

HATHERN HERALD

Spring 2018 | The Hathern Parish Council Magazine | hathernparishcouncil.org.uk



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HATHERN'S DEFIBRILLATORS

We now have this life saving equipment in three locations around the village. Make sure you know where they are and what to do. Find out more.

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LUCIE & NEIL

Your hosts with the most! The Anchor Inn's growing success is all down to this couple's hard work. Read their story in Meet the Neighbours.

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HATHERN VILLAGE VOICES

We sing the praises of one of Hathern's newest community groups. This heavenly choir is open to all – prepare to be uplifted.

SPRING TO HATHERN



IMAGINERS WELCOMED HERE

SEW, WATT AH YEW WEIGHTING FOUR?

Don't worry about your spelling, how's your imagination? We all have one don't we? Imagination that is!

We want to begin a new 'Short Story' feature in the Herald. Share your imagination with Hathern villagers by writing a short story or poems of no more than one thousand words. We plan to publish them in future editions of the Herald

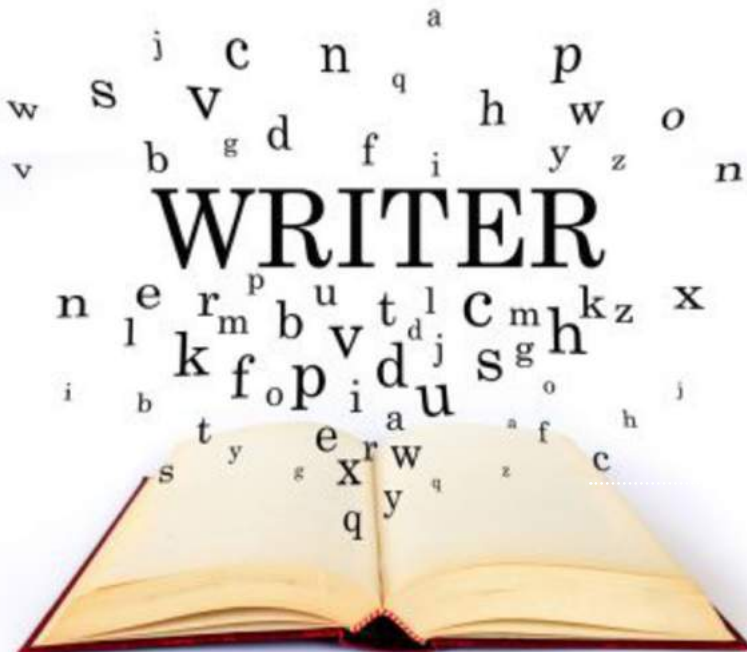
Go on, do it – you know you want to!
Right here, Right now.
Better still.
Write Here, Write Now!

Send your stories and poems, along with your contact details to:

Editorial Team, Hathern Herald via:
clerk@www.hathernparishcouncil.org.uk

Don't forget to tell us the title of your miniature masterpiece and please note, we only have room for up to 1000 words/story and if photo's or drawings are to be included then a little shorter still.

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WELCOME TO THE SPRING EDITION OF THE HATHERN HERALD.

And a packed one it is! All the usual favourites plus a couple of special features as well as news from the Parish Council.

On our front cover this time is the amazing village quilt that was unveiled at the Hathern Community Library's third birthday celebrations. It commemorates the 2018 year in the village and is the result of plenty of hard work by Hathern's own team of quilters. More about that and what's been going on at the library in our regular Community Library spot.

So where do we start? Well did you know that the recently refurbished chain ferry that crosses the Soar between Hathern and Normanton is probably the only one of its type left in the country – there is more about its history in our special feature.

Our regular Nature Notes this time looks at the emergence of spring and what to look out for, from bumble bees to the Mad March Hare.

Open for Business is pleased to feature Headroom – the hairdressing salon in Dovecote Street that is managing to keep up a tradition of having such a hairdressing business on that site for over 50 years now. Just another 50 years to go Ben! We also have the story behind the growing success of the Anchor Inn – yes it's all down to Lucie and Neil the couple who are the subject of our Meet the Neighbours piece this time around. Find out how they decided to take on the challenge and move to Hathern on Page 16.

Finally if you were lucky enough to catch Village Voices at the Christmas Tree Festival in the village this year you will know just how passionate this community choir is about what they do – and they have fun as well. Our Community Corner features this relatively new to Hathern group who are always looking for new members.

Well that's it until the autumn edition. Enjoy the read and see you next time

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 AND LAURA BYRNE FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS..

HATHERN TOGETHER

A BIG BIG thank you to everyone for making the Hathern 2018 programme of events such a great success. The Hathern 2018 team, which represented a large number of community groups and organisations, co-ordinated over 40 events. These were successfully delivered because everyone co-operated. It really was Hathern Together. And that's what that team will be known as in the future. The success of 2018 has spurred the group on to organise another programme for 2019, supported financially by the Parish Council.

You will have received a brochure detailing our many community groups and their events in the first six months of 2019. The brochure for the second half of the year is in production with a deadline of 30 April, so do let us know if you have an event that you would like included.



We have something for everyone in Hathern. Why not come along to an event or join one of the groups we have in the village? We particularly extend an invitation to anyone new to Hathern to get involved. You will be assured of a very warm welcome. Keep in touch with the latest news on the Hathern Together Facebook page and website.

WILD FLOWER PLANTING

Despite the issues we are having in some areas of the village we are keen to develop cultivated and more natural areas in the village. To those ends we have recently extended the wild flower meadow area in the cemetery, sown more yellow rattle seed to control the grasses and planted plug plants across both this and the meadow at the bottom of Hathern Park.

If you had ventured down Pasture Lane during February you will have caught sight of the best show of snowdrops we have had to date. This follows further bulb planting by the Parish Council this year that brings the total planted since 2012 to over 35,000 bulbs! Regular visitors will have noticed that there are different varieties of snowdrops along the lane that flow at slightly different times so extending the period over which the plants are in bloom.



VANDALISM AT THE LEYS

If you have walked through the Leys recently you may have noticed how we are trying to develop this area further as an attractive community garden space for the whole village to enjoy. However you may also have noticed the systematic vandalism that is occurring to both some of the hard landscaping and the plants themselves. The low brick wall separating off a newly planted area has been demolished, some gardening items stolen, new planting has been trampled to the ground, and the majority of the young saplings have been damaged with branches deliberately torn off and some even uprooted.

Our village gardener, Kim Lawson, has worked tirelessly over the past few years helping us to transform the Leys from a run down and neglected area into an attractive planted and landscaped green space incorporating a developing community



orchard. So it is extremely disappointing to see needless vandalism start to undo all that hard work.

We have already involved the police in this matter but we rely on residents keeping an eye out for any suspicious behaviour in this area. Please don't hesitate to contact the parish Clerk if you have anything to report. We would be extremely grateful for any help in this upsetting matter.

THE PARISH PRECEPT

It is that time of year when we all receive our Council Tax Bills. In order to work for the village the Parish Council raises funding through the Hathern Precept, ie that very small part of the Council Tax that goes directly to the Parish Council. To date we have been very successful in holding down increases in what residents are charged via the Precept. For the second year in a row, and by reaching into our financial reserves, we have managed to reduce charges to residents – by 2.2 % for the forthcoming year.

MAY ELECTIONS

On the 2nd May the once every four year local elections will take place for the Borough Council and for Parish & Town Councils in our area. Borough Council elections are always keenly contested so make sure you use your vote. For Parish Councils a contested election will take place providing there are sufficient candidates – ie more candidates than Councillors places! If not then all candidates are automatically elected and if there are still places vacant then the Council can co-opt Councillors as

required. The situation for Hathern should be clearer in April but after we have gone to press!

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**Hathern Parish Council has both a
 web site and Facebook Page.**

Find us at :

**www.hathernparishcouncil.org.uk
www.facebook.com/hathernparish**

THE NORMANTON CHAIN FERRY

If you've been out and about Normanton on Soar way, have you seen the new brown information signs pointing to the chain ferry between Normanton and Hathern? The ferry was taken over by the Normanton Parish Council and re-launched as a service manned by volunteers in 2015. Over the last four years the ferry has gone from strength to strength and last year a new boat house and jetty were built. It is thought to be the last public hand pulled chain ferry in the country.

The ferry is operated from the Normanton side. The operator winds up the slack in the chain by using a detachable windlass to a

spindle drum. Then when passengers are aboard, the operator takes the chain and pulls in one hand to another to haul the ferry to the other side.

The Normanton ferry has been in existence since at least 1771 when it was marked on a map, but is probably much older. It provided a link from the village across the river to the fields in Leicestershire and the location would have been chosen because the river was shallower at the bend. In 1901, the Normanton estate including the rights to the ferry was acquired by the Paget family. They built a new ferry house for the ferryman and his family which still stands.





The oldest newspaper reference to the ferry appears to be from 1834 and relates to a tragedy. On 12 November, 44 year old ferryman Michael Parkes ferried two passengers across the river. On his way back one of two boats, which were travelling in opposite directions struck his boat knocking him into the water and he drowned. The inquest held at the Plough Inn decided it was accidental death with a deodand of one shilling on the boat. Deodand? Yes I had to look it up. A deodand is in law, an object or instrument that becomes forfeited because it has caused a person's death. The English common law of deodands traces back to the 11th century

and was applied, on and off, until Parliament finally abolished it in 1846. Please don't let this sad episode put you off using the ferry. It would probably have been a rowing boat then, not a chain ferry and passenger safety is the number one priority nowadays.

Hathern Together group is organising a walk including a ferry crossing for the August Bank Holiday Monday (26th August), ending at the Plough Inn. Check your Hathern Together July to December brochure for details. If you'd like to give the ferry a go before then, it operates at weekends between 10.00am and 4.30 pm. The fare is £1 each way (50p for a dog or bike).





HCL

NOW WE ARE THREE!



Saturday 26th January 2019 saw another celebration for HCL – it was our third birthday party! It's three years since we officially opened as a community library – we are proud of what we have achieved, and that we continue to grow in the services we support.

The party saw fun and games for the children, cake (obviously) and the unveiling of the Hathern 2018 anniversary quilt. Panels were made by villagers to represent various groups within our community, as part of the 2018 celebrations, and these panels were assembled into a quilted wall

hanging and finished by HCL's very own Craft and Chat group. Another excuse to pop into the library, just in case you need one!





HCL SPOTLIGHT ALL JOIN IN

Our latest spotlight is on the All Join In sessions, which run every other week at the library. All Join in is one of the longest running groups at HCL. Targeting 0-4 year olds and their families, each session is built around songs, rhymes and (of course) stories. As attendees get older, it is great to see them starting to join in with the songs, and recognising familiar props that are used in the songs and storytelling. And sometimes there are other activities, such as seasonal crafts to join in with. It is not just about the kids – when I visited All Join In at the end of 2018, it was lovely to meet the families and find out what they thought of the volunteer led sessions. One of the most common responses was how good it was to have the opportunity to meet other families from the village and many appreciated the fact that the sessions were available in the village, cutting down on the need to travel.

All of the children were really relaxed during the session (well, that’s the assumption we made when the littlest ones fell fast asleep...!) and in the environment of the library. One of the aims is to support families in getting children into the habit of reading from an early age, and regular visits to the library is a positive part of that. For many of the attendees at All Join In, this was also an opportunity to swap their library books and to play with some of the toys available!

All Join In runs every other Thursday from 10.30am at HCL – we’ll be there for songs, rhymes and stories for 0-4 year olds. Check facebook for the latest dates or get in touch (enquiries@hatherncommunitylibrary.org) for more information.

By Ella-Mae Hubbard

HATHERN'S DEFIBRILLATORS

Do you know what a defibrillator is and what it does? Well it's a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and it's an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who's in cardiac arrest.

In Hathern we are now extremely fortunate to have three community Public Access Defibrillators, or CPADs, that are owned and maintained by the Parish Council. These have been sourced from the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHBT), a Leicestershire based national charity, and the first has been in service in the village since June 2104.

Our latest CPAD has been entirely funded by the Parish Council and at the time of going to print was ready to be installed at the Esso Garage on Derby Road at the northern end of the village. This will be sited by the garage shop door and be available 24 hours a day. The unit is the more up-to-date G5 version of our existing G3 Cardiac Science Powerhearts. This will give that part of the village and the new Daisy Bank estate easy access to a CPAD and we are very grateful to the Esso Garage for making this site available to us.

Of the other two units, one has been funded jointly by the Parish Council and a donation from the Hathern Open Gardens Committee, and is located in the "old" telephone kiosk in Cross Street just outside the doctor's surgery. The second was donated, very generously, by a Hathern resident, Miss



Alma Mary Roper, and is sited outside the Children1st Nursery on 126, Loughborough Road.

These two CPADs have been deployed 4 times by the ambulance service in village cardiac related emergencies.

Hopefully the equipment will never need to be employed further but, in the interests of our residents and visitors well-being, they are in the village if required. One of the key messages from Martin Fagan, National Secretary of CHBT is that “the only thing you can do wrong is to do nothing”.

Let’s explain what the equipment is, what it does, and provided statistics that demonstrate just how important it can be:

- A defibrillator delivers an electrical current through the chest which aims to shock the heart back into a normal rhythm allowing it to pump again.
- An AED is a portable defibrillator which uses intelligent technology to shock a ‘shockable’ heart rhythm. When applied to a patient, a sequence of voice commands and screen messages guide the user through the defibrillation process. This means the machine can be used safely by people with no medical background.
- The cabinet storing the AED can only be opened by a member of the public with an access code given by the emergency services via a 999 call.
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) happens between 140,000 and 200,000 times a year in the UK, making it one of the UK’s largest killers. The potential for saving a life is dependent on time – the faster medical help is administered, the better the chance of survival.
- To achieve a positive outcome when dealing with SCA, medical assistance must be given within 4-5 minutes of the event. In remote areas it can take more than 8 minutes for an emergency medical team to arrive on scene and this is why Community Public Access Defibrillators (cPAD) play a vital role in helping save lives in rural communities.
- Statistics show that the survival rate after a SCA with CPR alone is 5%. By using a defibrillator, the survival rate increases to 50%.’ Martin said: “The very best people to save a life are those already on the scene. You cannot make the situation worse, only better, and that may give someone a chance to live”. Call 999 immediately and get the ambulance service to help. They will talk you through what needs to be done and, if required, tell you how and where to access a CPAD - usually stored, (as ours are), in high visibility yellow cabinets for easy recognition.

For more information on the Hathern defibrillators and local training contact Tony Croft via the HPC website or for the Community Heartbeat Trust, AEDs or public awareness and training sessions visit:

www.communityheartbeat.org.uk



SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Isn't the Spring a wonderful time of year. That transition from the dark days of winter to those first inviting periods of warm sunshine seems to inject new life into both the countryside and ourselves.

I'm writing this article in February which is generally considered the coldest month, but it only takes a sunny day or two and the wildlife starts to emerge from its Winter dormancy, and we start to get glimpses of plants and animals that are feel good sights – little tastes of the summer to come. So what signs of springtime am I starting to think about.

Well I like to wake up early and it's a real joy when you start to hear the birds practicing their song. The relative quiet of the early morning is a great time for the birds to start establishing their territories and attracting a mate. It usually starts with the Robins but in just a few weeks we are treated to the glorious sound of the dawn chorus.

I've mentioned before how interesting it is to observe and record your first sightings of the year. In my garden there's a couple of things I look out for. The first warm days entice the queen bumblebees from their underground hibernation to seek suitable

flowers from which they will gain energy and look for suitable places to nest. If you have a garden pond remember to look out for when the frogspawn appears. I read recently that further south they can see frogspawn as early as January but in this part of the world I guess it's late February or more normally March before we see it.

Now if your out for a Spring walk you shouldn't be short of things to see. I particularly love to hear and spot my first Skylark of the year. Although they are struggling due to lack of suitable habitat, we are still lucky to be able to see and hear them in the fields surrounding our village. The male Skylark can be seen rising almost vertically up to heights of 300m and although they are hard to spot at that height you will not mistake their beautiful song. Then suddenly, they will plummet like a stone down to the ground. Try listening to one of my favourite pieces of music "The Lark Ascending" by Ralph Vaughan Williams and you will never mistake the song of the Skylark.

Another bird that we still associate with the springtime is the Cuckoo. Some of you may remember the nursery rhyme about the Cuckoo:

*In April,
Come he will.
In May,
He sings all day.
In June,
He changes his tune.
In July,
He prepares to fly.
In August,
Go he must.*

It was very common to hear their distinctive call in April after they had journeyed north from their winter home in Africa but unfortunately, the English Cuckoo population has fallen by 67% since 1967 and they are becoming much rarer – it's not clear what is causing this but if you're interested in learning more the British Trust for Ornithology (www.bto.org) are doing some very interesting work to investigate this. If you do hear one, please let us know and count yourself as one of the lucky ones.

Another thing to look out for in the Spring is the Brown Hare and we see them quite often in the fields around Hathern. During the daytime it's difficult to spot the hares but in the evening, they become more active and a lot easier to observe. The hares normally breed in the springtime and it is here they get the name "Mad March Hares". Several males may be seen chasing a female who is in season and the real fun starts when she turns, starts boxing the males with her forelegs and then they of course retaliate in the same way. It's strange but true.

Incidentally, the Hathern Wildlife Group have several activities planned during 2019 so if you are interested in learning more about joining in please feel free to contact me.

Happy wildlife watching!

Sean Hale, Hathern Wildlife Group
Tel: 07443 902947
email: sean.hale48@gmail.com



HEADROOM



In one of Hathern's very few retail properties sits Headroom, a modern, busy hairdressing salon. It is located on the corner of Dovecote Street and Cross Street in the building which once housed the village's General Store and – believe it or not – the cycle repair shop! The building however, has become synonymous with many villagers for being a hairdressers for the past 50+ years.

Previously known as Patricia's Hair Salon, the building was sold and Patricia retired at the end of 2006. The new owners were keen for the village not to lose one of its only retail units and so opened a new salon in April 2007 – Solutions. The building itself was fully refurbished and also contains two flats. The business was purchased by Benjamin Hardy in May 2009 and re-branded as Headroom, with a major re-styling of the interior following shortly afterwards.

Under the management of Ben, the salon has gone from strength to strength and now

performs a wide variety of services for both ladies and gents and retails TIGI products. The interior went under another refurb in January 2016 and now has four styling stations, a wash basin, reception and waiting areas.

The salon contains an extra room which has been many incarnations in the past. In Patricia's day this was first a downstairs room of the house before being added to the salon when the property was converted into two flats. Patricia used it as her waiting area. In the 2007 renovations, the room was separated off again and Solutions ran in-house beauty treatments. When Ben took over, the room was used by Tranquility for several years before spending a brief time as a coffee shop. It is now occupied by Lizzie with Infinity Beauty. Lizzie provides a whole range of beauty treatments, from the basics such as waxing and massage, to more complex treatments like KACI facials.

Headroom has a very loyal client base, with the majority of people living within walking distance, however clients come from as far afield as Long Whatton! The salon currently operates on an appointment only basis, with the stylists accommodating as many appointments as they can – late nights are available Wednesday to Friday until 7pm and also on a Saturday from 9am to 1pm.

Currently, besides owner Ben, there are two other stylists. Lynsey works Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays and Jodie works on a Wednesday. Both stylists have been with the salon since 2007. Headroom also has an apprentice, Kacey, who is always on the

lookout for models to practice on and some services can be cheaper when booked with her.

New clients are always welcome and receive 20% off their first visit and regular clients are rewarded with a loyalty scheme and a 10% discount on their birthdays! If the salon happens to be closed, there are many ways to get in touch to book your appointment – via the website, Facebook or by leaving a voicemail on the salon answerphone.

In June 2019 Headroom will celebrate its 10th birthday and will party in style with live music, canapes & bubbly!





LUCIE & NEIL

“WHEN YOU FIND A JOB YOU LOVE, YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO WORK AGAIN!”

Whoever penned that famous quote must have had it aimed towards Hathern, as it certainly fits our next couple.

Yes, a bit of a variation this time around as we say “Hello” to not one but two of our neighbours, Lucie McDermott and Neil Hawksworth, the couple who successfully manage The Anchor Inn.

Let’s begin with Lucie. Named after the author of children’s books, Lucie was raised in Braunstone before moving to Loughborough. As a carer for her Mum from the age of 6, it would seem a natural progression for Lucie to study Care in the Community at Loughborough College before going on to work for the Borough Council for 10 years looking after Special Educational Needs pupils at Maplewell Hall School. Maintaining this ‘working with people’ ethos Lucie also volunteered at the Mountfield Lodge Youth Club. She has also worked in several pubs, which is where she met Neil, and more of that later.

Now Lucie is building her new life here in Hathern village, having moved to The Anchor Inn in the summer of 2017 with her family. As a busy working mum, free time is in short

supply but, when time does permit, Lucie intends to become more active in the village community by volunteering at village events such as the school Christmas Fayre. She entered a tree at last year’s Christmas tree festival in the church and, para-phrasing Arnie – “She’ll be back!”

Their young children go to the village school and Lucie has the utmost admiration for the school staff and the way the school is managed. In the comparatively short time they have been at the school her children have blossomed in ways previously unimagined. Lucie’s own words can best describe her feelings about the school – “absolutely fantastic!”. She does however have some misgivings about the threat of ‘pupils to classroom ratio’ numbers increasing with the potential disruption to the current equilibrium – that of the huge number of houses due to be built as part of the Garendon Estate development.

In the meanwhile, Lucie remains passionate about village life here, and with her previous experience of living in Braunstone and Loughborough used as benchmarks, she wants the village to succeed and provide support for the community. She would love to see the village shop expand and stay open a little longer to better cater for young Mums and Dads who have been working all day and

who may need to shop during evenings or weekends.

Now eighteen months into life in the village, Lucie believes that the family's move to Hathern is the best they have ever made

And now let's meet the other partner in this relationship, Neil. Born in Stoney Stanton, he moved with Mum and Dad to Mountsorrel as they took over the management of the Waterside Inn, which had previously been run by his grandparents, so it seems that pub and retail management was firmly embedded in his genes from an early age. Neil worked in the pub until he passed his driving test and, as with most of us, having a driving licence opened up different opportunities, one of which was delivery driving for a variety of companies. After doing that for a couple of years and now 19 years old, along came an offer he couldn't refuse – running DJ and Karaoke sessions in a club on the Greek island of Rhodes! Now come on, be honest, at the age of 19 would you turn it down? No. And neither did Neil, he spent three years on the sun-kissed island, lucky guy!

Returning to England Neil managed a friend's club in Leicester and thereafter followed a period of club ownership and management roles, including The Custard Bar in Wards End, Loughborough. It was whilst managing a pub in Barrow that Neil and Lucie met and it was now that Neil had a great idea. With a friend they opened a rowing boat hire business on the river where his Mum and Dad were still running their pub, seemed to be a perfect fit. Big mistake, as that was one of the wettest summers on record – the boat hire business didn't get off the water - so to speak.

So, it was back to pub management, now with the added benefit of being a licensed 'Door Staff', (Bouncer to you and me!) which came in very handy when he worked in the 'Crowd Safety' industry for two years, which

included football matches, music festivals and events at the NEC.

Fate intervened again for these two. Neil received a family inheritance at the same time as his Mum and Dad decided to retire and The Anchor Inn came up for lease. Decisions, decisions, which one to go for - The Waterside Inn or The Anchor Inn? Well, 'The Anchor' won and in August 2017 Lucie and Neil with their young family moved in. And they love it. The early days were made much easier by having several long-time friends living in Hathern who helped smooth their transition from life in Mountsorrel.

Whilst acknowledging the chequered history of the pub, Lucie and Neil can both envisage the exciting opportunities the future holds. They are here for the long-haul and have ambitious long-term plans. Determined to succeed and fulfil its full potential, they know that their efforts to immerse themselves into village life will help them to achieve their goals. Finally, after years of searching for the right opportunity, Lucie and Neil have found their Shangrila.



HATHERN VILLAGE VOICES

Hathern Village Voices was founded in April 2018 and has since continued to grow. It is an un-auditioned choir of friendly singers who need not have any previous choral experience. Some members read music, others don't, but all support each other in learning repertoire whilst, most importantly, enjoying themselves. Many new members commented upon joining the choir, how welcoming and encouraging the existing members were towards them.

Hathern Village Voices is joined by its partner choir Woodhouse Eaves Village Voices for their numerous performances, be that in a formal concert setting or for a more informal performance, such as at the wonderful Hathern Christmas Tree Festival in December 2018. In less than a year since its formation, the choirs have performed numerous concerts and have been able to donate over £1000 to local and national charities. The idea behind not charging for tickets for concerts is to make them accessible to all, with a retiring collection for the designated charity. So far, this has worked very well and has led to large audiences.

A wide variety of music is rehearsed each week, in the hope that there is something for everyone to enjoy. Recent repertoire has

involved medieval and classical music, some of John Rutter's choral favourites, a medley of songs from the shows by Andrew Lloyd Webber and even music by The Beatles.

Rehearsals are run jointly by Tom and Katharine. Tom is a professional organist and Katharine, a professional soprano, singing teacher and conductor. All rehearsals are run by them jointly. Village Voices operates a pay as you go system and therefore you are not paying for any sessions you miss. The price is £5 per session and that includes almost all of your music. Rehearsals are Wednesdays during term time at 2pm-4pm in Hathern Village Hall.

Anyone is welcome to give the choir a try and can just turn up on the day or email info@vvoices.co.uk for further information.





Hathern's BIG week

BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER



7 - 15 JUNE 2019

EVENTS LISTED IN YOUR WHAT'S ON GUIDE
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