



# We Deserve Better

**WE as a village deserve so much better when it comes to facilities.**

February saw the closure of the village pharmacy for three consecutive days from the 14th to 16th, bringing a considerable amount of inconvenience for those who turned up to pick up prescriptions unaware of the closures.

They were faced with a piece of paper stuck on the inside of the door apologising that the shop was shut.

“We’re sorry but our store is temporarily closed today.” No reasons were given and it appears little or no advance warning was given.

The closure came during the half-term holiday when the shop would normally be very busy with people picking up new and repeat prescriptions.

It is far from the first time that the pharmacy has been closed at short notice.

As our village continues to expand you might think that facilities would also improve and increase but sadly this



## Herald Comment

appears to be far from the case.

As new development brings more people to our village we seem to be getting less and less, particularly in the area of health.

Ironically the notice of daily closure was placed next to a poster showing the pharmacy’s opening hours.

Hethersett Herald placed a notice on the All Things Hethersett Facebook site asking for comments and experiences of Boots Chemists and residents were quick to respond as you can read by turning to page three

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# From The Editor

WELCOME to the March edition of Hethersett Herald.

With Spring virtually upon us, it's a busy time in the village and I hope we reflect this in this edition.

If you have any news from the village do get in contact. We are particularly interested in hearing from Hethersett-based groups and organisations.

We also want your views on topics affecting our village and there are certainly plenty of those at the present time.

Peter



# Regular Features

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# Residents Complain About Pharmacy Service

WE asked for comments via social media about the lack of service from Boots Pharmacy over a three day period in February.

The shop was shut for that period of time over half-term, meaning that people were frustrated in their attempts to obtain much need medicines.

Below are just a few of the comments we received. (please note that we have deliberately not included the names of those who have made comments but their identity can be verified by looking at the editor's post on the All Things Hethersett Facebook page of February 14th).

Some of the comments are specific to the situation in Hethersett and the lack of warning about the closures whilst others comment on the rather broader picture.

"I walked to Boots this morning, not knowing it was closed. The notice on the door only said closed today. I had intended to return tomorrow as my prescription is ready for collection, but realise from your post that they are closed all week! Did I miss a message from Boots on All Things Hethersett informing people about this? "

"The guy that was there at the same time as me is diabetic and has run out of meds."

"I went round yesterday to collect my prescription which I requested on February 3rd. Had a text message to say it was ready but I couldn't pick it up as the pharmacy was closed. Went

round again today, still closed and have just learned that it is also closed tomorrow. I have no other way of getting my medication and I expect that when it does reopen there will be an enormous queue. I am retired and have time to keep going back but if you are working and dealing with a family it must be very difficult to keep yourself healthy . "

"This happens so often."

"I have had many problems with this shop and this is causing me so much stress. What can one do to get medication?"

"I'm furious. I put my request in with the doctor for my repeat prescription three weeks ago. I went in just before five on Saturday (forgetting they closed at 5 on Saturdays.) Needless to say my order was not ready, the surgery turn them around in three or four days, I was asked if I could come back on Monday and I said I would, I got a text on Monday to say it was ready, now you say it's closed? "

"Went in my wheelchair to pick up a prescription for my husband yesterday. All the way there: closed. Happens so often that I now get my prescriptions delivered. Last time we were quoted ten days wait. I will say all staff have been brilliant for emergency needs though. No issues with the staff - I just wish there were twice as many of them."

Many of the responses talked about receiving medicines through online applications:

"We gave up with the local pharmacy

and swapped to online. I realise this isn't an option to some non tech savvy people but we have not regretted changing."

"There are now plenty of pharmacies online and it seems doctors are to be found more and more online. I think this is a sign of the times. Like it or lump it - it is here to stay."

"Sadly this is not isolated to Hethersett Pharmacy, although I have to say when I have needed urgent prescriptions the staff have been super helpful in ensuring I have what I need. They work under impossible circumstances and do their best."

"It's to do with a change Boots have made to how they pay (how much they pay) pharmacist locums so now no one wants to locum for Boots Pharmacies. I

have issues with many of Boots Pharmacies in South Norfolk being shut with my job and was told this is why. "

There were a number of posts, however, that stood up for the service provided by Hethersett Pharmacy.

Comments included the following:

"I've always found that they are very accommodating. I usually call a week or two before meds are needed for my controlled medication and they always have it before the current items run out. Even under immense pressure they do try to meet everyone's needs and still smile. Sadly they suffer abuse on a regular basis and although they have supply issues sometimes, at least we have a pharmacy that on the whole cares about it's patients which is not always the case."



WORK continues on the setting up of a community garden at the back of Hethersett Village Hall.

Another working party of volunteers convened on February 26th to fill the wooden beds as shown above.. The garden is named in memory of leading Hethersett family—The Backs.

More photos on the next page



**Photographs  
Courtesy of the  
Hethersett  
Environmental  
Action Team**

# Village Café Up For Sale

JANEY'S village café in Mill Road is up for sale but owner Jane Dawson is hoping that the future of the café will still be bright.

The property, which has previously been a bakery and office supply business, has been offered for sale on the Hammond and Stratford Estate Agents website at a price of £250,000 and with the following words:



“A great investment opportunity awaits with this popular and well-regarded village café, tucked away in the desirable and sought-after village of Hethersett with generous off-road parking to the front. Offered with No Onward Chain. Tenant in situ and over 830 sq/ft. of retail space, viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate what is on offer! “

Ms Dawson quickly took to social media to state that the future of the café looks uncertain.

“As many of you would probably have heard/seen, sadly the property we currently lease is going up for sale. Only the property is for sale! The advert at Stratfords is very misleading.

“So our future here will all depend on if a new lease is possible with the new owners when we find out who that might be.”

And Jane vowed to “continue trading here for the foreseeable future until we are told otherwise!”

## Another Warm Space

THE Queen's Head has become the latest village official warm space, joining Hethersett Library as a place where people struggling to pay energy bills can go to keep warm.



# Spreading The Joy of Reading

CHILDREN'S literacy charity Schoolreaders is urgently looking for enthusiastic volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in local primary schools – especially around Hethersett and Norwich.

The much-needed charity recruits volunteers to listen to children read weekly in primary schools, focusing on schools with the greatest need.

Every year one in four children leave primary school unable to read well which can have life-long consequences. Furthermore, government statistics show it is the youngest and most disadvantaged children who have been set back the most in reading following the disruption to education caused by the Covid pandemic.

Schoolreaders' volunteers act as positive role models, not only helping children improve their reading age but also their reading fluency, enjoyment and comprehension.

Antonia, retired, and a Schoolreaders volunteer, explains her experience, "Being a Schoolreaders volunteer has exceeded my expectations and is one of the best parts of my week. I can see the difference the reading makes to the children particularly in their



punctuation. Being able to read is the greatest gift you can give a child. They can go on to cook, build a rocket or run the country."

Jane Whitbread, who founded Schoolreaders ten years ago and

which now provides over 12,000 children with a weekly one-to-one reading session, concludes: "Schoolreaders are needed more than ever, especially for the youngest and most disadvantaged pupils to help them catch up on their reading."

"Children who leave primary school unable to read well will have trouble accessing their secondary education fully which can have life-long

consequences.

"The beauty of our reading scheme is that not only does it benefit children and schools, but it also gives our volunteers a huge sense of satisfaction in sharing their love of reading."

Find out more about becoming a Schoolreaders volunteer at [www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org)

## Quiz Raises Funds For Church

**ANOTHER highly successful quiz was organised by The Friends of Little Melton Church in Little Melton Village Hall, raising money for both the church and a charity based in India.**

**One of the organisers Sue Head thanked everyone for supporting the**



**quiz which saw a team representing Hethersett Library retain the trophy won last year in the first quiz following Lockdown restrictions being lifted.**

**"Twenty years ago, Margaret Waller appealed for a new kitchen at the church and in either 2004 or 2005 the fundraising began and people asked for the quiz to continue which it has done," Sue said, adding that funds are still needed to support the fabric of the church:**

**"Such an historic building takes a massive amount of looking after," Sue added.**

**The evening raised £700 for the church and an additional £100 for the Bethesda Mission which looks after vulnerable children and young people in Southern in India.**



# Rector Says Farewell

RECTOR of Hethersett and the Meltons the Rev Derek McClean will be leaving the village at the end of March.

A special farewell service is being lined-up for St Remigius on March 12th, although his final service will be two weeks later on Mothering Sunday (March 26th).



Writing in our sister publication “Good News”, Rev McClean thanked everyone for their support during his nine years as part of the Hethersett Benefice.

“When I began here, there is no doubt that none of us could ever have foreseen the pandemic, or (the still unresolved) Brexit.

“Life has changed immeasurably for us all. The population of the Benefice has doubled in this time and the demands of ministry were irrevocably changed to include online video conference services and training.

“Through all of it, it has been my privilege to be here in this Benefice, seeking to serve the people and its needs.

“There is much for me to reflect upon as I prepare to move. The ups and the downs and the joys and the sorrows.

“I have learned so much whilst being here and you have given me many wonderful memories – things I will treasure deeply.

“I will miss you.”

Derek and his family are moving to Gorleston to take up a new appointment. We will have a full interview with Rev McClean about his time in Hethersett and his life in general in the April edition of Hethersett Herald which will be available exclusively online at the end of March.

## Rosemary’s Charity Donation

WHEN it comes to fundraising few can compare with Little Melton’s Rosemary Warnes who has raised thousands of pounds for good causes by holding sales outside her home.

Over the past year, Rosemary has raised £500 for the Norfolk Accident Rescue Service (NARS). In the past she has raised funds for numerous charities such as the East Anglian Air Ambulance, the Big C Appeal, Prostate Cancer and Breast Cancer.

“I would like to say a big thank you to all who have supported me with donations and to all my friends and neighbours for all their help which has allowed me to give NARS £500. Thank you everybody,” Rosemary said.

# Kingly Colour

ST Remigius Church will be awash with colour for the coming coronation of the King.

Our parish church will be celebrating the King's coronation from Saturday 6th May to Monday 8th May with a floral display entitled "Flowers For A King."

St Remigius Church flower ladies will also be decorating the church for Easter on 8th April and residents can buy lilies in memory of loved ones as one of the organisers Adele Kent explained.

"If you would like to buy a lily in memory of a loved one please let us know. Lilies will be £2 each."



Anyone interested should contact Pauline Grey or Adele Kent at 19 Cann's Lane Hethersett, or phone 01603 811945. You can also e-mail the address opposite.

Please include money and names of the people you would like remembered.





## Magical Figures

THE figures for this year's Hethersett Pantomime certainly stack up.

Ten shows, almost 100 people involved both on and off the stage and 1,800 people saw it.

The pantomime group took to social media to thank everyone:

"Wow what a week and what a show. With 10 amazing shows, almost 100 brilliant cast, crew and volunteers and over 1800 incredible audience members and supporters, 'happy days are here again' and we add Aladdin 2023 to our Hethersett Pantomime archives and memories.

"After almost two years in the making, we have absolutely loved being able to finally return to the stage and share another amazing Pantoland adventure with each other and with you all. It was

the best and most wonderful week we could've asked for, one filled with big smiles, laughter, memory making, community, family, friendship and of course Happy Days all dedicated to our wonderful Duncan who would be so very proud.

"We would like to say a HUGE thank you to every single person who bought tickets, come along, supported us, joined in with the fun, donated, shared and spread the word about the pantomime and sent us such kind and wonderful feedback!

"Without you, our pantomime would not be what it is... It's all about family and community for us and we are forever grateful that we have such a supportive community around us! You are the magic!"

This year's production was dedicated to pantomime founder Duncan Pigg who died in 2022.

POSTSCRIPT—This year’s bucket collection at the end of each pantomime performance raised an impressive £3,300 for the Take Our Hand charity.

Other proceeds from the pantomime will be donated to good causes and we will have more than this and also news about next year’s pantomimes in coming editions of Hethersett Herald.

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## Football Club Appeals For More Coaches

YOUR football club needs you!

There are currently 400 people of all ages signed up to the various teams affiliated to Hethersett Athletic Football Club, but there’s room for more and additional coaches are particularly needed as the club’s committee explained:

“That’s a truly phenomenal number - but it means there’s a small army of volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep it all going, whether it is through coaching or off the field matters. However, we’d like to attract even more people to the club and the beautiful game - especially more girls and women footballers.

“To do so, we need coaches prepared to run the teams and help inspire others. It’s an incredibly rewarding thing to do and a great way to learn new skills and improve yourself.

“From September we’d love to introduce some dedicated girls football to the club, or at least attract more female players - plus we also need coaches to set up a new under 6s team and to help with next season’s under 7s and under 8s. Full support and guidance will be given - so if you have a child who wants to play footy - and you’re prepared to help make it happen, or if you fancy helping to ensure more girls and women get the chance to play football in the village please get in touch with the club.

Anyone interested or who wants to find out more details should contact David Powles on

### Need For More Pitches

The football club has written to Hethersett Parish Council about the need for more pitches to cope with the demand of people who want to play in the village.

The club continues to expand with players of all ages and a long waiting list.

The club has stated that there is insufficient space on the Memorial Playing Field for all the matches, and teams have to travel to Little Melton or even further afield to play.

The club is hoping to be able to utilise land on the Northern Hethersett development. The parish council is also in discussion with Hethersett Academy and Woodside Schools regarding community use of their sports facilities.

# Police Chat Time

PC Vicky Bailey from Norfolk Police will be in Hethersett Library on the fourth Monday of each month to discuss local policing issues with residents.

Local people will be able to go along for a chat about the local community.

She will be there from 1.30 until 3 pm on the following dates:

27th March

24th April

22nd May

PC Bailey can be contacted at: [victoria.bailey@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:victoria.bailey@norfolk.police.uk)

## Coronation Lunch Planned

THE coronation of King Charles III will be marked in Hethersett with a special community lunch and event centred around Hethersett Village Hall

Hethersett Parish Council is organising the event for Monday 8th May which is a designated Bank Holiday.

The event is likely to run from midday until 6 pm and will feature a number of stalls and groups including food outlets and a licensed bar with marquee. It will be a ticketed event as numbers have to be limited but tickets will be free.

The parish council is hoping to receive a grant from South Norfolk to offset any costs and Taylor Wimpey may also contribute to help make the event a success. Straw bales will be provided to act as seats and tables with residents bringing their own food to join in the community event.

It is also hoped to have entertainment for children including a design a crown competition.

A previous lunch in 2022 to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee had to be cancelled due to heavy rain on the day.

The parish council is also looking for volunteers to help on the day. Hethersett Hearts Charity will be supporting the event.

Anyone able to help should contact parish clerk Annette Palmer whose details can be found in the parish council section of Hethersett Herald.

A flower festival will also be held in the village to mark the coronation and you can read about this elsewhere in this edition.

# Education For All

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**GOOD News has regularly featured the work of the Wulugu Project which is based in Great Melton and raises funds to tackle poverty through education in Northern Ghana. Here we inform readers of the latest updates in the project.**

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IN GHANA the school year begins in January. Most readers will not know that North Ghana is one of the most deprived, neglected, impoverished and inaccessible regions in Africa.

The most effective way to tackle poverty long-term is to ensure that education is easily available for all children. All evidence shows that this vastly decreases hunger, disease, early death, childhood marriage and tribal wars. If the education is carefully planned by the people themselves to meet their real needs and without loss of funding to corruption, then everyone wins.

In 2022, The Wulugu Project, had its most successful year ever.

In just one year the project has built or completely re-built seven schools where over 3,000 children are being taught. It is calculated that, for every child in school, at least 15 others will benefit directly or indirectly. That's 45,000 just for starters and many more will follow.

Lynne Symonds, founder of the charity, said:

“It is impossible to put a value on the support of local people who

understand what we want to do, know that raising funding from the major donors is impossible for small charities however successful they are, and trust us to make the maximum use of every penny.

“Two of our new schools were built in memory of family members by Norfolk people. Our volunteers in Ghana were overwhelmed by this. These legacies will continue to improve lives for generations to come.

“Meanwhile our 50 boreholes are providing clean water for approaching half a million who never imagined that they would ever have the luxury of uncontaminated water.

“Our to do list is long, including providing desks, equipment for our seven vocational schools for girls, re-building collapsed schools. We are expecting a drop in funding this year so would, as ever, be delighted to talk to anyone who might be looking for a charity that could really use their help.”

More information on the project is available from the project's official website at:

<https://www.wulugu.co.uk>

#### HOW WE WORK

We always make sure we only work with those communities who want to help themselves, and their children, to break free from poverty. We work closely with the communities and listen right from the start. This enables us to really understand what is needed, what is possible and how we can help them to help themselves.

#### CAN YOU HELP?

*Below are just four examples of work waiting to be done! We have many more ideas - just ask!*

**Matalope** - badly needs a new school. Cost £50,000.

**Kpambegu Khalididiya** - repairs so that children can be taught inside again. Cost: £27,000. Toilets: £6,000

**Pong Tamale Primary** - a new school. Also needs a toilet block. Cost: £56,000. Toilets: £6,500

**Zagyuri** - needs a new Primary school. Cost: £54,000



In addition to school building we are always in need of new desks (see page 5 of newsletter), materials for our Vocational Schools (see page 6 of newsletter) and boreholes (see page 4 and 5 of newsletter) to provide clean washing water.

#### HOW TO CONTACT US

We can be contacted at WULUGU Project, Church Farm, Great Melton, NORWICH NR9 3SH Phone: 01603 810748  
E-mail: [wuluguproject@gmail.com](mailto:wuluguproject@gmail.com) or The Chair, Jane Scott Phone: 01603 463750

## HOW TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE WULUGU PROJECT

If you wish to make a regular donation, please set up a standing order either on-line or by completing the form below.

Cheques and completed forms should be returned to:

**Harold Pook, The Treasurer, The Wulugu Project, 13 Fern Drive, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 7JF**

Standing Orders or Donations made on-line should be paid to:

**The Wulugu Project    Sort Code: 60-24-52    Account: 14643936    Reference: Donation**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to make a regular donation and have set up a standing order online  
 I wish to make a regular donation and have completed the standing order form below  
 I enclose a cheque for my donation

If you have not previously completed a Gift Aid Form for donations made, please complete and sign below:

### GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years. I confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (31 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the Charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the Charity if you want to cancel this declaration/change your name or home address/no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. Gift Aid is linked to basic tax, currently 20%, which currently allows charities to reclaim 25 pence in the pound

### STANDING ORDER for DONATIONS

To The Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Bank/Building Society

Branch address \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay to NatWest (Code 60-24-52) for the credit of The Wulugu Project (Account 14643936)

The sum of (Words) \_\_\_\_\_ Pounds (Figures) £ \_\_\_\_\_ Net Donation

Monthly/Quarterly/Annually beginning on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ and a like amount on the same day of each of the following months/quarters/years until this order is cancelled.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Account Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

This Order cancels any previous Order in favour of The Wulugu Project (delete if inappropriate)



# You Can Take The Girl Out Of Norfolk But.....



VISITORS to Park Farm, Hethersett, may well recognise some of the landscapes featured in artwork on show in the hotel.

Park Farm is hosting an exhibition of the work of Jo Sharpe—an artist who now lives in London but who comes from the village.

Despite moving over 100 miles away,

Jo still looks upon herself as “a Norfolk girl.”

Writing on her website she states:

“Having grown up in Norfolk, I am inspired by the great British countryside and coastline. My paintings show my love of painting, colour, creating surface pattern texture and playing with compositions. I mostly

paint in oils but also love to combine medias. My range of contemporary botanical prints are a real contrast to my oil paintings. But they also show my absolute passion for nature and love of colour and pattern, thanks to my textiles design background. “

Jo’s website talks about the exhibition at Park Farm.

“In many a Walk is an exhibition at Park Farm Hotel with artworks by Jo Sharpe. She has created a collection remembering much-loved walks of local fields, celebrating the beautiful countryside of the village of Hethersett located seven miles south of Norwich on A11.

“Jo Sharpe is an artist who grew up in the village of Hethersett. She has always been inspired by this local countryside and in particular, and the walk around the Hethersett gravel pit, (now called Great Melton Farms) and the local oilseed rape fields adjacent to the Park Farm Country Hotel.

“During lockdown Jo could no longer stay in the family home as her parents had moved into a care home. It was a traumatic time for her and her family,



like so many families at that time, suffering not seeing their loved ones.

Jo explained:

“I sorely missed seeing my parents (James and Adele Hersey) and going on my familiar Hethersett walks. To feel closer to them and the village I painted several paintings of the local landscape and made a Norfolk themed series of paintings.”

## Your Post Office Needs You

HETHERSETT Community Post Office is looking for volunteers who can spare a couple of hours each week. The post office is now in Hethersett Library and is organised by the Hethersett Hearts charity.

Anyone interested in helping or finding out more should go to Facebook and search for Hethersett Hearts.



# Open Gardens Date Set For The Summer

THE Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) is organising an Open Gardens event on Sunday 9th July from 10 am until 4 pm.

The village hasn't held this popular event since 2019 due primarily to lockdown restrictions.

The organisers are appealing for anybody who would like to open their gardens to the public to contact Sarah White, Community and Projects Officer for Hethersett Parish Council via e-mail at [hethersettppcommunityprojects@gmail.com](mailto:hethersettppcommunityprojects@gmail.com) or telephone 0790 2322 729.

Please look out for links to the application form online.

Volunteers are also needed on the day to assist with teas, art and craft stalls and car park duties. Anyone interested in helping should contact the numbers above.

Any proceeds from the event will be used by the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) for the Back Garden community project on land at the village hall.





# World Day Of Prayer in Hethersett



THIS year's World Day of Prayer service in Hethersett will be held in the parish church at 2 pm on Friday March 3rd.

The service has been prepared by the women of Taiwan.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world – through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

For further information and resources, together with details of services in your area, see the WDP website: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk) .

## Dog Mess On Tennis Court Problem

HETHERSETT resident Kerry Silvester contacted us to complain about dogs being allowed on the village tennis court which is at the back of the village hall.

“My husband sometimes uses the courts with our sons and on several occasions has had to clear up dog mess before he could use it,” Kerry said, adding that she is aware of a dog walker who uses the court as a safe enclosure for dogs.

“I really think this should be a dog free area. Dogs have lots of other space in which to roam and poo on tennis balls is not nice,” Kerry added.

The courts belong to Hethersett Parish Council which keeps them open for the village to enjoy without the need to book.

The matter was raised at February's parish council meeting and the situation will be monitored.

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

# Liz's Passion For Storytelling

HETHERSETT resident Liz French admits that she likes nothing better than to sit down and have a good mardle, especially now she is semi-retired.

[www.storytellingplus.org](http://www.storytellingplus.org)

[lizfrench2605@gmail.com](mailto:lizfrench2605@gmail.com)

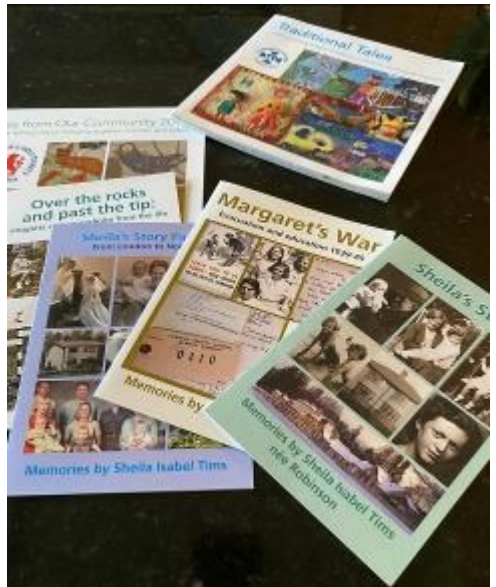
Hearing the stories of older people is a special joy to her and, during lockdown, Liz turned this passion into a part-time venture - StorytellingPlus - which helps people to tell their stories and turn their tales into top-quality illustrated booklets for them to share with family and friends.

Liz has plenty of experience in the world of publishing, having been a freelance project manager, designer, editor and copywriter whose career began with eight years in a major academic book publishing house.

She has also written several books including twelve titles in Jarrold's How to Play Sports series some years ago. Her career also included fifteen years at City College in Norwich and four at the former Old Hall School in Hethersett.

All this experience has combined with Liz's genuine interest in people in her new venture. She now works with business partner Julie Search-Whittaker as well as with individuals, families and schools to write, edit, design and produce life story books which she refers to as "legacy books".

She has even worked with Chelsea Pensioners including Colin Thakery who many will remember winning Britain's Got Talent in 2019. Colin is one of the Storytelling Plus "elders"



who shared his own life stories with primary school children in London.

Storytelling is definitely in Liz's blood and talking to her, it soon becomes obvious that she loves what she is doing.

"Many people would like to have their life stories put down in print so that their family has their precious memories to keep", Liz said.

"However, not everybody has the time or skill to write their stories themselves, and that's where I can help. I find that older people in particular not only have fascinating tales to tell, but also that they are very pleased to have the opportunity to share their memories in conversation with me. "

Liz has an inquisitive mind and enjoys undertaking research and learning new facts to help flesh out the stories, researching photos, too, of places and events that may be mentioned by her clients.

She spends quite some time with her interviewees and while the "chats" for the memories can be done over two to three weeks they often take a lot longer:

"I never rush things. The whole process has to be enjoyable and personal to the individual, the family or the group," she says.

Even after the book is finished, Liz often stays in touch with her subjects and says she has made a number of friends through the process. Most of her work to date has been local to Norfolk, although she has been as far afield as Newcastle and Brighton.



Colin Thakery



To produce ten copies of a memory book costs from about £450, which

includes the whole process including personal one to one interviews, research, writing, designing and printing the finished high-quality glossy booklet.

Storytelling Plus also works with schools and up to 30 pupils at a time to deliver a cross-generational project that features youngsters working together with older members of the community,

and with a book produced for every pupil taking part.

Storytelling Plus can also work with businesses and communities.

Liz can be contacted via the e-mail address on the previous page where the StorytellingPlus website link can also be found.

**Peter Steward**

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# Busy Year For Togetherness

HETHERSETT and District Churches Together has experienced a busy year.

The group, which represents Anglicans and Methodists, has recovered well from lockdown restrictions.

Events supported by the group included the recommencement of the Easter walk of witness from the Methodist Church to St Remigius. Also in 2022 local Christians were able to join together to celebrate Christian unity whilst still being conscious of COVID restrictions.

A local committee also made arrangements for the World Day of Prayer service which was organised on the first Friday of March 2022 and prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and held in the Methodist Church. This year's event prepared by the women of Taiwan will take place in St Remigius on 3rd March at 2 pm.

The group also supported Christian Aid week in May and organised community carol singing at Christmas outside

Tesco Express which raised £44.21 from a bucket collection.

At its meeting on 18th January the group expressed its thanks and bade farewell to the Rector The Rev Derek McClean.

The 2022 Lent Course was entitled "Jesus' Teaching" and was based on the Sermon on the Mount" and the 2023 course is now underway.

Historically the committee of Hethersett Churches Together has consisted of three lay representatives from each church. Maggie Murrell, who has represented Great Melton for nearly 25 years, has stepped down and was thanked for her considerable contribution. Her place has been taken by Mary Tuddenham.

The current committee comprises Rev Derek McClean, Rev Steve Cullis, Margaret Askew (secretary), Anne Steward (treasurer), William Twist, Brenda Scholey, Anne Hallam, Maureen Grasby, Lavinia Ganley and Mary Tuddenham.

# Playing Field Pavilion Update

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**Continuing our monthly photographic update on progress being made on the new pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field. This month we get our first insight into the inside of the new building which gives some idea of its size.**

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Photographs courtesy of Hethersett Parish Council and Mike Stark.



# Playing Field Pavilion Update



## Photographs Needed

DO you have any photographs of the Memorial Playing Field and the old pavilion building in use through the years by clubs groups and organisations.

The playing field was opened in 1959 and Hethersett Parish Council is looking for photos from its earliest days up to the present with particular emphasis on older photos.

Photographs received will be part of a display in the new pavilion.

Photographs can be e-mailed to [hethersettcommunityprojects@gmail.com](mailto:hethersettcommunityprojects@gmail.com)



# Herald Baconometer

WE are pleased to be able to report that this will be the last appearance at present of the Baconometer. This was brought into existence to hold our MP Richard Bacon to account for his awful website. The website hasn't improved much but at least he has taken off his welcome to Liz Truss as the new Prime Minister.

It took him well over 100 days after Rishi Sunak replaced her to change his website.

We will be continuing to keep a close watch on the website which currently consists of just three pages—a home page, a contact page and an about me page.



Queen Elizabeth II



Richard has paid tribute to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the House of Commons on behalf of his constituents.

Richard welcomes appointment of Prime Minister Liz Truss



On 6 September we saw a change in the leadership of the United Kingdom, from Boris Johnson to Liz

Pink Ladies Tractor Road Run



What a huge pleasure it was to see the Pink Ladies Tractor Road Run in Harleston.

## Lent Course Dates Announced

THIS year's Lent Course organised by Hethersett and District Churches Together is entitled "Jesus' Final Week" and is produced by Life Builder Study Guides.

There was an introduction to the course with pancakes in St Remigius Church on 21st February.

The following weekly sessions will take place:

Mondays from 27th February to 27th March, 7 pm via Zoom—further details are available on the Hethersett Methodist Church website at: [www.hethersettmethodist.org.uk](http://www.hethersettmethodist.org.uk).

Wednesdays from 1st March to 29th March. Hethersett Methodist Church at Noon (bring your own lunch if required. Teas and coffee will be served).

This year's Christian walk of witness will take place on Good Friday (7th April) from Hethersett Methodist Church, beginning at 9.45 am. This will continue to St Remigius where worship will be led by the Rev Martin Gray.

# Monthly Farmers' Market In Hethersett

A new monthly Farmers' Market featuring numerous food and craft stalls is being held in Hethersett Village Hall throughout 2023. The first event took place on 19th February.

Our photos are a general view of the hall and below that local Norwich-based author David Viner with his own books and those of the Redwell Writers' Group whose work was on sale.

You can see all the coming dates for the year in the What's On section of this edition.



# Take A Walk

A NEW and updated book featuring two historic walks around Hethersett has been published by the parish council.

We are pleased to be able to offer the Hethersett Walks booklet

via our Hethersett Herald website at the address at the bottom of this page.

It is also available for download from the Hethersett Parish Council website.

The two walks take about one and a quarter hours each and will take you past some of the village's most iconic and historic buildings with descriptions of each.

They have been put together in conjunction with former Hethersett archivist Gary Wyatt.

The booklet also contains details about the history of the areas you will be passing.

## HETHERSETT WALKS



This guide describes two short rambles around our village

[www.hethersettherald.weebly.com](http://www.hethersettherald.weebly.com)

# News From The Parish Council

## Meeting Dates

Full council dates for 2023 are: March 20th, April 17th, May 15th, June 19th, July 17th, August (no meeting), September 18th, October 16th, November 20th, December 18th. The annual parish meeting will be held on April 19th.

The council meets monthly usually on the third Monday of each month except for August when there is no meeting. Please note that the January 2023 meeting will be on the fourth Monday due to the village pantomime taking place in the village hall. Council meetings begin at 7.30 pm. For other committee dates refer to the council's website which can be accessed at:

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

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

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

## 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](mailto:hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk).

The council has a website at

[www.hethersett-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk](http://www.hethersett-parish-council.norfolkparishes.gov.uk)

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

# News From The Parish Council

Below are details of the 14 parish councillors

Position	Name	Address	Telephone
Chairman	Adrienne Quinlan	8 Childs Road, NR9 3HN	814379
Vice-Chair	Sarah Lawrence	c/o Parish Council Office	Via the clerk
Councillors	Leslie Dale	46 New Road	810952
	Anne Edwards	6 Queen's Road	812309
	Samantha England	c/o Parish Council Office	07582225895
	Adele Kent		
	Jonathan Loomer	6 Miller Close	07799608978
	Chris Morriss	19 Haconsfield	810060
	Eileen Mulvaney	C/o Parish Council Office	Via the clerk
	John Nightingale	2 Buckingham Drive	811513
	Stephen Slack	70 Priory Road	811824
	Mike Stark	61 Lynch Green	Via the clerk
	Jennifer Walpole	16 Cann's Lane	811932
	Bridget Williamson	8 Churchfields	810259

## Roads In "Dreadful State"

THE parish council has complained to Norfolk Highways about "the dreadful state" of Henstead Road and Old Norwich Road following the re-surfacing work which took place before Christmas.

A complaint has also been lodged about the poor state of the road surface in Mill Road which one resident has referred to as a danger to anyone unable to see properly or for those in wheelchairs.

# News From The Parish Council

## Making Meetings More Interesting

Attendance for the village's annual parish meeting is historically low and the parish council is looking at ways of improving the numbers attending.

The annual parish meeting is for village residents rather than the parish council, although the council organises it.

This year's meeting will be on 19th April. The council is looking to "feature items that will appeal to residents."

Suggestions to date include presentations on the strategic gap, on the new Memorial Playing Field pavilion and one by the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT).

A number of displays are likely to be mounted including one from village archives. Other groups likely to be represented include village speedwatch.

Doors will be open at 7 pm with the formal part of the meeting taking place at 7.30 pm and light refreshments will also be provided.

## Parish Shorts

### Defibrillator Promise

The parish council is to supply a defibrillator for the outside wall of the new pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field. The council will undertake monthly checks on the machine and also supply replacement batteries and pads as and when needed.

### Short Stay

The parish council has once again emphasised that the car park on Great Melton Road near Tesco Express is for short term parking only. Motorists have been ignoring this and leaving vehicles there for lengthy periods of time, although the council admits that there is little they can do to "police the situation."

### For Back Garden

Taylor-Wimpey has provided a load of "substandard bricks" which have been broken up and placed in raised beds at the new Back Garden on land at the village hall.



# News From The Parish Council

## Double Yellow Lines Extension Possibility

AN extension of double yellow lines down Henstead Road has come a step closer with the parish council voting to apply for a grant .

The council has put forward the line extension for funding under the Road Safety Community Fund.

The extension could see the current double yellows extended as far as the junction with Stuart Road and would help alleviate traffic problems in the area and make it easier for buses to turn into and out of Henstead Road.

Applications to the fund have to be made by April.

## Exceeding Speed Limits

OVER half of motorists are exceeding 20 mph signs in the village.

The latest survey by a Sam 2 portable speed camera in Queen's Road close to the junction with Cann's Lane between 19th December 2022 and 31st January 2023 saw 127,844 vehicle movements past the speed detector.

Of that number, just over 54,000 kept to the 20 mph but over 73,000 exceeded it as our table opposite illustrates.

The camera shows and records speeding trends. It doesn't issue speeding tickets.

At February's parish council meeting, members agreed to note the figures.

The Sam monitor is being used in different areas of the village and will continue to be in place throughout 2023.

MPH	Vehicles
10	744
15	10812
20	42514
25 (exceeding limit)	59996
30	12696
35	1012
40	66
45	2
50	2

Local council elections are due to take place in May and we will have more on this in coming editions of Hethersett Herald. In the meantime a reminder that in order to vote you will have to have photo ID. No ID...No vote.

The  
Electoral  
Commission

You now need  
photo ID to  
vote at a  
polling station

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more at

[electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID)

or call 0800 328 0280



# 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

Below and on the next page are three images of St Remigius Church taken during February.





## Walking Hethersett

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Sarah Lawrence continues her regular monthly look at what's happening in Hethersett and in her world.

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OVER the last few weeks we've been going on lots of walks around Hethersett. I like walks with purpose, I don't like to walk with just the aim of going for a walk!

I think because I don't drive and walking is my main mode of transport when I'm travelling solo or with the girls, I don't see it as a novelty. I just see it as a way to get from a to b.

One of the walks was a 'nature walk' with the intent of helping our youngest daughter earn her Nature interest badge at Rainbows.

Part of the challenge asked you to go on a nature walk, picking up leaves and taking photos to identify them. As someone who is not in the least bit green-fingered, with a very limited knowledge of trees and plants, this would have been quite the challenge had it not been for Google image search.

With the help of that, we were able to do the work easily. With a bit more time, I would have probably visited a couple of my friends in the Hethersett



Environmental Action Team (HEAT) who would have no doubt identified the leaves in no time at all. But time is of the essence when you have a six year old eager to earn her badge.

Another reason we walk is going

# Sarah's World

Geocaching. Anyone who knows our family knows that it's a favourite pastime of ours, looking for hidden treasures that other players of the worldwide game have tucked away.

We've only been playing since the summer, but we've already accumulated 78 finds! Back at the very end of January, we saw on the app that there was a meet and greet happening at Hethersett Village Hall, which also just happens to be over the road from where we live.

Thankfully I had the day off that day, so we wandered over. It was great to meet some like-minded individuals, especially people who live in the area.

Putting faces to some of the names I'd seen on the app was really nice, and it was wonderful to be able to chat to those who had the same interest in Geocaching that we do.

One of the other attendees, 'Team GBS', even passed on a Travel Bug to us - a kind of portable Geocache that you travel with and log on your geocaching trips before passing onto someone else who will do the same.

We've already taken it on a trip to Mulbarton, but we hope to take it a bit further afield before passing it onto someone else we trust. It started in South Wales, so it's already travelled a fair distance.

After our meet and greet at Hethersett Village Hall, we decided to seek out a couple more of the Hethersett caches



that we had yet to find. We headed down the footpath across the road from Cann's Lane – I think it's called Kissing Lane (Editor's Note—This would be Kissing Alley).

Down there, are two hidden caches. One we found, one we didn't sadly. I also discovered a lovely lake down there, with a Heron sitting right beside! Despite living in Hethersett for over 20 years, I've never ventured down there. It goes to show that you can always find out something new about where you live.

One of the things I was sad and angry to see this month was the promotion of

# Sarah's World

Stardust Circus, who were performing in the Village Hall for one evening in February.

One morning, promoters of the circus littered the village with posters literally anywhere they could put them, winding Sellotape round and round telegraph poles, lampposts and bus shelters.

On a couple of the bus shelters I saw there were FOUR posters inside, extremely excessive in my opinion. In Hethersett we have a fly-posting policy issued by the parish council, meaning that no one should put up posters or billboards in unauthorised locations.

Clearly Stardust Circus are in breach of that policy and now members of the parish council have been asked to remove those posters on sight.

So far, I've removed about 15, but there's loads more. Not only does it look really tacky in my opinion, but I very much doubt they will travel round to remove them after their event. Shame on you, Stardust Circus, for littering our beautiful village.

We've had two birthdays in our house in two weeks. The littlest



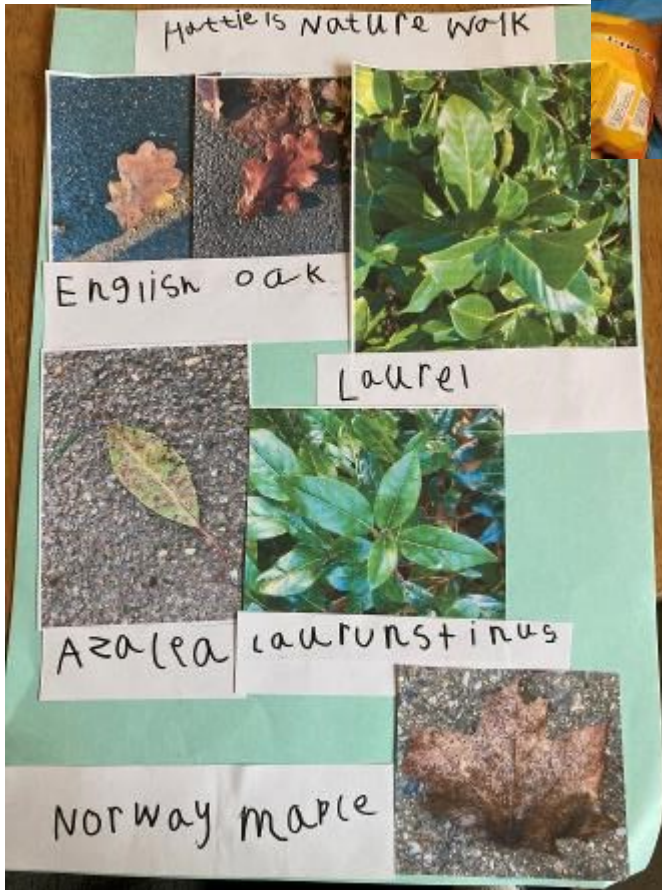


# Sarah's World

Lawrence celebrated her sixth birthday at the very end of January and my husband celebrated his big 4-0 in February.

Hattie had a lovely low-key birthday, celebrated at home with family visiting, it was really nice. As it was George's milestone birthday, I went a little bigger, with a surprise party at Hethersett Social Club with our nearest and dearest.

It was the best evening, with a disco and old-school party food, and obviously the obligatory



All photographs courtesy of Sarah Lawrence

# Sarah's World



embarrassing pictures of the birthday boy posted all over the walls.

My favourite part though, was seeing all of our friends chatting, and seeing family members that we hadn't seen for a while.

We are extremely lucky to have a massive support network around us, and it was lovely to see them all together in one place celebrating.

There will be much more from Sarah's world in the April edition of Hethersett Herald which will be available exclusively online at the end of March.

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## A Blot On The Landscape

I share Sarah's dislike of advertising posters being plastered around the village. I spent some time as a Hethersett Parish Councillor and would always take them down whenever possible.

I still always take down out of date posters on village noticeboard. It's just one of my things.

I particularly dislike the fact that people promoting events are very quick to put posters etc up but very slow to take them down.

This can be very confusing. Often large boards are placed along the main roads with a message such as "Fair This Saturday." They are then left up after the event has taken place, so that passing motorists, who are the people the notices are trying to attract the attention of, believe the event is still to take place.

Posters such as that mentioned by Sarah are unsightly and just plain ugly and a blot on our village. I applaud the work of the parish council in taking down this material.

**Herald Comment**

# 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.

## The Juggler of the Day

**BLAZING** in gold and quenching  
in purple,

Leaping like leopards to the sky,

Then at the feet of the old  
horizon

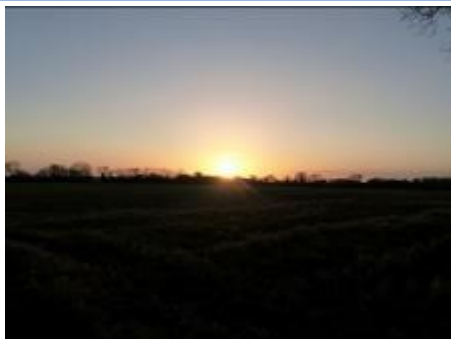
Laying her spotted face, to die;

Stooping as low as the otter's window,

Touching the roof and tinting the barn,

Kissing her bonnet to the meadow,—

And the juggler of day is gone!



Emily Dickinson

Photographs  
Courtesy of  
John Head



# My Photographic Diary *by John Head*



# My Photographic Diary *by John Head*



Hethersett Herald

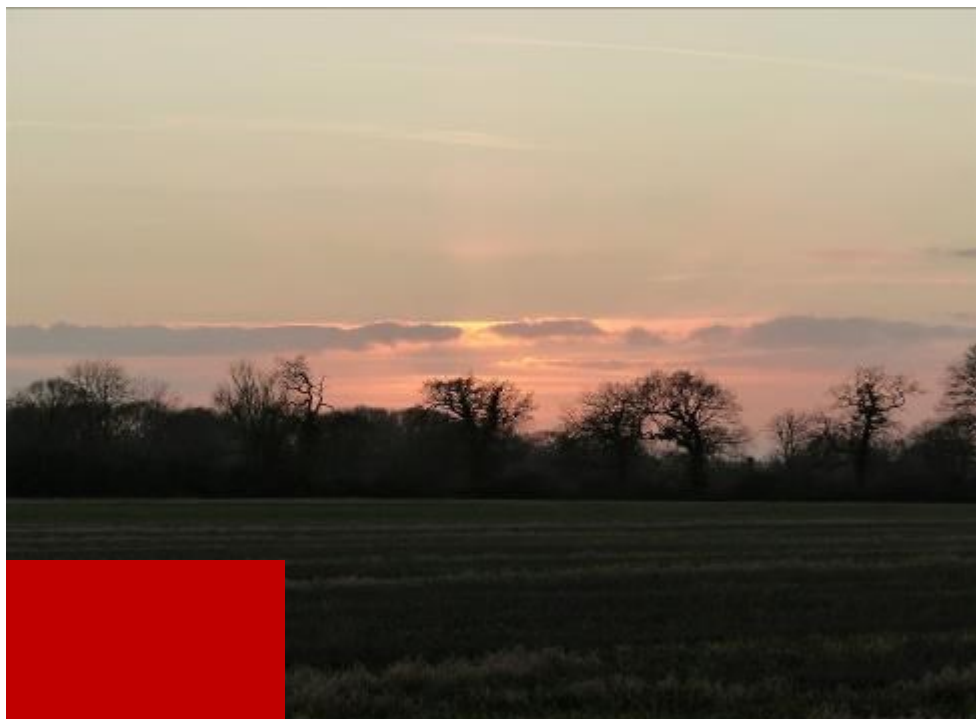


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Back copies of  
Hethersett Herald are  
available on the  
website  
[www.hethersettherald.  
weebly.com](http://www.hethersettherald.weebly.com)

March 2023

# My Photographic Diary *by John Head*



The photographs  
on this page are  
from John's  
personal  
collection



# News From Hethersett Hall

## HE'S BEHIND YOU

Words and Pictures by Emily Parton

Residents and staff from Hethersett Hall Care Home were in for a treat when they visited the village hall to see a pantomime performance of Aladdin (*oh no they didn't- oh yes they did!*).

Residents from the home were accompanied by relatives and staff as they enjoyed the timeless tale full of magical twists, fun, laughter and adventures.

One resident commented: "it was the best pantomime production I have seen in years, the actors really made me laugh."

General Manager, Elena said:

"Our residents and staff had a wonderful time at the show- truly brilliant.

"We do our best to provide a wide range of activities and entertainment at Hethersett Hall as part of the lifestyle enrichment



programme for residents and this was one of our favourites."

The panto has been going since 1970 and was started by Duncan Pigg who was a resident with us at the hall not so long ago.

Margaret said:

"It isn't just the performers but the ones behind it all too that work hard."

Yes we totally agree Margaret, a wonderful performance by amazing people, well done all!

# News From Hethersett Hall

## Creativity in Motion

Being creative and expressing it can be a hard thing to do when you have a busy mind.

Creative Mojo Norwich, Waveney and District provide a great way to unleash the inner artist in us all with their fortnightly art sessions in our Memory Lane.

The finished product is displayed proudly on our lounge wall and they are changed frequently to keep the space vibrant and fresh.

We also work closely with Friend in Deed. They provide an invaluable service to care homes by encouraging parents and their little ones to come into homes and meet our residents.

The intergenerational friendships formed with our residents and little ones is absolute gold and some little ones that have been coming for a few years who are now a little older still come and visit.

The happiness children bring to our older generation is so special, it gives you a warm feeling inside to see the smiles on our residents' faces.



Hethersett Herald



March 2023



# News From Hethersett Hall

## Pamper Perfection

Valentines themed pamper sessions with our resident beauty therapist Emily Collins was a big hit.

The residents loved choosing the colour for their nails, then the hand massage to finish the session with the wonderful smell of the hand creams was amazing!

Some residents opted for a facial which was so relaxing and one of our ladies Betty said “ It feels so refreshing”, we can't wait for Emily to return.



To find out more about life at Hethersett Hall please visit our website at <http://www.barchester.com/home/hethersett-hall-care-home> or phone on 01603 810478.

## Helping With Fitness

We love providing our residents with great ways to spend their time and keep fit.

Every week at Hethersett Hall we have fun fitness sessions, this one is with our fabulous instructor Bella who leads our Stretch and Smile classes, her interaction with each of our residents and knowledge of their needs is paramount to a successful session.

Its always nice to see relatives join in and provide encouragement too.



## Have You Missed Out ?

YOU can catch up on previous editions of the Hethersett Herald by going to

[www.hethersettherald.weebly.com](http://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](mailto:petersteward@sky.com)

## Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club

On 27th March we will be holding our AGM. This will be a ticketed event in Hethersett Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

For further details please contact Lynn Rawlings on 01603 457888 or email [leopardlynn@hotmail.com](mailto:leopardlynn@hotmail.com).

Follow us on Facebook—Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club.



## 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.

# 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](http://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](mailto: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 April 2023 edition of Hethersett Herald will be online at the end of March, bringing you news and views from the village.

News, features and photographs should be with the editor by March 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](mailto: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](mailto:Richard@richardbacon.org.uk).

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

Telephone: 01379 642097

Web site: [www.richardbacon.org.uk](http://www.richardbacon.org.uk)

Facebook - [Bacon4SouthNorfolk](https://www.facebook.com/Bacon4SouthNorfolk)

Twitter - [@Bacon4SNorfolk](https://twitter.com/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](mailto:dbills@s-norfolk.gov.uk), Phil on 07985 695668 or at [phardy@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:phardy@s-norfolk.gov.uk) and Adrian on 07957139880.or at [adearnley@s-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk)

Website – [hethersettpc.info](http://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](http://www.hetherssettherald.weebly.co)



# HOW TO CONTACT US

HETHERSETT & MULBARTON Safer Neighbourhood Team



 Insp Louise BISHOP  
Local Policing Commander

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




101 Ext: 5635



[Louise.Bishop@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Louise.Bishop@norfolk.police.uk)



 PC Vicky BAILEY  
Engagement Officer

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

Contact them for local enquiries that affect your neighbourhood.




101 Ext: 1113



[Victoria.Bailey@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:Victoria.Bailey@norfolk.police.uk)



 PC Stu BARNARD  
Beat Manager

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

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



101 Ext: 2386



[SNTHethersettandMulbarton@norfolk.police.uk](mailto:SNTHethersettandMulbarton@norfolk.police.uk)



[SNTHethersettandMulbarton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:SNTHethersettandMulbarton@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 Vets on Queen's Road. Food and coffee served during certain days.

## **Hethersett King's Head**

Norwich Road. Food is served every day including Sunday lunch. The venue is now open seven days a week.

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?

## Herald Petrol Watch

	Unlead- ed	Change	Diesel	Change
Asda Hall Road, Norwich	<b>146.9</b>	NC	<b>168.9</b>	NC
Tesco Express, Earlham Road, Norwich	<b>146.9</b>	NC	<b>168.9</b>	NC
Sainsbury's Queen's Road Norwich	<b>146.9</b>	NC	<b>168.9</b>	NC
Tesco Harford Bridges, Norwich	<b>146.9</b>	NC	<b>168.9</b>	NC
Sainsbury's Longwater, Norwich	<b>146.9</b>	NC	<b>168.9</b>	NC
Abbeygate Wymondham	157.9	-2p	179.9	-4p
Waitrose Wymondham	157.9	-2p	179.9	-4p
Thickthorn Services, Hethersett	153.9	NC	174.9	-2p

Latest prices at our chosen eight garages. Best value in bold.

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](mailto: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](http://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.**



# Groups and Societies

## **First Steps Stay & Play Playgroup**

Hethersett Village Hall

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



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

Babies under 6 months are free!

**Email: [firststepshethersett@outlook.com](mailto:firststepshethersett@outlook.com)**

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

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

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

# Groups and Societies

## Forget Me Not Cafe



THE Mustangs Country Trio entertained at the second monthly meeting of Hethersett Forget-Me-Not Café in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall on February 21st.

The trio of Mike Delph, Ray Bowden and David Moore played numerous singalong classics including songs by The Eagles, Peter, Paul and Mary, John Denver and Gordon Lightfoot and many more.

Mike's mother Ruby was a regular attendee at the café but now lives in a residential home in Drayton.

Hethersett Forget Me Not Club under the auspices of Hethersett Dementia Support Group meets in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall from 10 am on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

### Coming Dates:

**March 7th**—Entertainment with Michael Denmark and Friends.

**March 21st**—Time For A Chat.

**April 4th**—Easter Activities.

**April 18th**—Bygones with Lesley Woodton

**May 2nd**—Coronation Celebrations.

**May 16th**—A presentation by Queen Victoria (portrayed by Georgette Vale)

**June 6th**—Time For A Chat

**June 20th**—Chair workout with CeliaAlden

# Groups and Societies

The first Tuesday is usually an informal get together with light refreshments and the third Tuesday features a more structured programme including presentations, films, talks, games and much more.

All are welcome and not just those living with dementia. For more information please contact Anne Steward on 811052.

Members enjoyed coffee and chat with games of Play Your Cards Right and Bingo for their first meeting in February.



## Fourteen Bags of Rubbish Collected

THIRTY volunteers collected 14 full bags of rubbish during the February village litter pick. The rubbish was once again being disposed of by Tesco Express.

“Thank you, thank you, thank you. Every one of you volunteers are amazing,” said one of the organisers Geoff Dyett on social media.

A considerable amount of litter was found near the primary school on Queen’s Road. This included crisp packets, drink cans and sweet wrappers.

The monthly litter picks are organised by the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT).

## More Village Litter Pick Dates

THE next village litter pick organised by the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) under the auspices of Hethersett Parish Council will take place on Saturday March 25th.

Volunteers are always welcome and tools are provided. This session will start from the Methodist Church.

After that the next pick will be on April 22nd from 2 pm starting at the village hall.

# Groups and Societies

## St Remigius Church Baby and Toddler Group



**Our Baby and Toddler Group is held on the first Tuesday of the month 10 am – 12 in St Remigius Church.**

**A friendly and fun time for everyone with babies and toddlers. We look forward to welcoming you at our next session on**

**TUESDAY 7th MARCH**

**Future Dates:**

**4th April**

**2nd May**

**For more information telephone: Pauline  
01603 812610**

# Groups and Societies

## Hethersett Gardening Club

Hethersett Gardening Club can save you pounds on your orders. The club has a promotional code with Suttons Seeds SUGS120K lasting until August.

Using this code, any orders placed with Suttons for packet seeds will get a 30% discount and a 10% discount on live products including potatoes, garlic, shallots, onion sets, plants, bulbs and fruit.

There are no discounts on non-live products. The appropriate postage and packaging costs will apply for any order placed with Suttons Seeds.

At our latest meeting Julia Stafford-Allen, of the National Garden Scheme [NGS], described the evolution of the opening of usually private gardens, to public view. This she said dated back to Henry VIII at Hampton Court, sometimes meeting Courtiers and Diplomats in its gardens.

The Tudor acolytes of Henry VIII began to copy the garden concept in their own Manor and Hall properties. Viewing of gardens started with the various Monarchs' "progresses", inviting themselves around Britain as guests of selected nobles.

Eventually gardens became less formulaic with temples, grottoes and statues appearing and the nobility started inviting friends to visit their gardens. From these beginnings a culture of ordinary people visiting gardens developed.

In 1859 a William Rathbone hired a nurse for his sick wife. In 1862 he was

setting up a school for nurses which became the Queen's Nursing Institute with Queen Victoria's support, and continued with other royal family patronage. In 1927 a Miss Elsie Wagg suggested opening gardens as a means of fund raising for the Queen's Nursing Institute [QNI] and in 1928 on the back of the proposal's success, the National Gardening Scheme evolved as a charity supporting district nursing. In 21st Century the NGS still supports the QNI as well as a wider range of charitable good causes.

In 2022 the national monies raised by the NGS for charitable causes was over £3m and Norfolk's gardens contributed £118,000. The 2023 handbook for Norfolk shows 62 properties intending to open at least once during the year.

Hethersett Gardening Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month excepting 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 and refreshments are included. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15th March 2023, when directly after the Annual General Meeting, Bob Coutts will talk about the Gardens of Great Britain. On Wednesday 19th April 2023 Andrew Sankey discusses "The English Landscape Garden".

For more details please contact committee secretary Leslie Dale at 46, New Road, Hethersett, on 07516 073487 or email:

[lsldale@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lsldale@yahoo.co.uk)

# Groups and Societies

## Friends of Hethersett Library

THE Friends of Hethersett Library group had an excellent presentation in February from Ethel Gooch in the person of Georgette Vale (pictured opposite).



Ethel/Georgette transported the audience back to the Wymondham of the 1950s and before and explained her work in the local community as the wife of a prominent Norfolk MP as well as describing changes in the town during her lifetime.

On April 20th Paddy Anstey will be giving a presentation on the Mid Norfolk Railway. This will start at 7 pm and tickets are priced at £5 which includes light refreshments.

June 15th, sees the return of Norfolk author Phyllida Scrivens who will present a new talk. The fourth presentation is still to be arranged but will take place in the library on September 21st. The group will be organising a quiz on October 28th and a children's party on December 2nd. Venues for these events are still to be decided.

## HETHERSETT MOTHERS' UNION

Hethersett Mothers' Union met for their AGM on Monday 23rd January.

We are now looking forward to a full and interesting year with some special speakers and outings. Our next Mothers' Union meeting was due to take place on Monday 27th February at 1.30 pm— a talk from Mission Aviation Force (MAF).

Hethersett Mothers' Union meets on the last Monday of the month in St. Remigius Church at 1.30 pm.

Our March meeting on Monday March 27th will be a Corporate Communion together with Little Melton Mothers' Union to be held in St Remigius Church at 1.30 pm.

**Kate Reynolds—Branch Secretary**

# Groups and Societies

## The RiNG Norfolk Arthritis Group

By Viv Hawes

Hello Everybody. Our January guest Dr Max Yates had some very interesting points to make about Covid and its changes over time. We are now better informed on this topic.

The February meeting was due to outline the work of the Lions and their charitable efforts allowing donations to be given to organisations such as ours. We are looking forward to Peter Steward's talk on March 22nd, always enlightening and diverting.

April 26th has Mary Anne Massey telling us about the work of Citizens Advice.

The rest of the year is almost full, just one more month to finalise. Make sure you keep the 28th June free for the meeting at Jane's home, Owlswood at Shipdham, when the guest will be Claire Jacklin CEO of NRAS.

I hope I have piqued your interest enough for you to think about joining us for one or all our meetings, you will be made most welcome. We meet at Hethersett Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2 pm to enjoy a good speaker, good cake and above all, good company. If you require more details contact me on 01603 811347 or email [viv.hawes@talktalk.net](mailto:viv.hawes@talktalk.net).

## Hethersett Herald What's On

A MOBILE Library visits Little Melton every four weeks.

The library will be at a variety of sites in the village on Wednesdays on the following dates—15th March, 12th April, 10th May, 7th June, 5th July, 2nd August, 30th August, 27th September, 25th October, 22nd November and 20th December. Timings and locations are as follows:

School Lane NR9 3LA	Arrive 10.55	Depart 11.05
Shop NR9 3NL	Arrive 11.10	Depart 11.25
Braymeadow Lane NR9 3NQ	Arrive 11.30	Depart 11.45
Crossways NR9 3NN	Arrive 11.50	Depart 12.05
Little Melton School NR9 3AD	Arrive 15.00	Depart 15.45
Ringwood Close NR9 3NY	Arrive 15.50	Depart 16.15

# Hethersett Herald What's On

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Hethersett

## • Farmers Market



SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY  
SUNDAY 19TH MARCH  
SUNDAY 16TH APRIL  
SATURDAY 10TH JUNE  
SATURDAY 8TH JULY  
SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST  
SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER  
SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER  
SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER  
SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

**9:00 - 15:00 • HETHERSETT VILLAGE HALL**

**BACK LANE, HETHERSETT, NORWICH NR9 3JJ**

[farmersmarketnorfolk@gmail.com](mailto:farmersmarketnorfolk@gmail.com)

# Hethersett Herald What's On

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

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



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

## The King Comes To Hethersett Village Screen

The search for the grave of King Richard III is the next featured film in the series organised by Hethersett Village Screen on 5th March. "The Lost King " is based on a true story.

On Sunday 2nd April, "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris" is the feature.

The season is rounded off with the murder drama "Where The Crawdads Sing."



You can see more details of coming films by turning to the next page.

# Hethersett Herald What's On



## **The Lost King (12)** **Sunday 5th Mar, 3pm**

Based on a true story, Sally Hawkins and Steve Coogan bring to life the tale of an amateur historian's search for the grave of Richard III, in this comedy drama from the makers of *Philomena*.



## **Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (PG)** **Sunday 2nd Apr, 3pm**

The heartwarming tale of a widowed cleaning lady in '50s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own. Stars the inimitable Lesley Manville in the titular role.



## **Where The Crawdads Sing (15)** **Sunday 7th May, 3pm**

Daisy Edgar-Jones stars in this acclaimed drama, set during the 1950s and '60s, in which a young woman who grew up alone in a North Carolina marsh is accused of the murder of a man with whom she was once involved.

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## **St Remigius Messy Church**

THE first Messy Church of the year will be on Saturday 18th March, from 4 to 6 pm. There will be craft and activities followed by a Bible story and ending with a meal. Everyone is welcome, but children must be accompanied by an adult. It is free to attend but you can make a voluntary donation if you wish. For more information please phone Sue on 01953 607719 or message the Facebook page 'Messy Church, Hethersett'. Dates for the rest of 2023 are: 24th June, 9th September and 25th November.

# Hethersett Herald What's On

take OUR hand 



## Bluebell Ball

3RD MARCH 2023 | 6.30PM UNTIL LATE

Drinks Reception | Three Course Dinner  
Entertainment - including live music from Ben Lawrence

Tickets from £60 per person | Table Packages Available  
Top Of The Terrace, Carrow Road, Norwich  
Dress Code : Glitz & Glam

KINDLY SPONSORED BY



# Hethersett Herald What's On

SUNDAY 9TH JULY 2023



Open up your garden to  
help raise funds  
for Hethersett community  
green projects



For an application form please visit the Parish Council website, email  
[hethersettcommunityprojects@gmail.com](mailto:hethersettcommunityprojects@gmail.com)  
or call 07902322729

# Hethersett Herald What's On

## Village Litter Picks

REGULAR litter picks are held in Hethersett and organised by the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT).

Volunteers are always welcome and tools are provided.

The next litter pick will be on March 25th from 10 am starting at the Methodist Church and April 22nd from 2 pm starting at the village hall.

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## AN INVITE

**Friday 24th March at 2.30 pm. Easter Music and Tea Afternoon** with the Methodist Singing Fellowship.

There will be singing and praise followed by tea and cakes.

All are most welcome to join with us as we journey through Passion Week, leading to the celebration of the Resurrection.



Come and Join Us  
at the

## Coffee Stop

9am to 12pm  
Every Wednesday

Hethersett Methodist Church

*Gt Melton Road, NR9 3AB*

is offering

## a Gathering Space

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

## a Coffee

*(Tea and Squash is also available!)*

## a Warm Welcome

# An Invitation From Hethersett Library

***By Library and Information Assistant Kay***

Winter can be a difficult time for many, so if you're feeling the cold come and warm up in the library.

Hethersett Library is here for you with FREE hot drinks all winter! Come in out of the cold and read a book, have a chat or join one of our clubs like Knit, Stitch and Natter.

The tea trolley will be out and ready 30 minutes after we open - so join us for a tea, coffee, hot chocolate or cup-a-soup in staffed times:



Monday 13:30 - 19:00

Wednesday 11:00 - 19:00

Thursday 13:30 - 19:00

Friday 13:30 - 19:00

Saturday 11:00 - 16:00

We also have adult and children's warm and well bags, as well as adult toiletries and children's toiletries bags, to help those who are struggling financially this winter.

They are available at the library during staffed times to anyone who needs them, no questions asked.

## Players To Please Again

HETHERSETT Players will be presenting a drama comedy in Hethersett Village Hall on June 21st, 22nd and 23rd at 7.30 pm.

Prepare To Meet Thy Tomb is described as a comedy thriller and tickets can be booked at

<https://hethersettboxoffice.org.uk>

# Hethersett Herald What's On

## Open Library

Extending opening hours at your library

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

Library Available*		Staffed Hours	
Monday	8am – 7pm	Monday	1.30pm – 7pm
Tuesday	8am – 7pm	Tuesday	Unstaffed
Wednesday	8am – 7pm	Wednesday	11am – 7pm
Thursday	8am – 7pm	Thursday	1.30pm – 7pm
Friday	8am – 7pm	Friday	1.30pm – 7pm
Saturday	8am – 4pm	Saturday	11am – 4pm
Sunday	10am – 4pm	Sunday	Unstaffed

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

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 **Norfolk** County Council



**Methodist Church dates for your diary include the following.**

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

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

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



# A Mad Or A Fairy Tale King?

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Herald columnist John Head tells us the strange story of the King of Bavaria.

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**King Ludwig II painting by Ferdinand-von-Piloty 1865 Bavarian State Painting Collection.**



1864 – 1886, managed to fritter away all the royal revenues on lavish castles and lifestyle.

Born on August 25th 1845 most of his childhood was spent in Hohenschwangau Castle (pictured above) where he was captivated by paintings of German legends as he developed a romantic outlook on life.

A pivotal moment in Ludwig's life was when he experienced the performance of Wagner's opera 'Lohengrin'. It is said that this is where his romantic dreams were realised.

On the death of Maximilian II in 1864 Ludwig became King of Bavaria at the age of 18. He had had little contact with the world and only met Bismarck, the prime minister of Prussia, for the first and only time in 1863. He was ill

MY trips around Bavaria over the years could not have been complete without visiting King Ludwig's castles. These are sometimes referred to as palaces, which indeed they are, however they are fortified in places. During this time I became riveted by this most controversial monarch who, during the period of his reign as King of Bavaria



prepared for his position but took his role as king seriously, particularly with that of art and culture.

As a result of this, he invited Richard Wagner to Munich where he became his patron. It was the beginning of a successful relationship.

In 1866, the threat of war was deepening between Austria and Prussia over the administration of Schleswig–Holstein. Ludwig wanted to keep Bavaria out of this quarrel but finding it impossible he decided to abdicate. Upon changing his mind, possibly by the influence of Wagner, he signed the mobilisation order against Prussia requested by Parliament. The three-week Austro – Prussian War was disastrous for Ludwig and Bavaria, which, being on the losing side, was forced to pay heavy reparation costs to Prussia.

Following the Austro-Prussian war and Ludwig's loss of power, he sought to

build a castle as his retreat from the modern world. Neuschwanstein Castle was built at an idyllic location near the ruins of Schwanstein Castle. It was also close to Hohenschwangau Castle where his childhood was spent.

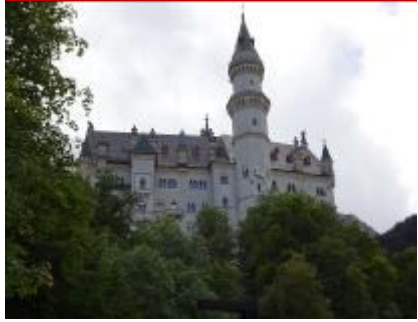
It is believed that he built his 'new castle' as the centrepiece for an imagined kingdom—one in which he was the true king. The Castle was also dedicated to Richard Wagner, who now was becoming a close friend and confidant.

“The location is one of the most beautiful to be found, holy and unapproachable, a worthy temple ...” Ludwig wrote to Wagner.

The walls of Neuschwanstein are decorated with frescoes depicting scenes from the legends used in Wagner's operas, including Tannhäuser, Tristan und Isolde and Lohengrin. Ludwig chose to pay for the castle out of his personal fortune and



Opposite are photographs of Neuschwanstein Castle.



by means of extensive borrowing, rather than Bavarian public funds. Construction began in 1869, but was never fully completed.

I believe it was from this building that Ludwig also became known as the 'Swan King' as I witnessed many depictions and references to the 'Knight of the Swan' Lohengrin. The fairy-tale design of Neuschwanstein formed the basis of Disney's castle in Sleeping Beauty although a few other features were added to make it more mystical.

In 1870 tensions grew between Prussia

and France and war was inevitable. Bavaria was drawn into the situation owing to the peace treaty with Prussia in 1866.

Bavaria fought well as the German armies went from success to success which would see the unification of all German states into one large Reich. Ludwig regained some of the status that he had lost.

**Concern over Ludwig's castle building**

Ludwig's personal relationship with



building which contains 10 lavishly furnished rooms (of which only four have a real function) is that of the beautiful Meissen ornaments displaying birds and flowers. They are unique as Ludwig ensured the moulds were broken after they were produced.

From 1878 onward the splendid Herrenchiemsee Castle was erected on Herren Island in the Chiemsee. It was modelled on Versailles containing an impressive wall of mirrors as a tribute to Louis XIV of France, the magnificent "Sun King".

It was the largest, but also the last of Ludwig's building projects and remains, even today, unfinished. I can remember being guided around this luxurious building and coming to the final door which, when opened, displayed just the bare brick walls. The contrast came as a complete shock to me as it was completely unexpected.



## Linderhof Castle and the Venus Grotto

### The mysterious death of King Ludwig II

Richard Wagner and his construction of outlandish castles started to cause political intrigue and personal attacks against him. He became isolated only venturing out at night.

The lonely king grew into the 'fairy tale king' as he concentrated on the building of his castles. The construction of Linderhof Castle, near Oberammergau, began in 1874. This contained the Venus Grotto which again captured Ludwig's fascination of Wagnerian operas. This artificial dripstone cave with its lake and waterfall was modelled on the Hörselberg from the first act of the Wagner opera "Tannhäuser".

In June 1886, there was a meeting of the House of Wittelsbach, including members of the royal family, to discuss what methods could be used to bring King Ludwig II to attend to affairs of state and to cut down his extravagant programme of castle building.

The danger existed that the family fortune accumulated over 800 years could be spent in a single generation. However, a conspiracy had already started by a group of politicians to have Ludwig declared insane. A medical report was provided by physicians by order of the government to have him 'regally incapacitated'.

My lasting memory of this beautiful

This report challenged Ludwig's ability

to make his decisions of his own free will. The physicians involved in this report did not have the opportunity to examine Ludwig and therefore it contained mainly incriminations and absurdities.

The plot to remove Ludwig needed the agreement of the German Emperor. An approach was made to the Chancellor, Bismarck, who was not in agreement with such a move. He left the decision to the Bavarians and made them solely responsible for the action.

On 10th June, 1886, a delegation of ministers, aristocrats and physicians arrived at Neuschwanstein Castle demanding admittance but failed to gain entry. Ludwig had members of the delegation taken into custody but released later.

This stalled the course of events although Bismarck wanted Ludwig to take control by standing up for his rights before the Bavarian Parliament in Munich.

Ludwig was by now exhausted and had 'toyed' with the idea of committing suicide but waited to see what would happen. Though an act of treachery he was captured and led to his bedroom where he was told he had been declared insane by evidence not examination and Prince Luitpold had taken the Regency.



Top picture is Herrenchiemsee Castle and below that is the the Hall of Mirrors

He was escorted to Berg Castle by Starnberg Lake which had been fortified as a prison.

On the morning of Whitsunday, June 13th 1886, following an accompanied walk through the castle grounds, Ludwig returned to the castle with Dr. von Gudden, the chief public health officer, who then expressed optimism to all in attendance concerning treatment of the royal patient.

Ludwig then dined alone before wanting another walk late in the

afternoon and was again accompanied by Dr. Von Gudden who made a sign to two keepers not to follow them.

By 7 pm the physicians and servants at the castle became concerned that the two had not returned. At 11 pm, after an extensive search of the castle grounds, both men were found floating dead in Starnberg Lake.

There was already much confusion as the official announcement from the Royal Police Administration in Munich on June 14th stated that both men had shown weak signs of life, however, a day later, it was officially declared the king and his physician had already been dead and floating in the water for up to three hours.

The contradiction was explained by the attempts to resuscitate being conceived as signs of life by some bystanders who gave false reports to the newspapers.

After his death it was important that the people of Bavaria remained calm and given proof that King Ludwig was mentally ill.

The press was inundated with such 'proofs'. The post mortem findings, which were disputed, were also published. These findings concentrated on the weight of Ludwig's 'shrinking' brain.

Ludwig's death was officially recorded as suicide by drowning although his autopsy revealed no water was shown in his lungs and he was a strong swimmer when he was young. Further he was found in water which was only



Ludwig II Memorial Cross at Lake Starnberg

waist deep.

### Conspiracy Theories

Speculation exists that Ludwig was murdered by his enemies while attempting to escape from Berg.

Following the death of a witness, who was sworn to secrecy during his lifetime, papers were found suggesting that Ludwig had been shot. However, the autopsy report indicated that no scars or wounds were found on the body of the dead king. Many years later a countess displayed to her guest a coat with two bullet holes in the back alleging it was the one Ludwig was wearing on the night he died.

Another theory suggested that Ludwig died of natural causes, such as a heart attack or stroke, brought on by the cool water of the lake during an escape attempt.

Overall, time has put everything in its place. Ludwig's desire to make Bavaria beautiful and culturally rich turned into reality. It is one of the richest regions in Europe and his castles/palaces attract millions of tourists each year. At the end of his life, the total sum of Ludwig's debts was 14,000,000 marks, but it is more than clear that his cultural legacy has paid all the debts and helped to bring prosperity to his beloved Bavaria.

Ludwig may have been mad spending the royal inheritances but the fairy tale king provided a cultural legacy which I, together with many others, have

benefited from.

Photographs

From the John Head Collection except for:

Photo of King Ludwig II by Ferdinand von Piloty 1865: Bavarian State Painting Collection.

Linderhof Venus Grotto: 'Softies' Wikipedia.

Herrenchiemsee Castle: 'Michimaya' Wikipedia.

Herrenchiemsee Hall of Mirrors: 'R. Jones' Wikipedia.

King Ludwig II Memorial Cross at Starnberg; Wikipedia.

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## Hethersett Women's Institute by Margot Markham

At our February meeting we had a most fascinating and amusing talk by Robert Smith M.B.E. the harbourmaster of Wells on the North Norfolk coast. Robert was born and raised in Wells along with several generations of the family. He had a stint of doing hard physical work in awful conditions as a fisherman. However, for the last 30 years, he has been the Harbourmaster.

He described that Wells is legally administered by a panel of commissioners who employ the harbourmaster. In 1663 under an Act of Parliament, the commissioners were made responsible for repairing the quay and landing place and checking the creeks and channel. Robert is fully aware of the weather and how changes in it and tides can affect the safety of sailors.

Sailors from all over Europe look for a mooring. Robert described all the facilities there are for them, but the most important information they need are the internet details. Robert gave a brief summary of the history of Wells. In its heyday, it was an important manufacturing town. Malt was exported and grain was supplied to London. The town had many coaching houses frequented by Nelson and other well known folk like Coke, Walpole and Captain Bligh. Robert's job is varied. What he enjoys most is being out at sea, alone, in the dead of night, with the moon and stars lighting his way back to harbour. Robert founded a Maritime Trust which gives children and young people support in learning to swim and to be confident in maritime environments. He has an interesting life.

# Business Opening Hours

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

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**Kin Café** at Rowan House in Queen's Road is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 am until 2 pm and Wednesdays to Fridays from 8 am until 4.30 pm.

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

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Do You  
Have a Guest  
Staying With You  
from  
**Ukraine?**



Hethersett Methodist Church  
*Gt Melton Road, NR9 3AB*

is offering

a **Gathering Space**

a **Coffee**

*(Tea and Squash is also available!)*

a **Warm Welcome**

Come and Join Us  
at the

**Coffee Stop**

9am to 12pm  
Every Wednesday



# Hethersett Herald

HETHERSETT Herald is published electronically towards the end of each month via the Hethersett Village web site at

[www.hethersettherald.weebly.com](http://www.hethersettherald.weebly.com)

Hethersett Herald is a non profit making and independent publication providing news, views and information about Hethersett. It has no affiliation to any specific group, organisation or political party. Views expressed in Hethersett Herald are those of individual authors and not necessarily the views of the volunteers or the editor.

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

## **Herald Team**

Editor - Peter Steward—[petersteward@sky.com](mailto:petersteward@sky.com) (please note change in e-mail address)

Associate Editors - Roger Morgan, Sarah Lawrence.

Regular Columnists - Sarah Lawrence and John Head.

Proof Editor - Gary Wyatt.

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

To contact us e-mail [petersteward@sky.com](mailto:petersteward@sky.com).