



Anti Social Fight Is On

By Peter Steward

HETHERSETT is fighting back against a new tide of vandalism and anti social behaviour which is being deemed as “unacceptable” by residents.

A list of anti social behaviour includes:

- The breaking of windows in the front door at Hethersett Methodist Church.
- Threats from young people wearing balaclavas so that their faces are obscured.
- Anti Social behaviour on the Memorial Playing Field.
- The illegal use of Nitrous Oxide canisters.
- Bikes being ridden on village roads in a dangerous manner
- Residents being subjected to verbal abuse.
- The theft of a memorial plaque off a seat close to the new Hethersett Hub.

A list of various incidents has been drawn up and passed to Norfolk Police who have vowed to step up patrols to and around the village. Police have also urged residents to report instances of damage or anti-social behaviour.

One of the leaders in fighting the lawlessness and vandalism is Herald Associate Editor and former chairman of Hethersett Parish Council Sarah Lawrence who posted a message on Facebook asking for incidents of anti social behaviour in the village.

The appeal brought instant responses from residents sick and tired of the behaviour of a small minority of youngsters.

Many residents have commented on the



deterioration over the past few months:

“It’s such a nice village so a shame to let the minority ruin it for everyone else,” was a typical response to what’s going on at the present time.

Starting on page four you can read Sarah Lawrence’s investigation into vandalism in Hethersett.

The subject of anti social behaviour was also a leading topic at the annual parish meeting held at the end of April and we have a full report on this as well.

Our photographs above show the damage to the front door of the Methodist Church and also a couple of the nitrous oxide canisters found in the village.



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Hello Everyone

Welcome to the May edition of Herald.

You will note from our main story that Hethersett is fighting back against vandalism and anti social behaviour that seems to have sprung up in our village now that Spring has sprung.

I have lived in Hethersett for well over 40 years and have seen wave after wave of anti social behaviour punctuated by periods of calm.

The latest series seems to have taken a rather sinister turn, however, with youths marauding around the village wearing balaclavas and threatening other youngsters and some not so young.

Clearly this is totally unacceptable and many residents realise that it has to be nipped in the bud before somebody gets seriously hurt.

Police have promised to mount additional patrols, but it is incumbent on all of us to keep an eye out and immediately report any vandalism or anti social behaviour to the police. That way a full picture can be put together on the degree of the problem.

I know from talking to various people that the names of some of those responsible for damage and anti-social behaviour have been passed onto the police.

We must emphasise that the young people committing these crimes are very much in a minority and this shouldn't detract from the fact that Hethersett continues to be a wonderful place to live.

Elsewhere in this edition of Herald, things are much more positive with £13,000 being raised for a major local charity from a glamour and glitz ball. It's been a busy month on the news front and there's plenty to look forward to as well as we move towards the summer months.

Peter

Hethersett Herald is a non profit making independent magazine covering news and views from Hethersett and the surrounding areas.

It is staffed entirely by volunteers and has no allegiance to any specific group or organisation.

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Another Massacre

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Increase In Anti Social Behaviour

HETHERSETT Herald's Associate Editor Sarah Lawrence discusses incidents of anti social behaviour in Hethersett and gives an insight on how the village is fighting back by making regular reports to the police.

IN recent times, there has been an upsurge in the number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents happening within Hethersett, enough to become noticeable.

An anonymous post on the "All Things Hethersett" Facebook page brought these incidents to the forefront and has highlighted the fact that something needs to be done, and soon, before someone is seriously hurt.

The poster told of a group of older teens, wearing balaclavas who approached their son and his friends while they were playing football and threatened them. This has affected their son in that he no longer wants to meet his friends or even walk to the shop. Hardly fair for a young lad just trying to enjoy the school holidays with his mates. On the back of this, I reached out to the followers on "All Things Hethersett" for their personal experiences, of course keeping their anonymity.

Seemingly the same group had approached another group playing football and threatened to kick their ball into a neighbouring garden, or stab them, unless they got on their knees and begged. This balaclava wearing group have also been causing problems on Sargeant Way in the Heather Gardens area of Hethersett.

Private messages I've received from people who live around that area spoke of those and incidents of other groups of young people abusing public areas, jumping on benches and abusing other equipment put in by developers.

One person who spoke to myself said that they have made over 17 complaints to the housing association in two years, but it's only now that they have started to take action. When asked what that action was, they said that the housing association has engaged with one of the two families that are causing issues. But is it a matter of too little, too late?

Not content with intimidating other young people, I have had messages from adults that have been threatened and abused by these tearaway groups of young people. One woman was driving along Coachmaker Way with her partner and saw three boys (one wearing a balaclava). When they looked in their direction, the boys shouted, "What the f**k are you looking at?"

Another woman was also in the Coachmaker Way area of Hethersett walking her dog and heard a group of four girls in pink hoodies shouting loudly whilst filming themselves. When the woman looked in the direction of the noise, she too was met with a barrage of abuse, at one point even accusing her of being a paedophile.

Another person who messaged told of how she no longer visits the park with her young children, finding that more often than not it's full of young people in Hethersett

Academy uniforms vaping, drinking, leaving litter, and using obscene language.

She said that "Nothing gives them greater pleasure than an adult trying to confront them - they have no respect for their elders." The same person also told of an occasion when they visited with their children last summer and a group of boys indecently exposed themselves to some of the girls in their group, when there were children present. That was the last time that their family used the play area. This person also said that they sadly do not think they will be staying in the village much longer due to the levels of anti social behaviour.

Vandalism has also been rife in recent months with the Methodist Church glass door being kicked in (see our photograph on the front page), a memorial bench being vandalised at the Hub and bins being set alight on the memorial playing field and books with visible scorch marks littered down Grove Road and Back Lane, presumably ones taken from the Back Lane Book Swap.

Nos canisters of varying sizes (Nitrous Oxide - inhaled as a recreational drug) have also been found around the car park of the Methodist Church, is this connected? Another person who contacted me reported that their, and a neighbour's, fence panels had been removed and dumped onto the rough land next to their home and onto other driveways. This has happened twice now in a fortnight and the person worries that, although no damage has happened yet, what about if/when it happens again?

A number of these people, when asked if they had contacted the Police, told me that they have no faith in what will be achieved by doing just that.

"A couple of times to no avail, what's the point?" is very much the overwhelming response when I ask, that or the fear of repercussions. I contacted PC James Smith and PS Stuart Barnard at Norfolk Constabulary with our collective concerns and received a prompt response:

"In recent weeks we have had calls for issues around the old Woodside School and due to this I've personally concentrated lots of patrols in the area including the memorial park. I have contacted South Norfolk District Council to work in partnership to try and have put in place better security measures due to the poor state of the building and children accessing it which puts them at risk of harm.

"I have been working with housing providers to resolve other issues which include neighbour disputes and, as an organisation, both the Police and District Council have effective tools to address anti-social behaviour when it is reported and suspects are identified. This is why it is important that incidents are reported as from the current issues that have been forwarded only two of them have

been highlighted to the Police as far as I'm aware. I will endeavour to dedicate as much of my time as possible to patrols and work closely with the local partners and schools.

Support from the local residents is so important for us also to identify the people causing issues for us to try and take action against them."

"Based upon the information we have seen, I am keen to dedicate some resources into Hethersett in the near future."

The full comments are available to view on the All Things Hethersett Facebook page and also on page seven of this edition of Hethersett Herald.

PC Smith and PS Barnard both make it very clear that with all incidents of anti social behaviour, members of the public should contact the Police on 101, or in emergencies, 999. This is to build up an accurate picture of the incidents and to be able to react in an appropriate time-frame, otherwise "opportunities of safeguarding and investigations may well be missed."

So, what is the answer? I, for one, don't know. I do agree that reporting incidents to the Police is an important step, their job is to protect and serve. However I have reported incidents myself, and haven't received the end result that I would hope, so I appreciate this is disheartening.

I've lived in Hethersett since I was 13 and worked in the centre of it for more than half of my life. I know from experience that we have phases of anti social behaviour, which are awful at the time, but then the delinquents grow up and move on. This doesn't excuse the current generation of their behaviour though.

I am pleased that by compiling some of our experiences, the Police intend to deploy some officers to more problematic areas of the village. They talk about the use of plain-clothed officers which seems especially hopeful, with luck they may be able to catch some of the young people causing problems in the act.

Another person who messaged me gave some food for thought. They said that they didn't think that these incidents are a result of a lack of things to do, or a lack of parenting. It may be about a lack of attention as to where their young people are, and what they are up to.

They added that they thought that although it seems easy to blame a certain type of family (often those living in housing association properties, let's be honest) they thought that quite often it may be the result of children from stricter families wanting to let off steam.

Their final thought was one I wholeheartedly agree



Graffiti is another problem in the village at the moment as these two photographs taken by Sarah show.

with, social media and music videos being partly to blame, especially with the use of the balaclavas, and gang culture being almost idolised on platforms such as TikTok. I know that a few years ago we had an incident in Tesco where a problematic teenage girl stuck a paper bag over her head and her hand, telling the shop that she was in possession of a gun. This was then shared on TikTok and Facebook.

Whilst all of the above seems bleak, it's important to remember that not all young people are causing problems in Hethersett and for every one that is, they are far outnumbered by the good ones, I know this from personal experience.

I fully believe that this is just a 'bad phase' that we are going through as a village and we will come out, happier on the other side soon. As one of the people who messaged me said, "the heart of the village is still here, it's just about pulling it back."

Sarah Lawrence

Please report any instances of anti social behaviour to Norfolk Police on 111 or 999 if you witness a crime being committed.

The more reports the Police receive regarding anti social behaviour, the more chance there is that they will step up patrols and take action against the people responsible for damage and making threats against others.



More instances of vandalism. Our top picture shows damage to a bench and in the picture below that you can clearly see that a memorial plaque to the memory of Steve Walker outside Hethersett Hub on the Memorial Playing Field has been unscrewed. The irony in this is Steve was a champion of young people and did so much for them. The photograph on the left shows more graffiti on the memorial field.

The Police Response In Full

Below is the police response in full to Sarah Lawrence's list of incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village.

"Thank you for making me aware of the issues you have currently been experiencing. In the past we have been made aware of specific incidents which we have always tried to resolve with a positive outcome which supports the victims of these incidents as we understand how impactful these things can be on individuals and the community in general. In recent weeks we have had calls for issues around the old Woodside School and due to this I've personally concentrated lots of patrols in the area including the memorial park. I have contacted South Norfolk District Council to work in partnership to try and have put in place better security measures due to the poor state of the building and children accessing it which puts them at risk of harm.

I have been working with housing providers to resolve other issues which include neighbour disputes and as an organisation both the Police and District Council have effective tools to address anti-social behaviour when it is reported and suspects are identified. This is why it is important that incidents are reported as from the current issues that have been forwarded only two of them have been highlighted to the Police as far as I'm aware.

I will endeavour to dedicate as much of my time as possible to patrols and work closely with the local partners and schools. Support from the local residents is so important for us also to identify the people causing issues for us to try and take action against them.

The local policing team have been made aware of the Facebook post relating to individuals wearing balaclavas causing issues in Hethersett. We would always urge individuals who are directly affected with anti-social behaviour to contact the Police directly. In non-emergency incidents you can make an on-line report at www.Norfolk.Police.uk or by calling 101. In incidents where it involves an emergency response then 999 would be appropriate. Unfortunately, unless the reports are forthcoming we are unable to react in an appropriate time frame and opportunities of safeguarding and investigations may well be missed. PC 2177 James Smith is your local Beat manager and he will deal with anything which involves problem solving and reassurance but he cannot be used as a single point of contact for anything which is occurring and requires a prompt response.

Based upon the information we have seen, I am keen to dedicate some resources into Hethersett in the near future. Our tactics will be to use a combination of plain clothes and uniformed patrols. The team is made up of 6 Beat managers covering all areas in the North of South Norfolk and I intend on utilising these officers to capture ASB and dealing with individuals appropriately and thus reducing any concerns through presence of Police. I have to be mindful of other Policing responsibilities throughout the area and there may come a time where the team have to be abstracted out to other areas based on Policing demands, but I will do my best to use the team effectively when it comes to the response of such behaviour within the parish.

I hope this gives some reassurance going forward,

Please remember, you may not see us all the time, but every effort will be made."

Kind regards

PC James Smith and PS Stuart Barnard

County Councillor On Fight Against

HETHERSETT'S County and District Councillor David Bills (pictured on the right) has also hit out at the current wave of vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the village.

In a strongly worded statement, Councillor Bills said: "I am appalled to hear about such events in our village and particularly on the memorial playing field where so many people have spent so much time and put in so much effort to provide facilities that we can be proud of.

"I will be doing my best to get to the bottom of what is going on and I am in contact with Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner on this matter."



Hethersett Is a Low Crime Area—Police

THE fight against anti social behaviour and crime in Hethersett is being won, the annual parish meeting heard from Hethersett’s police beat manager PC James Smith

PC Smith told residents that patrols have been set-up following reports of vandalism and anti social behaviour and several young people and their parents have been contacted.

“Hethersett is still a very low crime area . There have been some issues on the Memorial Park and we have identified and contacted a group of 10 to 12 youths. Some have been identified through CCTV cameras and we would continue to urge the community to report instances of anti social behaviour,” PC Smith said.

He added that Police have stepped up patrols in the village with up to three to four visits a day. This has resulted in a cutback in anti social behaviour

“We do not want local people to suffer or vulnerable members of the community to feel frightened. We are very good at dealing with anti social behaviour and deal with it robustly when necessary,” PC Smith said adding that

patrols had been undertaken in cars and on foot and also by officers in plain clothes.

A number of speed checks have also been taken in the village and police surgeries held in a variety of places: “We are always happy to reach out to any groups or organisations. Just contact us so that we can work together. If people are suffering and children are making their lives a misery, please speak to us.”

Chairman of the parish council Bridget Williamson asked whether the village youth club was reaching out to youngsters:

“Does the youth club do anything to attract young people who are out and about and doing things they shouldn’t,” she asked.

A representative from the Jubilee Youth Club said it used posters, social media and other means to attract youngsters to the club which had a healthy contingent of about 30 for its Wednesday evening sessions and slightly less for the older age range on Fridays.

Mrs Williamson thanked the youth club volunteers “for everything that you do.”



Patrols in Hethersett have been stepped up in the light of reports of vandalism and anti social behaviour—PC James Smith

Sunshine Terrace

By Sophie Stanley

Sit in the sun this summer underneath the Queen’s Head’s new Pergola.

Surrounded by olive trees and sipping a cold glass of Pinot Grigio it will undoubtedly feel like a Mediterranean evening, now all we need is some nice weather!

The Queen’s Head manager Michael Bond officially announced the garden renovations on Facebook in February after keeping the locals guessing what might be replacing the marquee.

After a long run of over 20 years, the marquee has been replaced with this new, modern and stylish installation. In addition to this Michael admitted that there will be some more drinks making the menu, such as Aperol Spritz, Campari Spritz and Pimms, all to be charged at £7.50 each.

Why not head down this Summer and take a look?



King's Head Closes and Then Re-Opens

HETHERSETT King's Head has changed hands once again with the new licensees taking over in the middle of April.

It will be the third change of ownership since Tickle Taverns took over the running of the pub in 2013.

After a short period for more "sprucing up" the venue announced on Social Media that it was once again open for business under new management from Saturday April 27th with the announcement:

"We couldn't wait a second longer to say hello to you all. Opening today for drinks only with our new menu coming soon. Don't forget to bring your four legged friend."

We will have more about the re-opening of the King's Head in the June edition of Hethersett Herald which will be available from the end of May.



How the latest change of landlord was announced on social media in April after the pub had closed its doors again. The message was a positive one:

"We are in the process of giving the King's Head a little spruce before we open the doors to welcome you all.

"New menu pending. Pooch friendly and planned events.

"We look forward to jumping into the summer and welcoming you all and your four legged friends. See you very soon.



The King's Head—A Description

The latest advert for the lease of the King's Head described the pub in the following words.

The King's Head is an attractive traditional public house and restaurant situated on the outskirts of the Norfolk village of Hethersett. This two-bar public house has a wealth of character and offers an attractive opportunity for a publican with significant food experience to integrate into village life.

The pub has recently had an investment including external decorations and a new patio and pergola to the rear beer garden. Currently operating from a single split bar, servicing the lounge and restaurant areas, and a separate smaller bar serves the snug. There are approximately 14 covers in the main lounge area, next to the bar with a mix of comfortable seating and a good-sized log burner as a focal point. A spacious restaurant area provides 40 covers and is accessible from the main lounge.

There is additionally a separate snug bar providing a further 14 covers with its own entrances and comfortable seating. The well-equipped trade kitchen is capable of producing a quality food offer and also benefits from a walk-in chiller. A very substantial beer garden is bounded by mature trees and shrubs to the rear of the property. This is accessible from the lounge bar and has a large, covered shelter that is suited to al fresco dining or a smoking area, boasting beautiful views over the garden.

The King's Head could accommodate a good-sized marquee for functions. Additional seating on traditional benches is available to the front of the pub. The car park is laid to gravel and can accommodate up to 15 vehicles, with additional parking available on the access road to the front of the pub. The car park also houses a number of garages and storage areas.

The private accommodation is situated over two floors with office/lounge/kitchen, one bedroom, bathroom and toilet on the 1st floor and a large bedroom on the second floor.



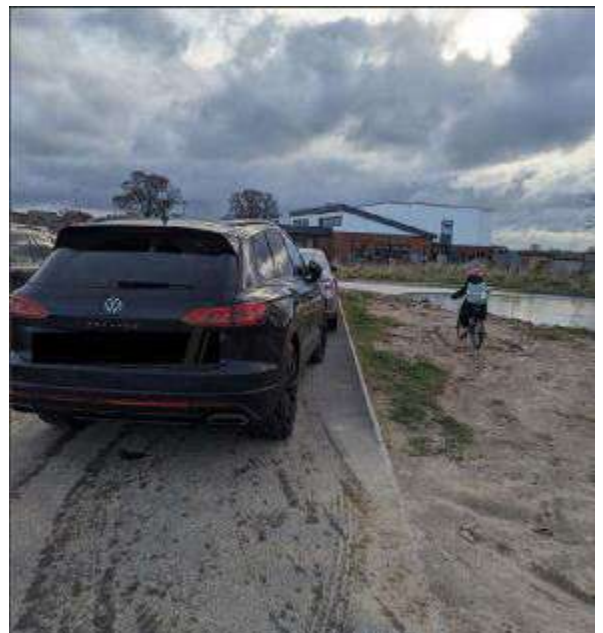
Concern Over Parking

CONCERN has been expressed by local residents and Hethersett Parish Council over parking on footpaths close to Woodside School.

Badly parked cars have been blocking footpaths and cycleways. Councillors expressed their concern at a recent meeting after photographs of what they termed "inconsiderate parking" were posted on social media.

It is hoped that by showing photographs of the parking in the area without specifically identifying vehicles that the public's awareness of the problems such parking can cause will be raised. Councillors agreed to discuss the matter at their next quarterly meeting with developers of the North Hethersett area after they described the situation as "atrocious".

Our photographs show examples of bad parking in the area in recent times.



Simply Champion



HETHERSETT Athletic men's Saturday team has won the top division of the Barnes Print Central and South Norfolk Division One in what could be its last season in that league.

The team is hoping to step up into the Anglian Combination after coming top of the pile.

They travelled to Castle Acre Swifts on April 27th knowing that a win would give them the title for the first time in the club's history. And they made short work by beating the home team 7-2.

The table at the end of April was as follows:

	Played	Wins	Draws	Defeats	Points
Hethersett	18	15	1	2	46
Yaxham	17	13	2	2	41
Norwich Medics	17	9	5	3	32
Castle Acre Swifts	16	9	4	3	31
Watton Reserves	18	9	4	5	31
UEA A	17	7	3	7	24
Bridgham	18	5	1	12	16
Briston	18	5	1	12	16
Cockers	17	4	1	12	13
Wanderers	18	0	0	18	0

Above is the team and on the right is Jake Galea-Pace who was the league's top scorer with 29 goals.



Hethersett Has A New Rector

By Peter Steward

THE Rev Lynn Chapman is the new rector of Hethersett and the Meltons.

In a moving ceremony at the beginning of April, Rev Chapman was instituted, inducted and installed as Hethersett and the Meltons new Rector and Vicar.

The ceremonies were conducted by the Bishop of Thetford the Right Reverend Ian Bishop (institution) and the Acting Archdeacon of Norfolk The Rev Cannon Sally Theakston (induction and installation).

During the ceremonies, Lynn Chapman vowed to serve the people of Hethersett, Little Melton and Great Melton in her new capacity and she was introduced to a large congregation.

Towards the end of the service the Archdeacon said:

“Lynn, I induct you into the real and actual possession of the Benefice of Hethersett with Canteloff with Little Melton and Great Melton with all the rights, responsibilities, privileges and opportunities of service belonging to it.”

Shortly after Rev Chapman rang a church bell to make it known to the community that her new ministry had begun.

The Benefice has been without a rector since the departure of the Rev Derek McClean and Bishop Ian thanked members of the local clergy who had stepped in to conduct services and looked after the three parishes during the period of interregnum.

“Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard during the vacancy including members of the clergy who have covered gaps. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has kept things going.” he said.

After the formalities of the evening, those present enjoyed wine and other refreshments supplied by Ivan Fisher, funeral director. A collection was taken during the service for the Bishop’s Fund which supports a wide range of need.

In his sermon, Bishop Ian spoke of the struggles of the homeless affected by cuts in services by local councils due to the withdrawal of funding. He also spoke of a media “fixated on immigration and celebrities” rather than on social matters and homelessness.

There is so much to do and we have to ask ourselves how we can make a difference with so much pain hurt and sorrow out there.”

“There are so many going to bed hungry and living on our streets,” he said, pointing out that people should not be



Bishop Ian and Lynn Chapman pictured after the ceremony



Re-united—The Bishop of Thetford Ian Bishop and Hethersett Methodist Minister Steve Cullis who went to school together in Wiltshire.

punished in the present because they have made bad life choices in their past.

On a lighter note, Bishop Ian said he had been re-acquainted after 40 years with Hethersett’s Methodist Minister the Rev Steve Cullis. They went to school together and belonged to the same youth group in Devizes in Wiltshire.

NOTES: Lynn Chapman is only the second female rector in over 800 years of worship in the Benefice. Conversely two of the previous three incumbents have been female.



Glitz, Glam and Fundraising For A Special Cause

IT was glitz and glam all the way as 176 guests gathered in Dunston Hall Hotel to remember a very special little boy and to dance the night away.

The Little Fox Charity Ball was organised in aid of the Hethersett based Finnbar's Force charity set-up in memory of Finnbar Cork who died from a brain tumour.

The evening raised over £13,000 for research and to support families with children suffering from brain tumours.

The evening was organised by local fundraiser Sophie Cooke-Shaw: "It's been a complete whirlwind from joining the team of Finnbar's Force at Christmas to hosting 176 fabulous guests at the ball and fundraising for a very important cause.

"Thank you to our founder, Tristan Cork, for trusting me to run wild and pull this together. Tristan is a true inspiration and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work for such an amazing charity doing amazing things supporting families just when they need it the most," Sophie said.

Sophie and Tristan are pictured on the right.





Just some of the guests who enjoyed the Little Fox Charity Ball

Cricket Club Refurbishment Complete

A major refurbishment of facilities at Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club has been completed ahead of the start of the new season. Below are club members in the new bar area. You can see more photographs of the improved facilities at Flordon on the next few pages All photographs courtesy of Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club.





Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club has made the most of the close season to refurbish and extend the facilities at their Flordon headquarters. Our photographs show some of the improvements which have turned the club's facilities into some of the best on the county with numerous sponsorship deals in place.

The club's men's first team start their Norfolk Alliance Premier Division campaign on Saturday 4th May with a home game against Norwich.



Helping Hand Needed For Club Moving Forward

HETHERSETT Athletic which runs football teams for all ages is looking for additional help as it moves forward.

Club leading light David Powles has made the following appeal.

“Could you get involved with the running of the village's ever-growing football club?”

“Hethersett Athletic FC provides football opportunities for more than 400 people.

“This includes adults, right down to Under 6s, whilst next year we plan to run an all-girls team.

“However, we are always looking for new people to join our committee and bring fresh energy and ideas to the club.

“The committee meets once a month and discusses a wide -range of club matters, from coaching to long-term vision to social and fund-raising events.

“Our next AGM is being held on Wednesday, June 5th and prior to that we wish to hear from people who may be prepared to get more heavily involved. Experience of playing football is not required,” David said.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact chairman Neal Luther on 0777 193 8402.

The club is also hosting its annual five-a-side tournament on June 15th and 16th and is looking for people to give up a few hours to help out. If you can support this event please contact Ryan Slatford on 07912118505.

Meanwhile the club's men's Saturday team has realised a dream by winning the Barnes Print Central and South Norfolk League ahead of applying for membership of the Anglian Combination for next season. You can see photographs of the team and read more about their triumph earlier in this edition.

The team is hoping to step up to the Anglian Combination after last year's application to join was turned down after the team failed to finish in the top four.



Hethersett Athletic Force FC U13's

We are looking for new players to join our U13 football team.



- We train on a Thursday evening at Ketts Park, Wymondham.
- Home games are played at Little Melton village hall. (match days are Sundays)
 - Open to current year 7 & 8
 - Boys and Girls welcome

For more information, please contact Sophie on 07825719523 / Hafcadm1n@hotmail.com

Opportunity to really Improve lives in Africa

We have regularly featured news from the Great Melton based Wulugu Project which works tirelessly in North Ghana to tackle poverty through education. The project needs a new treasurer as founder Lynne Symonds explains in this article.

HERE in our 'quiet' corner of the UK we are proud to have been able over 30 years to decrease poverty and early deaths in one of the poorest, most neglected regions in the world. We have done this by improving education and making schooling possible for girls as well as boys,

This has been achieved by building or majorly repairing almost 100 schools, hostels for women teachers and girls, toilet blocks and even providing vocational schools for girls whose parents return them from slavery. We have many awards including ones for tackling slavery and racism. All the work here and in Ghana is in the hands of remarkable volunteers. They are rightly proud of our strong anti-corruption policy.

Sadly, our treasurer has to retire. His work has been remarkable. He has worked closely with our Ghana team and will tell you just how much he has learned about the real situation in Africa, about the struggles of the communities and the absolute joy of knowing that we are making things better not just now but for the long term. Not many get to work so closely with the beneficiaries of aid, get to know them and see how much better things are becoming. We have helped over a million by improving education and half a million by making clean water available.

Please—if you would like to know more about this truly life-saving role—get in touch with me. I can be contacted on 01603 810748.

Lynne Symonds



Come And Join Us Says Club

HETHERSETT Croquet Club is looking to welcome new members to its ranks. Here Gary Wyatt takes a look at the history of the sport and the local club which plays regularly on Hethersett Memorial Playing Field



THE origins of the game of croquet are not entirely clear but the oldest document to bear the word croquet is the set of rules registered in 1856 with the Stationers' Company of London. In 1868 the first croquet all-comers meet was held at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and in the same year the All England Croquet Club was formed at Wimbledon, London.

Over the years, croquet has got the reputation of being an elitist game, played by the "upper classes" - cucumber sandwiches, jolly hockey sticks and all that. However, that is definitely not the case with the Hethersett Croquet Club. It also is sometimes seen as a very gentle pastime but it is actually a very competitive game, with many of the moves designed to prevent or obstruct your opponents from scoring.

Hethersett Croquet Club was formed around ten years ago and we have developed two lawns, as the playing areas are known, on the Memorial Playing Field. We have worked hard to improve the surface and planted hedging for shelter. We also have a rather grand pavilion(!) for equipment and tea making, reconstructed with much hard work from a concrete sectional garage donated by a member.

There is more than one version of the game, and the longer one (Association Croquet) can take a couple of hours to reach a conclusion. However, we play 'Golf Croquet' in which each game usually takes 15-20 minutes to complete. As a very sociable group, this gives everyone a chance to play multiple games during one of our usual sessions. We also like to indulge in tea and biscuits, and birthdays are celebrated in the usual way with cake and the odd tippie. Above all we just enjoy ourselves.

We have space for new players and would love to welcome you along. Your first session will be free of charge and after that the annual club fees are very



modest. If you would like further information, please drop us an email at hethersett.croquet@gmail.com.

Weather permitting we meet at our playing area in the far corner of the playing field nearest to the Woodcote Housing complex on Wednesdays and Saturdays at around 2.30 pm from April to October, and are usually there for two to three hours.

We have club mallets which those new to the game can use to see how they get on. Please come and try your hand. You will enjoy it – guaranteed.

Hawks' Season Is Underway

Hethersett Hawks with Sarah Brailey

HETHERSETT HAWKS sponsored by Yellow Brick Mortgages opened its season with the first round of the South East Grand Prix at Eaton Park on April 6th. The riders had to contend with windy racing conditions and only two training sessions under their belts. Hethersett placings were as follows:

Under 8—1st Jax Lockhart. **Under 10 B** – 1st Isaac Emms, 2nd Nyla El-Labany. **Under 10 A** – 4th Jake Harvey-Riches. **Under 12 B** – 3rd Arlo Davies, 4th Michal. **Under 12 A** – 2nd Luca El-Labany, 4th Austin Brailey. **Under 12 Girls B** – 1st Amelia Dodson. **Under 12 Girls A** – 4th Lola Martin.

Sunday 7th April saw the first races of the season in the South East Division Two and the South East Youth League at Kesgrave. The seniors kicked things off with their match against the Panthers but, even with Lola Martin and Amelia Dodson riding, the Hawks did not have a full team. Along with some mix-ups around teams and timings Hawks found they also had a second Division Two match with the Pumas, therefore early arrival for the Youth Team. Austin Brailey stepped in to score some points for the team supported by Luca El-Labany and Frank Spauls on their arrival at the track. This meant that points were not as plentiful as Hethersett would have liked and scores are still to be finalised. Scores from the day were: Hethersett 57, Kesgrave Panthers 103; Hethersett 57 Kesgrave Pumas 100.

The Youth League match was a close affair with Luca El-Labany, Frank Spauls and Austin Brailey all taking heat wins. Lola Martin showed some great team riding, not only riding in both Division Two matches but also supporting Nyla El-Labany who had stepped in to ensure the young Hawks went with a full team. Amelia Dodson also rode all three matches and rode consistently despite a fall which saw a race re-start. Scores Hethersett Youth 71, Kesgrave Youth 89.

Hawks were in action against Great Blakenham in both the South East Division Two and the Youth Team.

Hethersett took the match win, even with Harley Hamill having a coming together with newly transferred Mason Martin. Paul Delache gave a strong performance in his first ride of the season. Score—Hethersett 90, Great Blakenham B 69.

The Youth League match saw Hethersett lend riders to Great Blakenham, meaning the away side taking a hit with points. A dry track saw a few tumbles and windy conditions saw quite a bit of movement on the gate. However, the young Hawks dusted themselves off and got on with the job of team riding and learning to communicate on the track. There was some stand out riding from Ronnie Harding who held lines and looked for gaps.

Score—Hethersett Youth 79, Kesgrave Youth 52.

It was a busy week for Hawks towards the end of the month.

Lola Martin kicked it all off riding in the Women's Battle of Britain weekend. She rode for the North in the team event and in the individuals only dropped two points to get into the Intermediate A Final where she came second.

Midweek saw the Club's Maiden Plate that had been delayed due to the poor weather. Despite the gloomy skies, the Hawks had 13 riders – the highest ever – battling for the top spot. The Maiden Plate is only open to riders who have not won a Club Championship and everyone was keen to kick-start the season with a trophy. With much improved riding all round, there was a three-way tie and therefore a run-off for the top three spots. Ross Carmen crossed the line first, with Ronnie Harding 2nd and Amelia Dodson 3rd.

On Saturday 27th April, Hawks travelled to Kesgrave for the second round of the South East Grand Prix. On a decidedly chilly day, Kesgrave had a warm welcome with everything running like clockwork and making a roaring trade in Pot Noodles. With faces as blue as their shirts, the young Hawks rode well.

After facing a run-off in the U10s for the B final, Isaac Emms finished 4th and Nyla El-Labany 2nd. Both are getting to grips well with new age groups this season. The U12s were just as impressive with some shoulder-to-shoulder riding and resulting in the C final Arlo Davies 1st, B final, Austin Brailey 3rd and A final Luca El-Labany 2nd. Amelia Dodson rounded off the Hawks afternoon with 4th in the A final.

Unfortunately, the Division 2 and Youth Team matches against Kesgrave on Sunday 28th April had to be called off due to – yes, you guessed it – the weather.




SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT




It's Official! We're GOOD with OUTSTANDING features!



Pupils thrive at this school. There are a variety of activities that help to give them a well-rounded and rich school experience.




The school is highly ambitious for what pupils can achieve, both academically and in their personal development. Pupils experience a high-quality education, particularly in areas such as early reading and mathematics.



The school has high expectations for pupils' behaviour.

The school goes above and beyond in other experiences and activities that it provides for pupils. The school makes every effort to enable all pupils to participate in these activities.

Pupils have an excellent understanding of diversity and difference within our society. They are highly respectful and supportive of each other. This is because of the high quality teaching they receive about this and the world around them.



HETHERSETT VC Primary School in Queen's Road had been officially rated "Good with Outstanding Features" in its latest Ofsted inspection. The school broke the news on social media and you can read that above.

"The school empowers its children and their families to flourish and grow. Creativity, compassion, responsibility, the love of learning to gain knowledge and wisdom, combined with Christian values shape our inclusive education," the school stated.

Tea Time In Support of Cancer Charity



Star Throwers supporter Derek Hearn is attempting a mammoth 300 mile cycle ride in support of the charity. Derek made an appeal at the birthday event for sponsorship.



“Last year my wife lost her sister to cancer and Star Throwers provided a huge amount of support, which included counselling as well as a range of other therapies.

“They are a small local charity but they do a massive amount of work supporting those who have cancer, individuals who have been through cancer and their families. The individualised packages of care, the time the charity invests, it’s amazing. My wife benefitted enormously.

“I will be attempting, through sponsorship, to give something back to Star Throwers by taking on two cycle rides, the Norwich 100 on the 2nd June and the Epic Around Norfolk 200 miles bike ride on 9th June. Your support will provide me with a lot of encouragement and obviously Star Throwers with much needed financial support. Thank you!

Derek has a Just Giving page for donations and this can be accessed at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/derek-hearn-1705263805452>

Or by going to Just Giving and searching with Derek’s name.

SUPPORTERS and friends of the Wymondham-based cancer support charity Star Throwers came together at Park Farm Hotel, Hethersett, to mark the charity’s 15th birthday.

Set-up in 2009, Star Throwers is a cancer support charity dedicated to supporting people affected by cancer, from diagnosis through to life after cancer. It does this by providing cancer information sessions to help people to become well-informed about their cancer and all of their treatment options – including clinical trials. It also helps people to manage the effects of their cancer and cancer treatments through wellbeing support.

150 supporters enjoyed afternoon tea and music from the Jazz Division and harpist Leonie Brown at Park Farm where cancer sufferer Kat gave an emotional speech about the organisation and how it has supported her through her journey with breast cancer.

“Being told that you have cancer is a scary and almost out of the body experience. I was told about Star Throwers and from the moment I rang the doorbell, I felt the love being wrapped around me. When the days were dark, they were the light. Star Throwers are a charity that you never want to have to use but when you have cancer they become the charity and support that you need,” she said.

Victoria Pigg, Operations and Fundraising Manager, spoke of the Star Throwers ethos: “We make sure that we do make a difference to everyone who comes through our doors by treating everyone as an individual,” she said pointing out that during their lifetime one in every two people will get cancer with over three million living with it at the present time.

Victoria once again underlined how Star Throwers got its name: “After a heavy storm a boy walked along the beach throwing the washed up starfish back into the sea. The old man who was watching him shouted ‘there are too many of them it won’t make any difference.’ As the boy threw another starfish back into the sea he smiled and said ‘well it made a difference to that one.’”

Photograph on this and the next page are courtesy of Star Throwers.



On the left is harpist Leonie Brown who entertained at the tea in aid of Star Throwers and on the right is cancer sufferer Cat who gave a moving speech about the effects of the disease and the support she has received from the Wymondham based charity



Hetherset's Big Day Out

HETHERSETT is gearing up for what promises to be one of the highlights of the year.

The Big Green Picnic will be taking place at Hetherset Village Hall and adjoining field on Sunday 30th June from 10 am until 4 pm.

Plans are well advanced for a variety of attractions with residents being urged to bring their own picnics to enjoy amongst a growing number of attractions which are being lined-up as the parish council explained.

“We are really excited to announce the growing line up for Hetherset's Great Big Green Picnic on Sunday 30th June. Come and join us for this free, fun, family event and learn more about the local environment and nature.

“There will be live music from The Manifest along with Sam the Magic Man who is back to entertain. Take part in the 'green' themed kids fancy dress competition for a chance to win prizes.. There will also be Vegan street food from Rambling Roots, ethical stall holders, local craft beers from Craftily Mobile Bar Hire, kids story telling corner, giant snakes and ladders from Central Co-op Food , vegan ice cream option from Mr. Frosty's Ice Cream, plus short talks, demos and much more!.”

The event is being organised on behalf of the village by Hetherset Parish Council. Details of the event are on the poster above and there is a larger, easier to read poster in our What's On section towards the back of this edition of Hetherset Herald.

The Story of A Wartime Massacre

IN the April edition of Hethersett Herald we had news of a new book on a massacre in Northern France at Le Paradis during the Second World War. The book is written by Herald editor Peter Steward and columnist John Head. We are pleased to bring you an extract from the book.

AMONGST the 99 men to surrender were Privates William “Bill” O’Callaghan from Norfolk and Albert “Bert” Pooley from London.

The 99 were treated extremely badly, being subjected to acts of brutality which included being spat at, kicked and being beaten with rifle butts. They were marched along a road and into a nearby field where it has been suggested but not proved that a hole in the ground had already been dug, apparently in readiness. Along the way they had their identity badges (dog tags) ripped off and this later made identification in many cases virtually impossible.

The field they were taken to turned out to be the farm belonging to Frenchman Louis Creton. This was where they were massacred.

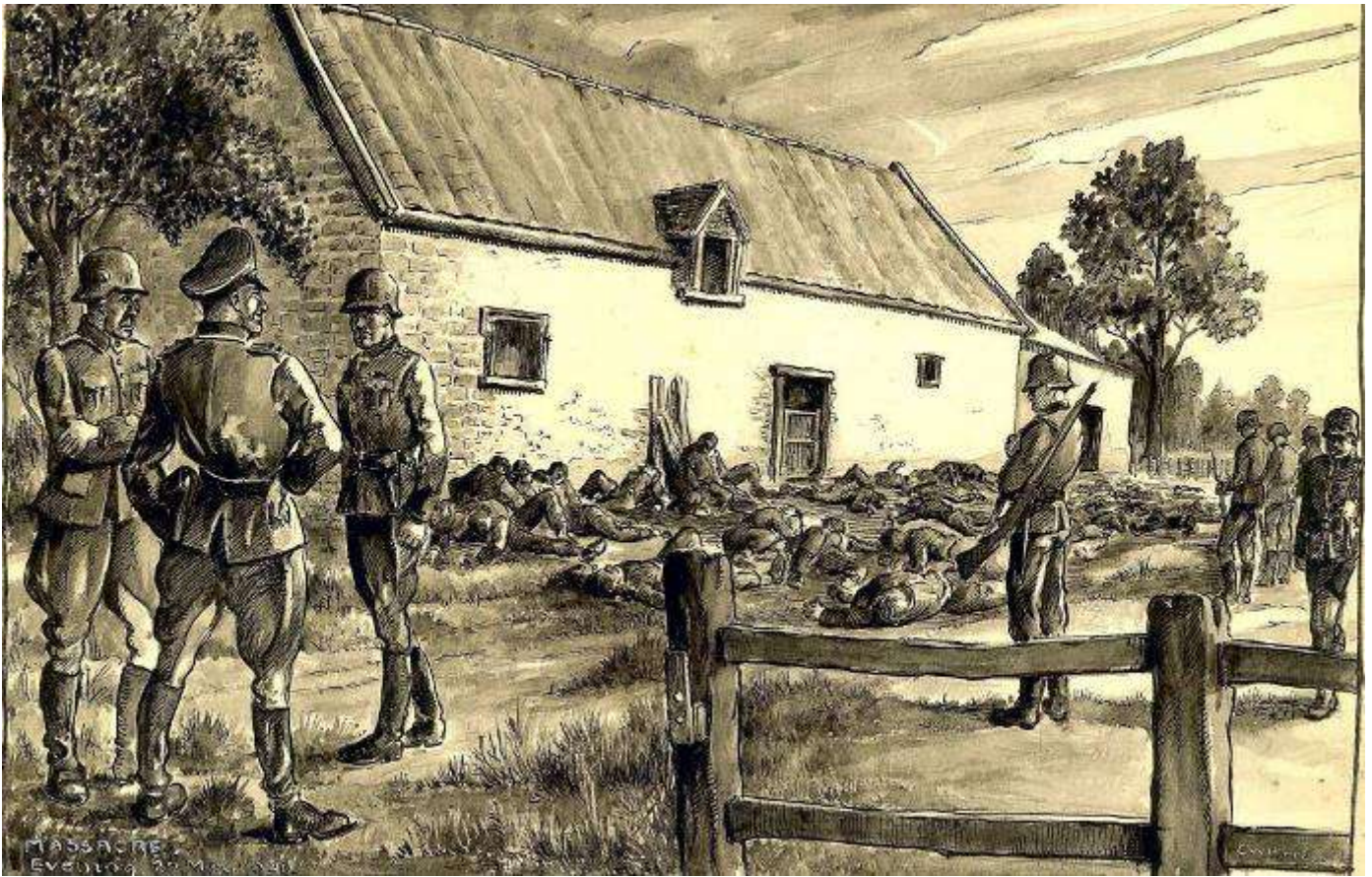
Bill O’Callaghan gave his version of the massacre as part of his evidence at the subsequent trial of Fritz Knoechlein four

COPIES of “Hell In Paradise” can be purchased for £10 direct from Peter Steward by e-mailing him with your address at petersteward@sky.com. Delivery to Hethersett and the Meltons can be arranged for no additional charge. Outside of the immediate area the cost will be £15 to include postage and packaging.

The extract from the book here describes the massacre in the words of the two survivors— Private Bill O’Callaghan from Dereham in Norfolk and Private Bert Pooley from London.

Hell In Paradis is published by the Le Paradis Commemoration Group.





years after the war had ended. This included stating that as soon as he heard the order “fire” he dropped down into the ditch to avoid becoming a victim. Here is his account of what happened.

"We hung a towel on the end of a rifle and shortly afterwards all firing ceased. We opened the door and started to file out with our hands above our heads. The first dozen men out were mown down, then the firing ceased. We marched down to a field about 300 yards away, here we were searched.

"After we were searched, the wounded were attended to, and we were lined-up in threes and marched across a field. A high-ranking German officer (I think he had red lapels on his greatcoat) came up and spoke to the other German officers there (I cannot remember how many there were) and waved his hand, whereupon we moved off.

"We halted on the road, about 200 yards from where we had been searched, to let some vehicles pass. We started off again to march along the road and met German troops who behaved in a very brutal manner towards us, hitting us with their rifles and pushing us about.

"On the march we halted once or twice, and it is possible that one of those halts occurred just before we turned off into a gateway leading into a farm. On passing through this gateway, I noticed a pasture on our right and a farm building on our left.

"As I was turning into the gateway, I noticed a machine gun in front of us which appeared to be mounted in front

The drawing above was made by Captain Charles Long who fought in the area and made artwork from his memories after the war. This is his depiction of the massacre.

The photograph on the previous page is the chilling depiction of the men in the farmyard after being rounded up. Only two survived the massacre in which 97 died

of what I thought looked like a farm lavatory. After having passed through the gateway, the gun was then on my right.

"The whole column continued to march forward along the side of the house with their hands still behind their heads, when suddenly firing started. The men started falling from the front of the column. When I saw the men falling, I threw myself forward and fell into a slight depression in the ground and, in falling, stretched my arms out before me and sustained a slight flesh wound in the left arm.

"After the firing stopped, I heard my comrades shouting and shrieking in their agony. I then heard what sounded to me like the fixing of bayonets and, shortly afterwards, I heard moans and shrieks from more of my comrades, which sounded to me as if they were being bayoneted.

"I did not see this, since I did not lift my head, as I was afraid of being bayoneted myself. There was also pistol and rifle shots, which lasted for several minutes. The Germans left before long, after having made sure that



there were no signs of life. After a while two Germans came and stood behind me and I heard them talking, but they left again without having done anything."

The other survivor, Private Bert Pooley, also gave a sworn affidavit to the war crimes trial and recalled the massacre in the following words:

"The first attempt to surrender was made by three men who walked into the open displaying a white cloth. They immediately came under heavy machine gun fire. The second attempt was then made by all of us running out into the open with our hands in the air. No further fire came from the enemy who stood up and cheered and a German officer ordered us to come forward with our hands in the air.

"We were lined-up and searched, our helmets were struck from our heads and our equipment and gas masks were forcibly removed. We had no weapons with us as these had been destroyed before we surrendered. Not one of us to my knowledge still possessed a weapon when we were searched by the Germans.

"We were told by an English-speaking German NCO that any wounded could sit down, whereupon some of us did. I was one of those (I had been hit in the left arm and right hip, but not seriously wounded), but no sooner had I sat down then I received a brutal kick in the ribs from a German soldier and was ordered to stand up.

"During the march which then took place, several of us were struck because we did not answer questions or

The cover of the book Hell in Paradise by Peter Steward and John Head

were not quick enough in obeying the orders of the Germans which naturally were unintelligible to us. During this time our wounded were being brought out of the farmhouse by our own stretcher bearers, but I do not know where they were taken.

"After some 15 minutes we were ordered to form up on the road with our hands clasped behind the backs of our heads. During this process some of us were struck with rifle butts while standing in the ranks.

"The guards who did this were not reprimanded by their officers or NCOs. While we were standing there our numbers must have been swollen by the addition of other prisoners because when I turned round, I could see that the column had lengthened. I do not know where these additional men came from.

"At this time, I estimate the number of prisoners in the column to have been 65 at the very least. We were then ordered to march along the road, all the time being struck and cuffed by the guards and any other Germans passing us. Our direction at this time appeared to be westerly across the road leading to Le Paradis until we came to the vicinity of another farmhouse with a field adjoining it on the western side.

"We halted on the road for two or three minutes. During this time, a German took from my pocket a packet of

cigarettes and when I turned to look at him, he struck me with his rifle, knocking me through the ranks.

"An unbroken line of German transport was standing on the right-hand side of the road facing us.

"We were then ordered to march again, and it was at this moment that I saw what had apparently been prepared for us. At the far end of the field opposite the farmhouse I saw two machine guns, one of which was already in position and the other was in process of being set up. Some distance behind the guns there was a hedge.

"Standing just inside the gate leading into the field was a group of about a dozen Germans who seemed to be having a discussion. One of this group whom I saw at close quarters a few minutes later I identified as an officer by the silver cord on his peaked cap. He was about 5ft 10in tall, was of slim build, had a dark face with a prominent hooked nose and dark piercing eyes and was 35-40 years old. I am inclined to think that this group comprised officers and NCOs, but I cannot give the exact number of each.

"At this moment the troops guarding us ordered us to continue the march. At this point we left the road and went into the field through the gate, and I noticed at the foot of the wall of the farmhouse (which was then on our

left) a large hole which was at least five feet deep, 15 to 20 feet long and about eight feet 75 broad. When the first prisoners reached the far end of the hole firing commenced.

"I was then just entering the gate. It seemed that as the men were hit, they fell into the hole. When I reached the hole the man nearest to me, Private Ward, was hit and I felt a sharp pain in my left knee and fell into the hole. I fell on top of some men who were already lying there, and others fell on top of me. Firing continued for a few seconds during which time I noticed Major Ryder sitting inside the hole with his back to the side nearest to the wall. He seemed to me to be very badly hit.

"Groans were coming from men lying in the hole and it was at this point that three Germans jumped down into the hole near Major Ryder evidently for the purpose of finishing off any prisoners still alive with bayonets.

"These Germans evidently climbed out of the hole again because further shooting then started with revolvers and rifles from the edge of the hole.

"One of the men beneath me moved and two shots were fired into the heap of bodies, both of which hit me in the left leg. At the sound of a whistle, firing ceased and all the Germans appeared to move away because I heard no further sound in my immediate vicinity."



Regular supporters of Hethersett Athletic's Saturday side which has won the Central and South Norfolk League. You can read about this earlier in this edition.

The Day The Bikers Came To Town (Sorry Village)

THE grounds of Hethersett Hall Care Home were taken over by bikers during April as a friendly invasion took place.

Members of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club proved popular on a previous visit and their return was welcomed by staff and residents alike.

“Following their successful visit last year our residents had been eagerly awaiting a return visit of the VMCC. Residents enjoyed a lovely morning of viewing the various bikes and chatting to the owners. After the viewing there was time for tea and cake,” said Caroline Evans from Hethersett Hall.

We hope you enjoy our photographic gallery of the day. All photographs are courtesy of Hethersett Hall Care Home. You can read more from the home later in this edition of Hethersett Herald.





Hethersett Memorial Playing Field

Registered Charity Number 303972

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A perfect place for almost any gathering

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

Calls will be checked and replied to within 24 hours



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



Residents of Hethersett and the surrounding areas are being invited to join Cringleford Tennis Club. The club sent us the following words with contact details for anyone interested.

AS the summer approaches, Cringleford Tennis Club is preparing for another exciting year of tennis. We welcome all adults and juniors, all standards, to join our friendly club with four excellent hard courts and free use of floodlights. Two grass courts can be used from May through to September. Disabled access and facilities are also available.

We offer all year round weekly social tennis sessions, together with other tennis and non-tennis events for the family. Competitive tennis is available to adult members, including eight teams in the Norwich City League, two teams in Veterans Leagues and four Winter League teams.

We are also delighted to announce a new partnership with the National Tennis Association who will be providing coaching at the courts from April. Junior, adult beginner/intermediate, ladies Intermediate and Individual coaching will be available to members and non-members. Anyone can try two coaching sessions for free without obligation. NTA will also be offering indoor coaching to younger juniors at Cringleford Primary School from May.

For further information regarding the club please search "Cringleford Tennis Club" or type clubspark.lta.org.uk/cringlefordtennisclub. For membership enquiries please email our membership secretary at:

cringlefordtennis.membership@gmail.com or call 07990 631535.



Membership Offer

Cringleford Tennis Club is offering readers of Hethersett Herald a 5% discount off their annual subscriptions during May. Just quote "Hethersett" when applying.

The rates are as follows (these are the full prices before any 5% reduction is taken into account):

Adult 26-64 (on 01/04/24)	£117
Adult over 65	£92
Family 1 Adult and up to 4 juniors/students	£140
Family 2 Adults and up to 4 juniors/students	£240
Young Adult 18-25	£72
Junior 11-17	£30
Junior 10 and under	£15

Captain Ollie Palmer received the Charlie Morley Challenge Cup on behalf of his team who played last summer in the City Tennis League.

They topped Division One, narrowly beating East Anglia Tennis Club on game difference.

Team players were Ollie, Will Foster, Jack Edward's, Louis Armstrong-Brown, Joseph Philpott, Josh Warden, Dan Cole, Chris Hardwick and James Henery.

You can read archive versions of Hethersett Herald by going to www.hethersettherald.weebly.com

Sarah's World

HETHERSETT stalwart Sarah Lawrence continues her monthly column and tells us what has been happening in her life as Spring is with us.

OVER Easter I had a week off from work. It was lovely to spend a bit of time with the girls while they were off school.

We visited Norwich, went geocaching just outside Dereham, had a visit to Great Yarmouth and just made the most of our time together.

Because of this and the planning I'm doing for various events, I haven't really got too much to tell you this month. There's always something going on though, so here's a little snippet of the bits and pieces that are happening right now.

This month the Friends of Woodside School (FOWS) took on the mammoth task of clearing the shed in the school premises. It was all hands on deck to deal with this job, with five adults and five children all taking part - the children in their own way.

To start with, we had to remove everything from the shed. Rain was forecast for later in the morning, so we had to work quickly. Once we had pulled out all of the gazebos - there were an awful lot of gazebos - then we could actually see what else we had.

We found frames and games that we didn't even realise we had in there. There was "Splat the Rat," a frame for a human fruit machine, bowls, a frame for a couple of bean bag toss games. Plenty of things we can use in the upcoming FOWS Summer Fayre on June 29th.

We also went through some of the smaller items that we found, tidied the shelves (vice chair Kerry especially enjoyed this part) and dumped some of the equipment that was no longer any use or damaged beyond repair.

After hauling the gazebos back in and tidying those up too, the shed was looking a lot better. There's still lots of Summer Fayre preparations to do, but I feel slightly more prepared after we tackled that job. Many hands make light work.

In terms of the Summer Fayre preparations, we're getting there. It's a huge job though and it seems harder than ever to get people to commit to helping out. More often than not, the planning falls to a few key members of committees to do it all. These events don't just happen, they take months of organising. We are lucky that the people that we do have are great though.

The team who run the barbecue each year are happy to do it again, that in itself is a big relief. We have the ice-cream van booked and a



Sarah's World

fire engine will be making an appearance. Raffle donation request letters are in the process of being sent out and stalls are being planned.

I just wish we had more help with all of the other things on the to-do list. If you fancy coming aboard to help the FOWS plan the Summer Fayre or any of our other events, please let us know via fows@hethersettwoodside.org.uk.

One of the other committees I'm on is the Hethersett Youth Centre. This committee is not short of trustees - there's eight of us, plus one who skypes in from Australia! It's the most friendly committee that I'm on and all of the trustees have different strengths. We all work really well together.

We also have two paid youth workers on our books, so we can run Youth Club nights with the help of us volunteers. We all pitch in by helping when we can and it works really well.

Recently trustees Matt and Kenny spent seven hours at the premises on Back Lane building a shed that we had ordered to store equipment in and trustees Sandra and Linda spent time cleaning out the kitchen. We all muck in and this improves the running of the club for everyone who attends. It's how it should be!

That said, we're always looking for people to help supervise with club nights, even if on an occasional basis. If this is something of interest to you, please drop our chairman Sandra an email on sandrahenden2@gmail.com.

In other exciting news, the HYC trustees have managed to secure a grant from the Youth Investment Fund to refurbish some areas of the centre.

Work has begun on the kitchen, with other areas to follow. Improved facilities will mean a better club for our young people on club nights and it will mean that we are able to hire the hall out more easily.

This will mean that the charity can start to earn money when the centre would be otherwise empty and provide another much-needed hall space in the village. We expect this work will take around three months, with Youth Club running alongside the building work.

That's about it from me this month. I hope to be able to share more with you by the time next month rolls around.

Thanks for reading.

The Big Clean Ups



Sarah's World



Hethersett Herald What's On

Here is a list of church services for Hethersett, Little Melton and Great Melton for May.

5th May – Easter 6

Little Melton – 09.30 am – Family Service

Hethersett 11 am – Informal Communion

9th May – Ascension

No service in the Benefice

Norwich Cathedral 6 pm – Sung Eucharist

12th May – Easter 7

Great Melton 9.30 am – Family Service

Hethersett 11 am – Parish Communion

19th May – Pentecost

Little Melton 9.30 am - Family Communion

followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Hethersett 10.30 am – Joint service at the Methodist Church

26th May – Trinity Sunday

Great Melton 9.30 am – All Age Family Communion

Hethersett 11 am – Family Service

Hethersett Wednesday Communion Services at 10 am on 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th

No service on 8th May

Little Melton Tuesday Morning Prayer at 10am on 14th and 28th

Down Memory Lane

New Podcast Video Channel Remembers Hethersett's Past

IN last month's Herald we publicised a new You Tube channel on the history of Hethersett put together by resident Colin Wilson.

Renowned Hethersett artist Colin, who is possibly best known for producing the stunning backdrops for the annual village pantomime, is also a keen historian.

For many years Colin and village stalwart Duncan Pigg produced presentations on the heritage and history of the village to entertain local groups with 100-year old photos.

Now on You Tube, "The Old Hethersett Podcast" at present consists of six episodes ranging in length from just under 11 minutes to just under 16.

"The podcast celebrates the village and residents of Hethersett from about 100 years ago. I am using digital copies of 35 mm slides that were used in the past for presenting 'Slides of Old Hethersett' at the local Jubilee Hall in Back Lane," Colin said.

The episodes are themed and are as follows:

Episode One: The turnpike part one—A journey along the old turnpike near Hethersett.

Episode Two: The turnpike part two.

Episode Three: Farms and Farmers.

Episode Four: Hethersett Trades.

Episode Five: Fetes and Festivals.

Episode Six: Schools.

You can subscribe free to Colin's podcast by going to the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@OldHethersettPodcast/videos>.

The photographs on this and the following page are courtesy of Colin's collection and taken from Episode Six which is on the subject of schools and education.

You will also find a couple of historic cricket photos courtesy of Mary Parker.



Down Memory Lane



Down Memory Lane



HETHERSETT C.C., 1906,

Mr William Rayner. Hubbard. G Moore. Clingwood. Buckingham. Curson.
 G Childs. W Childs 'Capt'. Bennett. H Moore 'Vice Capt'
 Harvey.



WINNERS! NORFOLK JUNIOR CUP. HETHERSETT C.C. 1906.

Gibson. Hubbard. Plerson. Dunn. G Childs. Buckingham. Flinton. Smith.
 Porrett. Todman. Mr Back. W Childs. Moore.
 Archer. Dawson.

Two photographs of Hethersett Cricket Club taken from 1906. Thanks to Mary Parker for sending these to us.

Classic Film Comes To Hethersett



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.

THE Spring season of films organised by Hethersett Village Screen wraps up on May 12th with the epic film and multi Oscar winner "Oppenheimer."

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



ALL Stars cricket for girls is about to take off again this season at Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club at Flordon.

All Stars is a cricket programme for girls aged from five to eight and this year's sessions start on Sunday 12th May from 10.30 am for an hour and then every Sunday for eight weeks. The cost for all eight sessions is £30 and this includes a personalised All Stars shirt.

Organiser Sarah Worley said "We already have an amazing 20 All Stars enrolled."

Places can be booked by going to:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/BookCourse/51c21c87-072d-4174-9a76-b828d3d45dc1>

News From The Parish Council

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

Position	Name	Email Address	Telephone
Chairman	Bridget Williamson	cldr.bwilliamson@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	810259
Vice-Chair	Leslie Dale	cldr.ldale@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	810952
Councillors	Paul Everett	cldr.peverett@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	07871 700228
	Heath Dakin	cldr.hdakin@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
	Anne Edwards	cldr.aedwards@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	812309
	Kelsea Law	cldr.klaw@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
	Jonathan Loomer	cldr.jloome@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
	Eileen Mulvaney	cldr.emulvaney@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	811997
	Habib Ur Rehman	cldr.hrehman@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	07899 719173
	Jennifer Walpole	cldr.jwalpole@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	811932
	Rameez Asif	cldr.rasif@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	Via the clerk
Clerk	Penny Hubble	office@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	810915
Deputy Clerk	Sara White	office@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk	810915

Brighter Days (and Nights)

PLANS to upgrade lighting in the village and save energy at the same time are going well, the annual parish meeting heard.

Clerk Penny Hubble said that an initial 60 had been given energy saving LED bulbs and the roll out would continue until all the lamps had been replaced at a cost of £80,000, money that would soon be recouped in energy savings as part of the parish council's green charter.

Chairman of the parish council Bridget Williamson told the parish meeting that it had been a difficult year for the council with a new clerk and chair.

She paid tribute to the work of assistant clerk Sara White. "Without Sara we would not have been able to function. She did so much to keep the council going and we are eternally grateful," she said.



News From The Parish Council

Meeting Dates

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vacancies on Hethersett Council

HETHERSETT Parish Council has three vacancies.

The council has been two members short for some time and now an additional casual vacancy has arisen with the resignation of Salena Dawson.

It is unlikely that enough people will come forward to join the council to make an election necessary and so places can be filled through co-option.

Anyone interested in becoming a parish councillor or finding out more about it should contact parish clerk Penny Hubble on 01603 810915 or via e-mail at

office@hethersettparishcouncil.gov.uk.

You can find a list of councillors and their contact details later in this edition of Hethersett Herald.

News From the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 29th

A plea was made at the annual parish meeting for the car parking at the village hall during pantomime week to be controlled .

Village resident Don Williamson said that he attends every performance of the pantomime to hand out leaflets advertising the village screen series of films.

"The car parking needs to be marshalled during the pantomime. It is often mayhem and unmanaged," he said adding he feared somebody would get injured.

Mr Williamson thanked the village hall trustees for the improved sound system put in which has helped to enhance the enjoyment of residents attending the films. It is also planned to instal a new projector in the future.

Those attending asked about the possibility of having Electric Vehicle charging points in the village and was told that an application to have one at the village hall has been in place for two years. There is also a possibility of having charging points installed in lampposts in the future to help those with electric cars but no driveways.



It's awards time again with South Norfolk looking for its community heroes.

If you know somebody that has made an outstanding contribution to one of our local communities you can nominate them for a South Norfolk award in a number of categories which are:

Young Achiever Award - A young person (aged 18 and under) who has made an exceptional contribution to their community.

Community Organisation of the Year - A community organisation which has made a significant impact on the community.

Business in the Community Award - A local business or commercial organisation that has gone above and beyond to support the local community.

Volunteer of the Year - An individual who selflessly devotes their time and energy to the community.

Environmental Champion Award - An individual, school or community organisation who has made an extra effort to have a positive impact on the environment.

Connecting Communities Award - An individual, school or community organisation that has gone out of their way to encourage communities to come together and promote inclusivity.

Lifetime Achievement Award - A person who has dedicated over 20 years of their life to the community, volunteering for the benefit of others and deserves special recognition for their efforts and commitment.

Town or Parish Councillor of the Year - A Town or Parish Councillor within the South Norfolk District that has shown commitment and service to their community.

Healthy and Active Award - An individual, school or community organisation that has gone above and beyond in facilitating healthy and active lifestyles

All shortlisted nominees will be invited along to the awards ceremony at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh, and the winner in each category will receive £250 to give to their chosen community group or voluntary organisation.

You can nominate an individual or group that has gone above and beyond to make a positive impact in their community in any of the categories listed with nominations closing on 22nd May.

A Beautiful Village Sound

IT'S a beautiful sound associated with the countryside and villages throughout the country.

The sound of church bells ringing.

Social Media was alive with praise during April as the bells rang out on a cold morning.

"It was really lovely hearing the church bells this morning. Made my dog walk very pleasant. Gulls reminded me of the seaside," one poster said.

Anne Larner gave an explanation about what had been happening and made an offer.

"It was a group of bellringers from the Norwich area who rang a special method which took about 40 minutes. Hethersett Ringers weekly practice is on Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm. If anyone is interested in finding out more about bellringing, you are more than welcome to come along," Anne said.

While we're on the subject of beautiful sounds in Hethersett, who remembers when Norwich Pipers used to fill the air with bagpipe music on summer evenings?

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT

Hethersett & District Aid in Sickness Fund?

(Formerly known as the Hethersett Nursing Association)



DO YOU LIVE IN

Hethersett
Ketteringham or Little Melton?

ARE YOU

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



Examples of help available

Grants are available towards:

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

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



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

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Registered Charity Number 211284

News From Hethersett Hall

Stories and pictures by Caroline Evans



WHEN it comes to puddings, the residents at Hethersett Hall know what they like.

Residents chose a number of their favourite puddings which were then prepared by the chefs.

The top five were: Sherry trifle, Battenberg, Rock Cakes, Bread and Butter Pudding and a chocolate cheesecake...we all voted with a score out of 0 to 5 for each pudding and the winner was...the chocolate cheesecake with a score of 56 and 1/2 out of 65.

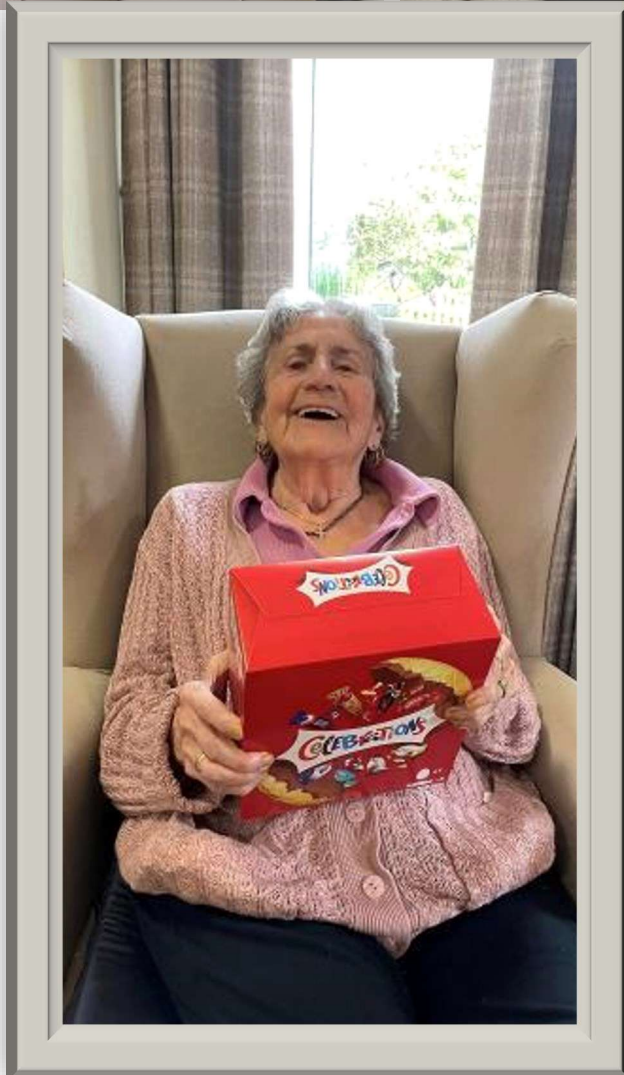
What a lovely afternoon we had, friends, family and staff joined in and had a taste too!

We all loved receiving our Easter eggs. We enjoyed some lovely music too as we had the lovely Steve Carmel in to sing to us. There were so many smiling faces around the home

A happy Easter was had by everyone.



News From Hethersett Hall



News From Hethersett Hall

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

at Hethersett Hall Care Home

every Friday of the month
10.30am - 12.00pm

Join us in the lounge for baby and toddler group
there will be delicious refreshments available throughout
Parking is available at the home.
Everyone is welcome!



Hethersett Hall Care Home

Norwich Road, Hethersett, Norfolk, NR9 3AP

Tel: 01603 810478 • www.barchester.com

Residential Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks



News From Hethersett Hall

Easter Fair at Hethersett Hall



News From Hethersett Hall



THE photographs on this and the previous page are courtesy of Hethersett Hall and are of the Easter Fair held there.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

petersteward@sky.com

We Are On Facebook

Hethersett Herald is on Facebook. You can follow us at

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

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

Council/Government Contact Numbers

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

Member of Parliament

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

Email—Richard@richardbacon.org.uk

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

Telephone: 01379 642097

Facebook—Bacon4SouthNorfolk

X (formerly Twitter) - @Bacon4SNorfolk

Norfolk County Council

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

South Norfolk Council

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

Hethersett Parish Council

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

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

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

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

Copies of minutes are held in the library or are available from the clerk or online.

Email: Hethersett.pc@tiscali.co.uk

HETHERSETT HERALD

Your Monthly E-Magazine

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

www.hetherssettherald.weebly.co



Police Contacts For Hethersett

Hethersett falls into the Hethersett and Mulbarton Safer Neighbourhood Team with the following representatives



Sergeant Stuart Barnard



Inspector Andy Terry

Police Constable Arvi Bhogal
(Engagement Officer)

Police Constable James Smith

Police Constable (Beat Manager) can be contacted on 01953 424162 extension 4162 or on

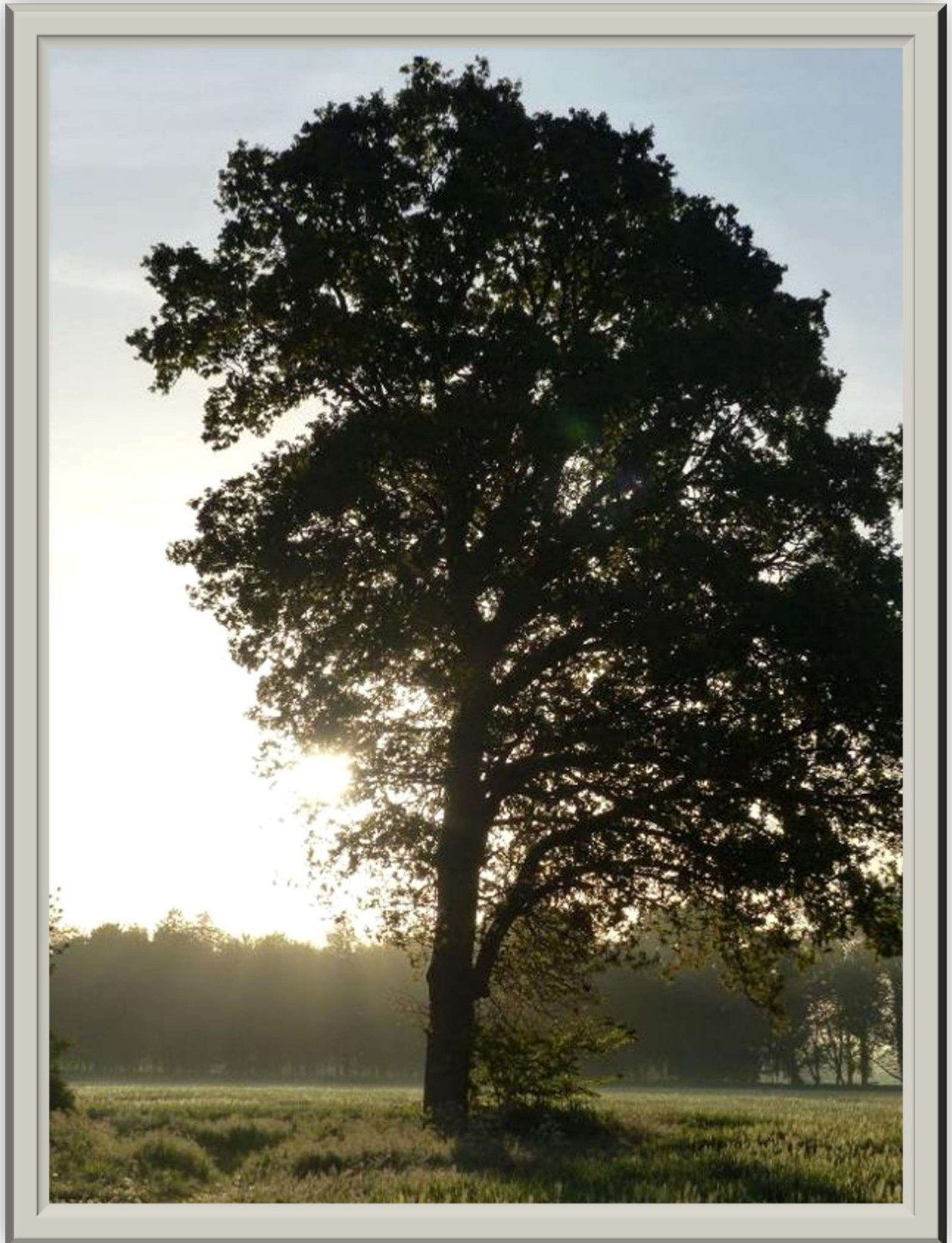
Hethersett Hall care home invited residents and members of the local community to enjoy a coffee with our local Police officer, PC James Smith.

Residents and locals were invited for a relaxed chat with refreshment and cake with PC Smith and encouraged to ask lots of questions. PC Smith talked about lots of different subjects from 'How he started in the Police' and 'how the police support schools and the challenges they face day to day.' He also discussed any concerns residents had.



John Head's Photographic Diary

For his photographic diary this month, John Head takes us for a walk around the fields of Hethersett around Park Farm Hotel in 2022



John Head's Photographic Diary



John Head's Photographic Diary



John Head's Photographic Diary



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.



Comparing Petrol Prices

	Unleaded	Change	Diesel	Change
Asda, Hall Road, Norwich	147.7	+5p	155.7	+3p
Tesco Express, Earlham Road, Norwich	147.9	+5p	153.9	+1p
Sainsbury's, Queen's Road, Norwich	146.9	+3p	155.9	+3p
Tesco, Harford Bridges, Norwich	147.9	+5p	155.9	+3p
Sainsbury's Longwater, Norwich	148.9	+5p	154.9	+1p
Abbeygate, Wymondham	162.9	+3p	171.9	+2p
Waitrose, Wymondham	163.9	+4p	169.9	NC
Thickthorn Services, Hethersett	161.9	+10p	168.9	+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 with some of the top prices in the whole of the county of Norfolk.

The above details were taken on April 24th and show more rises. The prices may fluctuate during the remainder of the month.

Please Send Us Your Reports

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

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

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

www.hethersettherald.weebly.com

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

petersteward@sky.com.

If you enjoy reading Hethersett Herald please pass details on.

Groups and Societies

First Steps Stay & Play Playgroup

Hethersett Village Hall

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



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

Babies under 6 months are free!

Email: firststepshethersett@outlook.com

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

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

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

Hethersett and Cringleford Flower Club

February

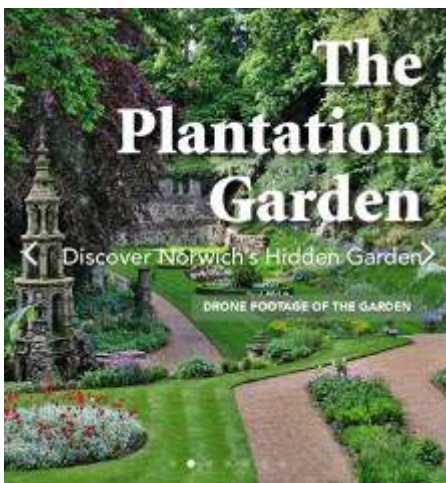
The dark month of February was lighted with Barbara Collins demonstrating "A Bright New Year".

What a delight with lots of spring flowers and an ingenious idea using pussy willows to create a church window structure. Don't be surprised to see this idea popping up on our local church soon!

March

We held our AGM in March with a good turnout of 24 people. After business was concluded and the committee was re-elected, we tucked in to freshly delivered fish and chips from the local Tasty Bites takeaway in Hethersett.

Then we had a very interesting talk from a Trustee and volunteer from The Plantation Garden in Norwich. We learnt about the history and inception and how volunteers forty years ago brought it back to life. Unfortunately the grand conservatory was no longer viable. Definitely a lovely place to visit not far from the city centre.



April

David Wright (bottom right) returned to give us a wonderful evening in April.

His title was "Take That" and he based every design on "just take that....." with containers from a variety of places including charity shops and friends' garages! He embellished some with his wire sculptures and the final arrangement was a homage to the Worstead festival, a colourful display of wool and flowers.

Coming Events

For our next meeting on Monday 20th May we are holding at The Hub on the Hethersett Memorial Playing Field in Hethersett, when we are doing a workshop making a collared hand tied bouquet. The demonstrator is Adele Kent.



Our friendly club meets on 4th Monday of the month unless otherwise stated.

Where? At Hethersett Village Hall.

When? At 7.30 pm (doors open at 7 pm for refreshments on arrival)

There are no meetings in August or December. We have a raffle when we have a demonstration.

Do come along - you might win a lovely arrangement!

Membership £32 per annum. Visitors are always welcome - £5 for a normal meeting.

For further details contact:

Lynn Rawlings Chair

01603 457888. Leopardlynn@hotmail.com

Follow us on Facebook Cringleford and Hethersett Flower Club

On Monday 24th June we are back in our normal venue of Hethersett Village Hall, with Elizabeth Robinson giving us 'My Family and Other Animals'.

We are having an outing to Blickling Lodge on Wednesday 26th June..... visitors and friends are welcome to join us.

On Monday 22nd July our club is celebrating a very special milestone of our Golden Anniversary 50 Years.

We are marking this by having an open meeting and have National Demonstrator Arnaud Métairie from French Touch Floristry in the Cotswolds.

Anyone who has been a past member of the club is invited to join us along with other local clubs to enjoy cake and a glass of bubbles. Visitors' tickets will be £15 per head.

Litter Pick News

Twenty eight volunteers collected 15 bags of rubbish during the latest village litter pick in April.

Afterwards one of the organisers, Geoff Dyett, said:

“Thank you again, lovely people, and you are making a difference. Most of the rubbish was picked in the pouring rain.

“Thanks to the new Co-op which has agreed to dispose of our litter.

“We are now trying to sort the recycle rubbish from the general waste. It is not always easy but I think we have to try.”

The next litter pick will be on Saturday 18th May at 10 am, starting from Hethersett Methodist Church car park.

Some of the litter picked in the latest session is pictured opposite.



Groups and Societies

Hethersett Gardening Club

At our April meeting, Jim Paine of Walnut Tree Nursery, gave a most interesting and extensive talk commencing with the evolution of the earth, perhaps 700 billion years ago and its flora.

Jim mentioned "photosynthesis and respiration" ie air breathing, bacteria, chloroplasts, xylem, phloem, the influence of the moon in particular on sea tides and consequent climactic variations causing the seasons of the year as we know them. Flora eventually developed to suit the local environment.

We continued on activities of plant roots underground, of fungi "threads" also wending their way below ground. Above ground, the ways in which the all important pollination could happen; which includes being caused by moths and flies.

Hethersett Gardening Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month excepting December, which is usually on the second Wednesday, at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Great Melton Road. All are very welcome - occasional visitors are charged £3 and refreshments are included.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 15th May when Will Fitch will be talking about Norfolk's "Wheatfen Nature Reserve". On Wednesday 19th June the talk will be "The Norfolk Master Composters."

Leslie Dale, Committee Secretary lsldale@yahoo.co.uk

Forget Me Not Café

The café meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the hall at Hethersett Methodist Church from 10 am. It is under the auspices of the Hethersett Dementia Support Group.

A café is also held each month at Hethersett Hall Care Home. For more information please contact Anne Steward on 01603 811052. You can view the coming programme opposite.

The group recently received a cheque for £650 from the Wymondham and Attleborough Darts League.

"I, along with five other deserving Charities /Groups, received a cheque for £650. This is a remarkable amount and will certainly be welcomed to help us continue to provide a much needed place for residents of Hethersett and nearby villages to meet for a chat coffee tea nibbles and take part in talks and presentations by invited speakers. Our thanks go out to the Wymondham and

Attleborough Darts League," said Dementia Support

May 7th	Singing with Taverham Choir
May 21st	Wiltshire Farm Foods
May 28th	Café at Hethersett Hall
June 4th	Time For A Chat
June 18th	Travelogue with Jean and Brian Starling
June 25th	Café at Hethersett Hall
July 2nd	Time For A Chat
July 16th	Strawberries and Music

Group chairman David Bills.

The group would also like to express their gratitude to Hethersett Pantomime Group who awarded them £250 from this year's pantomime proceeds following the week long performances in Hethersett Village Hall in January. You can view the coming programme above.



Groups and Societies

The RiNG (Rheumatoid in Norfolk Group)

By Viv Hawes

THE March meeting saw the return of an old friend of The RiNG, Edna Standley. Edna left us to assist in the Knit and Natter groups in Norfolk as her passion for knitting and crochet could be put to a good use. Going from strength to strength, the organisation now provides items for many purposes, clothing for new borns and stillborn babies, the elderly, soldiers and civilians in war torn areas and the homeless. Many examples of the wares were on show. In addition, Edna also teaches classes in knitting and crochet at venues all over Norfolk and derives much pleasure from passing on her knowledge to all. The enjoyment and companionship that the groups offer is undeniable.

Our May 22nd meeting is the AGM and the speaker is Dr Jordan Tsigarides, Clinical Fellow in Rheumatology and a researcher in the use of Virtual Reality for the training of doctors and also for pain relief in patients. He will be bringing some of his headsets so we may be able to experience something new.

Remember to keep the 26th June free for our annual visit to Owlswood where the speaker will be Tim Chaplin from NRAS.

If you would like to join us, we meet at Hethersett Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Our charge is £4 for tea, cake and savoury goodies plus a speaker and good company, hope to see you.

For any further info ring 01603 811347 or contact me at viv.hawes@talktalk.net

Hethersett Mothers' Union

Hethersett Mothers' Union enjoyed a lovely performance at its April meeting from Georgette Vale depicting the life of Harriet Martineau who was born in Magdalen Street, Norwich.



Harriet was born deaf and rather weak but pushed through these handicaps to live her dream of making her mark through writing.

As a young woman she was keen and worked hard to get books published which was most usual for a woman of the 19th Century, when women were not expected to stand out in a crowd. Harriet pushed her writings to every outlet she could and was often rejected. She never married and had to support herself and battle to get herself known fighting against many hardships.

But, she eventually became known and stepped out to embrace her dream to write many books. Later in her life she went to stay in America for a time where she was shocked to see slavery in the raw, making her particularly supportive of the abolition of slaves.

As she aged she continued to write and was acclaimed by many other authors of the time such as Charles Dickens, Emily Bronte and William Wordsworth whom she lived close to in Ambleside at one stage of her life.

Due to the Bank Holiday falling on the last Monday of the month this year we will not be meeting in May.

Our next MU meeting will take place on Monday June 24th and will once again be a performance by Georgette Vale this time on the life of Elizabeth Fry.

Hethersett Mothers Union meets on the last Monday of the Month at St. Remigius Church, Hethersett at 1.30 pm.

Kate Reynolds

Hethersett Woman's Institute

With Margot Markham

AT our latest meeting, we had a crafty evening. We were guided by " experts " within the group. Some members made greetings cards, some learnt to crochet and some made Easter wreaths. The base of the wreaths were a few willow twigs which, when bent, were naturally egg shaped .

When adorned with a few flowers and rabbits they looked stunning. I tried to crochet. I felt my effort was like my old school report...could do better! Despite making a lot of mess, it was a lovely evening.

We also celebrated the 90th birthday of one of our members, Jean Ramsbottom. Jean has been a member of Hethersett WI since time began. She has been a loyal member.

Jean often took members for interesting walks around the countryside without getting lost. She also provided us with an annual summer tea party and her coffee cake was just delicious. We hope she enjoyed her birthday with all her family and there will be many more. Jean is pictured opposite.

Many of us have been to the How Hill Educational centre. To be given the story behind the development of the house and the centre as it is today was most interesting.

Simon Partridge is the general factotum. He gave us a very informative and amusing talk. The How Hill House, as we know it now, was originally much smaller. It was built by Thomas Boardman who was an architect.

He bought some land (800 acres), a mixture of pasture land and marshes around the River Ant north of Ludham. It was a holiday home and he and his family were able to escape from the City. With the trials of the first World War, the family lived there permanently and so the house was extended to what we now know.

In 1966 Norwich County Council Education Department bought the house. The beautiful gardens, orchards and buildings have been kept. A Trust set up in 1984 is responsible for the independent care of the total centre. How Hill is a wonderful educational place for children who, perhaps, live in an urban environment.

They can explore woods and marshes. They can see the windmill and have a go at thatching using reeds grown nearby. There is always pond dipping and a boat ride on the rivers. Visits can be just for the day and there are also facilities to stay overnight. The centre is available for adults to enjoy. There are art and yoga courses etc. How Hill is not far away and anyone can just go and explore the house and gardens.

It was a most enjoyable evening. I wonder what Mr Boardman would think of his legacy?



Groups and Societies

Friends of Hethersett Library Presentations

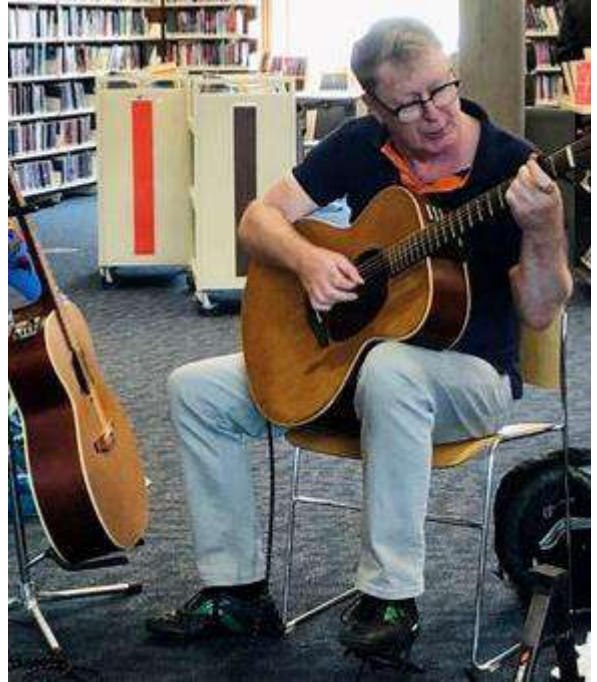
THE Friends of Hethersett Library enjoyed a return visit from Paddy Anstey with more of his railway members from growing up with steam trains in Gloucestershire to the present day and his involvement with the Mid Norfolk Heritage Railway.

On June 27th, Norfolk author Phyllida Scrivens will be talking about coronation celebrations in Norfolk through the ages. Tickets for this event will be £5 which once again includes light refreshments and we will have more details of more coming events in future magazines.

The Friends' group has also arranged for guitarist Andrew Marifno to play in the library on the first Wednesday of each month from now until November.

Andrew's first session in April proved very popular as he took his audience around the world with music in a variety of styles, much of which he had personally composed.

Andrew had a easy going charm which easily translated to his audience. His next session will be on May 8th from 11.30 until 12.30. Andrew is photographed above during his April session in Hethersett Library.



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 7th MAY 2024**

**Future Dates: Tuesday 4th June 2024
 Tuesday 2nd July 2024**

For more information tel: Pauline 01603 812610

Hethersett Herald What's On

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

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

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

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

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

Hethersett Methodist Church offers Wednesday morning coffee from 9 am.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you would like your organisation/group represented in Hethersett Herald, please send details of meeting time, place and any other information you would like printed to the editor at: petersteward@sky.com.

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 Singers

Anthems of Love



Melody unleashed!

**Songs of love from
Dan Forrest to Eric Whitacre
Elton John to Elvis Presley
and from stage and screen**

**Musical Director
Justin Bindley**

Accompanist: Karen Smith

Tickets £10 On sale from The
Hethersett Butchers (next door to
Boots) and on the door.
Complimentary Refreshments

Sat 25th May 7.30pm
Hethersett Methodist Church



DANCE

WORKSHOP

**WEDS 15TH
MAY**

**Hethersett Youth Centre,
Back Lane**



**THE
GARAGE**



17:45 - 19:15

£2 PER PERSON

**ALL AGES WELCOME FROM 9+
(OTHER YOUTH CLUB ACTIVITIES ALSO
AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT)**

**HETHERSETT
ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION TEAM**



Bringing back the buzz!

Community litter pick dates 2024

- **Saturday 18th May, 10am**
Methodist Church, Hethersett
- **Saturday 15th June, 2pm**
Back Garden - Hethersett Village Hall



Wymondham Music Events Group *Presents*

Counterfeit Quo

Sunday

5th May 2024

7:30pm

Tickets: £18



Wymondham Central Hall

Back Lane, Wymondham, NR18 0QB

For Tickets : Norman and Helen - 01953 600563

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

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

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

Wymondham Dementia Support Group - Charity No. 1143347

Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper - Charity No. 1089872

Star Throwers Cancer Support - Charity No. 1162237

At your Library

in Hethersett



Regular Events at Hethersett Library

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

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

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

Colour Me Calm - Wednesdays, 11 am - 12 pm

Just a Cuppa - Wednesdays, 11 am - 12 pm

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

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

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

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

Browse all events online by scanning the QR code

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



Hethersett Herald What's On

HETHERSETT'S GREAT BIG GREEN PICNIC

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

2024, 10AM-4PM

HETHERSETT
VILLAGE HALL &
FIELD. NR9 3JJ



Live music



Rambling Roots
Street food



Sam the Magic
Man



Craftily Bar



Environment,
nature
& wellness talks



Ethical
stall holders



Demos
and information



Kids 'green'
themed
fancy fress

ENERGY - TRANSPORT & ACTIVE TRAVEL
WASTE & RECYCLING - WATER CONSERVATION -
OPEN SPACES - WELLBEING



Persimmon
Together, we make your home



10-2

OPEN GARDEN

Sat 13th July & Sat 31st Aug

8 Melton Court,
Hethersett, NR9
3HE

Free entry

Hethersett Herald What's On

Open Library

Extending opening hours at your library

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

Library Available*

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

Staffed Hours

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

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

borrow discover connect

 **Norfolk** County Council



Methodist Church dates for your diary include the following.

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

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

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

Hethersett Herald What's On

New Village Churches Venture

HETHERSETT and District Churches Together launched a new venture on Sunday 21st April with a village café church.

Dates for May and June have also been set—May 19th and June 16th.

Free tea and cake will be available from 4 pm and will be followed by a café style service at 4.30 pm.

All events will take place in Hethersett Methodist Church.

In The Mood For Dancing

If you are in the mood for dancing and are aged nine and over, head to Hethersett Jubilee Youth Club in Back Lane on Wednesday May 15th.

A special one-off dance workshop is being organised by the team from The Garage in Norwich.

The session will be run alongside other youth club activities and the session costs just £2. You will find a poster for the event elsewhere in this edition.

Hethersett & District Churches Together



Invite You

to

Village Café Church

For **FREE** Tea and Cake from

4pm

followed by a Café Style Service at

4:30pm

The dates are:

Sunday 21st April at Hethersett Methodist

Sunday 19th May at Hethersett Methodist

Sunday 16th June at Hethersett Methodist





Hethersett Village Screen

Community Cinema

All screenings at 3pm

Hethersett Village Hall

All tickets £5 ea.

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

In association with



Hethersett Village Screen

@hethersettvs

Hethersett Herald What's On



www.hethersett-yc.co.uk

Back Lane, Hethersett
NR9 3JJ

Youth Club

During term time

Wednesday 5:45 - 7:15
(School Years 5 & 6)
Friday 7:00 - 8:30 (Year 7+)

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

 @Hethersett Jubilee Youth Centre

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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

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

Good News also includes adverts for local businesses and trades people. Each individual edition costs just 60p and an annual subscription is just £5 for 12 issues.

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





Knit & Natter

Join us for a natter whilst you knit!

Fortnightly at 10.30 am.

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

Light refreshments are available.



Hethersett Hall Care Home

Norwich Road, Hethersett, Norfolk, NR9 3AP

Tel: 01603 810478 • www.barchester.com

Residential Care • Dementia Care • Respite Breaks



WYMONDHAM
Magazine

SPRING
ARTS
FESTIVAL



20 April - 6 May 2024

Meet the Local Authors

Saturday 4th May 2024

10:00am - 2:00pm

**Tiffany Room, Central Hall,
Wymondham, NR18 0QB**

**An opportunity to meet local writers and hear
their individual stories of book publishing**

Books available for sale

**For more information contact
Tony Vale on tony@valemil.uk**

Hethersett Herald What's On

Hethersett Social Club Opening Hours

Current opening hours are:

Monday *Closed*

Tuesday 7pm - 11pm

Wednesday 7pm - 11pm

Thursday 7pm - 11pm

Friday 5pm - 11.30pm

Saturday 12pm - Midnight

Sunday 12pm - 8pm



Business Opening Hours

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

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

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



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

Come and Join Us
at the
Coffee Stop
9am to 12pm
Every Wednesday

Election Time Again

HETHERSETT will be amongst towns and villages throughout Norfolk going to the polls on May 2nd to elect a Police and Crime Commissioner.

Present incumbent Giles Orpen-Smellie (Conservative—pictured in the first photo on the right) will be standing again and his opponents will include Sarah Taylor (Labour—pictured in the middle) and John Crofts (Liberal Democrat—pictured on the right).



Polling in Hethersett will take place in the village hall from 7 am until 10 pm. Just a reminder that in order to vote you must take along photographic ID.

Unlike in past police and crime commissioner elections, this one will be decided on a simple first past the post vote.

May What's On

- Tuesday 7th—Forget Me Not Café, Hethersett Methodist Church Hall. Time for a Chat from 10 am.
- Tuesday 7th—St Remigius Baby and Toddler Group in the church from 10 am until midday.
- Wednesday 8th—Live music in Hethersett Library with guitarist Andrew Marino. 11.30 am to 12.30 pm. Free event organised by Friends of Hethersett Library.
- Sunday 12th—Hethersett Village Screen presents Oscar award winning film Oppenheimer. Hethersett Village Hall, 3 pm.
- Monday 13th—Great Melton Parish Council AGM, 7.30 pm Great Melton Village Hall (cricket pavilion). This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm.
- Wednesday 15th—Little Melton community café. Little Melton Village Hall 2-4 pm
- Wednesday 15th—Hethersett Gardening Club. Will Fitch will be talking about Norfolk's "Wheatfen Nature Reserve".
- Saturday 18th—Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club home to Fakenham at Taswood Lakes, Flordon.
- Sunday 19th—Hethersett and District Churches Together village café church, Hethersett Methodist Church 4 pm with service at 4.30 pm.
- Sunday 19th—Great Melton traditional village fete
- Tuesday 21st—Forget Me Not Café, Hethersett Methodist Church Hall. Wiltshire Farm Foods, from 10 am
- Wednesday 22nd—The RiNG AGM and speaker Dr Jordan Tsigarides, Clinical Fellow in Rheumatology and a researcher in the use of Virtual Reality for the training of doctors and also for pain relief in patients
- Saturday 25th—Hethersett and Tas Valley Cricket Club home to Sprowston at Taswood Lakes, Flordon.
- Saturday 25th—Hethersett Singers concert in Hethersett Methodist Church, 7.30 pm. Tuesday 28th—Forget me Not Café at Hethersett Hall from 10 am.

Village Show Date Announced

Little Melton Village Show is on Saturday 7th September. The countdown begins.

Only five months to go.

It's time to think ahead to sunnier drier days. Have you sown your seeds for those winning carrots and parsnips? Or planted out those perfect potatoes and onions? Or perhaps you're waiting for the rain to stop and the temperature to rise. Either way there's still plenty of time to get ready for the Show of the year in Little Melton! We look forward to seeing you there with your wonderful produce.

More details of these events and news from churches in Hethersett, Great Melton and Little Melton are also available in our sister publication Good News.

Good News is supported by advertising and costs just £5 for an annual subscription. Individual copies are also available for 60p each. Details of how to obtain copies are published earlier in this edition of Herald.



Hethersett & District
Churches Together



Invite You

to

Village Café Church

For **FREE** Tea and Cake from

4pm

followed by a Café Style Service at

4:30pm

The dates are:

Sunday 19th May at Hethersett Methodist Church

Sunday 16th June at Hethersett Methodist Church



Little Melton Community Cafe

Little Melton community café has proved a success and dates for the future have been announced.

Pop along for a chat and a drink in Little Melton Village Hall from 2 until 4 pm on Wednesday 15th May and then on the following dates: 19th June, 17th July and 21st August.

There you will find home made cakes and jigsaws and books to swap. There's no charge for refreshments, just a request for donations to cover the costs.

"If you haven't already been, come along and say hello. We usually welcome 25-30 people, so there's always someone to talk to," said one of the organisers Natalie Bennett.

All are welcome.

COMPOST

A space to grow.

A simple gathering with prayer worship and a focus on teaching as we look back to understand our future.

4pm Sunday 2nd June

Great Melton Cricket Pavilion

G A R —
— D E N

A Second Massacre

Earlier in this edition of Hethersett Herald we included an extract from a new book written by Peter Steward and John Head on the massacre during the Second World War at Le Paradis. Here John Head looks at a second massacre which took place a handful of miles from Le Paradis and within days of the other.

La Plaine au Bois Memorial Site – The Wormhoudt (Wormhoudt) Massacre

A DAY after the massacre at Le Paradis the same fate met 81 soldiers from 2nd Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 4th Battalion Cheshire Regiment and other units of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) which were holding up the German advance on the road from Bergues through Wormhoudt, Cassel and Hazebrouck.

Sadly, at Wormhoudt they were overrun and, after exhausting their ammunition supplies, they surrendered to the Liebstandarte SS Adolf Hitler.

They were then crammed into a small barn where the SS threw in stick grenades. As this did not kill their captives in sufficient numbers, they ordered five soldiers that had survived to step outside the barn whereupon they were met with a firing squad. When the next five were ordered out the captives refused to go.

As this happened there was a sudden downpour of rain and the SS guards, not wishing to get wet, stormed the barn and opened fire with automatic weapons before leaving laughing and cheering.

Remarkably there were 20 survivors; 16 from 2nd Bn Royal Warwickshire Regt. two from 4th Bn Cheshire Regt. and two from the Royal Artillery Regt

Private Bert Evans was one of the survivors who was standing close to Captain James Frazer Lynn-Allen when the massacre occurred.

Just prior to the massacre Captain Lynn-Allen, the only officer in attendance, complained to the SS guards about the treatment of the men who were being kicked and hit with rifle butts. When at the barn he then complained about the cramped conditions. He was told by an SS guard that “there would be lots more room where he would be going.” Lynn-Allen, assuming this was a POW camp, told the SS guard that he was far from happy with the response.

It was at this stage he saw the SS guard move for his



The rebuilt barn in which the massacre occurred

stick grenade from the leg of his boot. Despite Lynn-Allen's protestation the grenade was lobbed into the midst of the prisoners. Lynn-Allen grabbed hold of Pte Bert Evans, whose arm had been seriously injured by the grenade blast, and escaped from the barn taking refuge in a pond close by where he was mortally wounded in the head by the pursuing SS. The seriously injured Bert Evans received a bullet wound to the neck and fell back in the water but miraculously survived. He was captured by the Wehrmacht who looked after him but unfortunately they had to amputate his arm. After the war, whilst the pond was drained and diligently searched, Lynn-Allen's



The pollarded sacred tree which was close to the original barn

2/8 – « The sacred Tree »
 A pollarded poplar dating from before May 1940. It was the nearest tree to the massacre barn, a cowshed destroyed in about 1960.
 In 1972, British veterans who had fought in the area rediscovered the site and placed crosses there. It became a place of pilgrimage and proud witness to the thousands of veterans who come to pay homage to the victims.

body was never found.

Unlike the Le Paradis Massacre where the victims were buried in a mass grave, the victims at Wormhoudt were strewn over the adjoining fields to cover the evidence of a massacre. Local people, especially farmers, buried them and noted their locations.

Unfortunately, after the war some of these burial places had been forgotten hence the reason why there are several headstones in Esquelbecq Cemetery which note the victim was 'buried near this spot.' Some were unidentified owing to the SS habit of removing dog-tags, again similar to what happened at Le Paradis.

Responsibility for the Massacre.

Suspicion fell on Obergruppenführer Josef 'Sepp' Dietrich (born 28th May 1892) the commander of the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler Regiment. On the morning of the massacre, Dietrich rashly had his staff car drive him along the Esquelbecq – Wormhoudt Road.

They were stopped by a road block which, whilst trying to remove, they came under a hail of fire from British gunners. The car ended up looking like the final scene from 'Bonnie and Clyde' but not before Dietrich had managed to escape into a ditch where he covered himself in thick mud to prevent leaking fuel from his car engulfing him in flame. He remained in the ditch for over four hours.

With the SS failing to recover him it was left to the Wehrmacht to make the successful recovery. The failure of the SS to recover their commander enraged not only the SS but Dietrich who was made fun of, not only for his sojourn in a muddy ditch, but for having to call on outside reinforcements to assist his beloved SS.

It was suggested this is why Dietrich exacted his revenge on the POWs together with the incredible losses the SS had suffered in trying to capture Wormhoudt.

After the war, Dietrich was summoned by Lt. Col. A P Scotland OBE to the London Cage, an interrogation centre in Kensington London, where he was questioned over his involvement in the Wormhoudt incident.

Dietrich cleverly argued that he was unable to take command as he was confined to a ditch at that time. There was also a lack of witnesses as Dietrich had made the SS take their 'oath of allegiance' prior to the massacre. Several witnesses had also been killed on the Eastern Front and a key one, Hauptsturmführer Wilhelm Mohnke, was unavailable for interrogation (see under).

There was not enough evidence to convict Dietrich but years later Guy Rommelaere, author of the book 'The Forgotten Massacre', proved from extensive research that Dietrich had lied. He had been recovered from the ditch and was back at SS HQ by 1500 hrs. The fighting for Wormhoudt was over by 1515 hrs and the massacre occurred at 1730 hrs. This gave enough time for Dietrich to authorise the massacre

It was the 2nd Bn of Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler (LSSAH) which carried out the executions. At that time their commanding officer was Hauptsturmführer Wilhelm Mohnke who could have either authorised the killings or passed on the command for the executions.

He certainly questioned why the prisoners were initially brought to him contrary to orders which seemed to suggest a possible 'no prisoner' order was in place. Unfortunately, Mohnke could not be interrogated or prosecuted as he was in a Soviet jail and it was now in the period of the Cold War.

Mohnke was freed in 1955 and returned to Germany. In



The Memorial Trees (one taken from the Memorial Mound)

1977 he was tracked down by Rev. Leslie Aitken the Chaplain of the Dunkirk Veterans' Association. Aitken was assisted by MP Jeff Rooker and there was much activity in Parliament over this unsolved war crime.

Monke was now only accountable to German justice and the case was reopened in 1988, where it was concluded there was insufficient evidence to bring charges against Mohnke. The case briefly resurfaced again in late 1993 when it became evident that the British Government had not revealed some pertinent and at one time 'secret files' from its archives during the early years of investigation. However, nothing significant came from this either.

The research into this atrocity is intriguing and is well documented in the following books.

Massacre on the Road to Dunkirk – Leslie Aitken

The Forgotten Massacre – Guy Rommelaere

They are still finding the remains of missing BEF soldiers at Wormhoudt. In 2022 I visited Esquelbecq Cemetery to notice a new grave following the finding and identification of the remains of Second Lieutenant P R Edgcumbe of the Royal Armoured Corp.

One of the big questions is:

Were the massacres at Le Paradis (27th May 1940) and the massacre at Wormhoudt/ Esquelbecq linked?

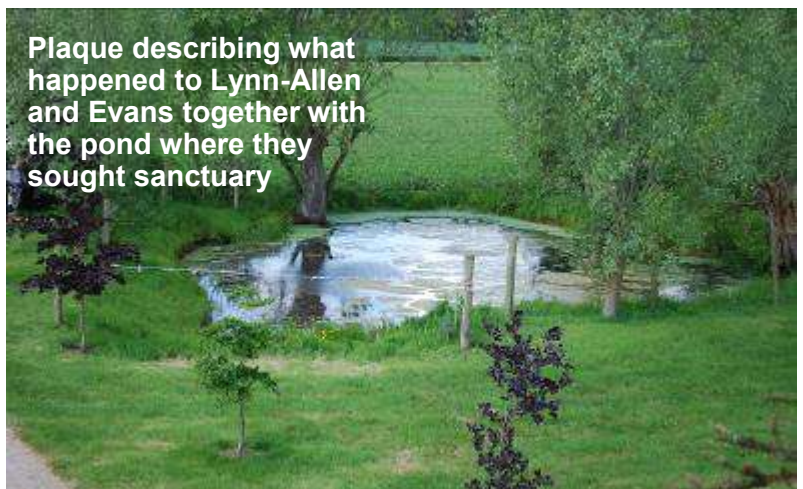
There have been many documents produced on this as there are many similarities.

Both were committed by the Waffen SS; 'SS Totenkopf' and 'Liebstandarte SS Adolf Hitler' respectively.

- Both SS units wanted to

prove themselves superior in battle when compared with the Wehrmacht.

- Both were in close proximity to each other (25 miles away).
- Both were enraged about being held back by the BEF rear-guard.
- Both sustained substantial casualties.
- Both paid no regard to the Geneva Convention by ill-treating their prisoners, removing dog-tags to obscure identities and finally executing them.



Plaque describing what happened to Lynn-Allen and Evans together with the pond where they sought sanctuary

5/8 – The pond at la Plaine au bois

As they were escaping, LYNN ALLEN and Bert EVANS arrived at this pond and dived into it. An S.S. arrived, pointed his pistol at the British captain and in cold blood shot him through the head. He also aimed at EVANS who was shot in the neck. He collapsed into the water as if dead.

After several minutes, EVANS crawled out of the water and made his way to the BOLLENGIER farm where he arrived in the evening. A doctor gave him first aid. He was taken to a hospital where his arm was amputated.

In 2005, Bert EVANS is still alive and comes back every year on a pilgrimage.

The body of the captain was never found. The pond was cleared out and the contents form the foundations of the belvedere which is now his tomb.



Esquelbecq Military Cemetery showing the graves of the Warwicks and Pte Gould's Headstone inscribed 'Buried Near This Spot'



- Both moved their victims away from the scene of fighting to a field where a barn was situated for the executions.
- Both had birthdays to celebrate on the respective massacre days.

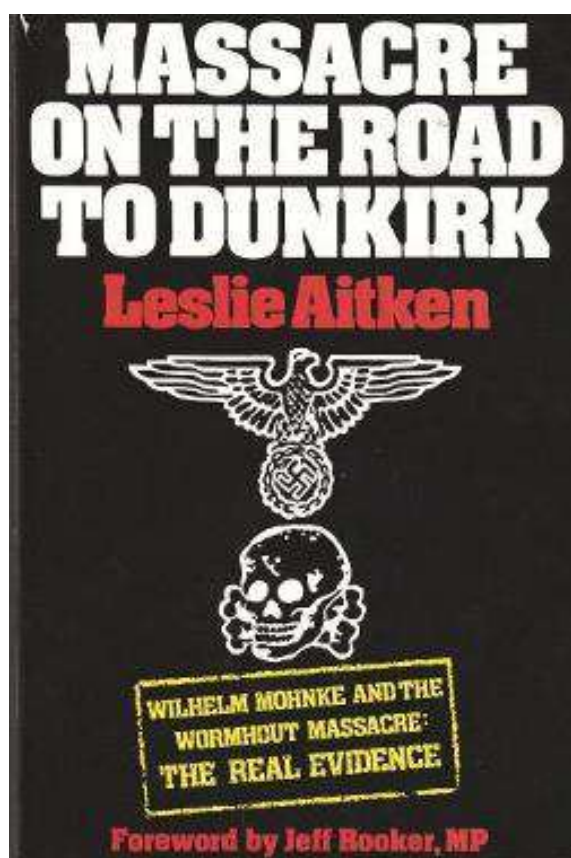
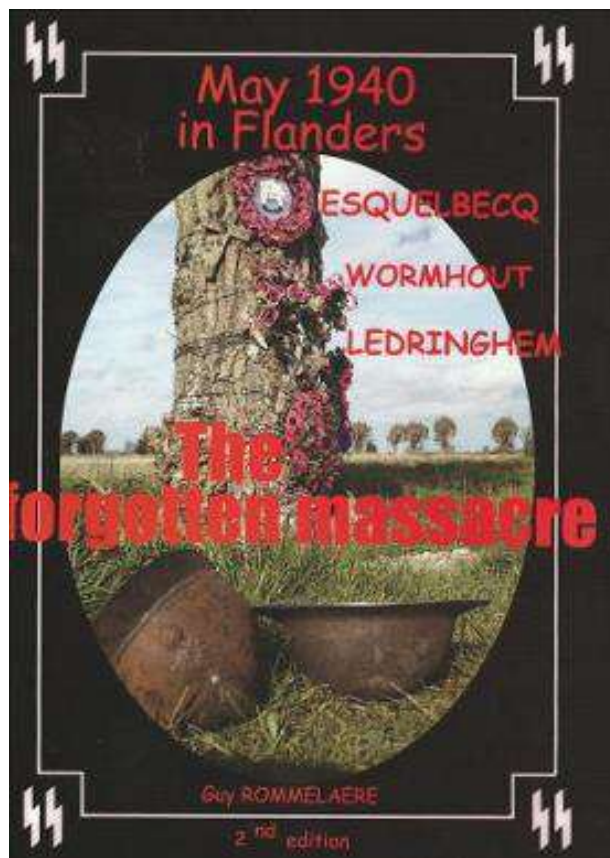
27th May 1940: Fritz Knoechlein the perpetrator of the massacre at Le Paradis, celebrated his 29th Birthday.

28th May 1940: Sepp Dietrich, the alleged perpetrator of the massacre at Wormhoudt celebrated his 48th birthday.

The research into both massacres continues.

Photography Credits

From the collection of John Head except for the photographs of Sepp Dietrich and Wilhelm Mohnke both of which are from Wikipedia



Opposite are the covers of two excellent books on the massacre which are highly recommended by the author of this article John Head



Photographs of two German officers. Above left is Sepp Dietrich and on the right is Wilhelm Mohnke. Below is the grave of Second Lieutenant P R Edgcumbe.



Hetherset Herald

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Information, reports and photographs are always welcome. These can be e-mailed to petersteward@sky.com. Everyone who works or contributes to Hetherset 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 Hetherset 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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