

100 Not Out For Herald

THIS month it's Hethersett Herald itself that is making the news as we publish our 100th edition.

The first Hethersett Herald hit the streets (or to be more correct hit computers) back in November 2015 when its lead story was about the theft of lead from the parish church roof. This publication was just 10 pages.

Very quickly Hethersett Herald began to grow and cover more and more news, issues and features for an ever expanding village.

Over the past eight and a bit years we have covered some major stories for the village such as the on off saga of the King's Head, the sudden closure of Hethersett Old Hall School, the setting up of a police training wing in the school premises, the savage winter when we suffered the "Beast From The East" and of course lockdown.

Inside this edition you will find a look back at some of those stories. We hope that Hethersett Herald has become a vital part of village life.

Hethersett Herald always has been and always will be a free publication. Due to being published exclusively online we have very few overhead costs (apart from our time) and we have always been and will always be an independent publication with no allegiance to any specific group or political party.

Our overriding aim over the past 100 editions has been to reflect what is happening in our village, mostly in a positive way and this we will continue to do, whilst not dodging the obvious issues and problems that exist in the village such as the continuing disappointment over medical services.

Along the way we have been helped by many local people regularly sending us news, features and photographs and also the support of the excellent All Things Hethersett Facebook page which often highlights issues in and around the village with comments from residents.



The cover our very first edition in November 2015 when the publication was simply known as Hethersett Online. It changed its name to Herald with edition seven in May 2016

Along our journey we have met some wonderful people and organisations that truly show that Hethersett has a wonderful beating heart. As we move forward we hope to meet even more. As for now, well we hope you enjoy this 100th edition and our look back on just some of the stories that have occurred in the past 100 months.

Our look at the history of Hethersett over the past eight years through the pages of the Herald starts on page 22 of this edition.

Special Features and News

Lorraine Bows Out

Lorraine Miller has bowed out after decades of serving customers at the Queen's Head. We say farewell to a familiar face.....Page 4

New Rector For Hethersett

Hethersett has a new rector who will take up her position at the beginning of April. The Rev Lynn Chapman tells us about herself and her career to date.....Page 5

Annual Panto Success

Hethersett's annual pantomime was once again a riot of colour and fun as it ran for 10 performances at the end of January. We have a report and photographs in our special coverage of Jack and the Beanstalk.....Page 6

New World Champion

Hethersett has a new world champion. Read about this bowls triumph.....Page 15

Defibrillator For Queen's Head

The village has another potentially life saving defibrillator on the wall of the Queen's Head.....Page 15

Academy Goes Legal

Pupils at Hethersett Academy are busy rehearsing for their next production in March. Find out which musical they will be tackling this year.....Page 15

Lighting Success

Christmas 2023's lights raised an astonishing amount of money for the Finnbar's Force charity. Find out how much by turning toPage 16

More Concern at Roundabout

Concern has once again been expressed about the safety of Thickthorn Roundabout with residents having misgivings about road markings.....Page 16

Fifth Place For David

Hethersett Hawks cycle speedway rider Dave Martin came fifth in a top competition.....Page 17

Hello Everyone

Well here we are. We've made it to edition 100 and please excuse us if we give ourselves a congratulatory pat on the back.

The idea of producing a magazine of some kind for the village had long been an ambition of mine but I was prevented from doing so by my full time job and other demands on my time.

The last thing I wanted was to launch something that really had no future and which would crash and burn after a few editions. If I was going to publish a magazine it had to be sustainable in the long term.

In October 2015, I decided the time was right to launch an exclusively online publication. Many people over the past eight and a bit years have asked why we do not produce a printed copy of the magazine and the answer is simple—we just don't have the time, the wherewithal or the facilities to print and distribute a magazine.

So we went for an online version that began to grow and grow and grow. It started as a 10 page magazine and then grew like topsy and peaked at somewhere around 150 pages. Today it is a more manageable size with about 80 pages an edition.

I like to think that over the years we have covered all the major stories and issues in the village in one way or another and you can re-live some of those events later in this edition. I hope we have reflected the issues from the problems with health services in the village, the expansion of the village and the problems this has brought with facilities not keeping pace, the anger and disillusionment with our Member of Parliament, the sudden closure of Old Hall School, the building of a new pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field and much much more.

As we have said on our front page, we are an independent publication, always have been and always will be. We are aligned to no specific group, individual, organisation or religious or political party. This will always be the case whilst I am editor of Hethersett Herald.

Our aim is simple—to work on behalf of the people of Hethersett, to reflect what is going on in Hethersett and to support anything that will improve the facilities in our village. Overall our outlook has always been one of optimism and we hope that has been reflected in all the good stories we have brought you and all the colourful photographs we have published.

Our intentions from the start have been simple—to produce a record of Hethersett as a village in a specific period of time and I truly feel we have achieved this.

If you are new to our publication and this is the first edition that you have read, you can read all the other 99 by going to www.hethersettherald.weebly.com and follow the Herald archive section. Guaranteed to help you sleep if you are suffering from insomnia. I hope you enjoy this edition and our look back at the previous 99. Peter

Herald Content

Surgery Vows to Improve

Hethersett Surgery has come under considerable criticism over the past 12 months but, with a new management team in place, has vowed to improve during 2024. Read the latest on this ongoing story.....Page 18

A Lily For Remembrance

Residents can buy a lily to remember a loved one as part of an Easter flower festival in St Remigius....Page 19

Hub Open For Business

The new Hethersett Hub building on the Memorial Playing Field is available for hire. Sarah Lawrence takes a look at the new building and how it can be hired by the community.....Page 20

Keeping Warm This Winter

How Hethersett Library is fighting the cold for residents this winter.....Page 21

100 Not Out

To mark our 100th edition we look back at some of the major stories and events we have featured over the past eight and a bit years.....Page 22

Richard's Book Launch

It was a special evening at Woodcote Sheltered Housing complex in Firs Road as resident Richard Headicar launched his new book.....Page 29

Strange Signs in Hethersett

The village has been disrupted during the month by numerous sets of road works. Some of the signs put in place have included basic spelling errors.....Page 30

Remembering Brenda Kelsey

Brenda, who lived in Little Melton, was a local preacher and well known in Hethersett. We have a tribute to her life.....Page 31

Remembering John Nightingale

Former Chairman of Hethersett Parish Council John Nightingale has died. We have a tribute to him and his work in the village.....Page 32

New Store To Open

We are just a few days away from the opening of a new store in Hethersett. Find out where and when.....Page 33

RBL Collection

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal collection in Hethersett and the surrounding area raised a record amount in 2023. Find out how much.....Page 33

Help For the Homeless

A community centre sent out an appeal for clothes for the homeless and met with considerable success just before Christmas.....Page 34

The Cost Of Living

Reporter Sophie Stanley asks questions about the cost of living in the village.....Page 35

A Special Dinner

Sophie Stanley reports on a special Christmas dinner which raised funds for the East Anglian Children's Hospice. We also feature awards to two outstanding residents of Woodcote Sheltered Housing.....Page 36

World Day of Prayer

A special service to mark the World Day of Prayer will take place in Hethersett at the beginning of March. Find out details by going to.....Page 38

Regular Features

Sarah's World	Page 39
News Form The Parish Council	Page 43
Hethersett Hall	Page 47
Contact Numbers	Page 50
Police Contact Numbers	Page 52
John Head's Photographic Diary	Page 53
Where To Eat	Page 57
Petrol Watch	Page 58
Groups and Societies	Page 59
Herald What's On	Page 61
Business Opening Hours	Page 73
Herald Contact Numbers	Page 81

Village Screen Update

Find out what films are coming on Hethersett Village Screen over the next few months.....Page 41

New Bus Service

Hethersett has another bus service. The 6A operated by Konnect Bus will be going past the Queen's Head hourly. See when you can catch this bus to either Wymondham or Norwich.....Page 42

World Day of Prayer Service

A service for the World Day of Prayer took place in Hethersett Methodist ChurchPage 42

Great Melton Parish Council

News from the latest meeting of Great Melton Parish Council and details of the coming village litter pick. We also have news of the latest Hethersett clean up.....Page 45

The Death of Sherlock Holmes

John Head looks at the demise and rehabilitation of a legendary detective.....Page 74

Conundrum results

We have the results to Mel Perkins' fiendish Christmas conundrum. How many did you get right?Page 80

Raising Our Glasses To Lorraine

By Sophie Stanley

LORRAINE Miller has decided to hang up her black shirt after an astonishing 20 years working as part of the Queen's Head front-of-house staff.

She stated that it was the right time for her to leave, particularly with the news that Michael, son of Richard and Philippa Bond, decided to take the reins from his parents, taking the pub off of the market and therefore ensuring that all staff and regular customers would be in good, familiar hands.

"I think he will do an excellent job," says Lorraine, "I am pleased that the pub is staying within the Bond family instead of being sold to a third party because I know the staff, customers and pub itself will be looked after by him in the way I have done for the past 20 years."

Lorraine started working at the Queen's Head as a part time member of staff in September 2003, later becoming a joint manager with Donna Kiddell in 2008 and then managing solo for around 15 years: "I never actually wanted to do it in the first place," she admitted, "no one else wanted to take it when I was offered the position so I took it and here I am 15 years later."

Over her 20 years tenure, Lorraine confessed that her most challenging moments both professionally and personally were during Covid. "March 2020 we didn't know when we were going to open again, we ended up opening in July then closed again in November. Even when we opened we worried if anyone was even



going to come to the pub. I dread to think how much money we lost." Despite the worries that the pub would never return to its pre-covid popularity, the past December has been its busiest period in around three years.

Lorraine has not only been an excellent manager but a friend to many members of staff and customers and will truly be missed as a part of the Queen's Head team. "We have shared many memories," states fellow colleague Claire Quantrill: "She has been an exceptional manager and has become a close friend. She will be missed by everyone."

"I would like to wish Michael all the best." She stated, "I would also like to say how much I will miss all of the staff and thank them for all of their hard work and the customers for their support over the years. I am very grateful for all of the friendships I have made that will hopefully continue."

Lorraine is pictured above with Michael and Richard Bond.

New Rector For Hethersett

AFTER many months without an incumbent, Hethersett and the Meltons have a new rector.

The Rev Lynn Chapman was appointed in December and will take up her post in April.

Rev Chapman is currently Priest in Charge of the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group of Parishes in Norfolk.

She will now take charge of St Remigius at Hethersett, along with All Saints Little Melton and All Saints Great Melton in what is known as the Hethersett Benefice. Below Rev Chapman introduces herself in her own words.



"I AM a Norfolk girl and grew up in Wymondham. I went to school at both Wymondham High and Wymondham College. Wymondham Abbey was my home church and I went to Sunday School there and later became a Sunday School teacher. I became a chorister once girls were allowed to be part of the choir.

University took me north to Ripon, where I studied for a B.Ed in Theology and Religious Studies, qualifying as a secondary RE teacher. My first post was in Dover where I remained for several years. Having gained a Master's Degree in Curriculum Development, I made the move to primary school teaching.

I returned to Norfolk 20 years ago, taking up a teaching post in Bowthorpe where I was Year Six Leader and specialised in working with children with behavioural challenges in mainstream education.

Returning to Wymondham meant a return to the Abbey, where I quickly became Head Sacristan and then Churchwarden. It was during this time that my call to ordination, which had been around for a long time, became very clear and I was selected to train. I studied on the Eastern Region Ministry Course for three years, whilst teaching full time, and was ordained in 2011.

I served my curacy in Sheringham before moving to become Priest-in-Charge of the Brooke Benefice in 2014. In 2018 I was invited to become an Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands; work that I continue to this day. I became Rural Dean of Depwade in 2021 and in March 2023, as part of pastoral reorganisation in the deanery, became Priest-in-Charge of the Hempnall Team Ministry. Having responsibility for the two benefices helped me to work with them as they began the process of becoming one new, larger benefice.

Most of my family live in Wymondham and I greatly enjoy being an aunt and spending time with them. Music is my most absorbing hobby. I play the piano and the organ and I'm learning to play the cello. I love singing, dancing and acting and until very recently belonged to an amateur operatic company, taking part in annual shows.

At home I knit, crochet, embroider and dress-make. I also love to bake and homemade cakes and biscuits are usually on offer at the Vicarage.

Being a priest is a great privilege and one that brings new experiences every day. I particularly enjoy liturgy and like to spend time creating meaningful acts of worship. The Pastoral Offices are very important to me as well; they are very special opportunities to share the love of God with those who may have little contact with Church otherwise.

I shall be sorry to lay down my work in Brooke, where I have been so warmly welcomed into the community, but I am greatly looking forward to moving to Hethersett and getting to know people there and in the Meltons in the coming months."

A Giant Of A Performance

By Peter Steward

If it's January in Hethersett it's pantomime time.

And this year's panto Jack and the Beanstalk was one of the most colourful for years and had a special memorial twist.

The script was based on a previous Jack and the Beanstalk written by Hethersett pantomime legend Duncan Pigg who is sadly no longer with us.

Duncan started the pantomimes way back in 1970 and there has been an unbroken run ever since apart from a two year absence due to lockdown when the panto went the same way as every other attraction.

As a further tribute to Duncan, this year's action centred on the village of Piggington in what was one of the most colourful pantos for many years.

Just because Hethersett panto is a tradition doesn't mean that the panto group rests on its laurels. They are always looking for new twists to liven everything up and this production was a riot of action, music, sound effects and much much more.

I attended the Sunday afternoon performance which was the second of the day and the amount of energy put in by the cast had to be admired. One of the things that struck me this year was the lack of prompts. In the past there have been numerous occasions where members of the cast have forgotten their lines. It has almost become a given. But this year the cast were word perfect, the corny jokes flowed, there were a number of references to local matters but above all those on stage seemed to enjoy themselves as much as the audience.

At our performance the audience were quick to join in with oohs and aahs, boos and cheers.

I always feel it is wrong to single out individuals as this is a true team effort. You can see a list of the cast and details of the back stage cast on the pages that follow along with photographs of the production supplied by the pantomime group itself.

Put simply everyone played their part to bring a packed village hall almost three hours of top class village entertainment with Duncan Pigg's spirit looking down on them and pushing them to new heights of pantomime excellence.

I must mention the sets, however, put together by Colin



Wilson, Keith Drinkwater and Paul Judkins. Once again they were magnificent. Above all I must mention the hundreds if not thousands of hours of preparation back stage to ensure the lighting, the sound, the props and many other areas such as the selling of tickets, provision of interval refreshments and every other aspect of the show runs smoothly.

Jack and the Beanstalk was as perfect village entertainment as it's possible to have—a gentle reminder that shows can still entrance and delight people of all ages.

Very shortly the group will be preparing for next year's panto. Thankfully this is one village tradition that will not be going away any time soon.

Perhaps it is best summed up by Hethersett Pantomime Group chairman Kathy Judkins who had the following to say in her programme notes:

"I feel it is really important to keep the community spirit in our village and I am so proud of the contribution we make each year to local charities.

It is the sixth time that the group has performed a version of Jack and the Beanstalk. Producers Lauren Ellero and Daniel Orford explained further the close connection with Duncan Pigg:

"Our show this year pays tribute to the work of our founder and original writer Duncan Pigg, with this year's show based on an original script which has been reworked and updated but retains the features and

Hethersett Panto Special



format from the Duncan Years.

“The traditional story of Jack and the Beanstalk has the usual unique twists, turns and unexpected adventures associated with a Hethersett pantomime as Jack from the village of Piggington seeks to save the family farm, defeat Giant Grindbones, rescue his love Jill Sparkles and along the way meet new friends.

“We are hugely proud of the positive impact that the Hethersett Pantomime Group has on the community in

many different ways and we are so grateful to the whole team of cast, crew and other fantastic volunteers who work so hard to continue this every year. Our productions are only possible due to the collaborations, commitment and effort of this large team of people and we would like to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers, on and off the stage, who work so hard throughout the year to enable us to put on our shows to raise money for local causes,” the producers added.

In Aid of The Force

OVER the years, Hethersett Pantomime has raised thousands for local charities. The 2023 production of Aladdin raised £5,000 for St Remigius Church in memory of Duncan Pigg and since 1970 the panto has raised over £130,000.

This year's end of show bucket collection was for Finnbar's Force, the Hethersett based charity supporting children with brain tumours and their families by raising awareness and supporting research and later this year the charity is looking to open a family support centre in Eaton.

Finnbar's Force was launched in memory of Finnbar Cork from Hethersett who died from a brain tumour. Since Finnbar's death his parents and supporters have raised a massive amount to support others and Finnbar's father Tristan was in the pantomime cast for this year's production and also told the audience about Finnbar and the aims of the charity.

This year's retiring bucket collection was in aid of the charity and raised a magnificent £6000. See the poster above.

Photograph of Finnbar Cork courtesy of Finnbar's Force.



Hethersett Panto Special—Those Taking Part

Jack	Lauren Ellero
Dame Gladys Trott	Barry Foster
Bill The Gardener	Jon Goodrum
Ben The Gardener	Jono Angelo
Jill Sparkle	Sophie Cooke-Shaw
Giant Grindbones	David Hall
Clarabella	Sue Tuckwood
Lord Penniless	Lewis Cook
Lady Penniless	Emma Court
Fairy Queen	Vicki Gale
Grabbit	Daniel Orford
Prince Sherbet	Steve Bussey
Princess Palma Violet	Rachel Woodier
Madame Flump	Freya Judkins
Curly Wurly	Ellie Luther
Fizz Wizz	Millie Olson
Festival Manager	Ian Whiting
Townfolk, Festival Performers and candy City Citizens	Isabelle Appleton, Poppy Collins, Lottie Collins, Nell Cork, Tristan Cork, Monika Dahiya, Prisha Dahiya, Dai- sy Dawson, Ilyana Durrant, Amelia Evans, Millie Farrow, Christine Haines, David Hall, May Hamling-Hall, Elsie Hatt, Paul Harris, Bonnie Jerman, Freya Judkins, Jade Neal, Lily Stibbon, Harmony Stibbon, Ian Whiting, Ella Wood
Flower Fairies	Isabelle Appleton, Lottie Collins, Daisy Dawson, Millie Farrow
Musical Director	Liz Lorenzo-Peirson
Guitar	Paul Mardell
Flute	Katie Carpenter
Flute/Piccolo	Charlie Robinson
Drums	Jack Sarsby
Bass Guitar	Katie Battley
Cello	Francis Trappes-Lomas
Violin	Alison Mills

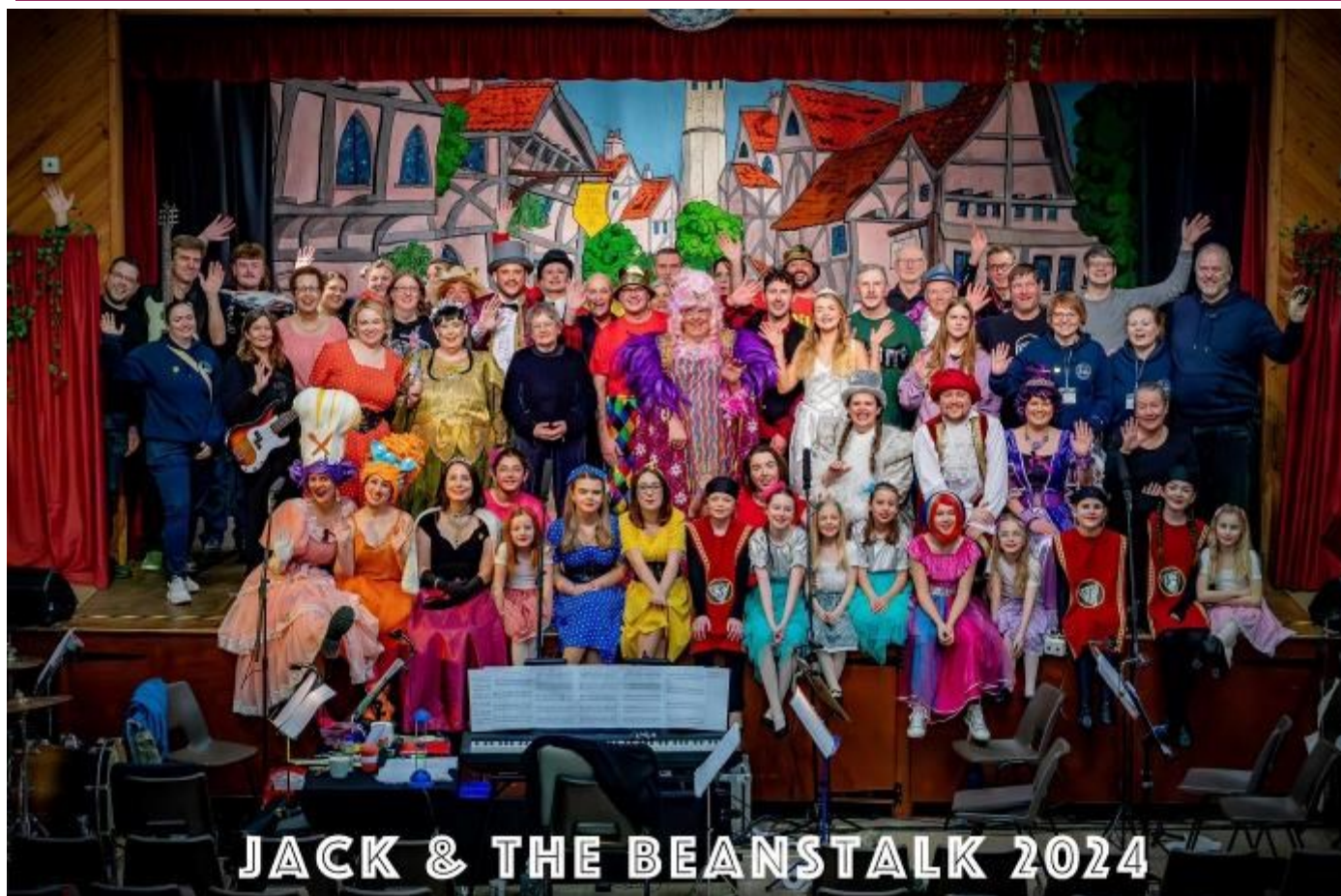
Volunteers Needed

Hethersett Pantomime Group is always looking for new members to join. If you have an interest in amateur dramatics and want to volunteer your time to help with the annual production or just want to find out more go to the website www.hethersettpanto.org.uk or e-mail secretary@hethersettpanto.org.uk.

Hethersett Panto Special—Those Taking Part

Writers	Duncan Pigg (adapted by Lauren Ellero, Sarah Green and Daniel Orford)
Producers	Lauren Ellero and Daniel orford
Director	Sarah Green
Musical Director	Liz Lorenzo-Peirson
Choreography	Lauren Ellero, Sophie Cooke-Shaw, Andrea Farrow, Freya Judkins and Ellie Luther
Stage Manager	Bob Fell
Back Stage Team	Bob Fell and Chris Lewis-Smith
Set Painting	Colin Wilson, Keith Drinkwater and Paul Judkins
Wardrobe Co-ordinators	Amy Wood and Jan Burnett
Wardrobe Team	Rebecca Appleton, Tina Greenhalgh and Caroline Reynolds
Chaperones	Co-ordinated by Sarah Collins—Rebecca Appleton, Claire Cork, Lydia Durrant, Eppie Dawson, Freya Evans, Helen Lawn, Kathryn Jones, Sharon Olson and Holy Stibbon
Construction of Set and Props	Julie Cooke, Lauren Ellero, Bob Fell, Paul Judkins, Chris Lewis-Smith, Becky Sprunt, Daniel Orford, Beverly Orford
Lighting	Paul Judkins, Lucy Wright and Andrew Wright
Sound	Danny Ellero and Steve Louis
Prompt	Judith Press
Make-Up	Maggie Bunting, Julie Cooke, Jane Tullet, Lindsay Westgarth and helpers
Poster and Programme	Daniel Orford
Box Office	Kathy and Paul Judkins
Front of House	Co-ordinated by Kathy Judkins—Nickey Alborough, Karen broom, Jenny Bond, Tim Cooke, Claire Cork, Leon Cox, Kate Green, Neville Greenhalgh, Tina Greenhalgh, Jenny Hawkrigde. Ros Head, Pauline Gray, Martin Gray, Mov Robinson, Kim Spinks and Linda Wishart
Pantomime Group Committee	Sarah Collins, Lauren Ellero, Barry Foster, Sarah Green, Kathy Judkins, Liz Lorenzo-Peirson, Francis Trappes-Lomax, Danile Orford and Lindsay Westgarth
Honorary President	Neville Greenhalgh

Hethersett Panto Picture Special



All photographs are courtesy of Hethersett Pantomime Group and reproduced with permission

Hethersett Panto Picture Special



Hethersett Panto Picture Special



Photographs courtesy of
Hethersett Pantomime
Group



Hethersett Panto Picture Special



Hethersett Panto Picture Special



Katherine Takes On The World—And Wins

IT'S not every village in the country that can boast a World Champion—but Hethersett can

For local resident Katherine Rednall is the indoor bowls world champion after winning the title yet again at Potters Resort in Norfolk.

But this wasn't a one off, for Katherine has won the singles title in 2014, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023 and now 2024.

Katherine is 28 years of age and plays out of the Norfolk Bowling Club in Norwich. Katherine took the bowls world by storm as an 18-year-old in 2014 when she won the tournament at the first time of asking, becoming the first person ever to do so. For that tournament she had to fight her way through a number of qualifying matches.

We hope to have an interview with Katherine in a future issue of Hethersett Herald.



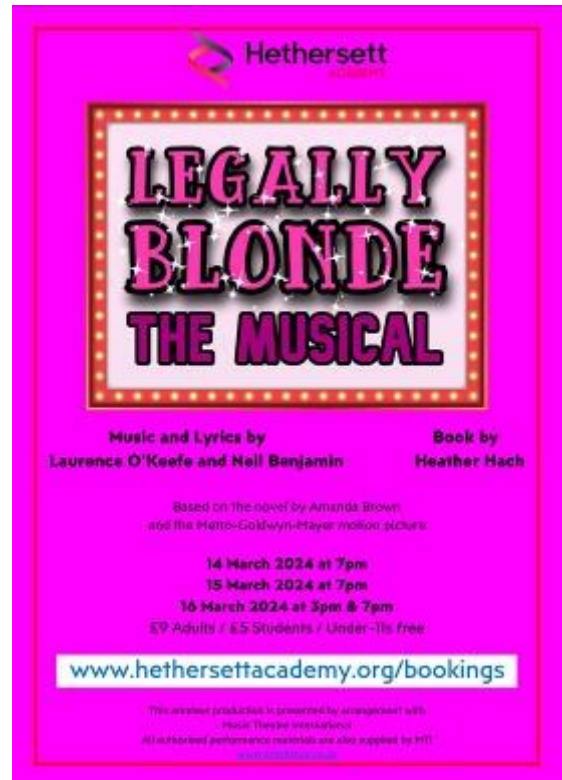
New Defibrillator For Queen's Head

TWO of our district councillors have combined grants to provide a new defibrillator for the village.

Kathryn Cross and David Bills were approached by Richard Bond of the Queen's Head about the possibility of having a machine at the pub.

"When Richard Bond at the Queen's Head asked if he could get a defibrillator for the pub I agreed to investigate. From our members fund at South Norfolk District Council we, Kathryn Cross and myself, contributed to the cost and I located a great offer," David said.

As a result the new defibrillator is now on the wall close to the entrance to the pub.



Pupils To Go Legally Blond

Legally Blonde the musical is coming to Hethersett.

With music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Neil Benjamin and based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film, the musical will be live at Hethersett Academy on March 14th, March 15th and March 16th.

It will be the latest in a long line of musicals performed by pupils from the school.

Tickets are priced at £9 for adults, £5 for students and free for Under-11s, there will be four performances. Tickets are available from the website:

www.hethersettacademy.org/bookings.

A larger poster giving full details is available in our What's On section.

Village Lights Raises Record Amount

THE show will go on. The magnificent Finnbar's Force Christmas lights in the Park Close area of Hethersett will be switched on again at the end of 2024 to celebrate the festive season.

And the Christmas 2023 lights raised £8,503 for the charity—a record.

The organisers took to social media to announce the total raised from donations etc.

“We finally finished calculating how much our Christmas lights raised this year and we are absolutely delighted to announce that this year we have smashed our previous totals and raised an astonishing £8500.

“We are so thankful to everyone that donated so generously this year and to everybody that supported us with our lights, the money raised will truly help us achieve our aims this year.

“We have a few specific thank you that we'd like to make: To the residents of Park Green, Park Close, Great Melton Close and Great Melton Road who allowed us to light their houses up this year and to Hethersett Parish Council for allowing us to light up the oak tree in Great Melton Road. Also to all our amazing volunteers who raced to get the lights up in time and to run our stalls on switch on night. We would also like to thank Alfie Hewitt for his support and for coming along to switch our lights on,” the organisers said.

They also thanked Dunthorne Developments Ltd Landscaping and Construction for lending the trailer for the switch on event, Twin Oaks Nursing Home for sponsoring the mulled wine and mince pie evenings, Norfolk Christmas Trees for donating the Christmas trees on display, David Gowing from Park Farm Hotel for helping out and Elsie's Pizza for their support throughout the month.

And the organisers were quick to send a message about this Christmas: “We are hoping to see you all again at Christmas this year.”



More Confusion at “That Junction” - Herald Comment

THAT junction continues to be a bone of contention.

We refer to the Thickthorn roundabout or as we refer to it “the accident waiting to happen.”

Once again this month motorists using a roundabout branded as “dangerous” have taken to social media to voice their concerns over lane markings and the ignorance of drivers who ignore them.



The debate began again with a plea from a local resident on Facebook:

“Please can everyone driving please pay attention to the road markings on Thickthorn roundabout coming off from the A47 west bound. Left and right lanes are to go to down the A11 only. Not the middle lane to go straight towards Hethersett. Right lane only to go to Hethersett. Nearly took a car out last night from the estate who got in the middle lane and went straight. I've had an accident there already, I don't want another one. “

This view was backed up by many of the other posters (and there were almost 100 replies). Another said:

“It's the same issue coming from the city, people using the A11 lane to cut across to the Hethersett Lane. Had a guy the other day screaming at me who had done it and then nearly hit me and was insinuating I wasn't looking where I was going. Definitely getting worse I've noticed. Every time I go round it I assume I am surrounded by idiots in order to avoid an accident.” Other comments have included:

“Happens all the time the Longwater roundabout is another one as well. Invest in a dash cam if possible and keep your wits about you.”

“I do think the design is a little confusing and possibly wrong when you have four possible exits off the roundabout if you sit in the right hand lane at the lights on the roundabout. The real problem is impatient drivers using the centre lane for Hethersett and the services. Most of the time they are aware they are in the incorrect lane but just don't want to have to wait.”

“I think what's really annoying is the amount of people that live in Hethersett and the surrounding area and still get in the middle lane when they are well aware it's not the correct one. Especially the school run parents that seem to do this a lot.”

“Unfortunately you have to assume that any driver on the Thickthorn roundabout is in the wrong lane and will just go on their merry way around it, in whichever lane they fancy. It can't just be a case of not reading the road, the road markings are clear, it is sadly in a lot of cases, just ignorance towards other road users.”

“Sadly the majority of users of this junction will carry on ignoring the lane markings as they are far too busy making/receiving phone calls, texting or checking the latest hair do in the rear view mirror. I spent the best part of 10 years on traffic and attended countless "accidents" here. Nothing will change until the road markings are made bold or the junction is reconfigured.”

As we are taking a look in this edition at our past coverage, we would like to point out that in Hethersett Herald edition two in December 2015 we carried a story about a meeting between Hethersett Parish Council and Highways England where serious concern was expressed over road markings which councillors claimed to be “dangerous.”

After the meeting Highways England sent the parish council a letter which concluded with the following words after it had been decided to take no action:

“I understand that you and your parish members will be disappointed though, as I explained at our meeting, if injury collision savings cannot be demonstrated I have no justification for public funding.”

As we said at the time the letter took no account of local people's feelings and the stress caused by trying to negotiate that roundabout. Surely it doesn't need accidents to change something that we all know is wrong and even dangerous.

There is no doubt that the complaints and concerns will continue to be aired. There is also no doubt that those complaints and concerns will fall on deaf ears at a national level.

Meanwhile there were long queues on the B1172 on January 20th after a large tree collapsed onto four vehicles. A number of trees were uprooted in the gales including one in the driveway leading to Hethersett Hall Care Home which crashed through a fence and into a field.

Fifth Place For Hethersett Hawks' Dave

By Mel Perkins MBE

HETHERSETT Hawks / Yellow Brick Mortgages had three members competing in the British Indoor Championships near Coventry.

Dave Martin came through a qualifying competition at the third attempt and gave a great performance in the Over-40s Final. He scored 15 points, just one short of a race off for third place. This meant he was positioned fifth overall.

Lola Martin and Amelia Dodson contested the Under-14s event, Amelia making her debut at indoor racing this season. She did well to win the final qualifying race to get into the final but the competition was tough and she finished 16th with five points.

Lola qualified for the final at the third attempt and scored seven points, finishing 14th.

Both girls had taken part in Little League events at Ipswich the previous weekend. Lola finished third in the girls' event after falling in a race-off for second place. She was involved in another race-off - for third place in the youngsters event. She finished second in that race to take fourth place overall.

By Peter Steward

IT would be fair to say that the Humbleyard Medical practice, which includes Hethersett, has taken a fair amount of stick during 2023—much of which has been warranted with patients complaining about how they have been dealt with and how getting appointments has been difficult and at times virtually impossible with the Hethersett surgery even closing its doors on certain dates during the year due to staffing issues.

The practice has admitted that 2023 was a tough year, but has vowed to improve in 2024.

The practice took to social media to explain just what had gone wrong in 2023.

“You may be aware that the Practice has had a difficult 2023. In essence the practice suffered a high turnover of clinical and non clinical staff and lost most of its management team.

“The demands on the NHS and general practice seem to be insatiable and the demands on the Humbleyard Practice are no different. This reflects the increasing number of patients registering with the Practice—now 22,000,” the post states. Written copies of the explanation were also made available in the surgery.

In November, the practice provided 9,166 appointments but residents will point out that getting an appointment is at times almost impossible. We spoke to one resident who told us a horror story of a mentally ill relative not being able to get an appointment. Others feel that they have been brushed off far too easily.

The complaints have continued to mount up. Writing in her regular column for Hethersett Herald, Sarah Lawrence voices her concerns and frustrations over the current service.

Sarah says: “It seemed that whenever I tried to get an appointment there, they were closed.”

Sarah isn't one to complain. As most of you will know she does an extraordinary amount for the village and always does everything with a smile on her face. If Sarah complains, it must be serious.

She goes much further about the problems at the surgery and you can read her other comments in her regular column later in this edition.

So what is the practice doing to improve things? I feel in the interests of a balanced report we should give their side of things as well.

In the social media post which it refers to as “an occasional update” the practice says that it is addressing



Surgery Vows To Improve

a number of areas of concern and areas highlighted for improvement following a Care Quality Commission (CQC) report.

“The increased size of our workforce is enabling improvements to be made in our leadership and our responsiveness thus ensuring services are organised so that they better meet patient needs.

“Our aim is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of what we do and to improve the patient and carer experience.

“We recognise that we need to increase capacity and three GPs have been recruited since September. We are also successfully growing our depleted nursing team.”

By issuing the update, the practice is accepting that their service over the past 12 months has left much to be desired and also accepting that things have to improve. One of the big bones of contention has been the telephone and the practice says that the system will be upgraded in the Spring to include call back. In addition the website is being upgraded and the reception team is being given additional training to ensure patients are seen by the right person at the right time.

I had occasion recently to attend the surgery for a routine shingles jab and did note that information is now around the walls of the waiting room along with photographs of staff members and this is certainly a step in the right direction as far as communication goes.

The issuing of the update has met generally with a positive response on social media as the following posts illustrate.

“Finally the information that we were all asking for. This will go a long way to calming the situation that was inflamed by the lack of response from the practice

management . As patients we were forced to witness firsthand the practice becoming less and less efficient and had to endure the frustrations of, quite frankly, poor management and absurd systems. I can only wish the newly installed management and clinical team the very best in their efforts to provide quality healthcare. I think everyone in Hethersett should support the practice as pro actively as possible from now on .”

Another said:

“We all know constant criticism creates depleted moral so let’s hope that we as the patients become more tolerant and learn how to assist our surgery by shortening call and admin engagement time as much as possible while getting the key information across quickly. Everyone becomes happier in a more tolerant atmosphere. And happiness as we know is generally good for your health.”

Only time will tell whether the steps being taken improves the service to patents not only in Hethersett but also in Cringleford and Mulbarton.

The new practice manager Chris Stace has offered to attend a meeting of Hethersett Parish Council and will be invited along to the February meeting which will take place in Hethersett Village Hall on February 19th at 7.30 pm. Residents will have the opportunity to comment on

issues both at the beginning and at the end of that meeting.

The whole question of a new surgery for Hethersett seems rather muddled again. My understanding is that land has been made available close to the new Woodside School on the North Hethersett development. Money has been earmarked by South Norfolk Council and the Humbleyard Practice has made it known that they would support a single site rather than a split site which also utilises the existing surgery. But to date no definite plans have been put forward or specific planning permission applied for.

At the January meeting of Hethersett Parish Council, one of our representatives on South Norfolk Council, Kathryn Cross, said that any new development on the site set aside needs to be at least twice the size of the existing surgery and also be “future proof” so that it is still adequate in 50 years’ time.

Speaking in general terms she said that, following a meeting with management at the surgery, she felt “quite positive” about the future.

“They are trying to overcome issues from last year. I felt quite positive that they now have things under control. There will still be issues but I think they are getting there,” she said.

A Lily For Remembrance of Loved Ones

HETHERSETT Parish Church is giving residents the chance to remember loved ones this Easter.

St Remigius Church’s flower ladies will be decorating the church for Easter on March 30th and lilies can be purchased at £2 each in order to remember loved ones.

If you would like to buy a lily in remembrance contact Pauline Gray or Adele Kent. Adele can be contacted at 19 Cann’s Lane, Hethersett, or by phoning 01603 811945 or by e-mail at ajkent58@gmail.com. Please include the names of those you would like to remember.

Our photograph was taken at a previous floral display in the church.





Hub For Hire

By Sarah Lawrence

THE new name for the pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field is Hethersett Community Hub.

This building now incorporates up-to-the-minute sports changing facilities and can accommodate two separate teams and two groups of match officials to the latest Football Association standards.

The other part of the building, which is available to residents of our village for hire, has a large room that will comfortably seat 60. There is also a smaller room and a fully fitted kitchen. In addition there are toilet facilities including one for disabled users.

The whole building incorporates “no step” access for easy entry.

All rooms are now available for hire. If you are planning a party, a meeting or a regular event, please email MPFThethersett@gmail.com or leave a message on 07470689803 to express an interest.





Hethersett Memorial Playing Field

Registered Charity Number 303972

The Hethersett Hub

A perfect place for almost any gathering

Regular Classes and Clubs – Parties – Concerts - Sales Events
Conferences and Meetings – Receptions – Dances - Performances

For booking enquiries call 0747069803
OR Contact via mpfthethersett@gmail.com

Calls will be checked and replied to within 24 hours

Helping To Keep Warm This Winter

THINGS will be hotting up in Hethersett Library once again as winter is upon us.

The library will be inviting residents to “keep warm and well this winter” by providing special packs and bags.

The library is providing blankets and hot water bottles, toiletry bags and sanitary bags and also hot drinks at times when it is staffed.

The initiative follows the success of a similar one last year as the country struggled to recover from lockdown.

Free hot drinks will be available during times when the library is staffed which will be Monday from 1.30 pm until 7 pm, Wednesday from 11 am until 7 pm, Thursday from 1.30 pm until 7 pm, Friday from 1.30 pm until 7 pm and Saturday from 11 am until 4 pm.

The toiletries’ bag contains deodorant, shampoo, bodywash and toothpaste and toothbrushes are also available.

The sanitary bags include pads and other items. You can see a full list of opening hours and what is available on a poster in our what’s on section.

Keep Warm and Well this Winter

Hethersett Library
40 Queens Rd.
Hethersett
NR9 3DB

Staffed hours
Monday 1:30pm - 7pm
Wednesday 11am - 7pm
Thursday 1:30pm - 7pm
Friday 1:30pm - 7pm
Saturday 11am - 4pm

Visit your local library to pick up FREE Winter essentials

Keep Warm and Well
Help yourself to a blanket and hot water bottle.
Free hot drinks are available (see library for times).

Toiletries Bag
Bag contains: deodorant, shampoo, bodywash and toothpaste.
Adults and children's toothbrushes are available to help yourself to or ask a member of staff.

Tricky Period
Bag contains: 1 x pack of regular and 1 x pack of super or night pads.
Sustainable items are available while stocks last (including: period cups, washable pads, period pants).

If you can't see what you need, please ask a member of staff.

borrow discover connect

From Modest Beginnings



HETHERSETT Herald had modest beginnings and at first was known as Hethersett Online (not becoming Hethersett Herald until the following May).

Launch edition number one hit the internet with little fanfare in November 2015 with just eight pages of news from the village with the theft of lead from the parish church roof our main story. There was a report on the annual Remembrance Day service and the launch of a new health hub at Rowan House in Queen's Road that is now a Vets and home to Kin Café. There was also a report on a presentation evening at Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club.

By edition two, the number of pages had been boosted to 12 with the main story being a refusal by national highways' department to change the direction indicators on Thickthorn roundabout despite calls from local people who believed the current set-up to be dangerous (and we still do—editor). There were reports of Christmas fairs at both Hethersett Methodist Church and Old Hall School—neither of which still take place - and there was a story about inconsiderate parking in the village—something that still rambles on today.

That was our first two months of publication which took us into 2016 and saw the Herald begin to expand. By the end of 2016 it had become a 62 page publication with many more photographs and stories about the increased development coming to the village.

Over the next few pages we will look at just some of the major stories that made the front pages of our first 100 editions. And don't forget you can re-visit all 100 editions of the magazine by going to: www.hethersettherald.weebly.com.

**Back copies of Hethersett Herald can be viewed
at www.hethersettherald.weebly.com**

A Greener Hethersett

A NUMBER of initiatives aimed at making Hethersett a greener village are taking off.

With the fight to cut down on the amount of dog mess being led by a number of villagers and Hethersett Parish Council already gathering pace, a number of other green measures are being introduced by community conscious villagers.

There is a twist of originality about many of the new ideas. Local resident Hannah Harrison is at the forefront of an interesting new scheme aimed at continuing the fight against plastic waste.

"I seem to have thousands of carrier bags in my kitchen cupboard like a lot of us probably do. Even though I don't buy them anymore and try to reuse the ones I already have I feel I'll never get through them all," she said.

So Hannah hit upon the idea of filling plastic bottles with both shopping bags and dog poo bags and placing them in



key areas in the village.

"There will be a mix of carrier bags and dog poo bags. If people have gotten their shopping bags they can take one from the dispenser rather than buying a new one. That way it will be helping to reduce the use of plastic. (continued on page 3)



Hethersett's Sparkling Night



Image may contain: 2 people

IT was a sparkling night for Hethersett at the annual South Norfolk Community Awards.

Tristan Cork won the Special Recognition Award for his work with the Finnbar Force charity and Hethersett Pantomime Group was named Community Fundraiser of the Year.

It was also a special night for Wymondham's Tony Vale who is a member of Hethersett Writers' Group and has close links with our village. He was named Volunteer of the Year.

(Continued on Page Three)

A Green Promised Land

ONE of the hot topics over the past eight years has been Hethersett's attempts to become a greener society. You will have read in the last few editions about plans to cut the village's carbon footprint considerably by changing the street lights to LED bulbs.

Over the past eight years, the Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) has worked tirelessly, organising litter picks, organising open garden events, planting trees and much more.

In April 2019 edition 42 of the Herald focussed on a number of green initiatives being undertaken including using shopping bags rather than plastic bags and providing dog poo bags. The green initiative also included many businesses providing free water refills for customers.

Three editions later we were trumpeting local people making a difference in our community with a number of winners at the South Norfolk Community Awards evening. These included Tristan Cork for his work with the Finnbar's Force charity which we have championed throughout our existence and Hethersett Pantomime Group which was named Community Fundraiser of the Year.

You can read about the latest village pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

Shock Closure of Old Hall School

ANOTHER bombshell has hit the village with news that Old Hall School is closing, just months after it announced it was taking in more male pupils.



The closure announcement - made just three weeks before the scheduled start of the new term - left 100 pupils scrambling to find new schools before the Autumn term starts.

The decision to close the school has been taken due to falling pupil numbers and financial problems. Parents were informed of the decision in a letter from headmaster Stephen Crump and chair of governors Martin Matthews.

The letter which was dated 13th August starts: "We regret to inform you we have some very sad news."

It continues: "As you know, pupil numbers have declined over the last academic year requiring financial support and a turnaround plan to increase the number of pupils on roll. To this end the Governors have pursued all possible avenues in what has proved to be a very drawn out process but, regrettably, now have no alternative other than to take the difficult decision to close the school."

The letter claims that right up until the decision being taken it was hoped to secure the future of the school.

(Continued on Page 3)



The Fight Will Go On



PARENTS of children who have had their school bus service cut have vowed to fight on after Norfolk County Council decided that the country road linking Little Melton and Hethersett is safe for children to walk and cycle along.

The decision brought a storm of protest on Twitter Media with local residents branding it both 'senseless' and 'dangerous'.

Now the newly formed Little Melton School Bus Campaign Group has appealed to the county council against a decision to stop the service from the September. You can read more about this appeal by turning to page 11.

The letter received by parents from Norfolk County Council's Road and Transport Services Enforcement Officer Neil Griffin makes it crystal clear that the safety of children has not been taken

into consideration when considering the suitability of the route.

The announcement is against the physical nature of the roads only and looks at the relationship between pedestrians and traffic, not issues of personal safety - the letter states before putting the safety aspect first in at the least of parents.

It is presumed that all road users will behave reasonably and responsibly and that children will be accompanied as necessary." It states.

The photographs above were taken during a protest walk undertaken in December. You can read the full transcript of the County Council letter on page 12 along with other comments and information.

A Shock and A Fight

WE often consider what was the biggest and possibly most important story that we have covered over the past eight years. Certainly the one that came as the greatest surprise was the sudden and totally unexpected closure of Old Hall School on the B1172.

The first we knew about this was from a news bulletin on television. The closure came as a shock to pupils and former pupils alike and we described it at the time as "a bombshell." The closure came just three weeks before the scheduled start of the Autumn term in 2019 and parents were informed of the decision in a letter from the head teacher and chair of governors.

Following the decision, former pupils from the school banded together to ensure that memories were saved and reunions were arranged. Fears were that the historic buildings would be turned into flats but these proved unfounded when it was announced that Norfolk Constabulary was purchasing the complex for a new training wing. Chief Inspector Keith Philpot worked alongside former pupils to ensure the history of the school was secure and get-togethers continue to this day.

Hethersett Herald likes a campaign and so joined in with the voices of Little Melton parents over fears that their bus service for children to Hethersett Academy would be cut and the ridiculous assertion by Norfolk County Council that the busy country road linking Little Melton and Hethersett was safe for pupils to walk along.

"The fight will go on" was the rallying cry in February 2020 and eventually the bus service was saved with parents contributing to its cost.



Salute The Heroes

Herald Comment

CORONAVIRUS is a word that will take its place in the history of Hethersett and something that will be talked about for years to come.

The village was in a full lockdown throughout April and it will be many months before everything returns to normal, even after the all clear is given.

The virus brought out the best in people, someone with so many local residents volunteering to help others.

This month we salute our local heroes who have helped to keep the village and ourselves safe during these most trying of times. We thank the businesses who kept open to provide vital services, whilst communicating with those forced to shut their doors.

In the edition of Hethersett Herald we will be just a few of those on the list.

One who has managed to keep our village safe and working.

Thanks from Derek Stace we hope that this edition of Hethersett Herald is not too late and also reflects all the positive things that have been happening that all hope going strong there must be full of love.

Volunteering around the town of Hethersett since then 12 years old Derek Cubitt of Karen Close who serenaded local residents on the saxophone during the weekly "clap for heroes" sessions.

You can read more about Derek in this local edition on page 11.




Church in Funding Difficulty

St Remigius Church, Hethersett, has to raise over £1,500 every week of the year just to keep its doors open. In a special report, Peter Steward met the Rector, the Rev Derek McClean, church treasurer Neil Sturgeon and churchwardens (pictured below) to talk about the crippling charges facing the church and what the future holds for a building that has existed for over 1,000 years.

KEEPING Hethersett Parish Church open and functioning costs over £1,500 a week and finding that money is becoming more and more difficult, it has been revealed.

In addition, much of the community and pastoral work undertaken by St Remigius Church has had to be put on hold during lockdown.

The Rector of Hethersett, the Rev Derek McClean, has been restricted to putting daily prayer sessions and weekly sermons online with the church only re-opening for private prayers and limited services in the past few weeks.

Now the church is beginning to plan for the days when lockdown is a thing of the past and it can return to some form of normality.

But that could still be some way off and the current financial situation is causing concern to the rector and members



of the parochial church council.

The figure of £1,500 doesn't take into account any repairs, alterations or proposed changes to the building.

Each year the church has to raise £75,000 from its congregation and church officials admit that worrying about finances detracts from the pastoral work of the church.

To read the full story please turn to page 4.

Hethersett Herald 1 September 2020

The Village In Lockdown

THE closure of Old Hall School may have been the biggest shock but possibly the biggest story was lockdown.

With virtually everything in the village closed down and residents restricted to one piece of exercise a day and no contact with friends and even family, it was a strange time.

Being an exclusively online publication, Herald was able to keep going and provide updates on what was happening or in most cases not happening in the village. We hope that in some small ways we were a lifeline to those genuinely unable to get beyond their front doors. We certainly were recording village history.

Edition 55 in May 2020 highlighted the efforts of volunteers in the village in the following words:

"The virus brought out the best in people with so many local residents volunteering to help others." One of the products of lockdown was the setting up of the Hethersett Hearts charity with an army of volunteers helping others and the charity continues to this day providing vital help and links for local people. We will be featuring it in a coming edition.

Our front page photograph pictured the man who epitomised the "Spirit of Hethersett." We featured 92 year old Derek Cubitt of Karen Close who serenaded local residents on the saxophone during the weekly "clap for heroes on your doorstep sessions." We are pleased to say that Derek is still going strong at the age of 95, although arthritis now prevents him from playing the saxophone.

Hethersett St Remigius Church featured prominently in our first edition with news about the theft of lead from the church roof. The church was making the news again for edition 59 in September 2020 as it struggled to pay its way under the weight of colossal demands that made it difficult for the building to simply survive.

We pointed out that spiralling costs meant the church has to find £1,500 every week and there were serious concerns that worrying about finances detracted from the pastoral work of the church.



An Education Revolution

With Hethersett schools reopened for the new term in September, the village education map looked very different and not just because of the new school building, which caused by Covid. In a major article we look at education in Hethersett in the past, the present and the future.

A REVOLUTION is shaping the future of education in Hethersett with the biggest shake-up since schooling became compulsory in 1880.



Picture: Sarah Lawrence

A new school building and two major building projects have turned the village's three schools into modern and top class places of learning and it is all a far cry from some of the cramped conditions of the past.

The multi-million pound schemes have replaced three Hethersett schools at the cutting edge of education in South Norfolk and further afield.

The biggest change has been of Woodside Primary and Nursery School which has moved from its previous cramped site in The Road to a new two storey building in Coachmakers Way on the new North Hethersett development (pictured above).

Hethersett now has the luxury of two primary schools. The second is in Queen's Head where an extensive building programme has been underway. Add to that major building work and improvements at Hethersett Academy and it all adds up to a revolution. Turn to page 2 to see just what the changes and improvements are being made and also to read about the history of education in Hethersett.

Hethersett Herald 2 October 2020



Hethersett Re-Opens

Village gets back to business

HETHERSETT is preparing to re-open as the virus recedes and the village prepares to get back to some form of normality.

All the schools returned in March and other businesses are preparing to re-open within the next few weeks.

April 12th will be R Day (Re-open Day) with the Queen's Head back in business and King's Pub re-opening after re-opening.

The past year has been an eye opener for the village and it is hoped that the same day and outdoor dining for businesses will be allowed.

There will be further concessions in May as things slowly get back to normal.

Meanwhile Hethersett Social Club has resumed activities that it won't be re-opening after the virus.

"It has come to my attention that there has been gossip and rumors circulating that we will not be opening again. I would just like to reassure everyone that this is not at all the case."

"We will 100% be open again, hopefully in May and we look forward to seeing you all again," said Sue Parkes.

We have lots more on what will be happening in our inside pages. You can also read about Hethersett having one of the lowest death rates in the county.

Hethersett Herald 1 April 2021



At Breaking Point

HETHERSETT surgery is at breaking point and in danger of not being able to provide safe care for patients, the latest meeting of Hethersett Parish Council heard.

Hethersett GP Dr Shevash Doraswami (Dr Dav) told the meeting that continuing development in the village could put patient care at risk.

Dr Dav was commenting on plans for an additional 200 homes in the village over and above those already planned.

"We have serious concerns about the proposed additional 200 houses. We are approaching capacity for being able to offer our patients a safe service. We are approaching the point of having to close our lists," Dr Dav said.

The Humbleyard Practice, which includes surgeries at Copleford,

Mulbarton and Hethersett, had put together proposals for the next seven to 10 years. "We are just not going to be able to cope," Dr Dav added.

The surgery has been meeting with Hethersett District Councillors Phil Hardy, Adrian Deans and David Bils and others to discuss the future of medical facilities in the village and it is hoped to set up a patients' group in the near future to give local people a chance to air their views.

The possibilities of having a new surgery to replace the existing one in Great Melton Road has been discussed but may not be viable as funding from NHS England would not be sufficient.

"What we have been offered as a surgery would be wholly



Dr Dav is approaching capacity for being able to offer our patients a safe service - Dr Shevash Doraswami

inadequate to meet patient demands," Dr Dav said adding that building a surgery through Private Finance Initiative (PFI) would be the only satisfactory option.

Dr Dav also outlined another possible problem in attracting enough clinicians to run the service.

(To read more about this story please turn to page four)

Hethersett Herald 1 July 2021

Concern Over Facilities

ONE of the biggest issues for us over the past eight years has been the lack of facilities in the village and their inability to keep pace with the massive development that we have highlighted over the years.

A whole "new village" has sprung up in what has become known as North Hethersett with hundreds of houses swelling our population.

The last eight years have seen big developments at Hethersett High School (now Hethersett Academy) and the closure of Woodside School in Firs Road and the building of a new primary school on North Hethersett. In addition the former Hethersett Junior School has also seen considerable expansion.

Whilst education has been well served, health facilities have not with the surgery in Great Melton Road deemed inefficient and too small to deal with an ever-expanding population.

The debate on this rumbles on with the surgery often closed due to staff shortages and problems. Your will read in this edition of Hethersett Herald that the new management at the surgery has vowed that things will improve in 2024.

Likewise there have been rumblings that our village Boots Chemists will be axed. There is no doubt that health provision in Hethersett is inadequate and desperately in need of a massive overhaul. A new site has been earmarked close to Woodside School and development money is available but to date no firm plans have been put forward.

In July 2021 we carried the other side of this story with the headline "At Breaking Point." One of the GPs told the parish council of his serious concerns at the surgery being able to cope.

On a more positive note, edition 60 in October 2020 spoke of an education revolution in the village:

"A revolution is shaping the future of education in Hethersett with the biggest shake-up since schooling became compulsory in 1880" was our claim adding that:

"A new school building and two major building projects have turned the village's three schools into modern and top class places of learning."

April 2021 saw a very simple headline to our main story "Hethersett Re-Opens"

It spoke about the village returning to some form of normality after lockdown with April 12th being known as R Day (Re-open Day). Hethersett Social Club was quick to scotch rumours that it wouldn't be re-opening after lockdown. Thankfully those rumours were just that—rumours and the social club continues to thrive.

There was also good news in that edition that Hethersett has one of the lowest death rates in the county.



Hethersett Can Celebrate

HETHERSETT also knows how to party and celebrate.

During lockdown a number of initiatives saw walking trails being set-up along with many other ideas designed to give residents a little bit of joy amongst all the madness.

In July 2022, we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Scarecrows, flowers, street parties and a jubilee litter pick were just some of the highlights of the village's celebrations, although a storm on the Bank Holiday Sunday forced the cancellation of a village picnic in the park event in the grounds of the Village Hall.

Despite this there was plenty going on in the village with the scarecrow trail proving very popular with families and some excellent models on display throughout the village.

Sadly the Queen died not long afterwards. But Hethersett was celebrating again in June 2023 for the coronation of King Charles III. Our front page featured a photograph of the inside of St Remigius' Church and details of a community party at the village hall and a flower festival in the church.

The Coronation party also saw the opening of another amenity for the village—this time the Back Community Garden – which had been put together by volunteers with funding from various grants. The garden was set-up in memory of the Back family who played a prominent part in village life of the past and not as many people think because it is at the back of the village.

Finally in our short look at the last 100 editions of Hethersett Herald we had news of the setting up of an Islamic Mosque in the village in the building that was previously the Church Hall in Henstead Road. The Islamic community is now a lively part of local life and contributes to the community. In this edition you can read about a collection at Christmas for clothes for the homeless.

Over the page you will find editions heralding two more major events of the last eight years. The first is the demolition of the old unfit for purpose pavilion on the Memorial Playing Field and its replacement by a state of the art community hub which is one of the best buildings of its kind in Norfolk. In this edition you can find out how groups and individuals can hire out the community facilities within this building.

And finally a reasonably up to date story that saw the future of a post office assured in the village thanks to Hethersett Hearts, the county council and the post office. The post office in Oak Square closed down but a new one sprang up in Hethersett Library. We believe we are correct in saying this is the only post office within a library building in Norfolk.

We hope you have enjoyed our short trawl through just some of the events of the past eight years and we hope you continue to enjoy reading Hethersett Herald as we embark on our second century. Don't forget that if you want to read these and many other stories, back copies can be viewed and downloaded from the website at:

www.hethersettherald.weebly.com



Staying Truly Local

ONE of the things that annoy me is what I refer to as the “dumbing down of local news.”

I was brought up on a diet of local newspapers which was augmented by local television and local radio.

And I use the word local in its real sense i.e covering local matters through the Media.

Those that know me will know that I spent much of my working life on local newspapers (and there's that word local again).

I was so pleased to be working on local newspapers in their heyday (or if not exactly in their heyday, then just after it).

We covered local matters and I make no apologies for using that word local over and over again because that was exactly what they were. Now cut backs have seen the word local being misused. Each day after the national news the announcer will say “and now over to the news where you live.”

But the problem is nine times out of ten it isn't the news from where I live. At the end of December a BBC national news bulletin switched to the local news which started with a piece about a community group from Towcester.

I'm sure that Towcester is a very vibrant community but a quick search on Google informed me that Towcester is approximately 123 miles from where I live. In other words it's certainly not the news from where I live.

I might as well listen to the news from Glasgow or Newcastle or Liverpool as to listen to that from Towcester. In fact I would prefer it as I have more interest in those places than in Towcester—which just happens to be somewhere I have never been and somewhere I am probably never likely to go. Another day we got news of a community project in Wellingbrough which is even more distant.

And that's where we come in. If you are sick of turning into your local TV channel and having to listen to news from Essex, Northamptonshire and many other places and if you are sick of your local radio station going what is known as “regional” you can find out what is happening genuinely in your local area by reading local magazines etc.

There are more and more being published either in printed format or online. Publications like the Wymondham Magazine just up the road and ourselves are ensuring that the word local actually means that—absolutely local, even down to individual streets.

We do carry an occasional feature about the wider world but you will find that these are written by people living in Hethersett. Occasionally we push the boundaries to carry news and items from Little Melton and Great Melton and even Wymondham—all of which are in a radius of three or four miles from Hethersett.

With the launch of Hethersett Herald 100 editions ago, I was truly returning to my roots of providing local news from and for local people. Over the past eight and a bit years I think we have done a pretty good job given our limited resources. We will never expand, we will never go regional and we will certainly never cover news from 100 miles away. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved.

Now we need a bit of help. Nothing too strenuous I promise you. We would like to become better known in Hethersett and the surrounding areas. We are hoping to produce some posters in the next few months but word of mouth is all important to us along with the use of Social Media.

If you are reading this and enjoy our coverage of local news and issues please pass the word on either verbally or through any other medium you may have access to. That way we can increase our readership and there is only one reason for that—we do not sell paid advertising and so genuinely our only reason for being in existence is to bring coverage of Hethersett to you and fill in some of the gaps that other Media outlets have left.

Peter Steward



Hungarian Rhapsody

THE name Alfred Reynolds may not mean anything to most people but to Hethersett resident Richard Headicar, it means a great deal.

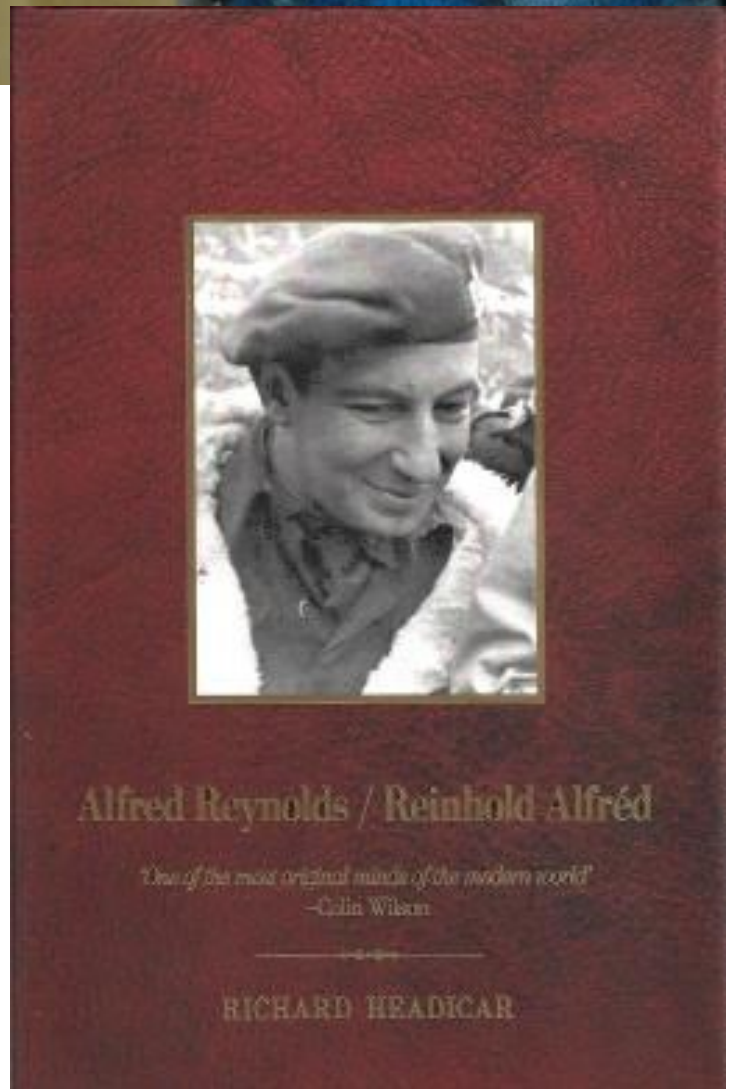
For Richard, who lives at the Woodcote Sheltered Housing complex in Firs Road, has launched a book about the Hungarian philosopher and academic who was born Reinhold Albert.

Richard, who has had a varied life and career which includes spending time in prison for his beliefs, numbered Alfred amongst his personal friends and the book tracks the life of a man who Richard refers to as “having one of the sharpest brains ever.”

Richard officially launched his book at Woodcote on January 12th, surrounded by family and friends. Copies of the book are available for sale and can be bought direct from Richard on 01603 814343.

Richard is pictured above at the launch where he read an extract from the book and spoke about a past where he and others lived where “the atmosphere was one of hope and we really believed we could change things for the better.”

Richard paid tribute to his editor John MacArthur who “had made the book possible” and who had travelled up from London for the launch.





You'd Think They Could Get It Write



WE may understand that it is necessary at times to make the village pretty inaccessible through necessary roadworks and probably complaining about spelling can be a bit childish and largely irrelevant but you'd think they could get things right (or should that be write). But obviously not as these signs illustrate. Eagle eyed Gary Wyatt spotted these spelling errors with Hethersett having an additional a and Braymeadow Lane becoming Braymeador Lane.

There were problems with signs at the end of New Road as well with their positioning causing visibility problems for vehicles turning out of New Road onto the B1172 and the positioning making it difficult for vehicles turning into New Road having to drive onto the right hand side of the road and possibly into the path of vehicles coming the other way.



Remembering Brenda and John

HETHERSETT has lost two stalwart workers and village supporters with the deaths of Brenda Kelsey and John Nightingale.

Brenda died on November 8th at the age of 90. A special memorial service was held at Hethersett Methodist Church on January 15th at which friends and family paid tribute to her as you can read below.

BRENDA Alexander was born in 1933 in Norwich but spent most of her early years growing up in the Woodton area of Norfolk close to the border with Suffolk. She was an only child but, during the war, her parents took in two wartime evacuees.

Religion was important to Brenda from an early age as the Methodist Minister for Hethersett the Rev Steve Cullis explained at her memorial service.

“She attended a Methodist Sunday School and would often hold impromptu services for the evacuees in the garden shed where she acted as both teacher and worship leader,” he said.

After local education, Brenda attended the Blyth School in Norwich which meant making two bus journeys in each direction every school day. In the sixth form she studied English, Spanish, French, Latin and a little Greek.

Not surprisingly Brenda became a teacher, beginning her career at Wymondham Secondary Modern School, Wymondham Girls’ School and then Loddon Secondary Modern School, living for much of that time with her mother and looking after her following the death of her father.

Her links with Methodism were strong and she was a trustee of Woodton Methodist Church and, in 1958, became a Methodist Local Preacher. In 1981 at the age of 48 she married Robert “Bob” Richardson. Both were local Methodist preachers and keen singers and entertainers. Sadly Bob, who was a well known and well loved character in and around Hethersett and the Meltons, died in 1982.

Brenda retired from teaching in 1992. Three years earlier she married for the second time—this time to Charles Kelsey who was also known to all as “Bob.” As a result of her marriages, Brenda inherited two sets of step children along with step grandchildren and even step great grandchildren. Bob Kelsey died in 2001 but Brenda continued to live in a farmhouse in Little Melton until her death.

Outside of the church, Brenda was a massive Norwich City fan, often bringing football into her sermons.

“Brenda could always raise a smile, even when life got difficult. I enjoyed her company and her wry sense of humour. She was a very good and very popular local preacher. I always found her thoughtful and very honest about herself. People always speak about Brenda with a smile on their faces. She could have people in fits of laughter. We will miss her greatly. She brought both warmth and fellowship into our lives and all I can say to sum up is well done good and faithful servant,” Rev Cullis said.

One of Brenda’s stepsons Paul Kelsey also paid tribute to her. “She met my father after he had moved to Norwich and his marriage had broken down. He had been made redundant and into this unhappy situation came Brenda. She was always kind and generous to us and this was a very happy and contented period in our father’s life.

“She was a huge Norwich City fan and just couldn’t stand tippy tappy football. She was kind with a very strong faith and I can’t remember her ever saying a bad word about anybody. She was always well dressed and had a good sense of humour but also a very independent mind. Her passing was very sudden and a shock to us all. I would just like to thank Brenda for being a lovely addition to our family and a lovely step mum, step grandmother and step great grandmother,” he said.



Brenda with a certificate to mark 60 plus years as a local preacher. During a special service at Hethersett Methodist Church in October, long service certificates were presented to Brenda, Bill Allen and Dennis Coleman by circuit superintendent Rev Catherine Hutton.

A Man of Great Integrity

The funeral service for John Nightingale took place in Hethersett Parish Church on 18th January. John was a former chair of Hethersett Parish Council and here we look back on his life.



A FATHER, a grandfather, a husband, a good friend and a tireless worker on behalf of Hethersett. John Nightingale was all of these things.

John's life was remembered at a funeral service in St Remigius Church, Hethersett, on January 19th with former rector The Rev Derek McClean returning to conduct the service.

John even had his own message for his family, written a short while before his sudden death on at the age of 74.

"I want you all to look after yourselves, be happy and enjoy the best possible life. I am now a memory but please remember me," John wrote, also mentioning his large collection of tools: "When you use my tools, please remember me," he added.

In response his grandson Cameron paid his own tribute: "Thank you for everything you have done and giving us the best memories of childhood and allowing us to grow day by day."

John was a true son of Norfolk, being born in Hilgay which is four miles from Downham Market. After school he took up a career in electronic engineering and developed a love of India and camping holidays. He met his wife to be Jean at a college reunion and kept in touch. Eventually John and Jean got married. John had a son and Jean had five children and so they became grandparents to six.

John eventually moved to Hethersett and soon became involved in village life which included being on school PTAs and having a lengthy stint on Hethersett Parish Council and a period as chairman. He only retired from the council in May 2023 when he decided not to stand for re-election due to health issues. As chairman of the council, one of John's duties was to lay a wreath at the annual Remembrance Sunday service. One year he was recovering from an operation on his foot and laid a wreath whilst being supported by crutches and wearing slippers. Memories of this brought a smile from the congregation.

Outside of work and village matters, John was renowned for fixing things and finding out how they worked and why machines were failing. His other hobby was shooting and collecting guns and he would talk at length on this subject.

John Nightingale A Personal View

I KNEW John Nightingale for many years without really realising it.

For John was one of those people who were always there—a constant in village life.

Only a few months ago I was walking along Steeple Tower when a car stopped on the other side of the road. It was John and his wife Jean. John had been for a hospital appointment. They called me over for a chat. John would always call you over for a chat. He was that kind of guy. He thought I was walking past without saying hello. I actually didn't see him because I was blinded by the sun

But that was John. He would never let you pass without at least a few words of greeting.

John was not always in the best of health but gave his time and energy unstintingly to Hethersett Parish Council, taking over as chairman for a time until his health precluded him from continuing.

John was in many ways one of those larger than life figures that make our World a better place. I will miss his ready smile and sunny disposition which I think is well illustrated by our photograph opposite which is taken from the order of service at his funeral in St Remigius Church.

PS

The service also heard that John had been given the nickname Snagglepuss although nobody seemed to know from where this came.

The congregation were told of John's support for many events: "You arrange it and I will be there," was always his mantra.

John's life-long friend Graham also paid tribute to him with tales of motorbikes, his "brilliant sense of humour" and his stories of his travels to many different parts of the world.

John's life was probably best summed up by Rev Derek McClean:

"We will always remember John for his willingness to help people. His was a generous life, a life of humour and a life given to others. You always knew where you were with John."



John with his wife
Jean

New Hethersett Store To Open in February

HETHERSETT'S new Co-op store on the North Hethersett development is due to open in February.

Hethersett representative on South Norfolk Council, John Morland (pictured right) told the parish council at its December meeting that the doors of the retailer would open for the first time on 16th February.



It will provide shoppers with benefits as befitting the ethos of the Co-op movement as John explained.

"This will be a Central England Co-op where shoppers can earn points which can then be converted to pounds to spend in the store as a way of sharing in the profits. There will also be exclusive members offers in store. There will also be an opportunity for local people to have their say in the running of the store. All members are part owners of the Co-operative and help make decisions on how it works as a community, vote for board members and attend members' meetings. In addition full members can nominate local causes to receive grants of up to £5,000," Councillor Morland said

More information on the working of Co-ops can be found on the website: www.membershipmatters.coop.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – 2023

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank everyone in Hethersett, Little Melton, Bawburgh, Marlingford, Barford and Ketteringham for their magnificent support of the 2023 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Once again thank you to all businesses and schools willing to have collection boxes in place.

With the outstanding support of the public, a magnificent total of £3,925.47 was raised representing a 9.4% increase on the 2022 figure.

I am personally truly grateful for your support of this important charity and I now look forward to the 2024 appeal.

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

Richard Gunstone – Poppy Appeal Organiser.



Centre's Boost For The Homeless

KIND-HEARTED local people gave a pre-Christmas boost to the homeless and refugees by providing bags of winter clothing following an appeal by the Hethersett Masjid and Islamic Community Centre.

The clothing was collected at the centre in Henstead Road on Saturday 23rd December and was distributed to those in need in the run-





up to Christmas. We are grateful to the community centre for the photographs on this page and the previous which feature members of the local community and members of the centre along with the parcels of clothes that were collected in just one day. The photographs on the right above include chair of Hethersett Parish Council Bridget Williamson and her husband Don. After the event Mrs Williamson praised the day's contribution to the local community.

WHAT DOES THE COMMUNITY OF HETHERSETT THINK ABOUT THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS?

An open discussion about the effects of 'cost of living' on individuals living in Hethersett by Herald Special Reporter Sophie Stanley

The 'Cost of Living Crisis' is a phrase we are beginning to hear used a lot at the moment: on television, on radio and in parliamentary speeches. This coined phrase refers to the drastic increase of everyday essentials, bills and rent in price. But how badly has this 'crisis' been affecting our local area?

Having asked members of the "All Things Hethersett" Facebook page their opinions on the topic, numerous people came forward to comment on the increased price of daily life. One thing that particularly stood out was the increased prices of fuel and rent in the Hethersett and Wymondham area. The impact of "the appalling prices of fuel in our area" as stated by Johnathan Davis, "may be having a negative effect on our shops." Particularly in terms of purchasing fuel, a lot of people have noticed that the prices are continuously increasing but don't appear to be going back down to where they originally started. This has been an issue for many people, whilst catching a bus is the alternative cheaper option they don't appear to be an entirely dependable choice.

Similarly, Bob Groves, another member of our community, brought to light the issues of the NHS waiting list and prescription prices, which are now becoming unaffordable, causing a much greater issue around health. Not only this, but shopping, owning a pet and rent were also mentioned as a struggle, surely things of basic necessity rather than a luxury. It is clear that the cost of living crisis certainly has "opened a can of worms", a phrase repeatedly used in many of the responses.



A Special Festive Dinner At Woodcote

Story by Sophie Stanley



Residents of Woodcote raised a mind blowing £404 for East Anglia's Children's Hospices over Christmas. In addition two of the complex's residents - Dennis Burgess and Dennis Gray—have been given special Broadland awards for outstanding efforts.

"On the 25th of December we had a Christmas meal and Dennis Burgess was very kind to fund the totality of that meal, produced by Stuart, the chef at the King's Head." said Stephen Baxter, Woodcote's Scheme manager.

"Residents provided donations for these meals, which 13 people ate and enjoyed, so we decided to donate the money raised to EACH who we have supported in the past."

Anne Austen, who collected the donations, stated: "On behalf of EACH thank you so much for raising this money. We rely heavily on fundraising and volunteers as we get around 15% from government subsidies so the rest we have to raise. It is around £8000 to run each hospice each day, which is quite an outstanding amount. The hospice aims to provide a life of normality for the children in critical care and their families."

Huge congratulations are in order for all involved for allowing this event to happen; the residents at Woodcote, Stuart the King's Head chef for cooking the delicious meals, Dennis Burgess for funding the cost of the meals, Stephen Baxter for helping organise the event and of course Dennis Gray for his support of residents and help with repairs of the building (you can read about the awards to the two Dennis on the next page).

In the picture at the top of the page, Dennis Burgess presents the cheque to Anne Austin from the East Anglia's Children's Hospice. In the centre of the photograph is Woodcote scheme manager Stephen Baxter,

Awards for the two Dennis' - Good Neighbours

THERE were awards for two special residents of Woodcote Housing Association.

Scheme manager Stephen Baxter is photographed here presenting outstanding neighbour awards to the two Dennis' - Burgess (opposite) and Gray (below).

You can read about the work of Dennis Burgess on the previous page.

Dennis Gray received his award for his general support of residents and his help with repairs and keeping an eye out for things not working properly at the scheme in Firs Road.





Hetherssett Herald has a new Facebook page to keep you up to date with what is happening in the village between editions of Hetherssett Herald.

The page has been put together by Sophie Stanley who writes regularly for the publication. You can access it by going to the following address.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553854300881>

World Day Of Prayer in Hetherssett

By Margaret Askew

THE 2024 World Day of Prayer service will take place in Hetherssett Methodist Church at 2 pm on Friday 1st March.

This year's service has been put together by the Christian women of Palestine who are asking the world to "connect with the land from where Jesus came, where he was born, ministered and died and from where the Christian faith has its roots."

Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service will be: "Bear with one another in love."

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation led by women which enables us to hear the thoughts of those

women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers.

The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 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.



Surviving Blue January

BLUE January they call it don't they? By the time you read this it will be February (or almost) but right now, it's the middle of January and I'm definitely feeling blue. Part of me feeling this way is that I'm a bit unwell.

This has been going on since the end of September, and it's now starting to take its toll on my mental health too. Since catching Covid back then, I've started to have shortness of breath which has made going about my everyday life quite uncomfortable.

I decided to call 111 one day when I got back from the school run and couldn't string a sentence together and their advice was to get a doctor's appointment.

Thankfully, because of this 111 referral, I managed to secure one quite quickly and the doctor prescribed me an inhaler to see if that worked. If it did, I was supposed to call back for another appointment with a respiratory nurse six to eight weeks later. If it didn't, I was supposed to call back for another doctor's appointment. Incidentally, it didn't work, but as we all know, getting an appointment is easier said than done.

Since the initial breathlessness, I have developed a chronic cough so whenever it was my day off, I tried to get an appointment at Hethersett. Because I don't drive, this is the only surgery I can get to without the help of my husband who, like me, works shifts.

It seemed that whenever I tried to get an appointment there, they were closed. I filled in a Patches online form and heard nothing back. Then Christmas happened, then New Year, so obviously it was closed around then.

On the 4th January, I decided enough was enough and I phoned for 8 am, as well as waiting outside in case I couldn't get through on the phone. I called at the stroke of 8 am, and was 15th in the call queue. I did get through, to be told that they were only seeing emergencies that day. After telling her how worried I was about my health, the receptionist then told me that they'd send a Patches form out to me to fill in.

After I told her that I had filled one in weeks ago but heard nothing back, she reassured me that I would this time because they'd sent it to me. I was sceptical, but I ate my words when they sent me an appointment a couple of days later for the following week.

I've never had reason to moan about the doctors' situation in Hethersett. We're generally quite a healthy family and, when there have been issues, if we couldn't get an appointment, we were quite happy to go to the walk-in centre in Norwich. For me, it's just a bus ride away. My breathlessness and cough however, seemed like a job for my local GP.



Since getting quite annoyed at the whole situation, I later read that the Humbleyard Practice has a total of 22,000 patients on its books, so I did feel a little bad about my cross words to my friends. I realise it's a local and a nationwide issue, I just wish there was a way to alleviate things for people that really need healthcare to get the help that they need.

After a busy Christmas period, 50% of my family caught the Norovirus bug in that middle bit between Christmas and New Year. Not a great end to 2023, but things can only get better, right?

I'm thanking my trusty antibacterial spray for getting myself and Amelia through that period without coming



down with it. In an effort to cheer my family up in the new year, I took them to see Wonka at the cinema before the children started back to school.

It was very good actually, we had a really lovely time. A wonderful last hurrah for the Christmas holidays. It's nice to get a bit of routine back now though, and a bit of peace during the day. The girls have thrown themselves back into school, but they're still finding the early starts a little hard (aren't we all).

Enough of the doom and gloom. My eldest daughter Amelia has been hard at work putting together a video for her Youth Parliament application.

She's in Year Seven at Hethersett Academy and, if successful, her video will be played to young people in schools across the area asking them to vote for her.

She's put some real time and thought into this, stating that she wants to give young people a voice. Her main concerns are keeping youth centres open, caring for the environment, and LGBTQ rights. I hope you'll join me in wishing her good luck.

And finally, I had the massive honour of being the subject of my niece's Enterprise homework over the Christmas break. Poppy lives in Hevingham and was asked to research a local leader and write about the skills they have.

Poppy asked if she could write about me, and of

Sarah's skills make her an outstanding leader because she uses them wisely and for the better of Norfolk. She makes a difference and that makes her successful. She wants to. She perseveres when difficult situations occur. Sarah is contributing to our generation making it better and kinder.

Mrs Lawrence cares about the health and wellbeing of people in her community and all around England. She wants the best for us. She inspires us to be more supportive to each other. She has a passion for equal rights, and inspires others to do as well. She makes you want to help.

This makes her a successful leader.

If you want to help but don't know how to, then help by:

- *Walking or cycling instead of driving,*
- *Litter picking,*
- *Consider volunteering in your own community,*
- *Or just be friendly and considerate.*

course I said yes. I'll include an excerpt here, I am exceptionally proud that she decided to pick me. Poppy just happens to also be a fantastic writer, so I am extremely honoured.

Poirot on Duty Again

THE Spring season of films organised by Hethersett Village Screen got underway with the gritty northern drama “The Old Oak” on 7th January. A reasonable attendance watched the latest drama from Ken Loach which may well be his last.

It dealt with an influx of refugees into a rundown Durham mining community and how the town banded together to make them welcome after some initial reservations.

The next film in the Spring series will be “A Haunting in Venice” on 4th February and this will be followed by “The Great Escaper” on 3rd March, the ever-popular “Barbie” on 7th April and the dramatic “Oppenheimer” on May 12th.

“A Haunting in Venice” features Kenneth Brannagh as Hercule Poirot. Poirot comes out of retirement to try to solve a murder in post-war Venice. The film is based loosely on novels by Agatha Christie.

After that village screen will take its usual break before returning on 8th September with a programme still to be announced. Further films in 2024 will be shown on 6th October, 3rd November and 1st December. There will be no films in June, July and August. Dates have also been announced for 2025 and will be 5th January, 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April and 11th May. All films take place in Hethersett Village Hall at 3 pm on a Sunday afternoon and tickets are £5.

The main film is usually preceded by short films, often with a local angle/ connection. The dates are subject to alteration. You can see more details of the next batch of films on the poster opposite.



A Haunting In Venice (12A) **Sunday 4th February, 3pm**

Kenneth Brannagh is Hercule Poirot in this whodunnit set in post-war Venice. The sleuth come out of retirement after a murder at a seance.



The Great Escaper (12A) **Sunday 3rd March, 3pm**

Michael Caine stars in the true story of a veteran who escapes his care home to pay homage to fallen comrades.



Barbie (12) **Sunday 7th April, 3pm**

Margot Robbie (Barbie) and Ryan Gosling (Ken) star in director Greta Gerwig's acclaimed drama that works on more levels than you might expect.



Oppenheimer (15) **Sunday 12th May, 3pm**

Cillian Murphy is exceptional in the title role of director Christopher Nolan's tale of the father of the atomic bomb.

New Look For Sister Publication

OUR sister publication Good News has a new look front cover.

The magazine, which is published in printed form towards the end of each month, is Christian based and covers the parishes of Hethersett, Little Melton and Great Melton.

It includes details of church services and what is happening in the three churches of All Saints Little Melton, All Saints and St Mary's Great Melton and St Remigius Hethersett, along with other local news that falls into the category of Good News.

The publication also carries paid for advertising and is full colour throughout. Individual copies are available from a number of outlets at 60p per copy but an annual subscription is just £5 for 12 copies which works out at just over 40p per copy and for that you can have it delivered to your door each month for no extra cost thanks to a number of volunteers.

Good news is entirely run by volunteers and money from subscriptions and advertising covers the cost of printing. If you would like to subscribe to Good News or take out an advert, please contact Kim Arnall on 01953 308309.

You can view the new cover opposite. It has been designed for the publication free of charge by Kim Arnall's daughter Laura and her partner Michael through Michael's company Bunnyduck Designs.

The company has a website which will give you more details of their web and graphic design work at:

<https://bunnyduck.design>



More Buses To Village

HETHERSETT has yet another bus service. The 6A operated by Konnect Bus will come through a part of the village, stopping at the Queen's Head. It will be in addition to the usual service six buses which will continue to travel along the B1172..

The 6A will leave Norwich Bus Station hourly from 10.40 am until 2.40 pm (five buses) and will arrive at the Queen's Head 15 minutes later.

The 6A will pass the Queen's Head at 20 minutes past the hour from 10.20 am until 2.20 pm on its way to Norwich Bus Station. This bus will start its journey at Wymondham Cross but will not stop at the Cringleford Bus Interchange.

The bus will not go through any other parts of our village.

Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity

THE week of Prayer for Christian Unity was celebrated in Hethersett with a united service in the Methodist Church with a congregation of over 70 people.

The service was led by Methodist Minister the Rev Steve Cullis and the address was given by The Venerable Martin Gray.

A review of the activities of Hethersett Churches Together over the past year was presented and comments and questions received. Refreshments were served at the end of the service.

The beginning of Lent and the introduction of this year's Lent study groups will be held on Shrove Tuesday (13th February) in St Remigius Church with pancakes included.

News From The Parish Council

Below are details of the current parish councillors. There are still three vacancies. Councillors can now be contacted on the e-mail addresses listed.

Position	Name	Email Address	Telephone
Chairman	Bridget Williamson	cldr.bwilliamson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	810259
Vice-Chair	Leslie Dale	cldr.ldale@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	810952
Councillors	Paul Everett	cldr.peverett@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	07871 700228
	Heath Dakin	cldr.hdakin@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
	Salena Dawson	cldr.sdawson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
	Anne Edwards	cldr.aedwards@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	812309
	Kelsea Law	cldr.klaw@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
	Jonathan Loomer	cldr.jloome@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
	Eileen Mulvaney	cldr.emulvaney@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	811997
	Habib Ur Rehman	cldr.hrehman@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	07899 719173
	Jennifer Walpole	cldr.jwalpole@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	811932
	Rameez Asif	Details to follow	

HETHERSETT has a new parish councillor. Rameez Asif has been co-opted onto the council after putting himself forward for election.

Dr Asif's election brings the council's strength up to 12, but only seven of those were at the latest meeting prior to the election of the new councillor.

Dr Asif is an assistant professor in the School of Computing Science at the University of East Anglia and lives with his family in Hethersett with his children attending Woodside School. He told councillors that he would like to bring a "new perspective" to the council, specialising in maths and IT Services and also bringing a multi cultural and multi faith outlook to the parish.



News From The Parish Council

Meeting Dates

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

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

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

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

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

Full council meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 are: 19th February, 18th March, 25th April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July, 16th September, 21st October, 18th November and 16th December.

Speeding Concerns

CONCERNS have been expressed about the speed of vehicles using Harness Maker Way on the North Hethersett development.

Recent checks by the Speedwatch team saw 20 cars exceeding the speed limit in one period with one being clocked at 46 mph in the 30 mph limit.

Councillors heard that some vehicles seemed to be accelerating towards the speed guns. Members agreed that the area is of concern and the situation will continue to be monitored.

Concern was also expressed about speeding in Queen's Road with vehicles slowing down for speed bumps but then accelerating away from them.

Big Green Event

Hethersett Parish Council is looking to organise a Big Green Picnic for residents on the land at the side/back of the village hall.

A date at the end of June is being considered. This follows the success of a similar village event to mark the Coronation of King Charles III in 2023.

More Concerns Over Bus Service To The Village

Residents still have concerns about the bus service to and through the village, the January parish council meeting heard.

A resident had contacted the council to complain that buses appear on the First Bus computer app only to suddenly disappear, causing problems for children catching buses to attend schools.

Members agreed that the recent spate of road closures had made it difficult for bus services and Councillor Paul Everitt felt the village is lucky to have so many buses going to Wymondham and Norwich.

Praise for Mosque's Christmas Appeal

In her chairman's report, Bridget Williamson paid tribute to the work of the Muslim community in Hethersett and their Christmas initiative to collect clothing for the homeless in the run up to Christmas. See our feature on the appeal earlier in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

News From Great Melton Parish Council

By Bruce Fleming

Great Melton Parish Council met on Monday 11th December when councillors considered three planning applications (retrospective, in one instance), and a request to assume the tenancy of a plot of Parish Council land. It was agreed that an application should be submitted for a 'Clean Up and Bloom' grant, part of the 'Pride in Place' Community Grant Scheme offered by South Norfolk and Broadland Councils, providing support for events such as litter picks or the purchase of plants to enhance the appearance of the local environment.

The parish council agreed to adopt a Biodiversity Policy, with amendments. This is a statutory duty of public authorities under the 2021 Environment Act. As a minimum, the benefits for biodiversity should be part of the consideration of any planning application, whilst the council should aim to foster community awareness of biodiversity issues, working in partnership with local enterprises to protect and promote biodiversity.

The Budget and Parish Precept for 2024-25 were considered at the meeting. The impact of inflation on expenditure such as parish asset and public liability insurance, as well as a significant uplift in salary scales for local council employees, has required a regrettable increase in the precept. The implication for a Band D household in Great Melton is an increase of £2.31 per annum (17%) in respect of the levy for the Parish Council Precept component of Council Tax bills for 2024-25.

The date for the annual Great Melton litter pick has been set for Saturday 9th March 2024 from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, with high visibility vests and pickers available to collect at the village hall (cricket pavilion). Refreshments will be provided on return to the village hall (with equipment). All help and efforts will be greatly appreciated, and the opportunity to meet fellow Great Meltonians too good to miss!

The Minutes of meetings and related documents are published on the Parish Council website at:

<https://greatmeltonpc.wixsite.com/greatmeltonpc>

The next meeting of Great Melton Parish Council will be held on Monday 11th March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Hall Road, Great Melton.

ANNUAL GREAT MELTON LITTER PICK

Date - Saturday 9th March

Time - 9.30 am-12.30 pm

Meeting place - Great Melton Village Hall (Cricket Pavilion)

Litter pickers and high visibility vests provided (with allocation of litter-picking zone)

Refreshments (tea and treats) on return to the Village Hall (with equipment)

All help and efforts to keep Great Melton proudly and beautifully clean and refreshed will be gratefully appreciated - please join us!

Village Clean Up

THERE was praise once again for those taking part in the latest clean-up of Hethersett with 22 people taking part in the January litter pick.

Afterwards one of the organisers Geoff Dyett said:

“A big thank you to the 22 brave souls who came out to pick litter and 13 bags were collected. A huge thank you to Tesco Express for disposing of the litter.”

Dates have been set for the next two litter picks which will be on Saturday 24th February at 2 pm from Hethersett Village Hall and Saturday 16th March at 10 am from Hethersett Methodist Church.

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT

Hethersett & District Aid In Sickness Fund?

(Formerly known as the Hethersett Nursing Association)



DO YOU LIVE IN

Hethersett
Ketteringham or Little Melton?

ARE YOU

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



Examples of help available

Grants are available towards:

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

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



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

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Registered Charity Number 211284

News From Hethersett Hall

Stories By Caroline Evans



News From Hethersett Hall

Knitting Group Up and Running

WE welcome back lovely Edna (pictured opposite) and our knitting group. We've all been so excited to get back to our knitting we have so much wool now and lots of ideas to get on with in the new year. We have that much stuff we need a bigger storage box. We are making squares for a blanket, jumpers and hats gloves and scarves.

We love our little chats, giggles, tea and biscuits. Everyone is welcome to join us every other Thursday and beginners are welcome. You can view lots of photos of our group on the previous page.

We look forward to our Sundays at Hethersett Hall. We sit back, relax and reminisce with a nice glass of gin and tonic or sherry. We love having olives as a treat too. They are just delicious and then it's off for our main course in the dining room to have a lovely Roast beef dinner.

It's been such a cold week so we've wrapped ourselves up and enjoyed some trips to the garden centre and a lovely mug of coffee to warm us up.

We brought some tomato seeds and sunflower seeds as we've all agreed we are going to have a sunflower competition this year. Whose can grow the tallest? We will announce the winner in the summer and post our progress.



Join The Email Group

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

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

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

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

The March 2024 edition of Hethersett Herald will be online from the end of February, bringing you news and views from the village.

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

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

petersteward@sky.com

We Are On Facebook

Hethersett Herald is on Facebook. You can follow us at

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

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

Council/Government Contact Numbers

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

Member of Parliament

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

Email—Richard@richardbacon.org.uk

Address—Grasmere, Denmark Street, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 4LE

Telephone: 01379 642097

Facebook—Bacon4SouthNorfolk

X (formerly Twitter) - @Bacon4SNorfolk

Norfolk County Council

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

South Norfolk Council

Our South Norfolk Council representatives are: John Morland (Labour), Kathryn Cross (Conservative) and David Bills (Conservative). David Bills can be contacted on 01603 813041 or at dbills@s-norfolk.gov.uk. Kathryn Cross can be contacted on 07722 019116 or Kathryn.cross@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk and John Morland can be contacted on 01603 813247.

Hethersett Parish Council

The council can be contacted on 01603 810915. The clerk is Penny Hubble and assistant clerk is Sara White. Contact details for individual councillors can be found elsewhere in this magazine.

The parish council meets on the third Monday of each month in the Village Hall. The planning committee meets on the first and third Mondays (depending on the need to discuss nplanning applications). Other committees meet at various times and can be checked out on the council's official website at:

<https://hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Agendas for 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 in the library or are available from the clerk or online.

Email: Hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk

HETHERSETT HERALD

Your Monthly E-Magazine

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

www.hetherssettherald.weebly.co



HOW TO CONTACT US

HETHERSETT & MULBARTON Safer Neighbourhood Team



Insp Louise BISHOP
Local Policing Commander

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



101 Ext: 5635



Louise.Bishop@norfolk.police.uk



PC Vicky BAILEY
Engagement Officer

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

Contact them for local enquiries that affect your neighbourhood.



101 Ext: 1113



Victoria.Bailey@norfolk.police.uk



PC Stu BARNARD
Beat Manager

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

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



101 Ext: 2386



SNTHethersettandMulbarton@norfolk.police.uk



SNTHethersettandMulbarton@norfolk.pnn.police.uk



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



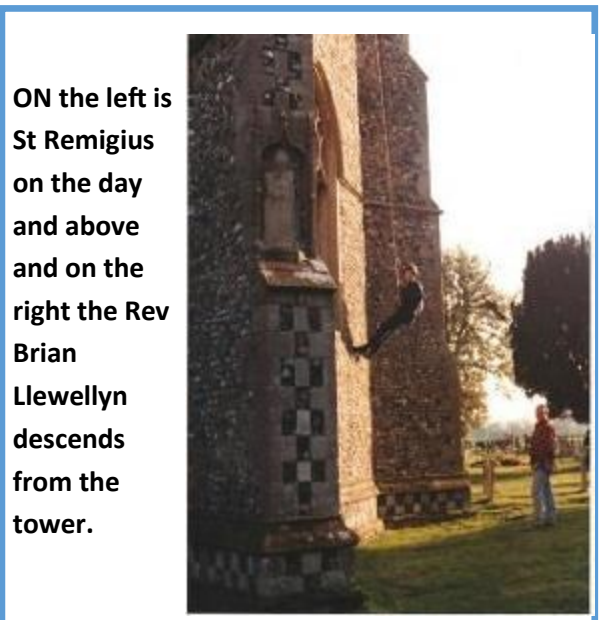
[@SouthNorfPolice](https://twitter.com/SouthNorfPolice)



John Head's Photographic Diary

Church Abseiling Fundraising Event October 1992

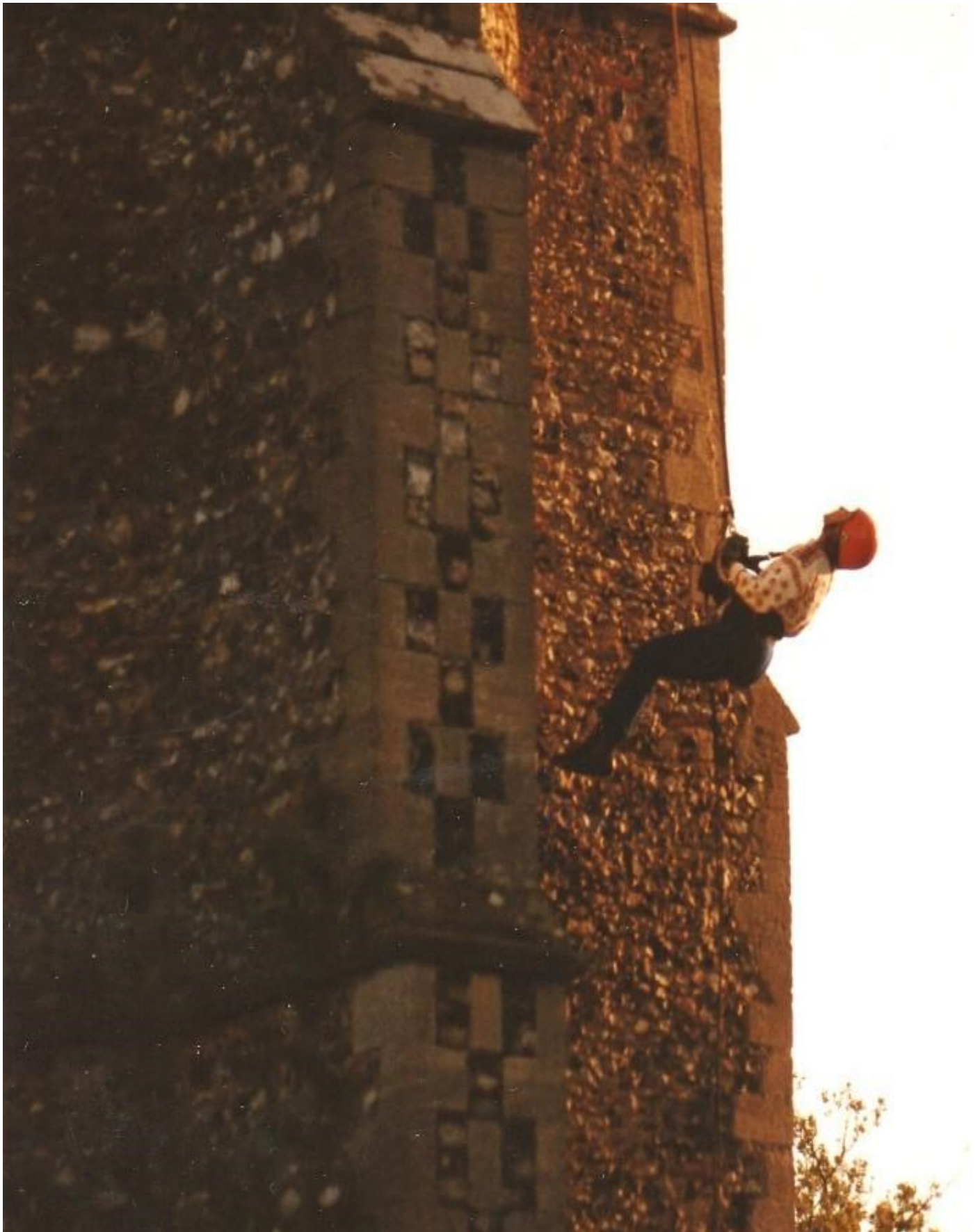
In October 1992, a fundraising event was organised by the Rev. Brian Llewellyn to raise funds for the repair of the steeple on St Remigius Church. Brian, previously the chaplain at RAF Coltishall, decided to organise an abseiling event down the tower of St Remigius Church assisted by some of his former comrades from RAF West Raynham. My heart is in my mouth thinking back to it now as several members of the public participated. My photographs bring back memories of the day.



ON the left is St Remigius on the day and above and on the right the Rev Brian Llewellyn descends from the tower.

On the next page, the late Rosie Hubbard who was a village stalwart descends the tower and goes perilously close to going through the West End window!

John Head's Photographic Diary



ROSIE Hubbard descends the tower rather gingerly

John Head's Photographic Diary

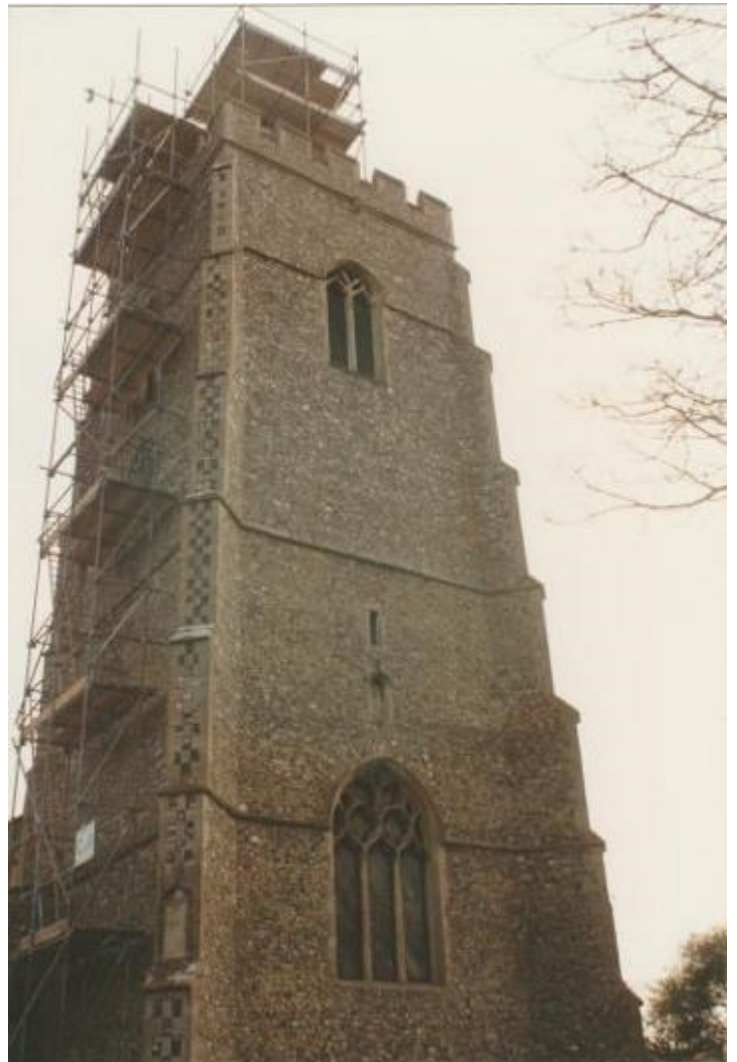


The development of Steepletower as it was then from the tower roof

John Head's Photographic Diary



The repair/replacement of the steeple when the work took place in April 1993



Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue are hosting their 25th anniversary fete at Hethersett Old Hall on Saturday 15th June. The team are all volunteers from throughout Norfolk who search for high risk missing persons.

The Charity was previously based at Whitegates Fire Station in Hethersett but has now "moved across the road" to the Norfolk Constabulary Training Block on the B1172.

The fete will include numerous attractions including a search dog demonstration, vehicles from Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue and the Police, a drone demonstration, live music, food stalls, a raffle, auction and more.

"It would be really great if the people of Hethersett could pop over and see what Lowland Rescue is all about," said the organisers. You can find out more about them at

<https://www.facebook.com/100064852475934/posts/805342728304136/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v>

We will have more on the fete and the charity in coming editions of Hethersett Herald.



Where To Eat In and Around Hethersett

Janey's Village Café

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

Hethersett Queen's Head

12 Norwich Road. Telephone 01603 810226

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

Hethersett King's Head

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

Park Farm Hotel

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

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

Café Kin

Rowan House, Queen's Road, Hethersett.

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

* * *

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.

Groups and Societies

Forget Me Not Café (run by Hethersett Dementia Support)

THE café returned after Christmas with a relaxed morning of chat and refreshments with the added treat of Poppy, aged eight, reading her story "Brownie the Zebbit" which was recently entered into the BBC 500 words competition. This proved very popular and had been requested by one of our members.

On January 16th the Rev Christopher Mallett and his daughter Rachel gave an illustrated talk about their recent visit to South Africa.

On February 6th from 10 am in the Methodist Church Hall there will be a music quiz and a careers' session followed by a soup lunch.

Angel Bishop will be returning on February 20th with more reminiscences from the Age of Cinema in a presentation sponsored by the John Hurt Trust at Cinema City in Norwich. Everyone is welcome.

Further details of the event and the café are available from Anne Steward on 01603 811052.

The café takes place on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Comparing Petrol Prices

	Unleaded	Change	Diesel	Change
Asda, Hall Road, Norwich	135.9	-2p	143.9	NC
Tesco Express, Earlham Road, Norwich	136.9	-1p	143.9	-2p
Sainsbury's, Queen's Road, Norwich	135.9	-3p	143.9	NC
Tesco, Harford Bridges, Norwich	136.9	-1p	143.9	-2p
Sainsbury's Longwater, Norwich	137.9	-1p	144.9	-1p
Abbeygate, Wymondham	149.9	NC	155.9	-4p
Waitrose, Wymondham	149.9	NC	157.9	-2p
Thickthorn Services, Hethersett	145.9	-1p	153.9	-2p

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

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

The above details were taken on January 22nd and may fluctuate during the remainder of the month.

Please Send Us Your Reports

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

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

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

www.hethersettherald.weebly.com

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

petersteward@sky.com.

If you enjoy reading Hethersett Herald please pass details on.

Groups and Societies

First Steps Stay & Play Playgroup

Hethersett Village Hall

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



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

Babies under 6 months are free!

Email: firststepshethersett@outlook.com

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

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

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

Groups and Societies

Hethersett Gardening Club with Leslie Dale—Isldale@yahoo.co.uk

Hethersett Gardening Club Coming Programme	
Wednesday 21st February 2024	'The Eastons go East Again' - John and Lesley Easton, Hethersett
Wednesday 20th March 2024	Annual General Meeting; followed by 'Gardens for Us and Them' - Dr Ian Bedford, Norwich
Wednesday 17th April 2024	'The Secret Life of Plants' - Jim Paine, Walnut Tree Nursery, Attleborough

At our latest meeting, Dr Anne Edwards talked about Ashwellthorpe Lower Wood, owned by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. After briefly outlining the wood's history, she moved on to describing the central areas' annual "block by block" coppicing regime. This method ensures that all the native flora, gains rejuvenating sustenance from a one year in approximately ten years exposure to unfettered sunlight. By so doing this also ensures that the trees coppiced can almost double their natural lifespans.

From the well known Bluebells, through to Dog Violet and Bugle, Anne gave us a photographic extravaganza of plants, fungi, shrubbery, trees, fauna, bats and bird life. What really excited her was the recent return of the Purple Emperor butterfly, and the Silver-washed Fritillary butterfly after an absence of more than 30 years. The photograph opposite was supplied by Dr Anne Edwards.

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

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21st February, when John and Lesley Easton's talk is entitled "The Eastons go East Again" and on Wednesday 20th March when Dr Ian Bedford will be talking about: "Gardens for Us and Them." This will be preceded by the club's Annual General Meeting.



Hethersett Women's Institute *with Margot Markham*

WHEN I realised our speaker this month was from the "fringe project," I didn't know what to expect. A fringe was part of my hairdo as a child. More recently the presenter of "The Traitor" has a fringe. Nothing so trivial. The Fringe Project has been going for over 30 years. It is funded by Norwich City Council. The project works with volunteers and local communities to manage countryside projects within Norwich and its environs. Matt Davis manages it all. He masterminds projects for volunteers to do which help in the maintenance of public open spaces encouraging wildlife and allowing people to enjoy them.

The volunteers are folk like you and me who have the time and energy to help in looking after a range of habitats around the City. It could be Marston Marshes, heathlands, woodlands or grasslands. Matt showed us his happy band at work making hides, bridges, grass cutting, hedge laying and making steps to allow the public access to areas. The work they achieved was simply amazing. I really felt they are unsung heroes. Matt left our meeting with a cake and loads of goodies for his "workers",.

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 date, time and venue to petersteward@sky.com.

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

<https://hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Hethersett Croquet Club meets on the Memorial Playing Field from 2.30 pm on Wednesday and Saturdays during the summer months. 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 are available from Tina Greenhalgh on 01603 810364.

Hethersett Methodist Church offers Wednesday morning coffee from 9 am.

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

Hethersett Forget Me Not Café (under the auspices of Hethersett Dementia Support Group) holds twice monthly meetings in the Methodist Church Hall from 10 am on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10 until 11.30. The group also meets at Hethersett Hall Care Home on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Hethersett Short Mat Bowls Club plays weekly in Hethersett Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons. The club opens at 2.15 pm for a 2.30 pm start and finishes around 4.30 pm.

Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Bowls Club meets on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2 pm during the summer months from April onwards.

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

Hethersett Gardening Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month (apart from December when it is on the second Wednesday) at 7.30 pm in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall.

St Remigius Church Baby and Toddler Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month in St Remigius Church from 10 am until midday.

Hethersett Village Screen shows current films in Hethersett Village Hall at 3 pm on the first Sunday of each month from September until May.

Hethersett Parish Council meets in Hethersett Village Hall at 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month.

THE Facebook group dedicated to the care of hedgehogs and set-up in the memory of Connie Tindale (pictured opposite) is now up and running and fully operational.

"With many thanks to Monaghan Tindale, we've managed to sort out handing over the admin role for this group following the sad passing of its founder Connie Tindale. The group will remain dedicated to the memory of Connie who did so much for hedgehogs in Hethersett. She remains sorely missed but we are sure she would be pleased to see so many remain dedicated to carrying on with the hedgehog conservation work that she cared so much about," the organisers said. The Facebook page is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/916437725144899>



Hethersett Herald What's On and Opening Hours

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

Monday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Tuesday: 9.30 am until 5.30 pm

Wednesday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

Thursday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Friday: 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Saturday: 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Sunday—Closed

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

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



St Remigius Church Baby and Toddler Group

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

**A friendly and fun time for everyone with babies and toddlers.
We look forward to welcoming you at our next session on
TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2024**

**Future Dates: Tuesday 5TH March 2024
 Tuesday 2nd April 2024**

For more information tel: Pauline 01603 812610

Wymondham Music Events Group *Presents*

BOOTLEG
BEE GEE'S

Bootleg BeeGees
Saturday
24th Feb 2024

7:30pm

Tickets: £18



Counterfeit Quo
Sunday
5th May 2024

7:30pm

Tickets: £18

tribute to...
Status Quo
COUNTERFEIT



Wymondham Central Hall

Back Lane, Wymondham, NR18 0QB

For Tickets : Norman and Helen - 01953 600563

George R Reeve Gifts & Stationery, Market Street, Wymondham, NR18 0BB

www.ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-music-events-group

In Aid of 3 local charities - all 2024 profits will be divided between:

Wymondham Dementia Support Group - Charity No. 1143347

Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper - Charity No. 1089872

Star Throwers Cancer Support - Charity No. 1162237

At your Library

in Hethersett



Regular Events at Hethersett Library

Knit, Stitch and Natter - Mondays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

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

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

Colour Me Calm - Wednesdays, 11 am - 12 pm

Just a Cuppa - Wednesdays, 11 am - 12 pm

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

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

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

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

Browse all events online by scanning the QR code

Alternatively, speak to staff or call us at 0344 800 8020



Keep Warm and Well this Winter



Hethersett Library

40 Queens Rd.
Hethersett
NR9 3DB

Staffed hours

Monday 1:30pm - 7pm
Wednesday 11am - 7pm
Thursday 1:30pm - 7pm
Friday 1:30pm - 7pm
Saturday 11am - 4pm

Visit your local library to pick up FREE Winter essentials

Keep Warm and Well

Help yourself to a blanket and hot water bottle.

Free hot drinks are available (see library for times).



Toiletries Bag

Bag contains: deodorant, shampoo, bodywash and toothpaste.

Adults and children's toothbrushes are available to help yourself to or ask a member of staff.



Tricky Period

Bag contains: 1 x pack of regular and 1 x pack of super or night pads.

Sustainable items are available while stocks last (including: period cups, washable pads, period pants).



If you can't see what you need, please ask a member of staff.



Hethersett
ACADEMY

LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL

**Music and Lyrics by
Laurence O'Keefe and Neil Benjamin**

**Book by
Heather Hach**

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown
and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

14 March 2024 at 7pm

15 March 2024 at 7pm

16 March 2024 at 3pm & 7pm

£9 Adults / £5 Students / Under-11s free

www.hethersettacademy.org/bookings

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI
www.mtishows.co.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*

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

Staffed Hours

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

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

borrow discover connect

 **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 first Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

HETHERSETT METHODIST CHURCH

The Singing Fellowship invites you to an

EASTER MUSIC AND TEA AFTERNOON

on Friday 15th March, 2.30 pm

*There will be the singing of hymns and songs,
Bible readings and poems and of course
Tea and Cake.*

Do come along and join with us -

A warm welcome awaits



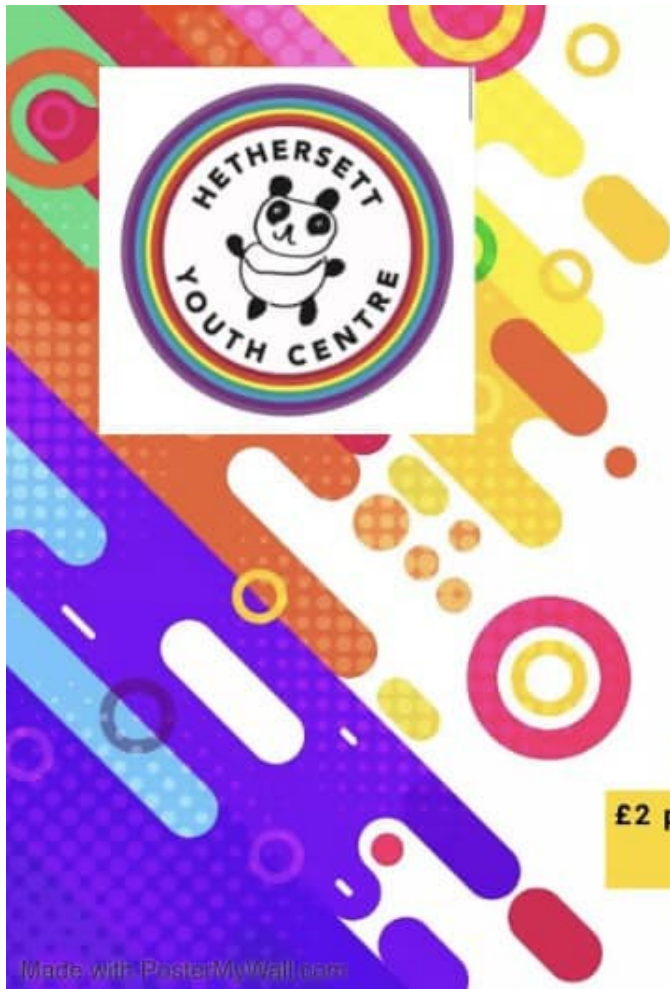
Hethersett Village Screen
Community Cinema

In association with  Dawson's Law

 Hethersett Village Screen
 @hethersettvs

Sunday 7th January 2024	The Old Oak (15)	All screenings at 3pm
Sunday 4th February	A Haunting In Venice (12A)	
Sunday 3rd March	The Great Escaper (12A)	Hethersett Village Hall
Sunday 7th April (12)	Barbie	All tickets £5 ea.
Sunday 12th May (15)	Oppenheimer	

Hethersett Herald What's On



www.hethersett-yc.co.uk

Back Lane, Hethersett
NR9 3JJ

Youth Club

During term time

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

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

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

 @Hethersett Jubilee Youth Centre

Made with PosterMyWall.com

YOU can read more about Hethersett along with Little and Great Melton in our sister publication Good News which can be delivered to your door towards 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 Benefice—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 individual edition costs just 60p and an annual subscription is just £5 for 12 issues.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list and take out a subscription, please contact Kim Arnall on 01953 308309.





Knit & Natter

Join us for a natter whilst you knit!

Fortnightly from Thursday 19th October • 10.30am

Come along to our weekly Knit & Natter group, enjoy a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.

Light refreshments are available.



Hethersett Hall Care Home

Norwich Road, Hethersett, Norfolk, NR9 3AP

Tel: 01603 810478 • www.barchester.com

Residential Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks



**HETHERSETT
ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION TEAM**



Bringing back the buzz!

Community litter pick dates 2024

- Saturday 24th February, 2pm - Hethersett Village Hall
- Saturday 16th March, 10am - Methodist Church, Hethersett



hethersettcommunityprojects@gmail.com

Hethersett Herald What's On

Hethersett Social Club Opening Hours

Current opening hours are:

Monday *Closed*

Tuesday 7pm - 11pm

Wednesday 7pm - 11pm

Thursday 7pm - 11pm

Friday 5pm - 11.30pm

Saturday 12pm - Midnight

Sunday 12pm - 8pm



Business Opening Hours

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

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

Hethersett Butchers in Great Melton Road is open from 9 am to 6.30 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 9 am until 3 pm on Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays and Mondays. 01603 810293. www.thehethersettbutchers.co.uk. E mail hethersettbutcher@btinternet.com and Facebook [@thehethersettbutchersltd](https://www.facebook.com/thehethersettbutchersltd).

Podcast On The Way

To mark our 100th edition, Sophie Stanley is currently working on a new podcast for Hethersett Herald. The podcast will feature news and views taken from Herald.

Work on this project is in its infancy but it is hoped to release further details of where and how you can receive the podcast during February.

It is hoped that the Hethersett Herald podcast will become a welcome addition to our coverage of the village going forward.

Don't forget that the online magazine is published either at the end or at the beginning of each month. Please support us by passing on details to anyone you feel would be interested in hearing the latest news from our village.



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

Killing Off A Legend And Bringing Him Back To Life

Regular columnist John Head looks at the premature demise of a detective legend and how he was brought back to life.

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed the recent television production of Killing Sherlock with presenter Lucy Worsley. It tells of how Arthur Conan Doyle, the author of Sherlock Holmes, resolved to kill off his 'money-spinning' detective.

It was a classic 'love-hate' relationship where the author resented his fictional detective being more popular than himself, hence preventing the author being appreciated for his talents on other matters.

In the short story, 'The Final Problem', Conan Doyle came up with a 'whizzo idea' to kill off his creation, once and for all, or so he thought.

To enable him to do this, Conan Doyle had created an arch-enemy of Holmes, a criminal mastermind by the name of Professor James Moriarty who Holmes finally confronts at the top of the Reichenbach Falls in Meiringen, Switzerland. Holmes assistant, Dr Watson finds signs of hand-to-hand combat between Holmes and Moriarty at the cliff edge of the waterfall which led to both men plummeting to their deaths.

I was absorbed by Lucy Worsley's thoughts and historical evidence behind Sherlock Holmes and his author as I can remember, as a young boy, how real this ace detective was and gave little thought to the author behind him.

In 2002 I took the opportunity to visit Meiringen and the Reichenbach Falls on a very damp and overcast day. I thought it such an appropriate place for a conflict between good and evil to be staged and, of course, Meiringen makes every opportunity to promote this piece of fictional fortune.

The Aare Gorge

The Reichenbach Falls is about 20 minutes hike from the natural wonder of the Aare Gorge. The top photograph opposite is of the Aare Gorge and below that the river to Meiringen.

On page 76 you can see the Reichenbach Falls from various angles and on page 77 the place where Holmes and Moriarty fell which is denoted by the white star.

Further on you will see images of the statue of Holmes. The statue, like the detective is full of mystery. It has symbols embedded in it, visible and hidden. All lead to the 56 stories and four novels.



The Aftermath

Following a public outcry about the death of Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle saw an opportunity to bring Holmes back as he wanted to write about the legendary great hound on Dartmoor and did not want to create another detective. The Hound of the Baskervilles, as Conan Doyle emphasised, was not a resurrection but a reminiscence.

However, the resurrection came two years later in 1903 following lucrative offers from American and British publishers. The detective's survival at the Reichenbach Falls was attributed to his skill at 'baritsu', a Japanese form of wrestling from which, together with his mountaineering ability, he overcame Moriarty.

Holmes therefore lived through a further 32 short stories and three novels. However, following the death of his son, 'Kingsley' in 1918 from pneumonia during the Spanish flu epidemic, Conan Doyle became immersed in spiritualism. This was reflected in several of his Case-Book writings (1921 to 1927) which involved the supernatural and the occult.

The Case-Book writings, whilst eagerly read, never achieved the popularity of the earlier super sleuth writings. The public preferred the original Sherlock, with his incredible ability to gather together evidence based on his observations and powers of deduction, rather than being influenced by Conan Doyle's spiritualism which left some stories without the true ring of Sherlock Holmes and one bordering on science fiction.

The Sherlock Holmes the public enjoyed was achieved in the film industry by the appearance of Basil Rathbone as the ace detective. This set the standard for his regeneration in future films, for example, with the legendary Peter Cushing in the Hound of the Baskervilles until the television industry took over with actors such as Benedict Cumberbatch.

Thankfully Sir Arthur Conan Doyle failed to kill off Sherlock and this did not diminish his status in any way as an author of other works, for example, *The Lost World* (1912), *The Land of Mists* (1926), and *The History of Spiritualism* (1926). The latter two were published owing to his involvement in spiritualism. He spread the word of spiritualism across the world by these works and also by public speaking.

With the public, Sherlock Holmes popularity never waned and will probably be regenerated as many times as Dr Who.

Photographs:

All from the John Head Collection except for;

Basil Rathbone: Wikipedia

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: by Walter Benington 1914: Wikipedia



Looking down at Meiringen from the Reichenbach Falls



The author's wife Ros at Conan Doyle Place in Meiringen in 2002.





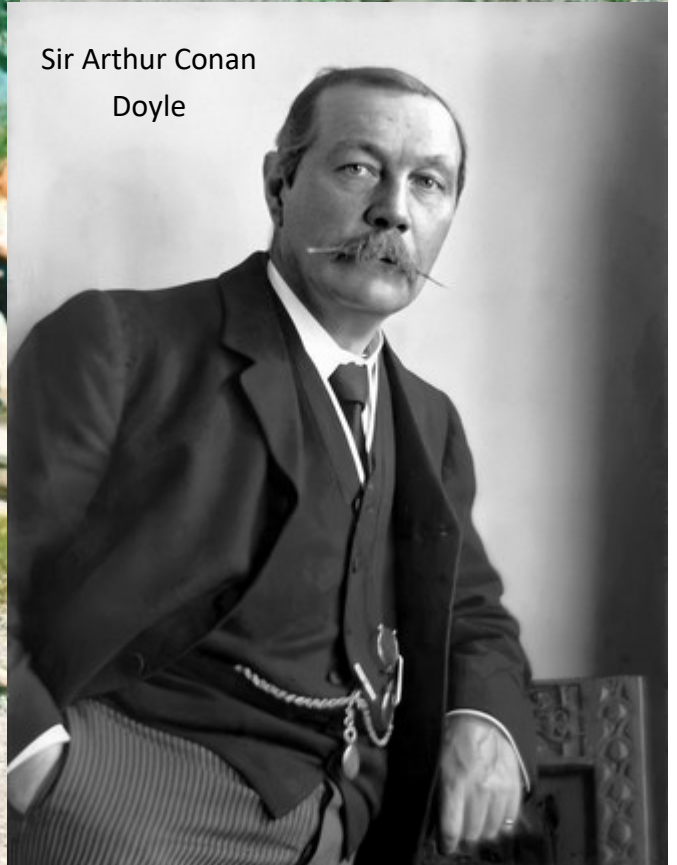
Above a white star indicates the place where Holmes and Moriarty fell to their deaths. Next to that is The Reichenbach falls from Meiringen.



The Sherlock Hotel and 221B Baker Street, Meiringen.



The plaque near the statue at Meiringen commemorating Holmes vanquishing Moriarty, the Napoleon of crime and the statue of Sherlock Holmes.



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Basil Rathbone arguably the best ever
Sherlock Holmes



Fiendish Conundrum Answers

THIS year's Christmas conundrum set by Mel Perkins proved super tricky. Mel awarded a prize for the best score for entries sent to him before the closing date in January.

Most years at least one person gets everything correct but this year the top score was 38 and a half. You can see how many you got right by checking the answers in our grid below.

Just a reminder that all the answers related to either cats or dogs—real or fictitious with 20 of each.

NO	Mel Perkins' Christmas Cunundrum Answers	ANSWER
1	A player for Huddersfield Town	Yorkshire Terrier
2	A resident of Kabul	Afghan
3	A safe pair of gloves catching red ball for England	Jack Russell
4	A young Scottish girl, for instance	Lassie
5	Alice in Wonderland's county	Cheshire
6	Silver university inside a jam container	Jaguar
7	Changes garb here with a Jungle Book character	Bagheera
8	Did he and Dick Dastardly catch the pigeon in their flying machine?	Muttley
9	Did he get up Sooty's chimney?	Sweep
10	Did Stallone have a part in Looney Tunes?	Sylvester
11	Don't tell the truth after pass through mountains	Collie
12	Eastern Canada where scientists start to work	Labrador
13	Bright playing with pride	Lioness
14	Famous footballer Lionel goes to A&E to get sorted	Siamese
15	Gets bother after creating Liquorice Allsorts	Basset Hound
16	He especially liked to bounce with Winnie	Tigger
17	Head of a company changes before going up for auction	Ocelot
18	Chains at Cromer Golf Club, we hear	Lynx
19	Heard on a bridge over troubled water	Boxer
20	Homer likes to disturb her peaceful life	Snowball II
21	In the pink with Peter Sellers	Panther
22	Jerry was his nemesis	Tom
23	Lawman in US cartoon in 1960s	Deputy Dawg
24	Member of Argentina rugby team	Puma
25	Mother's had a marital row	Mastiff
26	No tale to tell for chap before ten	Manx
27	One of CI?	Dalmatian
28	Sailed to find the origin of species	Beagle
29	Sang with a little help from his friends before mixing Spain and the Spanish	Cocker Spaniel
30	Say goodbye twice in Rome	Chow Chow
31	Seen in the chemist's pantomime	Puss
32	Sounding very throaty	Husky
33	Star sign that gets right inside jotter	Leopard
34	Taken for walks in North-west Mexico?	Chihuahua
35	The King of the West End	Lion
36	This cat would now come from Myanmar	Burmese
37	Tyrannosaurus from Exeter?	Devon Rex
38	Use Google but replace two fag-ends with power and start to depart	Poodle
39	Watched his flocks by night in Bavaria	German Shepherd
40	We hear that he wins unfairly at cards	Cheetah

Hethersett Herald

HETHERSETT Herald is published electronically towards the end of each month via the Hethersett Village website at:

www.hethersettherald.weebly.com

Hethersett Herald is a non profit making and independent publication providing news, views and information about Hethersett. It has no affiliation to any specific group, organisation or political party. 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. 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 and Owner—Peter Steward: petersteward@sky.com.

Associate Editor: Sarah Lawrence.

Regular contributors—Sarah Lawrence, John Head and Sophie Stanley.

Proof Reader—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. Also use this address if you would like to be added to our mailing list to be informed of when a new edition is available.