

# HATHERN HERALD

Autumn 2019 | The Hathern Parish Council Magazine | [hathernparishcouncil.org.uk](http://hathernparishcouncil.org.uk)



PAGE 10

## SHORT STORY

Our new short story feature kicks off with "The Stalker" by Jo Symon – a tale of tension and menace!

PAGE 12

## HATHERN'S MEADOWS

Find out about Hathern's meadows both past and present, and the vital role they play in our ecosystem.

PAGE 18

## HATHERN'S BIG WEEK

That wonderful week in June when it was all happening in Hathern- re-live some of the best moments.

# PROMS IN THE PARK !





# Pastures New Playgroup

Pasture Lane, Hathern, LE12 5LJ

## OPEN EVERY MORNING DURING TERM TIME!

Monday to Friday, 8:45 - 11:45

FOR CHILDREN  
**2-4**  
YEARS OLD

- Learning through play
- Spacious outdoor area
- Small, friendly playgroup
- Qualified, experienced staff
- Excellent links with Hathern School

**PLACES AVAILABLE NOW!**



we also run our hugely popular

## BREAKFAST CLUB

Monday to Friday 7:30 - 8:45 during term time.

available to all children who attend  
Pastures New Playgroup or Hathern Primary School.

8:00 - 8:45

**£4 per child**

includes breakfast & drink

or

7:30 - 8:45

**£6 per child**

includes breakfast & drink

FOR CHILDREN  
**2-11**  
YEARS OLD

**BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR BREAKFAST CLUB!**

**Book your place today!**

For more information visit our website [pasturesnewplaygroup.co.uk](http://pasturesnewplaygroup.co.uk)

or you can contact us using the details below:

T 07975 767723 | E [hello@pasturesnewplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:hello@pasturesnewplaygroup.co.uk) | F [pasturesnewplaygroup](http://pasturesnewplaygroup)





## CONTENTS

# INSIDE YOUR SPRING ISSUE...

- 04 Parish Council News
- 06 **SPECIAL FEATURE :**  
Hathern Band
- 08 Hathern Community Library :  
The HCL Art Group
- 10 Short Story :  
The Stalker
- 12 Nature Notes :  
Hathern's Meadows
- 14 Open for Business :  
Hathern Dog Walking & Pet Services
- 16 Meet The Neighbours :  
Peter Hunt
- 18 Community Corner :  
Hathern's Big Week Roundup
- 20 Hathern Village Association

## WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF THE HATHERN HERALD.

We have another packed-full edition for you, including all of our regular features as well as our first of a new series of short stories.

But first what a week in June it was – Hathern's Big Week pulled together many of the community groups from the village to put on a series of wonderful events – not least the Proms in the Park that features on our front cover this time. Our Community Corner includes a round-up of what went on with some memorable images. It was fitting that Dave Newman, the Musical Director of Hathern Band who helped to make that event so special, should conduct the band that night – this year he is stepping down after 40 years service and we so we also have a special feature about Dave and his successor, Stephen Barnwell.

Peter Hunt, a lifelong resident whose family has lived in Hathern for several generations is the subject of our Meet the Neighbours article. What stories Peter has to tell, especially about growing up as a child in the village. This was a time when the streets of Hathern weren't paved with gold but were covered in something else – read and find out more! It's timely that we should include an item about Hathern's Meadows in our Nature Notes feature as Peter also recollects the time when Hathern was surrounded by wild meadows.

We are extremely pleased to be able to kick off our Short Story series with "The Stalker" by local author Jo Symon. Jo has kindly provided a number of stories that we hope to publish over the next 12 months or so. If you feel inspired then please have a go at short story writing yourself. We'll be happy to publish the best ones.

And finally we have an update from the Parish Council, including some good news about our village War Memorial, the new art group at Hathern Community Library, and a dog walking service for dog lovers ! Phew, that lot should make some good bedtime reading for you!

Don't forget we are always on the lookout for future articles. So if you have a story to tell or experiences you would like to share with others, or a local business or a community group you want to let villagers know about, please get in touch with the Hathern Herald.

BEST WISHES FROM THE HATHERN HERALD  
EDITORIAL TEAM – ROY DANN, DAVE  
NEVILLE, MARTIN CLAYTON, DAVE CLEGGETT  
AND ELLA-MAE HUBBARD, AND A SPECIAL  
THANKS TO SEAN HALE, LAURA BYRNE AND  
JO SYMON FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

## HATHERN WAR MEMORIAL

We are pleased that, very recently, our War Memorial at Hathern Cemetery has been granted Listed Building status by Historic England.

Listing helps to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest, as well as providing protection from inappropriate development or change.

The Memorial, first erected in 1920, commemorates those from the Parish who fell in the First and Second World Wars, and is owned and maintained by the Parish Council.

We hope to have a more detailed special feature on this in a future edition of the Herald.



## LOOKING AFTER THINGS

You may have noticed some recent work being carried out on some of the Parish Council's property over the past few months. In the spring we replaced the safety surfaces in the children's play area at Hathern Park. Although expensive this was important to continue to ensure safety when children are using the play equipment. We are planning to repaint the equipment itself in the autumn.

We have also refurbished the large cemetery gates recently, and installed another parking post in front of the vehicle gates to Hathern Park to ensure that access, in an emergency, is always possible.

Finally we have installed a third defibrillator in the village at the ESSO fuel station on Derby Rd.



## PARISH COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

One of the most important jobs that the Parish Council does is to maintain its wide range of community assets – from Hathern Park to the grit bins around the village and we are extremely fortunate in having two residents who have recently volunteered to help us in specific areas.

Dave Neville, Tree Warden – We are responsible for a large number and variety of trees in the village. The Parish Council’s hedgerows and meadows are also an important green resource. Dave’s voluntary role sits alongside of that of our contractors in helping to manage the Parish Council’s portfolio here. The role includes being the main contact for all things tree and hedge related in the local area, liaising with the County Council forestry and arboriculture officer, reporting early signs of pests, disease and vandalism, surveying and

recording information about trees and hedges important for wildlife or heritage, and helping identify opportunities to plant more trees in the local community.

Tony Croft, Defibrillator Reporter - The Parish Council has three Public Access Defibrillators (cPADs) installed throughout the village and these are part of a network of cPADs supported and operated through the Community Heartbeat Trust . Defibrillators can save lives and so it is vital that they are ready and operational when needed. Tony’s role is one of helping us monitor and maintain the operation of the three units and will include regular and frequent checks to ensure that the units are always in a “Rescue Ready” state and that batteries and electrode pads are replaced to ensure continuity of service. Tony will also be running training and awareness courses in the village so look out for those.

## NEW WEBSITE

Recently we have completely overhauled the Parish Council’s website making it easier to use and navigate.

It’s still there at [www.hathernparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hathernparishcouncil.org.uk) but has a different look and it should be easier to use and navigate around.



Hathern Parish Council also has a Facebook Page.  
Find us at : [www.facebook.com/hathernparish](http://www.facebook.com/hathernparish)



# HATHERN BAND

David Newman became Musical Director of Hathern Band in 1979. Back then the 123 years old band was struggling in the lower divisions of brass banding. It was a challenge that David embraced with enthusiasm and he built an improving band by guiding and nurturing musicians to achieve their best. Key to this was encouraging youngsters to join the band with senior players committing time to teach them to play and develop their musicianship. And how it paid off! Over 40 years, Hathern Band appeared in no less than six national finals, one held at the Royal Albert Hall, with success in 2004 when Hathern was crowned the best second section band in the country.

After 40 years, David has decided to step down. He leaves the Hathern Band family in excellent shape. There are now four bands. Training and Youth Bands are for beginners and improvers who borrow instruments and receive free tuition, and David will continue to direct these bands. Concert Brass is an important part of the organisation. Under the direction of Chris Groom, the band is a mix of youngsters who have progressed from the Youth Band, older musicians who have stepped down from the Senior Band and players who just want to come along and play. The Senior Band is the contesting band and undertakes most of the engagements.

The Senior Band played at Hathern's Proms in the Park on 15 June, and Parish Council chairman, Roy Dann, sprung a surprise on David during the concert. He presented him with a double crystal decanter tantalus, appropriately with brass fittings, to mark

the occasion of his retirement as Musical Director. The tantalus is inscribed

## **David Newman, Musical Director, Hathern Band 1979 – 2019, from the people of Hathern**



In the search for a new musical director, the band committee appointed Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Barnwell who had retired from the position of Senior Director of Music of the Household Division. Stephen has been Bandmaster of the Band of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment, then with the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and Band of the Irish Guards. He progressed to become Director of Music of the Band of The Prince of Wales Division, then with the Band of the Irish Guards and the Welsh Guards, forming part of the Guard of Honour at Buckingham Palace for the Marriage of Prince William to Kate Middleton. Stephen became Senior Director of Music Household Division in November 2011 and was in this

role for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympic Games.

### So how did Stephen end up at Hathern? He takes up the story.

"I am from Nottingham and was 11 years old when I learnt to play. Ours wasn't a particularly musical family, although I have a mother and sisters who are keen singers. I was fortunate to be able to learn at school. Tuition was free but you had to buy an instrument, usually on hire purchase. I remember that a clarinet was £42 and a trumpet was £32 – a lot of money in those days. Economics determined that it was the trumpet for me. If the clarinet had been cheaper, I could have had a completely different career!

I joined the Army as a junior musician in 1975 on the same day as Andy Bestwick.



Andy is a fine Eb bass (tuba) player and skilled repairer of brass instruments based in Nottingham. I was delighted that Andy came along to play with Hathern Band at the rehearsal I took on 30 June. We hadn't seen each other since 1978!

I went to Kneller Hall (the Royal Military School of Music) on a three-year bandmaster course and my career progressed from there as a bandmaster, then as a director of music. It's a different musical route as you have to forego playing an instrument yourself to concentrate on bringing the best out of other musicians. I have been very proud of many performances, all mean something to me. However, in particular, I will always remember playing in Normandy at the anniversaries of the D Day landings. We played in the cathedrals and in the field where the action took place. It was always a great honour.

It was sheer chance that I've ended up at Hathern Band. I am involved with music publishing and was looking at band websites for contact details. I came across Hathern's website, realised they were near to where I was to retire, and they were looking for a musical director – so I sent off my application. I'm impressed at the setup at Hathern with its grass roots approach and family of bands, but especially the enthusiasm of musicians who want to play and perform. I'm looking forward to working with them."

**Our best wishes to both David and Stephen, and to all at Hathern Band. Here's to further success!**





---

# FIND YOURSELF AND LOSE YOURSELF AT HCL ART GROUP!

---

Creativity is known to be a huge boost, both from a wellbeing perspective, but also to help develop your problem solving skills in all areas of life – and that’s just the highlights, there are all sorts of ways we benefit from being creative!

**“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”**

Thomas Merton

However, we realise that in our busy lives, doing something creative isn’t always top of the list of things to do, and we often don’t actively make time for it. Luckily,

one of Hathern Community Library’s (HCL) newest community groups is here to help. With regular sessions at the library, you can schedule us some creativity time, and we’ll provide the space and supportive atmosphere you need! Oh, and tea, coffee and biscuits!

The Art Group has been running since January 2019 and provides an oasis for artists of all abilities and experience in which to draw and paint. Group members bring their own materials and ideas and support each other in whatever they are doing. In this respect, the Art Group isn’t



an art class – more of an opportunity to come together in a friendly and congenial atmosphere to get on with your work in progress. And, because it is not an art class, you don't need to worry if you can't make it every week – people attend when they can.

At the moment, attendees use a fairly standard range of mediums: acrylics, oils, watercolours, pencil, crayons, pastels – but don't let that restrict your creativity! So far, the HCL hasn't displayed any of the work that is created at Art Group, but that may be about to change, with hopes of exhibiting some of the work (for people who wish to) around Christmas time.

The Art Group is an inclusive community group supported by volunteers at HCL. The group meets at the library on Mondays from 2-4pm (all year, where volunteers are available to provide access). There is a £2 charge per session to cover the library running costs. People of all ages are welcome to attend (U16s should be accompanied by an adult).

If painting and drawing isn't your preferred creative outlet, don't forget HCL also hosts craft and chat on a Wednesday afternoon, 2-4pm. For more information on any of the community activities which take place at

HCL, pop in or get in touch (we're working on updating our website, so please be patient with us).

As you can see, HCL volunteers support a huge range of activities – you probably spotted the purple t-shirts at various events in the village over summer. There is always something to do if you would like to be more involved, and it does not need to be a huge time commitment.



---

# THE STALKER

---

He lay, motionless, as he had done many times in the past, all his senses tuned to his surroundings. He could feel the warm earth beneath his body and he slowly opened his mouth a fraction to taste the still, humid air. Nothing out of the ordinary there he thought, just the usual garden smells, faint traces of recently cut grass and freshly turned earth in the flower beds. This is what he did best, this was why he was regarded as being the deadliest assassin in this part of the world - collecting every available scrap of detail from his immediate surroundings, hours of silent observations, careful evaluations and meticulous planning leading to another successful final ending.

The tall, summer-dried grass beneath the oak tree whispered quietly as the merest breath of a lilac-scented summer breeze eased its way through the garden, and the late afternoon sun gave a last lingering kiss to the tops of the roses as it slid towards the far horizon. It will be soon, he thought to himself, just be patient for a little while longer. Without moving his head his dark green eyes slowly scanned the terrain in front of him, subconsciously registering the slight but oh so important changes in ground levels and textures that he knew could make the difference between success and failure, just the slightest miscalculation could have consequences that were simply not to be thought of. For just over three years now he had been successful and he had no intention of failing this latest mission.

Since mid-morning he had remained

unseen and unheard as he slowly crept around the surrounding area, never more than 200 metres from his target. He had quietly observed the coming and going of neighbours, none of whom were his target. Nobody had seen him, no-one had heard him. There had been a really bad scare about an hour ago as he was crouched behind two compost bins in the darkest corner of the overgrown garden when a neighbour's dog began to bark. Anticipating he may have somehow made a foolish mistake and been spotted he immediately froze into stillness, his senses exploding information to his brain, wind direction and strength, cacophony of sounds and direction, kaleidoscopic images, smells, everything pummeling his decision-making process, demanding immediate response instructions. Then an abrupt shout from one of the neighbours, aimed at the dog, and the frantic barking gradually receded, the adrenaline rush slowed, his breathing eased and his pulse gradually returned to normal.

False alarm, panic over. Concentrate he told himself, just slow down and be patient. So, he had. It had taken him almost an hour of muscle-sapping stealth to creep through the vicious brambles and spiteful nettles to cover just the length of the garden, even though the weeds and dead vegetable stalks had hidden him from view. This is why I am the best he inwardly smiled, I am invisible! It will be worth it he kept telling himself -these things can't be rushed was the mantra he kept repeating - success will come with patience.



So now he lay under the oak tree, shadows lengthening, the warmth from the sun-kissed earth pleasantly easing through his skin into his muscles and bones, gently caressing the aches and pains of his long and arduous stealthy stalking. His eyes rapidly dilated as he registered movement in the house just 20 metres away, the kitchen light being switched on against the gathering gloom, with just a brief shadowy image flitting past a curtain – could this be his chance! All his screaming senses now focussing solely on his target, he slowly raised himself from the ground, keeping his eyes glued to the door. This would be his only means of entry, he could not afford to miss this! His muscles began to bunch in his legs as the moment approached when he would launch himself at his unsuspecting victim.

His heightened awareness registered the faint but distinctive sound of the key grating in the lock, the door handle began to turn and with his last deep breath locked into his lungs he prepared himself for the final onslaught. This is it, this is my moment!

The kitchen door began to inch open and he hurled his body through the grass and across the garden terrain in a last, frantic, desperate, lung-busting effort to penetrate his victims' defences.

Leaping over the doorstep he smashed his way past the woman and ran into the hall, his feet skidding on the polished tiled floor – and there, motionless on the floor was his target!

He attacked, launching himself in a final deadly onslaught.

"There's a good boy!" the woman said as he attacked his chicken dinner. "Where have you been all day I wonder?"

The green-eyed cat continued to eat. Victory! He had won again. And purred.



# HATHERN'S MEADOWS

During July we had the annual Open Gardens event in the village and we decided to give people the chance to learn a little bit about our newly established wildflower meadows. The timing was perfect because not only were the wildflowers in bloom but it was also National Meadows Weekend when people all over the country are promoting the protection and development of meadows as one of our countryside's great natural assets.

Like a lot of rural settings Hathern would have been surrounded by what we term meadows. We know the names and location of these ancient meadows from the enclosure of 1778. These included Near Brook Meadow, Nether Meadow and Shepshed Brook Meadows. Meadows often grow alongside water courses and before the flood scheme was created on the River Soar the fields between Hathern and the river would be subject to flooding. This flooding would have naturally fertilised the land with silt being deposited and it created what are called water meadows.

The simplest definition for a meadow is that it's an area of wildflowers and grass which is not regularly grazed by domestic livestock, but rather allowed to grow unchecked in order to produce hay. A more technical definition is that a meadow is an ecosystem where wildflowers and

grasses provide habitat and food for myriads of insects that other small mammals and creatures eat. I was absolutely stunned when I discovered just how many creatures you could expect to find in a typical wildflower meadow - here are a few figures that will blow your socks off!

- One acre of wildflower meadow on a single day in summer can contain three million flowers, producing 1kg of nectar - enough to support nearly 96,000 honeybees per day
- A 5.5-acre meadow may have 1 ton of insects
- 1 acre of meadow may have 2.25 million spiders. If these spiders eat two insects every week, they consume about 108 million insects in six months.

These insects and spiders then provide another food source which underpins the rest of the ecosystem including the other animals that live in and around meadows such as shrews, mice, voles, bats, foxes, deer, reptiles, amphibians, birds, spiders and even aquatic wildlife, if water is present.

However, like a great deal of our natural areas, meadows have been the victim of land development and more intensive farming methods. In fact, nearly 7.5 million acres of meadows have been lost since the 1930s.

This is terrible news for pollinators like bees and butterflies, many of which are now in decline because of the significant loss of their food source.

Such facts and figures explain why conservationists are so interested in preserving our remaining meadows and establishing new wildflower areas. We can all do our bit in supporting this effort; for instance, Britain's 15 million gardens, many of them with lawns, could become an increasingly important habitat for supporting species of bees, butterflies and other bugs looking for nectar. Organisations involved in conservation including the RHS have recently asked British people to be gentler on their lawns, letting flowers grow instead of insisting on smooth, unbroken grass.

Hathern Parish Council, Hathern Church and the Hathern Wildlife Group have worked together for several years in trying to establish some new wildflower areas in the village and we currently have four sites that have been designated as new meadow areas; two areas in the churchyard, one area on the park and one area in the cemetery.

These areas are still under development and we're continuing to learn an awful lot about planting and establishing the wildflowers and trying to get the ecosystem into balance.



We always knew it was going to be a long-term project but we're now starting to see some reward for our labours. Now's your chance to go and look at the wildflower areas and see what varieties of plants and insects you can spot. In October they will be mown, and we will rake off the hay. This prevents a build-up of dead plant material and also re-deposits the wildflower seeds back onto the ground. We'll also be planting more wildflowers so there's plenty to do. If you fancy getting involved, please let us know.

**Happy wildlife watching!**

**Sean Hale**





# HATHERN DOG WALKING AND PET SERVICES

It most likely hasn't escaped your attention that Hathern is a village full of our canine friends! We caught up with a regular dog walking face in the village, Maxine Hopwood, who runs Hathern Dog Walking and Pet Services.

Maxine fell in love with her first dog, Texas, six years ago. This wasn't her first animal of course, having always had animals growing up from cats, rabbits, hamsters, gerbils and fish. "But Texas has stolen my heart", Maxine tells us. "She is intelligent, sensitive (a bit too much at times) and very loving! She is also an awesome mum and has had two litters. I kept her first-born Rio from her litter three years ago."

Texas had five puppies, four fox red and one black. Rio is also a lovely dog, very playful, loving and an absolute mummy's girl! She still gets on Maxine's lap! Texas has recently had another smaller litter of three puppies, all of which have gone to amazing homes. Maxine also has two lovely moggies at home. Petal, a black and white boy ("we were told she was a girl!") is 15 and Tiger, who is 13, is a super friendly ginger Tom.

It was from this that Hathern Dog Walking and Pet Services was born – allowing dogs who may not get out as often as is ideal, or even just allowing dogs to socialise with other animals.

Maxine has discovered so many beautiful places to walk Tex and Rio locally in Hathern. "We are blessed with footpaths that lead to

the river and we often walk along it up to Derby Road playing fields. On the opposite side of the road is the Garendon Estate which is also a nice walk with the Black Brook running through. The dogs always have a drink and paddle there".

Maxine walks several dogs from the village, and they enjoy the social group outings. "I love to see well socialised dogs having fun





together. I also cat sit for several families in the village when they go away for a couple of days or longer.”

It’s not just the dogs that get to exercise and socialise though, Maxine has got to know so many people in the village since having had Texas and Rio. “Dog walking is such a social activity as there are many lovely dog owners in Hathern. I can usually remember all the dogs names but not always all the owners names.”

Maxine is available to look after your pets or walk your dog. They will be treated well and with love. She charges £10 per dog walk and



cat feeding/small animal visits is £10 for two visits a day.

**Contact Maxine 07837 273059**

<https://www.facebook.com/hatherndogwalkingandpetservices/>



.....  
If you run a business from Hathern and would like publicise it to residents why not contribute an article to our Open For Business feature?  
Please contact us here at the Hathern Herald and we can help you put something together - remember it’s free!”  
.....



# PETER HUNT

## SAY 'HELLO' TO PETER HUNT, THE NOW-RETIRED JOINER AND CARPENTER WHO HAS LIVED IN HATHERN ALL HIS LIFE.

Growing up in Church Street as a small boy during the war years, one of Peter's earliest memories is of hiding under a billiard table as German bomber planes droned overhead en-route for Coventry. Only now does he realise what a mistake that could have been as the bed of the billiard table was made of slate and would have crushed anyone under it had the planes released their bombs too early. Peter can also vividly recall the Italian prisoners of war marching from their POW Camp at Pear Tree Lane, Dishley, clearing out the ditches as they went down Pasture Lane and then clearing weeds from the banks of the River Soar.

Hathern village had far fewer houses in those days; it seemed to Peter that everyone knew everyone else and all the kids knew the names of all the dogs and cats in the village.

School term-time finished and it was time for a roller-skating session in the Village School playground. The school janitor disagreed and reported Peter to the head of his next school, Limehurst. So, first day at a new school, and not a very good start as

Peter was rewarded with 'six-of-the-best' for being cheeky to the janitor. More vivid memories printed – not just in his mind!

In those youthful golden days, when every school summer holiday seemed blessed by wall-to-wall sunshine and hedgerows were bursting with the juiciest blackberries, learning to swim in the Soar by the County Bridge was the normal activity for kids of that age and in that era and Peter was no exception. Naturally, Mums and Dads didn't allow the kids their swimming trunks or costumes when the weather was too cold for swimming; but as we all know kids will find a solution. The mother of one of Peter's friends owned a Drapers shop, so the solution was easy – no swimming trunks, let's use ladies' knickers from the shop instead! Society is more accepting these days, so you just might get away with it, but back then it could have been a different story! Another of his friend's parent's ran 'The Dewdrop', and, having read that Channel swimmers coated themselves with lard to keep warm whilst in the water, the lads coated themselves in scrounged margarine from the pub. Well, that failed miserably, but apparently the cows in the field appreciated their efforts!

Let's just pause and think about that for a moment – young boys, coated in margarine,

wearing ladies' knickers, running around a field being chased by cows. You couldn't make it up could you! A precursor to 'Last of the Summer Wine' perhaps?

Working in the fields for the local farmers at harvest-time was a sure-fire way of earning pocket money. Back then, the village fields were covered with lapwings and corn buntings and as the farmer slowly drove the tractor, the youngsters would walk in front and collect the eggs and young from their nests and replace them as the tractor moved slowly on its way. How's that for nature conservation!

With the village surrounded by farms it's perhaps no surprise that cowpats were a common obstruction to pedestrians, but of little consequence to youngsters like the eight-year old Peter, careering through the village streets on their push bikes, splashing through the still warm cow muck wherever they went. One such episode had particular ramifications however, which is still firmly locked away in Peter's memory bank. It concerns his cousin, Terry Henson from Kegworth. Unfamiliar with the cow-pat strewn streets, Terry was showing off on his new three-wheeler trike when he skidded on the soft stuff and tumbled off his trike and slid through several piles of runny cow-muck, ruining his new clothes in the process. Peter was held to be responsible because he had not warned his cousin of the danger, and was again on the receiving end of another good hiding from his parents. All things have a natural balance however and Peter's solace came in the lasting knowledge that his cousin would be called 'Cow-Muck' Henson for the rest of his life!

Coming out of the Army after the normal two-year contract and now recently married, it was time to get a proper job. Firstly, at GC Smiths in Long Whatton, then on to what is now the East Midlands Airport for a few years as a joiner. Peter's last job as an employee was as a joiner at Willowbrook

Coachworks, (now The Range and Halfords) where he worked for about 12 years before becoming self-employed. And he was the last joiner to leave the site before it finally closed down.

Now self-employed as a carpenter/joiner Peter can remember his first paid job, building a wooden shed and fence for a 'Mrs Hunt' (no relation), on Swallow Walk. That would be about 1980 – and the shed and the fence are still standing, a fitting testament to his workmanship and skills.

During the ensuing busy years Peter worked in the surrounding villages and even spreading as far afield as Lincolnshire, making doors, windows, cupboards, loft conversions, even greenhouses. Anything made of wood, he built it! And now, after 26 years of working with wood, Peter has finally retired, though he remains busy in his garden, or walking the dog of one of his friends and generally pottering about, as active retirees are supposed to do. He readily acknowledges the support that wife Margaret has given him, not just at the busy time of setting up in his self-employed business but also over the many years they have been together, saying he couldn't have achieved anything without her help.

His life so far really does encapsulate most of the things we all subconsciously strive for – a happy childhood, skills to earn a living, family, home environment, retirement, happy memories. All achieved whilst living in the village he clearly loves.

Peter's wish for the village? Compared to his childhood the immediate fields surrounding the village nowadays seem devoid of life, so re-generating wild-flower meadows with their accompanying wildlife would be magical!

**So, if you see Peter around the village give him a wave and a 'Hello Peter!'**



# HATHERN'S BIG WEEK ROUND-UP

Early June saw Hathern's Big Week return for its third year – and despite the unseasonal weather all week it saw some fantastic and well attended events with a record number of clubs and groups taking part. So here are some memories from the week..

## It's a Hathern Knockout

Our brave It's a Knock Out! teams lead the parade toward Hathern Park...



The teams battled through the rain, wind and other obstacles in It's a Knockout!





Proof that rain never stops play in Hathern – Hathern Band together with the Loughborough Theatre Choir wowed the village with their Proms in the (Undercover!) Park. The Band's Musical Director, Dave Newman, was also thanked for his 40 years of service.



Hathern Training Band showcased their hard work despite the weather!



Crafts galore could be found at the Vintage & Craft Market



Hathern History Society brought **This Is Hathern** to the big screen again



The Hathern Barn Dance made a successful return for 2019.



The background of the entire poster is a dark blue night sky filled with various colorful fireworks exploding in shades of purple, green, and white. The main title is set within a purple oval that has a white border and a slight 3D effect.

Wicked Hathern  
**Fireworks**  
& Bonfire

**LIVE MUSIC**

**BONFIRE • FIREWORKS • FUNFAIR  
FOOD VENDORS • FULLY LICENSED BAR  
NOISE-FREE KIDS DISPLAY • HUGE MAIN DISPLAY**

**FREE PARKING • 200FT MARQUEE • REAL ALES**

• LIVE MUSIC TO 11PM • GIN, COCKTAIL, WINE & PROSECCO BARS • KIDS ENTERTAINMENT • STALLS & MERCHANDISE •

**02·NOV·2019**  
**DISHLEY GRANGE FARM, LE11 5SF**

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON FROM HATHERN ESSO SERVICE STATION OR ONLINE AT:  
**WWW.HATHERNFEST.CO.UK**