



**A picture tells a thousand words, or so the saying goes.**

**So we thought rather than bring you a barrage of words this year we would simply get out and about with our cameras and bring you a pictorial record of just some of the events we were able to attend this Christmas.**

**Hethersett does Christmas well. No, Hethersett does Christmas very well as we are sure you will be able to appreciate in this pre-Christmas edition of Hethersett Herald.**

**The volunteer staff and all the contributors to Hethersett Herald would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and we hope you enjoy our coverage of the festive season.**

**We will see you again in 2024 when the next edition will be our 100th.**

## Lighting Up Hethersett

*By Peter Steward*

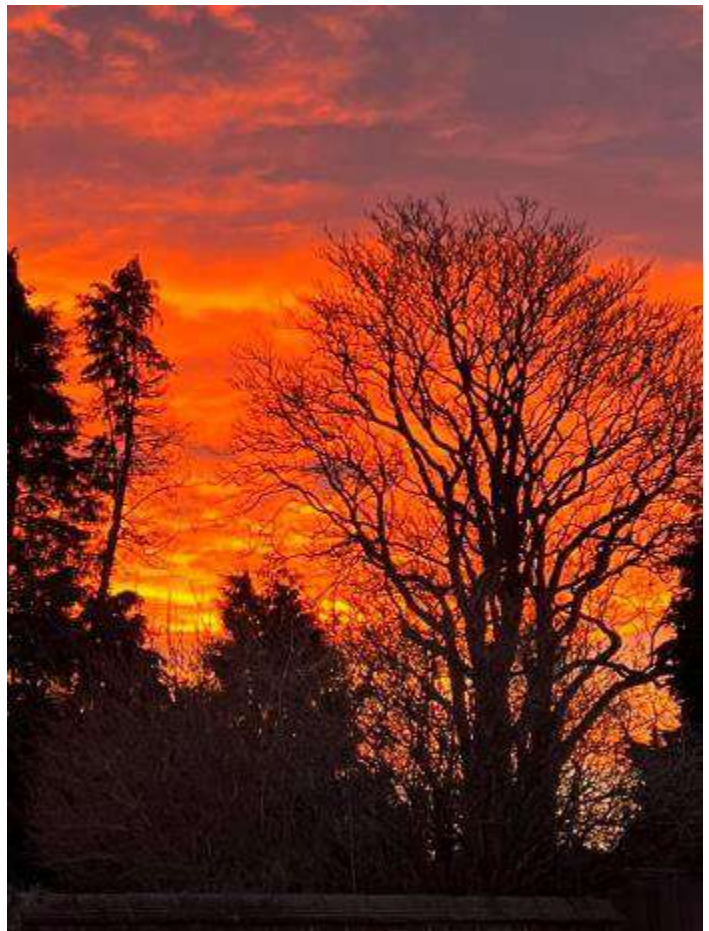
**IT'S not just Christmas that will be lighting up Hethersett this year after plans were announced by the parish council to replace sodium street light bulbs with up to date LEDs that will bring a drastic cut in both the cost of electricity and the village's carbon footprint.**

The December meeting of Hethersett Parish Council agreed plans to make the changes in four phases with 60 bulbs being changed at a time, beginning in February with phase one. At the same time a number of corroded poles will be replaced or repaired.

Currently the council, which is responsible for street lighting, is facing a bill of over £30,000 a year but it is hoped that the new LED lights will save over 80 per cent of that cost and cut the village's carbon footprint by over 76 per cent.

When they were originally put in, the sodium bulbs were state of the art but have long been overtaken by energy saving LED lights. The decision to replace the bulbs was made after a comprehensive survey of lighting in the village by parish councillor Jenny Walpole and her husband David who were thanked by the council for their work.

Plans will also see lights in the village dimmed to 50% brightness between midnight and 5.30 am. You can read more on this story by turning to page four.



**THIS beautiful sunrise was captured by Hethersett solicitor Salena Dawson on her morning dog walk in December and was taken at the junction of Queen's Road, Great Melton Road and Henstead Road. You can find other sunrise images from Salena elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald.**

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### Film Cheque With A Heart

#### Hello Everyone

Welcome to our pre-Christmas edition of Hethersett Herald. Don't be confused by the fact that it says January 2024 on the cover as we certainly aren't into the New Year yet. We always like to get the January edition out before Christmas to cover the great events in our village leading up to the big day.

In this edition you will find lots of photographs and details of the lead up to Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone that has contributed to Herald throughout 2023. We seem to be receiving more and more information and articles from the community and this really is your magazine.

In 2024 we will be trying to make more and more people aware of our existence as our village continues to grow. So look out for some colourful posters during the year.

We also have a new Facebook page which has been designed by regular contributor Sophie Stanley and you can read about this later in this edition.

The most important way of promoting ourselves is through you. Please pass on details of Hethersett Herald and how to access it and remember we come out on the last day of the month (except for Christmas when we are out a week early).

The next edition will be our 100th and we will be looking back at the eight and a half years that we have been in existence and bringing you some of the major stories from that time.

All that's left is for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and we will see you in the new year.

*Peter*

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Youngsters from Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club have come tops in a winter indoor competition and returned home with a trophy.....Page 36

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## Another Dip Into The Past

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## Street Lighting Upgrades To Start

(Continued from the front page)

THE phased upgrading of street lights in Hethersett as outlined on the front page is scheduled to begin in February.

Initially 60 street lights will be changed to LED as Hethersett Parish Council's Deputy Clerk Sara White explained:

"The parish council has successfully reached the point where we have instructed the streetlight maintenance company to upgrade 60 street lights to the LED variety, with 50% dimming from midnight to 5.30 am. Work is expected to commence in February and marks the beginning of the phased upgrading of the street lights.

"We appreciate your patience with the growing number of street lights which are not working and these are first on the list to be upgraded. Over the next three years, each phase will see a complete upgrade of every street light in Hethersett to the LED variety. Upon completion of all phases, there will be a significant reduction to the council's carbon footprint which makes up part of the council's green charter."

At the December meeting of Hethersett Parish Council, new council clerk Penny Hubble outlined the plans fully. She told members that currently the village emits 17 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide of which the lighting accounts for 11.7 tonnes, making street lighting 69% of the emission. The village has 226 street lights, costing the council £30,396 a year in energy costs. Many of the 226 columns are over 25 years old and bases have become corroded. "Sodium lighting is unreliable with the council receiving a constant stream of reported faults," Penny Hubble said.

When completed, the new LEDs will reduce the carbon footprint of lighting from 11.7 tonnes a year to 2.8 tonnes—a reduction of 76%. It will also cut the cost of lighting by 86% with considerable savings being made once the work has been completed in an estimated three years' time.

The council's green charter can be viewed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14Q4aWEjwQKpDAOZEnpUfbZoCv-WROoQI/view?usp=sharing>.



# Christmas in Hethersett

A pictorial run through of just some of the events in Hethersett—Christmas 2023.



## Hethersett Hall's Christmas Fair

Hethersett Hall organised a Christmas Fair for residents, family, friends and the whole community.

Every kind of craft was on display in the foyer, the coffee lounge, the library and many more areas.

You can view photographs of the event on this and the next page. We hope they help you to get into the Christmas spirit.



# Christmas in Hethersett



# Christmas in Hethersett

Finnbar's Lights in Park Green



# Christmas in Hethersett



## Finnbar's Lights

MORE photographs of this year's display of lights in Park Green in aid of the Finnbar's Force Charity which we featured details of in the previous edition of Hethersett Herald.

Meanwhile the charity is looking for more volunteers as they mentioned on social media.

"Thank you to all our volunteers who came out and helped at the switch on of the lights on such a cold evening. We couldn't do it without them. If you feel you could spare a few hours to help volunteer at events please get in touch."

The charity is also looking for a treasurer and more trustees:

"You don't need to have any qualifications to be a treasurer but we are looking for someone who understands financial planning and accounts. If you feel you could make a difference and would like to be involved in a very rewarding role, please get in touch to find out more."

To contact Finnbar's Force visit their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/finnbarsforce> or the website at:

<https://finnbarsforce.org/>

Over the next three pages you can see photographs taken at the children's party organised by the Friends of Hethersett Library. This took place in the Hethersett Hub on the Memorial Playing Field at the beginning of December.





# Christmas in Hethersett



# Christmas in Hethersett



# Christmas in Hethersett



The images here and on the two previous pages were taken at the Friends of Hethersett Library's annual children's Christmas party which was held in the new Hethersett Hub on the memorial Playing Field. You can read about the event and the work of the Friends group elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald.



# Christmas in Hethersett



**Jabbawocky Craft  
Fair at Park Farm  
Hotel on Sunday  
December 3rd**



## The Meaning of Christingle

HETHERSETT Methodist Church and Hethersett Parish Church combined for a Christingle service in the Methodist Church led by the Methodist Minister, The Rev Steve Cullis, Anglian Minister Rev Linda Ricketts and Michael Green.

Over 100 people of all ages learnt about the meaning of Christingle and made their own to take home with them.

There were plenty of refreshments to help everyone get into the festive spirit.

Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top. The idea is to bring communities together.

Christingles are usually held from the end of November through to February (Advent to Candlemas), with Christmas Eve being a particularly popular time for services. During the service, each person takes a Christingle and the candles are all lit to create a warm, magical glow symbolising the light of Christ and bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian story:

- The orange represents the world.
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ.
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations.
- The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

Our second photograph on this page was taken at the Christingle Service.

# Christmas in Hethersett



## Christmas Greetings

HETHERSETT & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER



### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

- 10-30am Christmas Communion – Hethersett Methodist Church
- 3-30pm Crib Service – All Saints, Little Melton
- 4-00pm United Crib Service – St. Remigius, Hethersett
- 6-30pm Candlelit All Age Communion – All Saints, Great Melton
- 11-30pm Midnight Communion – St. Remigius, Hethersett

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

- 9-30am Family Communion – All Saints, Little Melton
- 10-30am Christmas Service for All Ages – Hethersett Methodist Church

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December

- 10-30am Benefice Communion – St. Remigius, Hethersett

# Christmas in Hethersett



Staff from Hethersett Hall Care Home got into the Christmas spirit by dressing up as elves. "Red and green should always be seen when elves are about," said the organisers and the event also raised money for Alzheimer's Society. In addition the recent art exhibition held at the home and featured in the previous Hethersett Herald raised over £200 for Alzheimer's Research.

## Christmas Litter Cheer

MINCE Pies, mulled Wine, cakes, biscuits and fruit juices.

You might have thought that we were describing a village party. But you would be wrong. It was the reward for keen litter pickers once again tidying up the village a week or so before Christmas as one of the organisers Geoff Dyett explained:

"Mince pies, mulled wine, cakes, biscuits and fruit juices. A Party? A Christmas Party? A celebration? Well all of them I guess. Seventeen bags of litter were collected by 30 volunteers.

"A huge thank you to Tesco for arranging disposal and for helping me stack the rubbish. You did Hethersett proud.

Thank you so much. You all fully deserved the eats and drink at the end."



# Christmas in Hethersett

## Charity Cheque Has a Real Heart



HETHERSETT Village Screen has presented the Hethersett Hearts charity with a cheque for £500.

The money was handed over by James Utting from Village Screen to Phillippa Bond from Hethersett Hearts (they are pictured above).

“Our friends at Hethersett Village Screen have donated an amazing £500 to Hethersett Hearts to help with our food hampers for local families at Christmas. We are very grateful as it meant that we could help so many more families at Christmas,” Phillippa said.



**Christmas Community lunch at Woodcote which was organised by the Hethersett Hearts Charity. A roast dinner with all the trimmings.**



# Christmas in Hethersett

Hethersett VC Primary School Christmas  
Fair—December 2nd



# Christmas in Hethersett



THE Christmas Fair at Hethersett VC Primary School raised £2,516.41 and the Friends of Woodside Primary and Nursery School raised £1,744.60 from their Christmas Fayre.

But best of all everyone had festive fun with gingerbread houses and even some fake snow to bring the village to life.

On the next page you can read Herald Associate Editor Sarah Lawrence's report on the Woodside event.



# Successful Christmas Fayre at School

**Hethersett Herald Associate Editor and Chairman of the Friends of Woodside Primary and Nursery School Sarah Lawrence reports on a very successful Christmas Fayre at the school.**

AFTER a few months of planning, on 1st December, the time had come for the Friends of Woodside Primary and Nursery School's Christmas Fayre. This truly was a labour of love for the FOWS, with our evenings and weekends taken up with planning, sorting, buying and wrapping, and our houses taken over with raffle, tombola and lucky dip prizes.

As I say in my Sarah's World column, being on the FOWS is a family affair. It couldn't not be. Our families muck in (whether they like it or not) and help with all the prep and on the day itself. Partners, children, parents. Everyone's involved!

This was my first Christmas Fayre after taking on the role of chairman in November, so I was desperate for it to go well. I can't go any further without giving a big thank you to Rosey L, Secretary of the FOWS and a good friend of mine, for her guidance, hard work and endless amounts of great ideas.

She led the way on a number of occasions, using a large amount of her own (and her family's) time to email businesses requesting donations, sort a brand-new concept/stall for us and make signs for it, amongst other things. The Fayre really wouldn't have been as successful without her, and I hope she knows how much the FOWS and I appreciate her.

The Fayre was really well attended, but I'm told it was less hectic than last year. We were lucky enough to have been given the use of some classrooms this year, so we used one as a buggy park which worked quite well. This meant that there was a bit more room to move.

Don't get me wrong, it was hectic at times. The hall was a hive of activity and, at the beginning, you couldn't really get near the tombola because of the people, although I was told that in time it did die down. The tombola is always one of the most popular stalls at our events.

We were lucky enough to have lots of volunteers this year to man stalls, FOWS members, ex-students and teachers who all kindly volunteered their time.

Apart from the tombola, other stalls included the grand raffle, lucky dip, cafe, parcel game, biscuit decorating (with ingredients donated and organised by Christina M-H), face painting, temporary tattoos and Rosey's baby, Santa's Shop. Santa's Shop was an idea by Rosey, where we requested donations of new mini toiletries from the public, along with small chocolate bars. Children could then put together a pocket money priced gift for a loved one, which they could then place in a coloured paper bag, sealed with a sticker, so that was the wrapping done.

That and the biscuit decorating were brand new ideas for us this year and both went down really well. A huge thanks goes to Christina and Rosey for both the ideas and organising them so well.



This year, as a committee, we felt much more supported by the headteacher. Mrs Mainwaring started at the school in September, but she is more than making her mark. She came to our AGM and was so supportive of us and grateful for the work we put in. She even mucked in to sell raffle tickets. It really did mean a lot to have her there to see what we've been working so hard on.

Lastly, I need to say a few more thank yous. Thank you the FOWS volunteers, their families, the staff and the year seven ex-students who all helped to run stalls. We literally couldn't have run the fayre without you. Thank you to Kerry and Laura for attending all the meetings and being there to bounce ideas off. Thank you to our treasurer Jo for dealing with our finances and to Helen for helping on the night.

Thank you to all of the businesses who contributed raffle prizes, or items that we used. Thank you to the parents of the children at the school who put up with our numerous requests for tombola donations, help and cakes and finally, thank you to everyone who came.

With thanks to our amazing community, we raised a total of £1,744.60 for the Friends of Woodside charity. Thank you to you all, watch this space for details of the Summer Fayre coming soon.

Our gallery of photographs on this and the next page were taken by Sarah.



Photographs taken at the Woodside Fayre.







SANTA took time off from his other duties for a tour of Hethersett arranged in partnership with his friends at Hethersett VC Primary School in Queen's Road.

Accompanied by numerous elves and supporters, Santa started out at the Finnbar's Force lights in Park Green before being driven around the village on December 23rd. Hundreds came out to say hello and the school's Friends' group collected £270 in their buckets and this will be divided between Finnbar's Force and the school. Plans have already been made for the hugely popular event to be held again next year.



We are very grateful to Jonathan Looe and the Friends of Hethersett VC Primary School for the photographs that appear on this and the previous page.





LITTLE Melton Church was full for a special pre-Christmas event featuring the Norwich Citadel Band of the Salvation Army. The festive evening raised £600 which was divided equally between church funds and the salvation army band.



# Christmas Opening Hours

Opening hours for Boots The Chemist are below.

Please note that Hethersett Surgery will be closed on Thursday 4th January and Friday 5th January.


Date	Opening Hours
Saturday 23rd December	8.30 am - 17.00 pm
Christmas Eve	CLOSED
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED
Wednesday 27th December	9.00 am - 18.00 pm
Thursday 28th December	9.00 am - 18.00 pm
Friday 29th December	9.00 am - 18.00 pm
Saturday 30th December	8.30 am - 17.30 pm
New Year's Eve	CLOSED
New Year's Day	CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd January	9.00 am - 18.00 pm
Wednesday 3rd January	9.00 am - 18.00 pm

# Christmas Opening Hours

Hethersett Post Office opening hours

Christmas Eve	CLOSED
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Boxing Day	CLOSED
Wednesday 27 Dec	9:30 - 1:00 / 1:30 - 5:30
Thursday 28 Dec	9:30 - 1:00 / 1:30 - 5:30
Friday 29 Dec	9:30 - 1:00 / 1:30 - 5:30
Saturday 30 Dec	9:30 - 2:30
New Year's Eve	CLOSED
New Year's Day	CLOSED
Tuesday 2 Jan	9:30 - 1:00 / 1:30 - 5:30
Wednesday 3 Jan	9:30 - 1:00 / 1:30 - 5:30

We'd like to wish all our customers a Happy Christmas, from all of us at Post Office.



## 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](http://www.membershipmatters.coop).

## 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 Norfolk County Council

## Changes to Bin Collections

THERE will be the usual changes to bin collection days over the Christmas period.

The table below outlines these changes. There will be no garden waste bin collections from 25th December to 5th January with garden waste collections recommencing on Monday 8th January.

Normal Collection Day	New Collection Day
Tuesday 26th December	Wednesday 27th December
Wednesday 27th December	Thursday 28th December
Thursday 28th December	Friday 29th December
Friday 29th December	Saturday 30th December

**Hethersett playgroup is on the lookout for toys and in particular musical instruments.**

**The group took to social media to say it would be happy to receive donations or would be happy to pay for toys or musical instruments.**

**Particularly needed are a new keyboard, baby doll clothes, books suitable for very young children, play food for a toy shop or kitchen, a mini trampoline.**

**Lisa Northfield from the playgroup can be contacted via the Given in Kindness-Hethersett Facebook page.**



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.



IN the December issue of Hethersett Herald, Becky Irwing talked about surviving Christmas for those with eating disorders. In the second of her two articles she gives some ideas to help people survive Christmas who are suffering from anxiety and stress.

Becky is a British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP) accredited CBT Therapist, former registered mental health nurse and Yoga instructor. She specialises in supporting women with eating disorders, disordered eating or body image difficulties. However, she has a wealth of experience supporting all anxiety, depression and trauma presentations. She has lived experience of an eating disorder and has ADHD.

Becky lives in Hethersett and delivers one to one therapy sessions remotely and in person in Wymondham.



# Coping With Stress at Christmas

LAST month I wrote about coping over the Christmas period with a loved one with an eating disorder. I wanted to follow this up with a more general post on managing anxiety over the festive period.

Most people feel anxious at times. It's particularly common to experience some anxiety while coping with stressful events or changes, Christmas, New Year and the whole festive period can bring on anxious feelings.

A lot of my work is focused around having compassion, building your compassion muscle (towards yourself) and putting in boundaries to protect your energy and get you through to the New Year and beyond.

So what do I mean by building your compassion muscle? Often anxiety will manifest when feeling overloaded, overwhelmed or feeling you can't keep up with the pace at this time of year. Offering ourselves kindness and relinquishing the need to do more, be more productive can be the most compassionate things we can do.

Building compassion towards ourselves can be difficult at the beginning, but the more you practice, the easier it will become, a bit like training a muscle. I find being thankful or writing a short gratitude piece i.e three things I'm grateful for every day, can start to foster this appreciation and kindness.

Winter is a time of inner reflection, slowing down and being with ourselves. Please don't fight your need for rest. If you do, this can manifest as anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, tearful or low in mood. Supplementing with Vitamin D is a great choice and recommended by the NICE clinical guidelines to be taken from October-March, as most UK adults are deficient in Vitamin D at this time of year.

Dark, cold nights can really amplify loneliness and isolation, as well as loss and grief. I do not have a large family. Many people do not have an advert or instagram perfect family picture for Christmas. You may be experiencing the anniversary or the first Christmas without a love one. We do not always have images that reflect that our families may be small, big, close, or not close. So again offering ourselves compassion and not expecting too much of ourselves at this time will help. This may involve saying 'no' to certain commitments or cancelling plans if you feel you need to have space for yourself.

Finding joy in little moments - drawing attention to being present in the moment when you are spending time with yourself or loved ones. Whether it's a conversation with someone you haven't see for a long time or waking up on Christmas morning and spending time with a hot beverage, or taking the dog for a long walk come Boxing Day, notice when you do feel good in the moment.

Sitting with difficult emotions - all emotions are messages and it can be tempting to soothe, numb or find ways to cope that avoid us sitting with these emotions e.g. loss, grief, anger, frustration. These feelings will pass or change. How to do this?

- Step 1: Label the emotion. Start with a breath and try on some words to the emotion you are experiencing
- Step 2: Locate the emotion
- Step 3: Ask non judgmental questions to understand the emotion
- Step 4: Decide whether to act from the emotion or let it go.

Finally, New Year's Resolutions can feel big, unwieldy and overwhelming if you make them too big. I prefer to not make resolutions but to make New Year's Intentions - for 2023, mine was to have more 'pleasure, not pressure'. So it's about the overall feeling I wanted to have, which then meant I took more action e.g. going part time in my job, making more time for pleasurable activities like walking and saying no to activities which caused me a level of pressure. I then reviewed this intention quarterly. My Intention for 2024 will be 'health and wealth'. What will yours be?

If you are struggling over the festive period with your mental health or feel you are in crisis, do check out the following contact numbers:

REST centres – Provide support to anyone, bringing together mental health support, local services and a place where everyone can feel welcome: <https://restnorwich.co.uk/>

Talking Therapies – for people in need of support if they feel continually depressed or anxious. Please contact: Wellbeing – 0300 123 1503 (Monday to Friday

8am to 8pm, excluding Bank Holidays) or visit [www.wellbeingnands.co.uk](http://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk)

Mind – Mind offer help whenever you need it through their information, advice and local services.

Rethink – Rethink helps anyone directly affected by mental illness along and those caring for people affected by mental illness. Email at [info@rethink.org](mailto:info@rethink.org) or call 0300 5000 927

Shout is the free and confidential 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope. Text 85258 for support whenever you need it.

SANEline is a national out of hours mental health helpline offering specialist emotional support, guidance and information to anyone affected by mental health illness. Open every day of the year between 4 pm and 10 pm – call 0300 304 7000.

Samaritans – You can talk to Samaritans anytime on 116 123 or visit [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org).

Stay Alive app, developed by Grassroots Suicide Prevention, is a suicide prevention resource for the UK, packed full of useful information and tools to help you stay safe in crisis. Download the Stay Alive app from your app store.

# Hawks Presentation Evening

By Mel Perkins MBE

HETHERSETT Hawks/Yellow Brick Mortgages staged their end of season presentation evening at the new Hethersett Hub on the Memorial Playing Field.

Over 75 members, families and friends attended to celebrate another successful and busy season which included the crowning of seven Norfolk champions, one South East Grand Prix champion and a national champion - Nyla El-Labany at Under-8 Girls.

In total 47 members took part in competitions and another 21 just attended training sessions during the season.

A total of 24 awards were announced on the evening with many of the trophies being sponsored by Fedex. Those receiving awards were:

First Team Top Scorer, Paul Delaiche;  
Commitment Award (Club Activity), Arlo Davies;  
Commitment Award (Competitions), Lola Martin;  
Youth Team Rider of the Year, Austin Brailey;  
First Team Rider of the Year, Mason Martin.

Coaches Awards— Tuesday 6 pm sessions, Jax Lockhart; Tuesday 7 pm sessions, Alfie Gunn; Tuesday 8 pm sessions, Lola Martin (Junior), Jamie Neill (Senior); Overall Coaches Award, Ronnie Harding.

Best Newcomer Awards— Under-10 - Thomas Barnard, Under-13 - Lewis Booth, 13+ - John Syer.

Most Improved Rider Awards— Under-10 - Isaac Emms, Under-13 - Lola Martin, 13+ - Jamie Neill.

Chairman's Awards— Club Member of the Year - Charlotte El-Labany; Special Achievement Award - Austin Brailey (three other Special Achievement Awards will be presented later to members who were not present on the night).

Hawks Family Award - Jamal Musa.

Awards voted for by attendees on the night— Young Sportsperson of the Year - Isaac Emms; Sportsperson of the Year - Dave Martin.

At the end of the evening a special presentation was made to Jenny Melvin who is stepping down as club secretary after five extremely busy, challenging and successful years. She will be a tough act to follow with the role likely to be split between several volunteers.

At the same time one of the club members - former British and European Champion Andre Cross - was making a competitive comeback 12,000 miles away in Adelaide at the World Championships.

After coming through qualifying heats and a semi-final for the World Grand Veterans (Over-50s) he was struck down by illness which caused much concern to his colleagues.

He was able to take his place in the final but could only manage three of his five rides and the nine points scored earned him joint 10th place.

Andre also qualified as a reserve for the Veterans (Over-40s) Final and was selected to represent Great Britain at that age category but had to withdraw. Hopefully a speedy recovery will take place and we hope to see him in action for the Hawks in 2024.

# Hungarian Philosopher Remembered

A NEW book by a Hethersett Resident is a tribute to the life of a remarkable Hungarian poet and philosopher who made England his home.

Alfred Reynolds has been described as “one of the most original minds of the modern world” and Hethersett author Richard Headicar has written what he refers to as “a labour of love” in bringing the life of Reynolds to the printed page.

Mr Headicar’s enthusiasm for his subject is hardly surprising as he was a personal friend of Alfred Reynolds.

This is what Richard has to say about his subject (text taken from the inside cover of the book):

“The book charts the life of the poet, educator and philosophic thinker Alfred Reynolds (1907-1993) born Rheinhold Alfred into a middle-class Jewish family residing in Budapest, at the tail-end of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Under extreme political pressure he fled from Hungary to Britain in 1936.

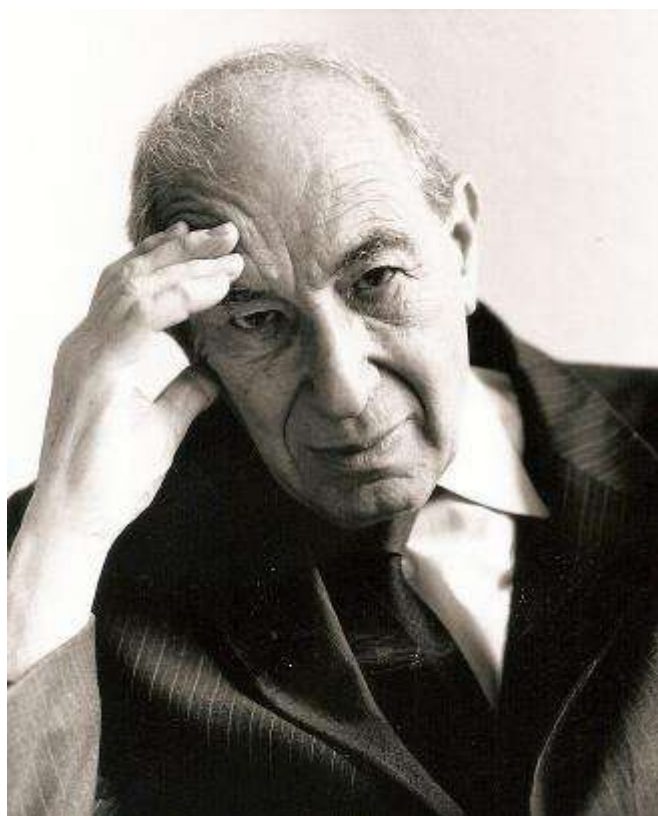
“Towards the end of the war, he acted as an interpreter for German POWs at Kempton Park where he first developed a denazification programme later applied at Slemdal Prison Camp in Norway.

“After the war in London, he established a weekly discussion group, The Bridge Circle, and a monthly journal “London Letter,” with contributions from Martin Buber, Albert Schweitzer and Herbert Read among other advanced thinkers. In the 1960s he founded an international school of English.

“Reynold’s reconciliation with Hungary began with the discovery of a copy of his “First and Last Book of Lyrical Poetry” in an antiquarian bookshop in Cluj, Romania in 1977. This led to Reynolds’ triumphant return to his homeland and recognition of his achievements.

“The book is a tribute to a friend and traces change and development in an unsettled age in European history.”

It has taken Richard Headicar a number of years to fully research his book which stands as a testimony to a remarkable man.



Alfred Reynolds / Reinhold Alfred

*“One of the most original minds of the modern world”*  
—Olla Wilson

RICHARD HEADICAR

## The Editor Writes

I AM deeply honoured to be able to call Richard a friend and he has written some very kind words about me in the preface to his book.

I couldn’t tell you how long I’ve known Richard for but it seems like forever.

I think I first came across him when we crossed swords with regards to the Hethersett Memorial Playing Field Trustees. A group of us disagreed violently with the way the trustees were running the field at that time and we decided to stand for election and were fortunate to be voted in. Richard was one of the trustees that we campaigned against—not that he necessarily held the views that we were so much against.

But what happened next has always summed Richard up for me. There were no acrimonious arguments, no nastiness. He simply moved on and we became friends. We haven’t always agreed with each other but Richard’s biggest strength for me is his ability to listen to all sides of a discussion or argument and to keep an open mind.

Gradually as I got to know Richard I realised that we had much in common (this included enjoyed good red wine which became a standing joke with us. In his preface he mentions a bottle of his best Rioja which he now owes me).

We often sat and debated various matters, either in his flat where he would serve the best snacks to go with the wine, or in the garden of Woodcote Sheltered Housing complex in Firs Road where he has lived for a number of years.

As we talked, I remember thinking what an amazing life he had enjoyed with all the famous orators he knew and all the organisations he had been involved with. He even spent a short time in prison for his beliefs. As the story began to unfold I remember thinking that I needed to capture the essence of his character in some way. So I did that in the only way I really know and that was through journalistic articles.

I wrote about Richard and his life in Hethersett Herald in an extensive article and then cut that article down for a feature which was published in the Eastern Daily Press newspaper and which is reprinted on the next page.

Over the months and years we talked about his friendship with Alfred Reynolds and the book he was writing. He was kind to send me a couple of the early drafts so I could get more of a handle on that friendship. We even had a friendly bet on whose book would be published first—his on Alfred or mine and John Head's on Le Paradise Massacre which is mentioned later in this edition. Well Richard has beaten me by at least a couple of months.

Summing up Richard is difficult as there are so many facets to his character. He is fiercely loyal to his friends, he is fun, he is intellectual without ever boasting about it, he is thoughtful, kind and a man with deeply held beliefs on a number of subjects and issues that he supports wholeheartedly. He is a man completely without rancour who is happy to talk to anyone with the time to spare on subjects as diverse as football, philosophy, poetry and music (he has a keen interest in all four subjects).

I still see Richard on a regular basis. We are both members of a dining club for men of a certain age. Actually that is a bit pompous as it's a few mates who meet in a pub once a month to enjoy a meal and a pint or two. We call it gloriously The Old Farts Club.

I can honestly say that I have never met anyone like Richard and I doubt that I ever will again.

In his book Richard has done justice to his friend—philosopher and poet Alfred Reynolds—bringing him to life. I can give no higher praise than to say that it is a book about an extraordinary life written by a man who has also lived an extraordinary life.

Richard is planning to have a book launch in January and we will be reporting on this in the next edition of Hethersett Herald along with details of how and where you can buy the book.



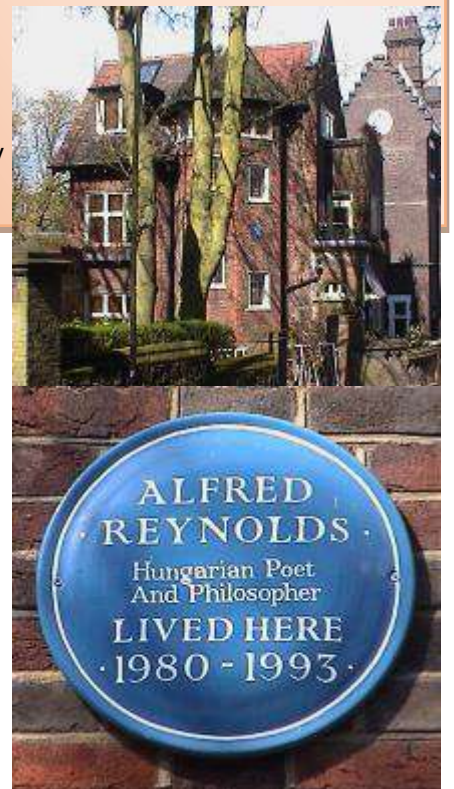
## About The Author

The following details are taken from the book

Richard Headicar was born in Chelsea, London in 1933. It was in the late 1950s, while working for an heraldic stationers in South Kensington, that he joined the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), in support of which he established a regular platform at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park. Through this he first met Alfred Reynolds, who invited him to attend the Bridge discussion circle, thereby introducing him to the philosophy of Personal Truth. He and Alfred went on to become life-long friends.

In 1988, Richard joined the Socialist Party of Great Britain, attracted by its principled Socialist policies: a democratically administered society without government, leaders, money or frontiers—where production would be for use, not profit. Despite a core disagreement between Bridge philosophy and Socialism, they both continue to be important constituents of Richard's own Personal Truth.

Since 2004 he has lived in beautiful rural Norfolk, surrounded by his lovely family and wonderful friends.





# A Man Of Many Parts

Below is a transcript of the piece I wrote for the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper and which appeared in July 2020.

**By Peter Steward**

HETHERSETT resident Richard Headicar is a man of many parts.

A humanist, a polemist, an activist, a champion of the oppressed, a lover of nature and literature, an environmentalist, a hippy dissident, and a supporter of the elderly and vulnerable are just some of the labels pinned on Mr Headicar during a long life which has seen him go from being a Christian to what he describes as an humanitarian atheist and from a young Conservative to a member of the Socialist Party of Great Britain.

Mr Headicar was born in Chelsea in August 1933 and grew up in pre-Second World War London, lived through the Blitz, was involved in activism during the 'Swinging Sixties' and the subsequent unrest of the Thatcher years.

On leaving school he had a number of jobs which included working in a bakery, in a factory making speedometers and in stationery before being called up for National Service.

He became intrigued by politics and the art of debating and became an active member of the Methodist Church before becoming disillusioned with religion and more interested in science.

"I became an atheist but I never lost an intense respect for the environment, human beings, love and all the things that make us human," he said.

Mr Headicar's love of debating saw him regularly mount his soapbox in Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park and also get to know famous philosophers such as Bertrand Russell.

"It all started off as a joke. My first appearance in the park saw me wearing a fez and speaking as the leader of the People's Retrogressive Party – our mantra was 'recreating the past by travelling backwards to the future'."

But what started as a joke soon became a major part of Richard's political life as he became passionate about "Banning the Bomb." He became a committed member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and found himself in Speaker's Corner and many other high profile places of debate, sharing a platform with the likes of actress Vanessa Redgrave. It was at this point that Richard met the man who was influence him over many decades – Hungarian poet and philosopher Reinhold Alfred who moved to London and changed his name to Alfred Reynolds.

Under the influence of Reynolds, Mr Headicar joined the Socialist Party of Great Britain which believed in using the ballot box for revolutionary purposes.

"I wasn't looking for world revolution but I had a belief that every single human being has the ability to change



attitudes. I never belittled my opponents and learnt to respect people."

He has subsequently written a biography of Albert Reynolds which is awaiting publication.

But Mr Headicar's views got him into hot water and he was arrested for demonstrating outside the Russian Embassy. He was sentenced to three months in prison and served two.

"I wouldn't call myself a subversive. I have strong opinions and will always argue them and they are often contrary to mainstream thought. I am always happy to open dialogue with anyone and I would never let politics or religion get in the way of friendship."

Mr Headicar even stood for parliament in an unsuccessful attempt to oust Labour's Frank Dobson.

Outside politics, he worked hard and ran a toy shop in London and an art shop in Lewisham. Contracting cancer was the catalyst for a move to the cleaner air of Norfolk and he believes our rural county helped him beat the disease. He met his wife-to-be Sue at Aldermaston. Today they live separately in Hethersett but are still married – their daughter Tamsin lives in Wymondham and son Tim in Cambridge.

Mr Headicar lives in the Woodcote Sheltered Housing Complex in Hethersett where he is as active as ever – being a huge exponent of social housing and supporting his fellow residents.

He is also involved with numerous village groups in subjects as diverse as dementia support, pensioners' rights, bereavement and bowls.

The photograph above shows Richard in his younger days speaking in Hyde Park.

The photograph on the previous page shows Richard on the microphone at a fete held in the grounds of Woodcote a few years ago. The other photographs are of Alfred Reynolds' London house and a blue plaque that is now on the building in Branch Hill. Pictures are courtesy of the London Remembers website and Jrmacarthur.

# 500 Not Out For Hethersett's Nick

In the December edition we carried a story marking a footballer's 500th game for Hethersett Athletic. Nick Benfield became the first player to reach that mark earlier this season. Here he talks to David Powles about what makes him tick and why Hethersett is a special club.

A MASSIVE congratulations to Hethersett Athletic's Saturday captain Nick Benfield, who recently hit 500 games for the club and became the first player in its history to do so.

Nick, who is 33, and lives in Tasburgh but grew up in Hethersett, answered a few of our questions.

**Well done Nick - and you've still plenty of time to reach 600! Could you give us a few details about your football career?**

I played youth football for Wymondham Town, then Mulbarton. Played Mulbarton Sunday football until I was 20 when I came and played for Hethersett. After a year I was invited to play for the Saturday team and never left.

**Tell us about your first game for Hethersett, can you remember any details about it?**

I don't remember much, it was 13 years ago. I remember being nervous as I had told the gaffer I was a striker when I'm definitely not. I think I missed a sitter to be honest.

**Did you think then you'd reach anywhere near this milestone?**

Never. I spent the first couple of years being on the bench a lot and no-one (including myself) knew my best position. It was not until Paul Stone played me in defence that I was then a regular starter.

**How does it feel to hit 500 games?**

A little surreal. My teams gave me a lot of stick leading up to it as was to be expected. But the effort they then went to, to help me celebrate 500 showed that its quite an accomplishment which I'm extremely proud of.

**What's been the highlight of your football career?**

Becoming captain of the Saturday team. The standard of the players is incredible. So to captain the team is a huge honour.

**And the lowlight?**

There's been a few. But they are what drive me to better myself and work hard to correct them.

**Any funny moments you can tell us about?**

Far too many to pick one. Most games I'm laughing before and after with my teammates. They're a good bunch.

**What makes HAFC a special club to you?**

It's my home club. I've won many trophies here, made friends I'll hold long after I'm done playing football. A shorter question would be what doesn't make HAFC





special. And the answer would be nothing. It's an incredible club.

**Is there anyone in particular you'd like to thank?**

Loads. Paul Stone who is unfortunately no longer with us. Steve Walker also, who gave me the opportunity to coach some of the younger lads who are now my teammates. Mike Lemmon, my gaffer. Neal Luther, the club chair of course too.

**How many more years do you think you have in you? Is 600 on the cards?**

Well I am getting on a bit and the Saturday team is only going up. Maybe 550 if I stay fit. We have hundreds of kids coming through at the club right now.

**What advice would you give to them?**

Speak to your gaffer. And never think you're not good enough. Everyone can improve and the managers and



coaches are there to help you do that. I had to work hard to get to where I am now and I promise you its worth it as Hethersett is a great club that's only getting better.

## Cricketers Warm Up The Winter With Trophy Win

IT may be too cold for cricket outside but there has been a rosy glow for one Hethersett team on the indoor circuit

Hethersett and Tas Valley Under-16s became indoor champions with a win in the final against local rivals Great Melton, having gone through the season unbeaten for the second consecutive year.

The team (pictured here) was Dan Grobler, Mihir Sanghraika, Will English, Ollie Last, Alfie Bird, Charlie Hayes and Will Hurrell.

The final was an exciting clash with Hethersett posting what looked to be a slightly under par 187 which meant they needed a flawless bowling and fielding display in order to take the trophy. In the final two overs they captured an astonishing six wickets to take the title and achieve a comprehensive 31 run win.



# Spielberg's Youth

The Spring season of films will open on 7th January with the Ken Loache gritty reality film "The Old Oak."

This will be followed by "A Haunting in Venice" on 4th February, "The Great Escaper" on 3rd March, the ever-popular "Barbie" on 7th April and the dramatic "Oppenheimer" on May 12th.

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, 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 with a starting date of January 7th, 2024.

Elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald you can read about how Village Screen is helping to spread some Christmas cheer this year thanks to a donation to the Hethersett Hearts Charity.



**The Old Oak (15)**  
**Sunday 7th January, 3pm**

The last pub in town is a metaphor for so much more in this slice of social-realism from acclaimed director Ken Loach.



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

Kenneth Branagh 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.

## Sophie's Life

SOPHIE Stanley (pictured opposite) has joined the voluntary staff of Hethersett Herald as our roving reporter. Here Sophie tells you a little more about her local life growing up in Barnham Broom and then moving to Hethersett.

I MOVED to Hethersett just over two years ago from the small village of Barnham Broom. I grew up there so for 16 years of my life it was home.

Barnham Broom was, when I lived there, incredibly small. For those of you who have never been it quite literally consists of a primary school, a pub, a post office and shop, a park and a golf club (which it is most well known for).

As a child I loved it, all I needed was the park and I'd play with my friends for hours on end. But as I got older, and started high school I realised how isolated I was in the village.

My friends lived in bigger villages and towns with access to good bus routes and could all meet up regularly but in my village there was a limited amount of buses and they only went into Norwich.

Our move to Hethersett was for the most part exciting for me because in comparison Hethersett is much bigger. I was taken by surprise at how much more there is to offer here. But it was such a culture shock for me too as I now knew just about nobody whereas in Barnham Broom you would know the names of everyone who lived on your street.

Hethersett on the other hand is growing at such a rapid pace it would be almost impossible to remember the names of everyone who lives here. But the best thing about Hethersett is how fantastic the community is at bringing people together and helping each other. As an adult now, Hethersett has lost its excitement to me that it had when I was a teenager. I loved the freedom I had being able to walk to work and walk to the shop and get the bus into the city or Wymondham whenever I wanted.

But now I almost feel restricted again as the only way to get into Norwich when you don't drive is by buses which as we know are incredibly unreliable. Hethersett has served its purpose to me now and just doesn't offer enough to keep the excitement I initially felt moving. Nevertheless I have learnt some valuable lessons through my time here, particularly about change, something I have always struggled to deal with. Mostly, that change, albeit scary, is an inevitable part of life, it can be difficult and sometimes painful but for the most part it's exciting and should not be feared.



## Protecting Toads

By John Heaser

In February and March, our local toads will make their way back to their traditional breeding ponds on warm damp evenings.

Unfortunately, they have to cross roads to get there and they need our help to do that safely. During the 2023 spring migration, volunteers helped hundreds of toads at sites around Wymondham, Great and Little Melton.

If you would like to learn more about amphibians and how you can help them, then please come along to The White Hart in Wymondham on Monday 29th January at 7.30 pm. There is more information at [toadwatch.org](http://toadwatch.org) or phone myself on 01603 812490.

Please take a look at your own fences and see if wildlife can migrate through your garden. Many hedges and old fences are being replaced with impenetrable concrete gravel boards. We suspect that this is having a serious impact on hedgehogs, amphibians and even some insects! Please try and leave some gaps in or below your gravel boards.



## More Historic Hethersett Names

YOU might recognise some of the names of those living and conducting business in the village in 1879.

This list was produced by the Norfolk Family History Society and one of its volunteers Bev Kirk and this is the second part. You can view the first part in our archive section for Hethersett Herald at [www.hethersetterakd.weebly.com](http://www.hethersetterakd.weebly.com).

How many names of these residents do you recognise?

HOWARD David—Pork Butcher

HOWLETT William—Market Gardener

HUDSON Maria—Baker

IRELAND James—Carpenter of Lynch Green

JACKSON & RALPH—Threshing machine owners.

JARRETT Amos John—Draper, grocer and postmaster

MILLER Charles—King's Head Inn

MILLER James Leonard—Harness Maker

MITCHELL James—Beulah House

NORGATE Mrs

PINWILL Captain Charles Sumner—The Grange

PORRETT James—Farmer

RICHARDSON Robert—Farmer and vermin destroyer

RICHES William—Farmer, Thickthorn Farm

RINGER John—Coach and Carriage Builder

ROBERTSON Charles Lofty. Farmer, landowner and rate collector

ROBERTSON John—Farmer

ROTHERHAM Philip—Schoolmaster and secretary of Reading Room and Club

ROTHERHAM Sarah (Mrs) - Schoolmistress.

SHARMAN Thomas Faulkner John—Grocer and Draper.

SIPPING Frederick—Thatcher

SLOPER George—Farmer

SMITH James—Farmer The Grange Farm

SMITH William—Bootmaker

STANNARD William—Farmer, Church Farm

STONE James—Stationmaster

TAYLOR Rev Arthur

TICE Thomas—Farmer

TRAXTON James—Tailor

TRAXTON John—Well Sinker

TRAXTON Richard—Carpenter

WATSON Frederick Elwin, Thickthorn Hall

# 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 us free of charge by Kim'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>



## Sleigh Bells Glistening and Children Listening

IT'S DECEMBER! The month where sleigh bells glisten, and children listen. To nothing, they literally listen to nothing. But that's another story! You'll not be surprised that this month's Sarah's World column is all about the run-up to December 25th, so here goes..

The last few months we have been preparing for the Friends of Woodside Christmas Fayre, when I say we, I mean the volunteer team, and our families! Our house has been filled with lucky bag prizes, raffle prizes, tombola prizes, lanyards, snacks.. And that's just my house!

Rosey, our Secretary (and my right-hand man) spent a good while before compiling a giant 'Santa's Shop' sign with the help of her children. It really is a team effort, and I cannot stress enough about how much our families put up with in the run-up.

At times we've struggled to see the floor in the living room, and my poor husband just went along with it, supporting me as he always does. Rosey's partner Neil (aka. Watson) was in the same boat, dealing with all the chaos and spending hours the week before helping us to label tombola donations and sort hamper prizes. These boys are absolute gems, thank you both so much. There'll be more on the Christmas Fayre elsewhere in this issue.

I was lucky enough to be able to have the night off for the switching on of Finnbar's lights this year in Park Close, here in Hethersett. Previous years I have always been working, but this year I managed to score a day off, and even more luckily, so did my husband. We took a walk down before the switch-on started and was struck by how busy it was.

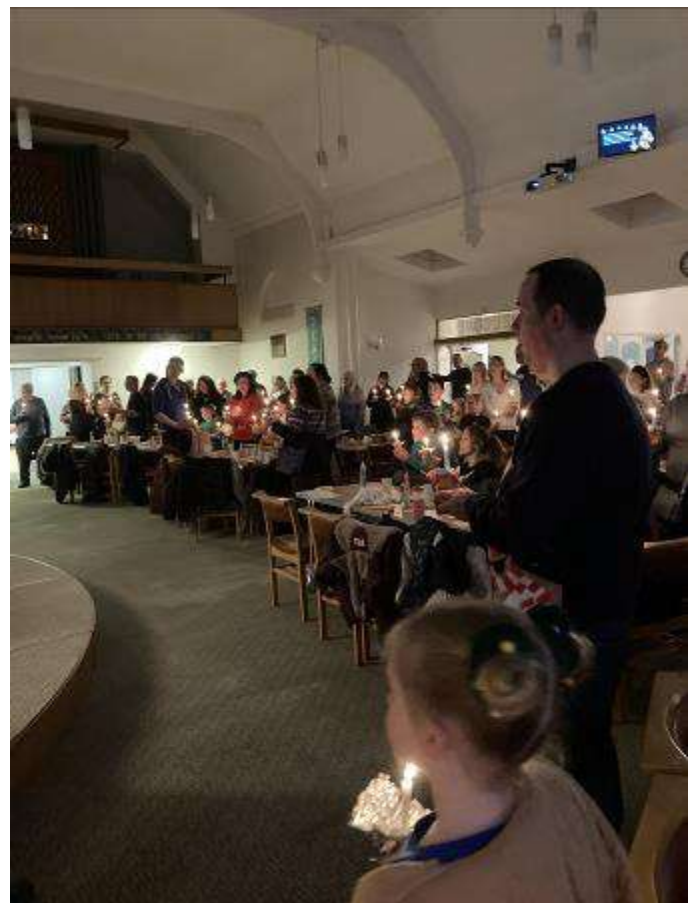
Raising money for the charity, Finnbar's Force, it seems like the Light Switch On is the Hethersett event of the year! I saw so many people I know, it's a lovely social event and Park Close is always magical this time of year thanks to their hard work. I know people travel far and wide to see these lights, so I hope they raise loads of money and, perhaps even more importantly, raise awareness for the charity.

Also this month, we went along to the village Christingle service at Hethersett Methodist Church. Advertised as the 'Big Christingle', this service was a joint one between St. Remigius and the Methodists. The church was packed out with children and adults and, like recent times, the Rainbows were kindly invited along. My husband and I took the girls, and we were invited to help ourselves to cakes, snacks and drinks before the service began. I also found a moment to have a chat to some people I knew before the main event started.

The Christingle service is a firm favourite with my family. Not only does it give you that festive feeling, you also go home with an orange and some sweets! The Methodist Church always makes us feel welcome, with the regulars there coming over to greet us, and people saying hello. It really does have a family feeling to it.

A few days later, Hattie had a special Christmas Rainbows session where they had a special visitor at the end. Yes, Father Christmas paid them a special visit! The Rainbows team always make the group really special for the little ones who attend, with fun and games for all the girls who go. This time the parents were invited along at the end to see the big guy in red hand out gifts to them all. When we went in, the children were all quietly gathered around the Christmas tree in the corner of the Methodist Church, with Father Christmas sitting on a chair speaking to them all. He had quite the challenge pronouncing some of the more difficult names, but he did very well! It was a lovely little surprise for them all.

Unfortunately at the end of the session, we also had to say a goodbye to Forget-Me-Not aka Mrs Blake, who is stepping down from her volunteer role after around ten years. Mrs Blake has found a new job which means she no longer has the time to spare, but we thank her for all her time spent and hard work helping out, especially with each of my girls. A thank you goes out to the entire team





# Sarah's World with Sarah Lawrence



for the time spent organising lovely activities like this Christmas one.

At the time of writing, Hethersett Tesco are, like last year, doing a Christmas toy collection for children in the area who might not otherwise get a present for Christmas. This goes alongside our food collection and is part of our commitment to helping the community.

We are very lucky to work in an extremely supportive community, who really go all out for incentives we start. The toy collection we did last year was extremely popular, we hope to emulate the same sort of success and put a smile on some little faces this Christmas.

I think that's you up-to-date with everything that we've been up to so far this month, no doubt there'll be more that I can fill you in on next month! I think all that's left to say is Merry Christmas from my family to yours, or seasons greetings, whatever you believe in. See you all in 2024!



# 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	<a href="mailto:cldr.bwilliamson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.bwilliamson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	810259
Vice-Chair	Leslie Dale	<a href="mailto:cldr.ldale@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.ldale@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	810952
Councillors	Paul Everett	<a href="mailto:cldr.peverett@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.peverett@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07871 700228
	Heath Dakin	<a href="mailto:cldr.hdakin@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.hdakin@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	Via the clerk
	Salena Dawson	<a href="mailto:cldr.sdawson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.sdawson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	Via the clerk
	Anne Edwards	<a href="mailto:cldr.aedwards@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.aedwards@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	812309
	Kelsea Law	<a href="mailto:cldr.klaw@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.klaw@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	Via the clerk
	Jonathan Loome	<a href="mailto:cldr.jloome@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.jloome@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	Via the clerk
	Eileen Mulvaney	<a href="mailto:cldr.emulvaney@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.emulvaney@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	811997
	Habib Ur Rehman	<a href="mailto:cldr.hrehman@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.hrehman@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	07899 719173
	Jennifer Walpole	<a href="mailto:cldr.jwalpole@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk">cldr.jwalpole@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk</a>	811932

## Council Appoints New Parish Clerk

Penny Hubble has been appointed the new parish clerk to succeed Julie Ringer. She took up her duties on December 11th after a period acting as locum clerk. Sara White is now deputy clerk. Both can be contacted on:

[office@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The council has an updated website address at:

[www.hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The council also has a Facebook site at:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553016314783>.



# News From The Parish Council

## Speed Reduction Move

THE parish council is looking to bring down the speed of cars using Burnt House Lane by supporting steps to lower the current speed limit from 60 mph to 40 mph to make it similar to Colney Lane where a reduction in the speed limit is expected in the new year.

Speed checks will be undertaken on Coachmakers Way during 2024.

## Cut In Parish Grant

The council is looking to cut the grant made to the parish church for grass cutting of the churchyard by almost half.

At present it pays £3780 for 16 cuts of the graveyard per year but members are supporting a reduction of cuts to eight a year with the grant being cut to £2000. Members agreed that the council had no obligation in law to meet the cost of the grass cutting but footed the bill as part of its caring for the environment ethos.

## Blooming Marvellous Grant

Hethersett Parish Council has been informed of a small grant scheme that could further enhance the village environment.

South Norfolk District Councillor for the village, John Morland, explained at the December parish council meeting that Clean Up and Bloom Grants are available to town and parish councils.

“It’s a small and easily accessible grant of £300 that can be used to purchase plants for the community, help arrange litter picking events or help to apply for the Anglia in Bloom scheme. The grants are available for anything to help parishes Green Up and Bloom,” Councillor Morland said.

The deadline for applications for the latest round of funding is 31st January, members were told.

The Hethersett Environmental Action Team (HEAT) regularly undertakes litter picks in the village.

## Shed Request

The council has had a request from a resident for a Men’s Shed to be opened in the village. This is a national initiative that provides men with space to undertake projects by building, fixing and restoring items. It is also designed to help them banish loneliness and isolation by bringing communities together.

“These sheds do great work. Hethersett is an ever-growing village and would certainly benefit from one,” said Councillor Eileen Mulvaney.

Parish clerk Penny Hubble urged the council to support a venture that would include women as well as men and Councillor Anne Edwards felt that an existing building in the village such as the Jubilee Youth Club hall could be utilised. It was agreed that the resident who raised the matter should be asked to come up with some plans and ideas for a shed in Hethersett.

## Double Yellow Extension?

There is still a chance that the double yellow lines at the start of Henstead Road could be extended a further distance in order to make it easier for buses and other vehicles to negotiate the junction with Queen’s Road/Great Melton Road.

Hethersett’s County Councillor David Bills has informed councillors that the idea could become a project if there is enough support. He urged supporters of the idea to send him an e-mail of support (his contact details can be found elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald).

## A Wonderful Community

Chairman of Hethersett Parish Council Bridget Williamson outlined her visits to a number of village pre-Christmas events including fairs, craft events and the switching on of lights in aid of Finnbar’s Force and ended her short report with the words “We are very lucky to live in such a wonderful community.”

# 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 2024 are: 15th January, 19th February, 18th March, 25th April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July, 16th September, 21st October, 18th November and 16th December.

## Hethersett's Win Win Brightness

Herald Comment

The news that Hethersett street lights are to be changed to LED bulbs provides the village with a win win situation.

The current lighting is often sub standard with lights either not working or on throughout the day. The parish council regularly receives reports of lights not working properly. Many of the lighting columns are also antiquated and over 25 years of age and many have been corroded by years of (and let's not be delicate about this) dogs and other pets weeing against them.

A massive survey of all the street lighting by parish councillor Jenny Walpole and her husband David has highlighted the existing problems. But better than that it has come up with some hugely viable suggestions to replace all the sodium bulbs with LEDs.

And that's where the win, win comes in. Not only will LED lighting save a massive amount on energy costs, it will make the lighting more efficient and drastically reduce the carbon footprint of the village and that's something that really fits in with the village's ethos and green policies.

The first tranche of 60 replacement bulbs are due to be put in place from February as phase one of four which will see all 226 columns changed.

This work is likely to take between three and four years but, once it has been paid for, the village will see a dramatic drop in its energy costs.

The parish council should be applauded for this initiative.

# The Gift Of A Lifetime

**OVER** the past few years we have published a number of articles on the Great Melton based Wulugu Project which works in Northern Ghana to tackle poverty through education. Here founder Lynne Symonds updates us on the latest projects and tells us about a very special gift from one Norfolk family.

THE GIFT of a lifetime. That's how David Hicks views a very special present this Christmas.

For David has had a school in Northern Ghana named after him as a present from his family.

David's school came to fruition after an appeal that Karkoshi-Chokosi needed the new school in what is predominantly a farming and fishing community where the children were described as "bright and very interested in learning."

The appeal stated: "A school will make things much easier and improve attendance and will open up for the first time formal education to other surrounding communities."

And thanks to the funding by a family member, the David Patrick Hicks Primary School came into being.

David was shown photographs of the school and said that he felt overwhelmed with the "special gift" and was certain that the donation was an investment in youngsters and the future of North Ghana. He said he felt humble, grateful and very excited to have a school named after him.

David was born in Norfolk in 1941 and comes from a family deeply involved in both the Church and farming.

Lynne Symonds outlined how monetary gifts to the project can make long term differences for generations of greatly disadvantaged and forgotten people.

"Building a school is a fantastic thing to do and costs between £34,000 and £55,000. We are in a uniquely strong position to do this as we work in partnership with



The original school. You can see how it was rebuilt on page 47.

## The Next Project



THE project is looking to transform an existing primary school in a

place by the name of Pong Tamale. It's a village that project members have visited on several occasions and are very aware of

The current school for five to 14-year-olds is housed in a makeshift structure constructed by the school PTA. It is a three pavilion structure housing six classes with 315 students and eight teachers. When it rains the school has to be closed as the structures have a roof but no windows or doors and the buildings are exposed to harsh weather, making teaching and learning at times impossible.

"Pong Ramale needs a six room primary school with a teacher/store room and a toilet block," Lynne Symonds said.

The cost of building the school as specified would be £55,000 with an additional £6,500 needed for toilet provision.

the beneficiaries who make sure that costs are low (a third of what others pay) and that schools have teachers and other things they need.

“Certainly, the three schools that readers have funded following articles in the Eastern Daily Press newspaper, in tribute to family, have brought great joy to the donors and beneficiaries. The most recent was built for David Hicks by a family member and he knew nothing about it until he was shown the photos of the school signboard bearing his name. What an amazing gift.

“We have recently visited The David Patrick Hicks School, and many of our other new schools as well as our 50 boreholes. Half a million people have their first ever clean water. Meanwhile our vocational schools for girls are returning many from illiteracy and slavery, transforming their lives and hopes.

“I am incredibly proud that a ‘small’ charity based near Norwich has and is making such a huge impact in tackling poverty and disease in a sustainable way.

“For me, as Chief of the million strong Mamprusi Tribe in North Ghana, the most heartening achievement may seem small to others.

“But ten years ago we built the first ever school at Lukula village—remote and difficult to access. In the autumn we had an appeal by a group of nurses who had been pupils at our school. They wanted to set up a basic health clinic in Lukula, something the large village badly needed and it will ensure better health for the people who often rely on witch doctors and sooth-sayers. I am so very proud of this, we have come full circle in our battle to improve health and tackle poverty,” Lynne said.

Meanwhile the Wulugu project continues to thrive although Lynne has told us there has been a drop in funding. Anyone interested in donating to such a worthy cause can do so via the Wulugu website at:

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



## Two More Success Stories—Latifa and Fuseini

Latifa Abukari and Fuseini Hamdala were students at the Wulugu Projects Zanzugu Yipala Junior High. Fuseini was the first senior prefect in the new build.

They both successfully completed secondary school in 2022. Latifa is waiting to apply to the technical university in Tamale to read for a Technical Knowledge degree. She believes that the internet signal is strong enough in the village to enable her to work from home, should that be an optional route for employment.

Fuseini is currently working in motor technology and wants to study robotics at Sunyani Technical University.

“The stories of these two young people evidence the impact that education, especially where it is more organised and in fit-for purpose facilities, can have. We wish them luck with their choice of course and that they may reap fulfilment through study and finding employment opportunities,” Lynne Symonds said.



In our photograph above, The Wulugu Project Chair, Jane Scott, is pictured presenting photographs of David Hicks to the school named after him. David is also pictured opposite.

The handing over of the David Patrick Hicks Primary School, with desks and toilets, to the Ghana Education Services was of such importance to the MP for Salaga South, Rt Hon Ms Zuwera Mohammed Ibrahimah, that she took leave from the important budget debate in parliament in Accra and drove up for the ceremony in order to attend in person.

She brought with her books for the library and sports equipment for this brand new school. Girls also play football. The PTA, Chief and village elders are similarly invested in taking responsibility for their new school on behalf of the future generations.

“The press and television media were also in attendance to capture the momentous and exciting occasion. Exciting was a word often cited in the many speeches,” Lynne Symonds said.



## Another Transformation

PICTURED opposite is another of the Wulugu's successes—Walewale Technical and Vocational Education Institute which has 1,300 students.

“When we opened it in 2000 it was based in a large house and had 40 students.

“Many of these students had no previous education.

“The Government in Ghana is wisely encouraging vocational training rather than university courses that lead nowhere, but there is a problem as practical courses are expensive to run,” Lynne Symonds said.

All photographs in this series of articles are courtesy of Lynne Symonds and the Wulugu Project.



WHEN an article appeared in Hethersett Herald and the Eastern Daily Press newspaper, one reader was so touched that he decided to do something to help.

The reader, who has asked to remain anonymous, provided desks for four schools—one of which is shown above. A dual desk with seats costs £27 but many classrooms have no desks which make learning particularly difficult for older children.

If you wish to donate to provide desks and chairs for the project's schools in Northern Ghana please go to Wulugu's official website at:

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



# 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

# Festive News From Hethersett Hall



## Stories by Caroline Evans

IT'S been a very busy time for residents of Hethersett Hall in the run up to Christmas.

We were delighted to welcome Hethersett Woodside Primary and Nursery School for some Christmas Carols and readings and some dancing too.

We laughed and smiled so much it was brilliant, the children and teachers loved the chocolate brownies we made for them.

Thank you so much for a lovely morning and Merry Christmas from everyone at Hethersett Hall

Thank you so much too to Framingham Earl High School for inviting us to your school for a wonderful afternoon at the year sevens' Christmas assembly. We all loved it and thanks for the Christmas cards teas and chocolates too.

It was lovely to then invite the children to our home for a morning with the students making windmills and Christmas cards.

Their engaging with the residents was beautiful too see. We look forward to seeing them again soon.

We have also been in the Christmas spirit with a karaoke session We certainly have some talent in the home.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Hethersett hall

We hope you enjoy the photographs from just some of the events leading up to Christmas.



# Festive News From Hethersett Hall



## Death of Two Well Known Figures

HETHERSETT and the surrounding area has lost two well known people in the past month with the deaths of John Nightingale and Brenda Kelsey, both of whom gave sterling service to the local community.

John Nightingale was a member of Hethersett Parish Council for many years and also had a period as chairman. He only stepped down from the council in May this year when he decided not to stand for re-election. John lived in Buckingham Drive in the village.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of John at the December meeting of Hethersett Parish Council at which council chairman Bridget Williamson paid tribute:

"It is very sad news. John was a member of the parish council for many years and chairman in 2014. He suffered with ill health but always attended meetings when he was able to do so. We are grateful for all that John did for Hethersett and our thoughts are with his family," she said.

Brenda Kelsey was well known locally as a Methodist local preacher and lived at Little Melton. She was a regular preacher at Hethersett Methodist Church and was previously married to local farmer Bob Richardson until his death, after which she re-married.

A service of thanksgiving for Brenda's life will be held in Hethersett Methodist Church at 2 pm on January 15th.

We will have more about both John and Brenda in the February edition of Hethersett Herald. Brenda Kelsey is pictured above.



**Another photograph of the glorious sunrise taken by Salena Dawson and used with her permission.**

# Mel's Christmas Conundrum

For the past 13 years, village stalwart Mel Perkins has been issuing a Christmas conundrum to friends.

In all he has put together 14 wicked teasers to test even the sharpest brain. He also produced a special one during lockdown. To mark number 15 we include the conundrum here and there's a prize for the first all correct answer picked out after the closing date.

The theme this year is cats and dogs which includes the names of breeds, wild species and also fictitious characters. There are 20 cats and 20 dogs mixed up amongst the 40 cryptic clues.

Entries can be emailed to [babylon5sp@aol.com](mailto:babylon5sp@aol.com) or posted/delivered to 9 Meadow Close, Hethersett. Entries close on Friday 5th January and please ensure your name and contact details are included with your entry.

NO	CLUE	ANSWER
1	A player for Huddersfield Town	
2	A resident of Kabul	
3	A safe pair of gloves catching red ball for England	
4	A young Scottish girl, for instance	
5	Alice in Wonderland's county	
6	Silver university inside a jam container	
7	Changes garb here with a Jungle Book character	
8	Did he and Dick Dastardly catch the pigeon in their flying machine?	
9	Did he get up Sooty's chimney?	
10	Did Stallone have a part in Looney Tunes?	
11	Don't tell the truth after pass through mountains	
12	Eastern Canada where scientists start to work	
13	Bright playing with pride	
14	Famous footballer Lionel goes to A&E to get sorted	
15	Gets bother after creating Liquorice Allsorts	
16	He especially liked to bounce with Winnie	
17	Head of a company changes before going up for auction	
18	Chains at Cromer Golf Club, we hear	
19	Heard on a bridge over troubled water	
20	Homer likes to disturb her peaceful life	
21	In the pink with Peter Sellers	
22	Jerry was his nemesis	
23	Lawman in US cartoon in 1960s	
24	Member of Argentina rugby team	
25	Mother's had a marital row	
26	No tale to tell for chap before ten	
27	One of CI?	
28	Sailed to find the origin of species	

29	Sang with a little help from his friends before mixing Spain and the Spanish	
30	Say goodbye twice in Rome	
31	Seen in the chemist's pantomime	
32	Sounding very throaty	
33	Star sign that gets right inside jotter	
34	Taken for walks in North-west Mexico?	
35	The King of the West End	
36	This cat would now come from Myanmar	
37	Tyrannosaurus from Exeter?	
38	Use Google but replace two fag-ends with power and start to depart	
39	Watched his flocks by night in Bavaria	
40	We hear that he wins unfairly at cards	

NAME.....

Contact Details

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## Animals and Musicals Combine For Quiz

Quizzer Sue Stirling is also out to test your brainpower this festive season with her own quiz to raise money for the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

Sue is testing and tantalising you with 50 “missing vowel” questions on a theme of “animals.” Her example on this is

bllnch nshp = Bull in a china shop.

Then there will be 50 cryptic/devious clues on the theme of operas and musicals. Again Sue has given an example—assist, first letter = Aida

Quiz sheets cost £2.50 each, with a prize of £25 awarded to the entry with most correct answers and runners up prizes of £15 and £10. “If you need something to keep your brain ticking over during the festive season please join in,” Sue said.

To purchase a quiz you can pay via Sue’s Just Giving page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/.../sue-stirling-1699111677567>.

Once that’s been done you can email Sue at: [quizsheetfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:quizsheetfundraiser@gmail.com). Versions of the quiz in Word and pdf formats will then be sent to you. The closing date for entries is 19th January.



# Join The Email Group

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

We also post copies of new editions, along with an archive of editions from the past seven and a half years, on the website [www.hethersettherald.weebly.com](http://www.hethersettherald.weebly.com).

If you would like to be alerted via e-mail of the publication of a new edition please send an e-mail requesting this service to the editor—[petersteward@sky.com](mailto: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 February 2024 edition of Hethersett Herald will be online from the end of January, bringing you news and views from the village.

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

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

[petersteward@sky.com](mailto:petersteward@sky.com)

## We Are On Facebook

Hethersett Herald is on Facebook. You can follow us at

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

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

## Council/Government Contact Numbers

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

### Member of Parliament

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

Email - [Richard@richardbacon.org.uk](mailto:Richard@richardbacon.org.uk).

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

Telephone: 01379 642097

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

Facebook - Bacon4SouthNorfolk

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](mailto:dbills@s-norfolk.gov.uk). Kathryn Cross can be contacted on 07722 019116 or

[Kathryn.cross@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto: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. Currently the council does not have a full time clerk. Individual contact numbers can be found elsewhere in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

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

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

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

Email: [hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.hetherssettherald.weebly.co)



# HOW TO CONTACT US

HETHERSETT & MULBARTON Safer Neighbourhood Team



**Insp Louise BISHOP**  
Local Policing Commander

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



101 Ext: 5635



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



**PC Vicky BAILEY**  
Engagement Officer

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

Contact them for local enquiries that affect your neighbourhood.



101 Ext: 1113



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



**PC Stu BARNARD**  
Beat Manager

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

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



101 Ext: 2386



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



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



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

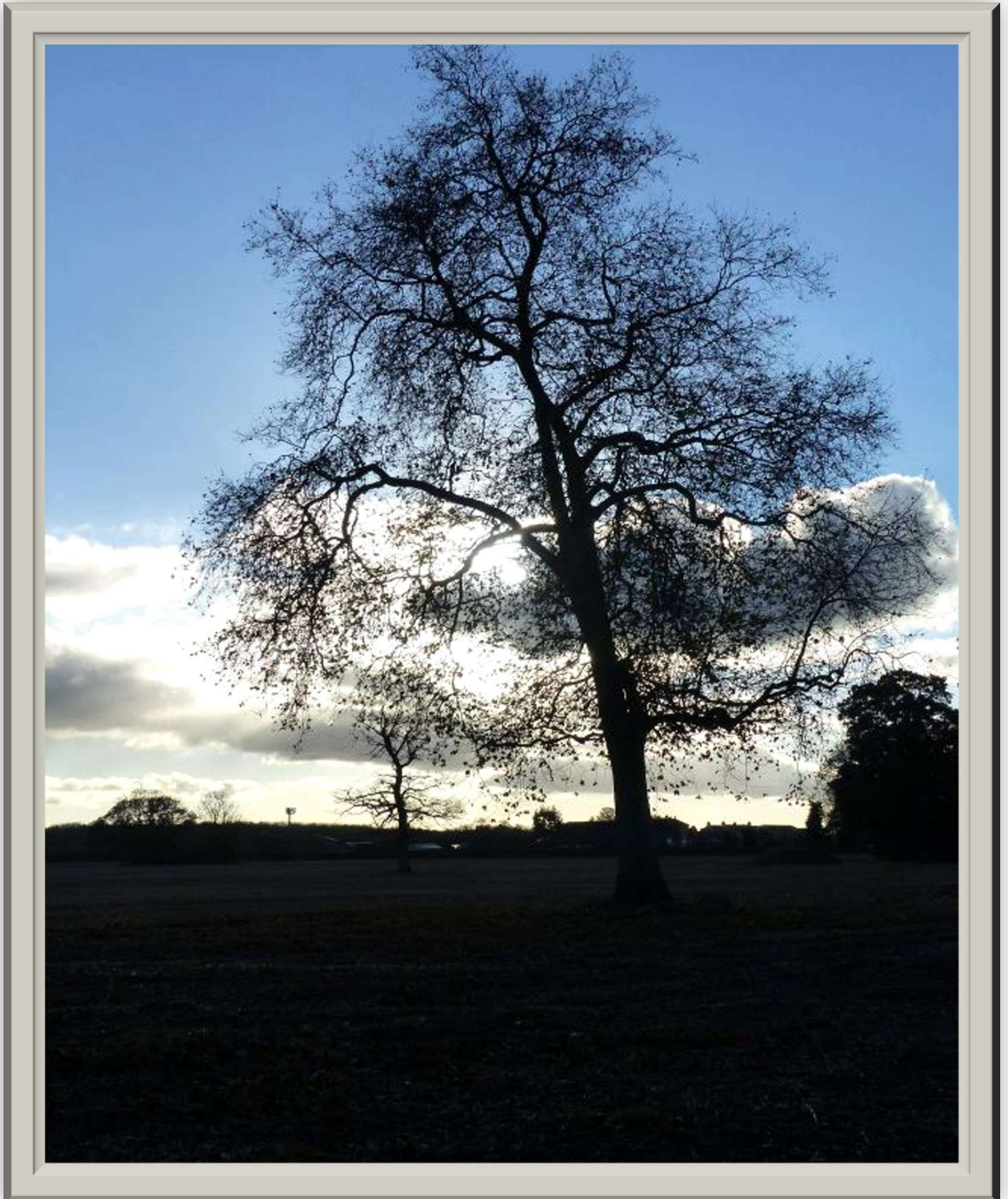


[@SouthNorfPolice](https://twitter.com/SouthNorfPolice)

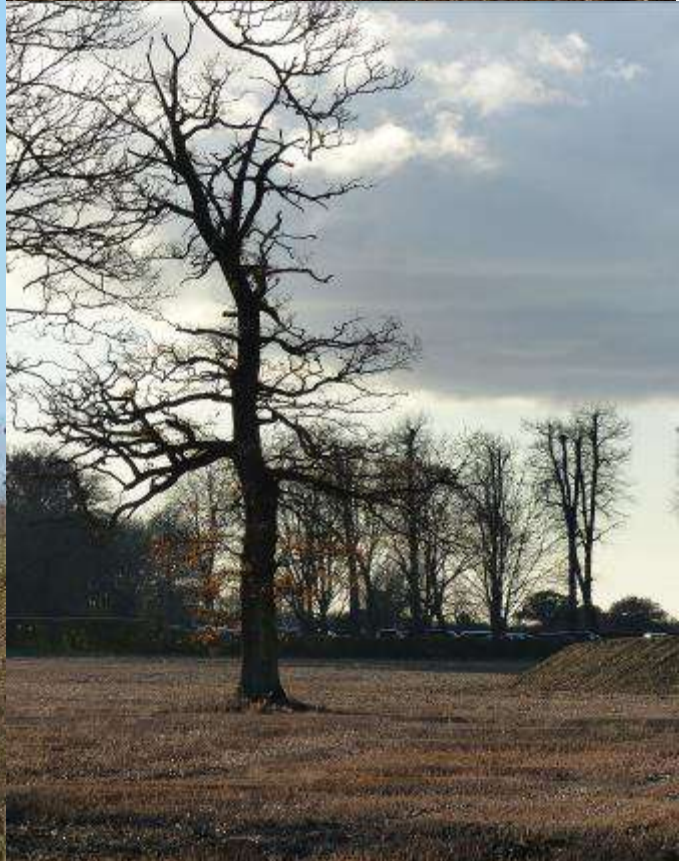


# John Head's Photographic Diary

For his regular photographic diary, John Head turns the clock back just a few weeks to November 30th for a Hethersett study which he entitled: "Silhouettes and the last leaves of Autumn across a field in Hethersett "



# John Head's Photographic Diary



# John Head's Photographic Diary





## Sudden Death of Tim Hoelzer

THE switch on of Christmas lights in Holt in North Norfolk should have been a joyous occasion, but was spoilt for me by news of the tragic death of Tim Hoelzer, a leading member of the Home Farm Gin team at Hethersett.

I heard about Tim's death from Nev Leverett of Home Farm Gin at the North Norfolk switch on. Nev was doing his best to carry on despite the tragic news.

Paul Dunnett who is a partner in Home Farm Gin and Tim's life partner, told the local newspaper: "I got to spend 25 years with Tim, nothing was ever too much trouble for him.

"On the day it happened, he was on a day off from his main job but was helping us out, because that is the kind of person he was, an absolutely incredible guy who was absolutely outstanding at what he did,"

Tim collapsed and died at a Christmas Fair at Sandringham.

**PS**



## 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

### Friends of Hethersett Library

The Friends of Hethersett Library held a very successful children's party in the Hethersett Hub on the Memorial Playing Field. Father Christmas was the special guest and there were traditional games and tea for over 30 youngsters, all of whom received a present from Santa.

The Friends group was set-up to support and promote Hethersett Library and holds regular events including the children's party in December and a quiz in Hethersett Village Hall at the end of October. It also organises regular presentations in the library in February, April, June and September.

Dates for the coming year will see village stalwart Mel Perkins MBE talking about his memories of Hethersett on February 22nd. This will be a free event with refreshments available. Donations will be very welcome.

On April 25th Paddy Anstey will be returning for more talk about the history of the railways. Paddy proved very popular on his last visit and this will be an extension of that talk which was very much enjoyed.

Norfolk author Phyllida Scrivens will also be making a welcome return visit on June 27th to talk about Coronation celebrations in Norfolk across the ages. Admission to Paddy and Phyllida's talks will be £5 with light refreshments included at the end of the presentations.

We will have more details of all these events in coming editions of Hethersett Herald. You can view photographs of the children's party elsewhere in this edition.

# Comparing Petrol Prices

	Unleaded	Change	Diesel	Change
Asda, Hall Road, Norwich	137.9	-10p	143.9	-10p
Tesco Express, Earlham Road, Norwich	137.9	-7p	145.9	-4p
Sainsbury's, Queen's Road, Norwich	138.9	-7p	143.9	-7p
Tesco, Harford Bridges, Norwich	137.9	-7p	145.9	-4p
Sainsbury's Longwater, Norwich	138.9	-7p	145.9	-5p
Abbeygate, Wymondham	149.9	-13p	159.9	-12p
Waitrose, Wymondham	149.9	-13p	159.9	-10p
Thickthorn Services, Hethersett	146.9	-9p	155.9	-7p

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 have dropped quite drastically this month.

The following prices were checked on December 16th 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](mailto: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](http://www.hethersettherald.weebly.com)

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

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

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

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

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

# Groups and Societies

## Forget Me Not Café

HETHERSETT Forget-Me-Not Café meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Hethersett Methodist Church Hall. The programme includes talks and presentations, singing, games and much more, always with coffee and tea and other refreshments.

During the year the café also holds lunches. Everyone is welcome. The café is run under the auspices of the Hethersett Dementia Support Group but you don't have to be living with dementia or be a carer to attend. If you just want a chat and cup of drink in a friendly atmosphere then please do join us from 10 am. Cafes in January will be held on Tuesday 2nd and Tuesday 16th. The first meeting of the year will be a coffee and light refreshments and chat event.

We will publish the full programme for the next few months as soon as it is available. On December 5th members enjoyed a morning of carols and Christmas songs led by the Methodist Church's Singing Fellowship and on December 19th Angela Bishop made a welcome return to talk about Christmas traditions in a most entertaining way.



Angela Bishop entertained the café with tales of Christmas past including reminiscences of teachers who provided slides in the playground for children by throwing cold water and the day the Norfolk Broads froze and somebody drove a mini across the water whilst others had a barbecue on the ice.

# Groups and Societies

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

Hethersett Gardening Club Coming Programme	
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	'A Year in the Wood' - Dr Anne Edwards, Hethersett
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024</b>	'The Eastons go East Again' - John and Lesley Easton, Hethersett
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>	Annual General Meeting; followed by 'Gardens for Us and Them' - Dr Ian Bedford, Norwich
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	'The Secret Life of Plants' - Jim Paine, Walnut Tree Nursery, Attleborough

## THE RiNG (Rheumatoid in Norfolk Group) with Viv Hawes

Farewell to 2023, welcome 2024. 2023 was a year of meetings which were hopefully of interest and now we have a full year to look forward to.

Our last get together of 2023 was at The Queen's Head for a wonderful lunch and a chance to chat in a relaxed atmosphere.

Some of us were lucky enough to hear tales of old Hethersett from a new member and her memories are sharp, down to who ran what service in the village and how the American Servicemen from Hethel Airfield interacted with the locals.

This obviously invited the rest of us to talk about our own youth in similar villages a few years later.

The lunch was excellent and the service quick even though two large parties were also present. A small gift was given to Sue and Avril for their invaluable help with serving the refreshments and Maggie for her provision of goodies at each meeting.

Our first meeting of the year is on January 24th when Peter Steward and John Head will be talking about the Massacre at Le Paradis in 1940 involving The Royal Norfolk Regiment. Events like this should not be forgotten just because so much time has passed.

The February 28th speaker will be Ivan Fisher, someone we have had the pleasure of hearing from before and anyone who was there cannot forget the stories he told.

If you feel you might be interested in joining us, we meet at Hethersett Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. For the £4 entrance fee you will find tea/coffee and homemade goodies available together with a warm welcome.

If you require any more details please contact me on: [viv.hawes@talktalk.net](mailto:viv.hawes@talktalk.net) or 01603 811347.

## Hethersett WI Meetings

### Coming Dates

Monday 15th January—Norfolk Fringe Project—Managing our natural heritage and green spaces with Matt Davies.

Monday 19th February—Annual meeting. Craft and Nature, Creating Together with Debbie Perriss and Katie Kaydn-Slater.

Monday 18th March—Hands-on craft making Evening with Christine Dale and Friends.

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If you would like your group/organisation featured in Hethersett Herald, please send information to the editor by the 15th of the month.

# 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.

Hethersett Library will be closed over the Christmas period on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day and open library access will not be available on those dates.



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2024**

**Future Dates:                      Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
   Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

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

# 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 Herald What's On

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Hethersett 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](http://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 Pantomime Group

Presents

JACK

&  
The

BEANSTALK

January  
20th-27th  
2024  
at  
Hethersett  
Village Hall



Tickets £8.50

Proudly supporting local  
charities, groups & good causes

For Tickets Visit [www.hethersettboxoffice.org.uk](http://www.hethersettboxoffice.org.uk)

[www.hethersettpantomime.org.uk](http://www.hethersettpantomime.org.uk)

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

# Hethersett Herald What's On



[www.hethersett-yc.co.uk](http://www.hethersett-yc.co.uk)

Back Lane, Hethersett  
NR9 3JJ

## Youth Club

During term time

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

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

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

 @Hethersett Jubilee Youth Centre

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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

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



Good News also includes adverts for local businesses and trades people. Each edition costs just 60p and an annual subscription is just £5 for 12 issues. If you would like to be added to the distribution list 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](http://www.barchester.com)

**Residential Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks**



# Hethersett Herald What's On

January 2024

**Tuesday 2nd—St Remigius Church Baby and Toddler Group. 10 am in the church.**

**Saturday 6th –Little Melton Church and Churchyard tidy up from 10 am.**

**Sunday 7th—Hethersett Village Screen presents “The Old Oak.” Hethersett Village Hall, 3 pm. See page 19 for more details of coming films.**

**Monday 15th—Hethersett WI: Norfolk Fringe Project talk by Matt Davies.**

**Wednesday 17th—Hethersett Gardening Club. Dr Anne Edwards on “A Year In The Wood.” Hethersett Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 pm.**

**Saturday 20th to Saturday 27th- Hethersett Village Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. Hethersett Village Hall. Performances on Saturday 20th (2 pm and 7.30 pm), Sunday 21st (11 am and 3 pm), Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th, Thursday 25th and Friday 26th (all at 7.30 pm), Saturday 27th at 2 pm and 7.30. There is no performance on Monday 22nd.**

**Wednesday 24th—The RiNG (Rhumatroid in Norfolk Group). Talk by John Head and Peter Steward on the massacre at Le Paradis in Northern France in May 1940. Hethersett Village Hall 2 pm.**

**Saturday 27th—Friends of Little Melton Church quiz. Little Melton Village Hall, 7.15 pm.**

**Monday 29th—Toadwatch meeting, Wymondham White Hart, 7.30 pm. See page 23 for more details.**

Friends of  
LITTLE  
MELTON  
CHURCH

Friends of Little Melton Church Trust reg. Charity 1078896

**QUIZ**  
**Saturday**  
**27<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**At the Village Hall**  
**7.15pm**

£8 Per Person, Teams of 8 maximum,  
pay at the door.

Don't be late, the questions start at 7.30pm.  
Bring your own drinks, glasses & nibbles, we will  
provide the Cheese Supper at half time.

We have to limit to 12 teams so book your table by  
e-mailing [mail@friends-of-lmc.co.uk](mailto:mail@friends-of-lmc.co.uk) or  
ring 01603 812280

## Hethersett Village Screen Coming Attraction

**Hethersett Village Screen**  
Community Cinema

In association with Dawson's Law

**Hethersett Village Screen**  
@hethersettvs

**Sunday 7th January 2024**  
The Old Oak (15)

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

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

**Sunday 7th April (12)**  
Barbie

**Sunday 12th May (15)**  
Oppenheimer

**All screenings at 3pm**  
**Hethersett Village Hall**  
**All tickets £5 ea.**

# Hethersett Herald What's On

## Hethersett Social Club

Coming attractions at Hethersett Social Club include the following:

December 24th—Christmas Eve family disco, 4-8 pm.

December 31st—New Year's Eve Family Disco from 7 pm.

Current opening hours are:

Monday \*Closed\*

Tuesday 7pm - 11pm

Wednesday 7pm - 11pm

Thursday 7pm - 11pm

Friday 5pm - 11.30pm

Saturday 12pm - Midnight



Hethersett Jubilee Youth Centre are looking for a new, enthusiastic member of the team to assist on Wednesday evenings for 2.5hrs during term-time at our thriving club for young people.

For more details, contact Sandra on 07904 783370 or email [sandrahenden2@gmail.com](mailto:sandrahenden2@gmail.com)



**NOW OPEN ALL WEEK ...  
...INCLUDING TUESDAYS!**

**OPEN HOURS:**  
**MON - FRI:** 9:30am - 5:30pm  
(closed for lunch 1:00 - 1:30pm)  
**SAT:** 9:30am - 2:30pm

Find us Inside Hethersett Library  
(NR9 3DB)

For entry, use your library card  
+ pin, or RING THE BELL



Photograph by Salena Dawson

# Business Opening Hours

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

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](http://www.thehethersettbutchers.co.uk). E mail [hethersettbutcher@btinternet.com](mailto:hethersettbutcher@btinternet.com) and Facebook @thehethersettbutchersltd.

## Group Meeting Dates

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



Come and Join Us  
at the

### **Coffee Stop**

9am to 12pm  
Every Wednesday

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

is offering

### **a Gathering Space**

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

### **a Coffee**

*(Tea and Squash is also available!)*

### **a Warm Welcome**

# The Felmingham War Memorial

FOR SEVERAL YEARS I have been involved in the organising of private pilgrimages to the poignant sites in the village of Le Paradis where the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Norfolk Regiment, held their ground in May 1940 until they surrendered and were then cruelly massacred by the SS Totenkopf.

In 2022, I stepped down from organising this pilgrimage although another one is being arranged in 2024 by two of my Le Paradis Commemoration Group colleagues, Dennis O'Callaghan (son of one of the two massacre survivors) and Nick Smith. The pilgrimage is always a four-day event which includes a battlefield tour of some of the key areas of conflict in France and Belgium covering the two world wars. The pilgrimage stays at Ypres and has its own military historian on hand to lead the events and to respond to any questions.



**St Andrew's Church Felmingham**

Many of the pilgrims are highly motivated by the battlefield tour and if the tour passes close to any cemetery which is of interest to them the tour will go 'off piste' to pay their respects. One such person who took an interest in our battlefield itinerary, as well as the Le Paradis Pilgrimage, was the Rev. Keith Dally who joined us in 2015 and 2017.



**St Andrew's Church Felmingham Roll of Honour**

Keith, now retired, was then the Priest-in-Charge of the United Benefice of King's Beck in the Diocese of Norwich. This included St Andrew's Church, Felmingham. At the time Keith was keen to establish a permanent war memorial for the village of Felmingham. Keith remarked that "for some unknown reason, Felmingham seems to be the only village in the area that doesn't have an external memorial, just a Roll of Honour Board inside the church."

## **Rev. Keith Dally, The Felmingham War Memorial and our Pilgrimage and Battlefield Tour**

The 2015 battlefield tour itinerary was ideal for Keith to research some of those from Felmingham who fell during World War One. Unfortunately, I did not have my camera close at hand when Keith paid his respect to the Felmingham fallen. However, my camera was present when Keith met up with the former Hethersett Rector, Brian Llewellyn, who was then Chaplain of St George's Memorial Church Ypres. This church was built to commemorate the British and Commonwealth troops who had died in the battles fought on the Ypres Salient during World War One. It is noted for its many memorial plaques.



**Rev Keith Dally and former Hethersett rector the Rev Brian Llewellyn**



**Keith with Peter and Nick**

A poignant photograph of Keith at the last resting place of Rev. Charles Benjamin Plummer, Chaplain 4th Class. Killed in Action 12th March 1917 aged 27.

In 2017 Keith visited the Thiepval Memorial with us where Serjeant Albert James Whitwood, one of the Felmingham fallen, is commemorated. He also visited the following cemeteries which were the last resting places of other persons, not on the proposed Felmingham Memorial, but who were of interest to Keith.

**Cabaret Rouge Cemetery**

Together with Peter Steward and Nick Smith, Keith is shown at the grave of Private. F. Lown of the Manchester Regiment.

**Carnoy Military Cemetery**



**At Carnoy Military Cemetery**

**Le Paradis**

Keith accompanied by Barry and John Howell in front of the massacre barn at Le Paradis (photograph below).

Keith accompanied by John Head, Peter Steward and David Warren (Carl Reeve in the background). The photograph is taken alongside 2nd Norfolks Battalion HQ at Duriez Farm, Le Paradis. Those soldiers who escaped from the front of the farmhouse fell into captivity. Those who surrendered in the attacking byre fell into the hands of the SS Totenkopf and were marched away and massacred.



Having Keith with us was an enhancement to our tours as he became our 'chaplain' and undertook many small poignant services in the cemeteries which we visited. Keith derived many benefits to assist him with his local research on the fallen and it was a pleasure to have him with us.

**Rev. Keith Dally's efforts come to fruition**

Following intensive fund raising and a grant from Hopkins Homes (Hopkins Charitable Fund) together with Keith's relentless research into those from Felmingham who fell during the wars, the Felmingham Memorial Campaign was a success. The memorial was unveiled in August 2018 and dedicated by the then Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Graham James. This also marked the centenary of the armistice. The memorial is made of granite by local stone mason Nick Hindle – the groundwork also being carried out by a church member Peter Brown. The whole project was led by Felmingham Church Friends Group.

If you are travelling close to North Walsham or Aylsham please try and make a detour and visit St Andrew's Church Felmingham and the war memorial in its peaceful setting. There is ample car parking and toilet facilities are available.



Remembering the fallen of Felmingham.

**First World War:** Torrance Algernon Brett, Frederick Buck, Frederick William Self, James Edward Self, Herbert Ernest Self, Albert James Whitwood,

**Second World War:** John E Beales, John Daniels, Cecil Frank Hall, Leonard James Hicks, George Walter Mount,, James Henry Wright

Photographs are from the John Head Collection.

Felmingham War Memorial Information courtesy of the Eastern Daily Press Newspaper.

John Head and Peter Steward's book about Le Paradis massacre "Hell in Paradise" is due to be published early in 2024. Both men live in Hethersett and we will feature an extract from the book once it is published along with how you can get your own copy.



# Hethersett Herald

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

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

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

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

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