Support Group was formed and a café set up. Since then we have welcomed people living with memory loss and more serious forms of dementia but mostly others with sharp and lively minds wanting to share in these mornings.

We enjoy a good chat, refreshments, activities including crafts, music, speakers on a wide range of subjects, films, games and an occasional lunch. But most of all we enjoy each other's company.

With a change of name we continue to support those living with dementia and their carers but also seek to prevent the isolation and circumstances which can lead to fear and loneliness.

So do drop in. There are no fees or membership criteria, just a warm welcome whenever you can make it.

Anne Steward and David Bills

February Diary

Tuesday 1st—Hethersett Dementia Support Group, 10 am Methodist Church Hall.

Wednesday 2nd—Methodist Church Coffee Stop, 9 am to midday.

Saturday 5th—Village litter pick. Meet at 2 pm at Hethersett Village Hall

Sunday 6th—Hethersett Village Screen presents The Last Bus. Hethersett Village Hall, 3 pm.

Wednesday 9th—Methodist Church Coffee Stop, 9 am to midday.

Wednesday 9th—Friends of Hethersett Library illustrated talk by Hethersett Village Archivist Gary Wyatt

Saturday 12th—Rewilding Hethersett working party. 10 a.m, village sign.

Sunday 13th—Rewilding Hethersett, 10 am village hall.

Tuesday 15th—Hethersett Dementia Support Group. 10 am Methodist Church Hall.

Tuesday 15th—Rewilding Hethersett, 10 am village hall.

Wednesday 16th—Rewilding Hethersett, 10 am village hall.

Wednesday 16th—Hethersett Gardening Club. Kathy Grey "A Little Bit of Chile." Hethersett Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 16th—Methodist Church Coffee Stop, 9 am to midday.

Monday 21st—Hethersett Parish Council meeting. Village Hall 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 23rd—Methodist Church Coffee Stop, 9 am to midday.

Monday 28th—Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club. "Where In the World?" with Pat Barton. Hethersett Village Hall, 7.30 pm.

Wednesday 30th—Methodist Church Coffee Stop, 9 am to midday.

Hethersett Herald What's On



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



THIS year's World Day of Prayer in Hethersett will be held in the Methodist Church at 2 pm on Friday, 4th March.

This year's event is being prepared by women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The organisers say: "It has been both challenging and rewarding to write about the three countries that make up our area: our landscape, people and culture all shaped by our history. We celebrate our diversity and the contribution made to our countries by the many groups and individuals who have made their home here. We use our Bible text "I know the plans I have for you" from Jeremiah to reflect on some of the issues facing us today: poverty, domestic abuse and disability, finding hope in difficult situations and encouragement in the help we can give to each other.

World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical organisation which enables women all over the world to share the ideas and concerns of the writing country. Preparation for the day has taken several years. Our International Committee based in New York coordinates the work of National Committees and facilitates the creation of our annual World Day of Prayer service on the first Friday in March. The service outline, created by the writing country, is distributed to the rest of the world, along with a Bible reflection, country background and children's and - for the first time - young people's activities.

The services begin in Samoa and then move through New Zealand and Australia, across Asia, Africa and Europe and finally the United States and South America before finishing in American Samoa. Across England, Wales and Northern Ireland services will take place in large urban centres, such as Central Hall Westminster, and in remote village churches. We will use modern technology to reach those unable to access a service but hope to be able to extend a welcome and hospitality once released from lockdown.

More information is available from the website wwdp.org.uk.

Hethersett Herald What's On

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

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

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

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

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

First Steps pre-school Group meets in Hethersett Village Hall. See poster on page 53 for full details.

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

Hethersett Short Mat Bowls Club plays 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.

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

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

Hethersett Herald What's On

The Methodist Church



COMING events at Hethersett Methodist Church include the following:

Saturday Shoppers' Coffee

There will be shoppers' coffee on Saturday 5th and Saturday 19th February from 10.30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a time together.

Art and Craft Group

The church's Art and Craft Group meets each Wednesday at 10 am. Please contact Tina Greenhalgh for more information on 01603 810364.

Coffee Stop

The Wednesday Coffee Stop will re-open as soon as possible taking into account the Covid-19 Risk Assessment..

Once it is safe to do so we will meet each Wednesday from 9 am until noon when fresh coffee will be served. Please come and enjoy with a group of friends.

Please keep in touch via the Methodist Facebook page.

Services at the Methodist Church in February are as follows:

Sunday 6th: 10.30 am - Rev Steve Cullis, Holy Communion, 6.30 pm - Zoom service, Jack Lawson

Sunday 13th: 10.30 am - Paul Lawrence, 6.30 pm - Zoom service, Rev Steve Cullis

Sunday 20th: 10.30 am - Rev Steve Cullis, 6.30 pm - Zoom service, Rev Mary Cousins

Sunday 27th: 10.30 am - Liz Thetford, 6.30 pm - Zoom service, Rev Steve Cullis



NORFOLK
CONSTABULARY

Our Priority is You

Norfolk Special Constabulary are recruiting...

Special Constables in Norfolk

Come to our online information evening on:

Wednesday, 9 February 2022

19:00 hrs (prompt) to 20:30 hrs

Confirm your place by calling us on:

01953 425699 ext 2371 or email bespecial@norfolk.police.uk

(MS Teams Meeting Link will be sent after confirming your place)

- Welcome
- Advice on completing the application form
- Recruitment Process and Induction Course
- What does a Special Constable do?
- Meet Special Constables
- Questions



Letter To The Editor

Looking For Ireland

I came across your website and magazine whilst looking up my family history. It is fascinating!

It would seem my family was largely based in Hethersett. Specifically the Lynch Green/Mill Road area. The Irelands.

I wonder if you have any contacts who are from the Ireland family, or whether you have any knowledge of any Irelands still living in the area.

I'm very new to researching my family history, so any information anyone might have would be amazing!

Thank you in advance,
Terrie Ireland

Terrie can be contacted at terrie_123@hotmail.co.uk

St Remigius Church Baby and Toddler Group



**Our Baby and Toddler Group will be held on the usual
first Tuesday of the month 10.00 - 12.00 in
St Remigius Church**

A fun time for everyone with babies or toddlers. We look forward to seeing you and welcome any newcomers.

Future dates:-

1st February

1st March

For more information tel. Pauline 01603 812610

Staff Officers in World War 1 – Myths and Facts

By Herald columnist John Head

OVER the decades, interest in World War One never seems to diminish.

I have spent endless hours walking the Somme and Ypres Salient building up knowledge of what happened on this vital 'Western Front'.

What I also discovered was the number of myths surrounding this war. For example 'it was an unnecessary war which cost the lives of thousands' or 'it wiped out a generation of breeding males'.

Many books have been written on this subject but one I can highly recommend is 'Mud, Blood and Poppycock' by Gordon Corrigan. I have taken one such myth which I feel would be of interest to the reader, some information of which I attribute to the aforementioned book. The topic I have selected is the role of the staff officers.

Our visions of staff officers are of much maligned, ridiculed and lampooned characters as portrayed by Captain Darling, the archetypal staff officer in 'Blackadder Goes Forth' or seeing them energetically leap frogging over each other in the musical 'Oh What a Lovely War' (One staff officer jumped right over another staff officer's back). Even Siegfried Sassoon had a fervent dislike for them as written in his poem 'Base Details' (see the next page for this poem).

This, however, is far from the



truth and, if you can recall, even poor Captain Darling went 'over the top' to his death in the final minutes of 'Blackadder Goes Forth'.

British staff officers, unlike their Germans counterparts, were completely subservient to their generals. The generals created the battle plans and objectives whilst their staff officers were the 'ways and means' to achieve these objectives. Throughout the battle campaign, staff officers had to constantly provide their



generals with the information required to turn their battle plans into reality. This often entailed those immaculately dressed figures descending into the mud of front-line trenches and dugouts to complete their assignments.

It is, therefore, untrue to say that staff officers did not appreciate what was going on in the front lines - they did – as many of them also started to work their way up from the trenches to fill staff officer positions. This was primarily owing to the closure of the Staff College at the outbreak of the war which left a lack of trained staff officers to fill many key posts.

The duty of a staff officer during a battle campaign included:

- Administration
- Communications
- Discipline
- Movement of troops
- Provision of equipment
ammunition and stores
- Health welfare and career
management
- Veterinary services
- Artillery and fire planning.

With all the above in mind, the infamous Somme Offensive, by way of example, must have been a logistical nightmare for staff officers.

The enemy had held this line for 18 months during which time the villages and towns on it had become strongholds, hills had become redoubts and there had been sufficient time to build up arsenals and secure strong defences.

Base Details

If I were fierce, and bald, and short of breath
I'd live with scarlet Majors at the Base,
And speed glum heroes up the line to death.
You'd see me with my puffy petulant face,
Guzzling and gulping in the best hotel,
Reading the Roll of Honour. "Poor young chap"
I'd say – "I used to know his father well;
Yes, we've lost heavily in this last scrap."
And when the war is done and youth
stone dead,



The enemy defences which now faced the assessment of staff officers and their generals included the following;

Dugouts 40ft down

Barbed wire up to 40 yards in width

Trenches and defence systems generally between 3,000 - 4,000 yards from the front-line trench to the artillery emplacement but could be as far as 5 miles.

To throw a voluntary army against this was, in hindsight, lunacy. Indeed, at that time, Field Marshall Douglas Haig saw an opportunity to break through at Passchendaele and therefore wanted to take the offensive back to Ypres where the regular British Army was stationed. Sadly, his plans were overridden by Parliament and he had to be subservient with what the French required.

Into this heavily defended area the staff officers had, following the agreement of the Somme Offensive at the 2nd Chantilly Conference in December 1915, only a six month 'time window' to achieve the objectives of their commanders.

They were literally having to propel an army of 400,000 volunteers (often not fully trained), together with 10,000 horses and 1,000 guns into an area of little strategic value with no infrastructure and up against a well defended professional army.

Three logistical issues stand out for me which involved the expertise of staff officers;

i) Water Supplies: Once adequate enough for the 'indigenous population' was now overwhelmed by demand to constantly provide water for thirsty men and horses...not forgetting the radiators in the vehicles. NWNW (No Water, No War).



New wells had to be dug, pumping equipment installed and miles of piping laid to ensure high-capacity water pipes were available as near as possible to the front lines.

ii) The Movement of the Troops; A single brigade on the move with transport occupied at least three miles of road and usually took two and a half hours to cover the distance.

However careful the movement of troops was planned, if this included a rifle brigade then a staff officer had to make additional allowances else there would be problems, particularly at crossroads or convergence of trenches, as the rifle brigades prided themselves in walking 140 steps a minute! (Army standard being 120). Imagine doing the standard 120 steps per minute to move to a position with a rifle brigade marching far quicker behind you!

iii) The Discipline and Morale

Ensuring parcels and post got to the troops as soon as possible

16-day troop rotation to ensure relief from combat stress. 4-6 days were spent in the front trenches and similar amounts of time spent in the secondary and reserve trenches during which time the troops could be assured of a bath/shower and delousing. A lack of this rotation in the French Army led to outbreaks of mutiny.

Following the Easter Rising in April 1916, whilst Carson (against Home Rule) and Redmond (for Home Rule) had differing reason for supporting the 'Great War' both the Ulster 36th Division and the Irish 16th Division fought brilliantly and on occasions close by each other to demonstrate morale and discipline of the highest order.

It is often said "if the first day of the Somme Campaign was remarkable (nearly 60,000 British soldiers, killed, wounded or missing) then the second day was equally so in that the offensive was maintained". This was thanks to all the logistical backup, primarily in the hands of staff officers, to enable it to be so.

Staff officers did an incredible job in exhausting the German Army with the continual flow of reserves and resources. As for the generals, they were not always that far away from the action; over 200 of them were casualties or taken prisoner during the war.

However, I think it only fair to leave the

last words to 'Tommy in the trench' and his perception of the staff officer. This is an anonymous poem again taken from 'Mud Blood and Poppycock' by Gordon Corrigan.

Good gracious Uncle what is that
With red and gold upon his cap?
Such lofty brow and haughty face,
Such easy condescending grace
Surely belong to no one save
The very, very, very brave!

They drive about in handsome cars
And sit for simply hours and hours
In chateaux round by Saint-Omer
Evolving little *ruses de guerre*.

Now and again, if things are slack,
They organise a large attack,
And watch the battle from a hill
Some miles away or farther still;
They see what fighting there has been,
Quite clearly – on the tape machine.

Recommended Reading

Mud, Blood and Poppycock – Gordon Corrigan

Battlefield Guide to The Western Front North – Maj. Tonie and Valmai Holt

Battlefield Guide to the Somme - Maj. Tonie and Valmai Holt

The Somme – Pater Hart

Somme – Lyn MacDonald

The Somme – Peter Barton (fully illustrated)

Photographs from the writer's personal collection of the cemeteries and memorials to the Pals Brigades who were slaughtered trying to take the village of Serre (Objective 3 Somme Offensive 1st July 1916) .



**RE-WILDING
HETHERSETT 2022**



An area of wildflower meadows larger than Wales has been lost in the last 70 years. We hope that our effort this spring can inspire a community to embrace Re-Wilding.

Run by HEAG/HEAT & Hethersett Parish Council

For more information on the Re-Wilding Hethersett 2022 initiative turn to page.

Hethersett Herald

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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.

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

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