



CROUGHTON NEWS

October 2020

New Community Bus Service in Croughton.

A new Community Bus Service sponsored by SNC is now available in Croughton. It is run by Ability and will start as soon as a few people register to use it.

Initially, there will be a bus to Banbury or Brackley, but other trips can be arranged. All those who register will be picked up at the bus stop and if they have a bus pass there is no charge. Those without a bus pass will pay normal fees: for an annual subscription of £36.00 you can be collected from your home and have priority booking; for an annual subscription of £24.00 you can be picked up near your house. Bookings can be made up to two weeks in advance.

The buses are able to take wheelchairs and scooters and will comply with all Covid19 regulations.

Registration forms are available from The Croughton Tea Rooms, The Blackbird and the Co-op. Meryl Rimmer (the Mill Lane Plant Stall lady, tel 01869 819525) has offered to assist if required. Please ring her with any queries, or contact Ability on 01327 604123.

Renewal of high and low voltage cables

Mr David Edwards, Engineer, Western Power Distribution once again updated the Parish Council on the progress of the works.

By mid-September the work had reached Mill Lane, bringing Phase 2 near to completion, with Phase 3 through Blenheim, over the bridge and up to the turning to Charlton to follow on from there. The road to Charlton had been closed as planned for Phase 4 and cable laying along there was progressing well.

Phase 5 from the Co-op along Park End will be the last section to be worked and had fallen behind. It would probably not be finished before the end of October 2020. Commissioning works based around the 4 sub-stations would remain to be done.

It was brought to Mr Edwards' attention that branches from a tree growing from inside the sub-station compound in the jitty way leading from Park End to Portway Crescent were interfering with the footway lamp. Mr Edwards agreed to look into this and see what needed to be done.

Croughton All Saints CE Primary School



Harvest Hamper

This year we will be making hampers for the retired members of our village community. Fruit crumble will be prepared from ingredients grown in our school garden.

If you would like to receive a Harvest Hamper on Friday October 23rd please contact the school office. RSVP on 01869 810727 by Friday October 9th.

Thank you

We are sad we cannot host a harvest lunch in school this year ☹️

From Mrs Goulder and all the children

RBL Poppy Appeal 2020



This year will be an extremely difficult one for the annual Poppy Appeal. With Covid restrictions continuing to change, seemingly from week to week, it has been up to the larger supermarket chains to arrange a 'safe' method to support the Appeal this year, either in-store or by licensed volunteers stationed outside.

The guidance for minimising risk is clear for all concerned. We have been advised that most of the larger supermarkets will allow volunteers to man stalls or place boxes in their stores, but others will not. Regrettably, I have been informed by the RBL that the Cooperative, as a Society will not, and as a result there will not be a poppy tray or collection box at the counter in the Co-op in Croughton this year. We are hopeful that this may change nearer the time.

There will be some poppy boxes in Croughton: at The Blackbird and The Reading Room, and our local school will once again be supporting the Appeal.

There will be available the usual pins, (there are avid collectors of these); the 2020 poppy pin, and the 75 year pin to commemorate the end of WW2. These are limited but there will be some at the locations stated above along with the normal paper poppy. I will hold a small supply which you can collect from me for a small donation.

Shirley, 8 Mill Lane, 01869 226344

This year the Poppy Appeal runs from 24th October to 7th November. Thank you for your support.

Croughton Village Website

For all information on events, parish council meetings and general information etc.

www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 2020

Fix My Street: Members of the public are encouraged to report minor highway faults to Northamptonshire Highways via the Street Doctor online reporting service, now known as Fix My Street.

Visit www.fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk

Northants Highways will promptly follow up the report with a site visit to decide whether any action by Northants Highways is required.

Recent reports where Northants Highways has raised works orders to rectify the issues include: the hedge in the dip at Blenheim which was causing drivers of large vehicles to move over the centre white line to avoid damage to wing mirrors; and the slip hazard identified by the breaking up of the tarmac on the pavement outside Nos. 3,4 and 5 Portway Crescent.

Mobile VAS: Delivery has been put on hold pending hedge cutting at Portway which the Parish Council has been assured will be carried out in the next few weeks. The Parish Council is grateful to the landowner for trimming back the hedge at Blenheim, but due to the presence of one large tree insufficient clearance had been gained. This will be overcome by fitting a bracket to footway lamp No. 54 and sitting the VAS on this offset arm rather than on the lamp column.

Dog Waste Bin on the High Street/Wheelers Rise: Having identified corrosion to the bin just before lockdown, its condition was assessed at the time as being safe to use and would be monitored. Due to its age and deteriorating condition the Parish Council has decided to replace the whole bin rather than simply fit a new lid/flap. Our Contractor, who, thankfully, has continued to provide an uninterrupted weekly dog waste collection service during the pandemic, will supply and fit the bin.

Thank you to all dog walkers for responsibly cleaning up after your dogs.

Croughton has four dog waste bins, two of these are situated along the High Street, one at Brackley Road/High Street and the other at Park End. Please use them!

Provision of Electric Vehicle Charge Points: The piece in the September issue of Croughton News generated a few comments. Thank you to those of you who sent them in. This topic is still under discussion, with a need for more investigation into what might be possible in or desirable for the village. Demand, sites, cost (c£6,500 for a fast charge point), funding and management are all aspects to be explored. As such the conversation is ongoing for the time being and residents are invited to pass on their thoughts to the Parish Council. Email the Clerk clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings are held every month on the second Monday. Next Meetings: 12th October 2020, 9th November 2020, 14th December 2020.

Meetings commence at 7.30 p.m.

These are currently held via Zoom, an internet platform. Please consult the Agenda published on the website for the link to join the meeting.

Those with no internet access may also join the meeting by telephone using this number: 0203 481 5240 and inputting the Meeting ID: 798 1637 8105.

This means that members of the public are able to be in remote attendance at meetings one way or another and also to participate by speaking to items that are listed on the Agenda. Agendas are published a few days in advance on the website www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Footpaths

Not the easiest of months it's all about the dogs. Dogs have to be under control by their owners at all times.

Positive side

- When residents either question the footpath rules or asks for guidance in a friendly way and great discussions ensue and answers sourced. (Dogs or no dogs).
- Meeting walkers who express what their dogs like and not like, the training they are doing or just another reason to stop and have a chat.

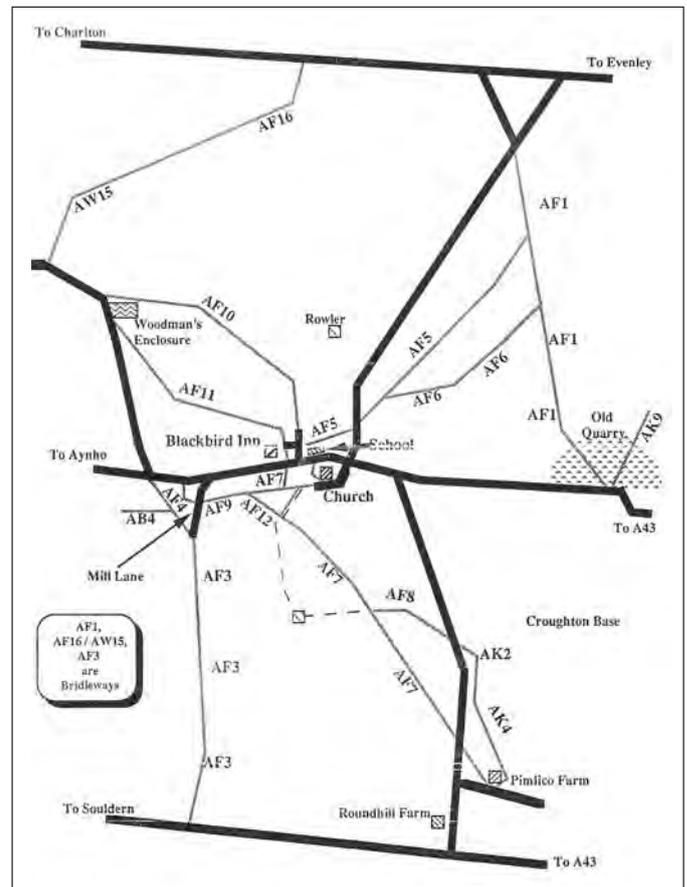
Negatives

- There are still dogs being let loose in meadows with sheep and causing unnecessary harm which is not always obvious at the time to the walker but is to the farmer whose sheep lose their unborn lambs after having been chased by a dog.
- Continually having to explain that though walkers have a right to cross the land they do not have a right to roam or their dogs to roam off the width of the footpath.
- Walkers with dogs not seeming to understand that if their dog is off the lead and bounding towards a dog that is on its lead they are not in control of their dog.

At Hinton in the Hedges there is now a Secure Dog Walking Field available to hire where dog/s can run free and be trained by their owners. Phone number 07312 893083

We are a community who want to live enjoying our surroundings. Please be thoughtful

Chris Fox Contactable through the Clerk of the Parish council



Calling for a community response to HGV movements along the High Street

The High Street is covered by a 7.5T Amenity Weight Restriction (AWR) and as such one would expect that the use of the High Street by HGV traffic would be reduced. However, over lockdown some residents have observed an increase in the number of HGVs that travel in and out of the village, from west to east and back again, along the High Street.

Points to note:

- An HGV carries a plate indicating their carrying capacity and a striped red and yellow board at the back or a plate with red lettering and the legend "Long Vehicle." Articulated vehicles are usually HGVs as are vehicles with more than 2 axles.
- The AWR covers a larger area than the High Street. It extends from just beyond the junction with Brackley road up to the B4100 at Aynho corner, and from the B4031 junction with the road to Charlton as far as Farthinghoe and across to King's Sutton. This is relevant in determining whether an HGV has travelled through the AWR route legitimately, e.g. for loading or unloading purposes within.

In order to address concerns over HGV movements through the village it will be necessary in the first instance to gather evidence from local residents.

If you would like to help when you spot an HGV travelling through the High Street please note the:

- registration of the vehicle
- operator's details
- time
- date
- direction of travel.

Photographic evidence is also helpful.

Please send these observations (details and photo) to the Clerk to the Parish Council. email clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

All information will be confidential and collated in a community response that the Parish Council will submit to Northants Highways for them to follow up.

Thank you.

Croughton 49 Club

Firstly thank you so much to everyone who has supported us up to this point. We begin a new season in October, so please do continue to help us and we would be most grateful to welcome some new members.

It is £1 a week and the money is for the upkeep of our lovely Church.

Do please get in touch with either:

Mary Marriott 01869 810267

Angie Robbins 01869 811445

Pastoral Letter October 2020: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, as I write this letter, the weather has been glorious as summer turns into autumn. I love everything about this time of year don't you; especially the resplendent display that our fields and lanes provide us with. The fields have been harvested and lay neatly ploughed, and the trees and hedgerows transform and glow into a golden riot of colour. It even feels great to get the jeans and boots out again whilst still enjoying warm Autumn sunshine. The only thing I am not enjoying are the spiders as they make their way indoors!!!

The whole scene makes me want to jump for joy and say "Thank you God for all this goodness".

Although Harvest Festival is an annual celebration, this year it has felt even more important to say thank you. Whoever would have thought that this year we would need to see such a mammoth effort from all those involved in the food chain to keep the nation fed and supplied with food and goods, as they struggled to operate under lockdown and Covid conditions and restrictions. Thank you to you all who are involved in the food chain, you really kept us going, and still are, with online deliveries increasing.

Worldwide we are reliant on God's goodness to supply our need for food and water, and without this we cannot survive; this should remind us of our fragile place in the Cosmos. But this year, more than ever, we realise we are reliant on other people too.

God bless you all,

With love Rev Sue

MERYL'S PLANT STALL In Aid Of CROUGHTON READING ROOM & BRACKLEY HOGWATCH

Some seasonal plants have now arrived on my plant stall – primroses, cyclamens and chrysanthemums which will give some winter colour to your borders, baskets and pots. There's also a good selection of perennials for sale all at very reasonable prices!

Houseplants with china pots are still available but are now being kept inside on my front windowsill so please ring the doorbell if you'd like to buy one. Behind the scenes orange crocosmia, hardy geranium "Rozanne", bottle brush shrubs and orange daylily clumps have been split and re-potted, and some pots of early spring bulbs are about to be planted up for colour early next season. Please come and have a look and buy some lovely plants! All proceeds go to Croughton Reading Room and Brackley Hogwatch.

I also have some Hedgehog design face covers for sale, although some designs are nearly out of stock so please contact me if you'd like to buy one to help support the brilliant work that Brackley Hogwatch does to care for sick and injured local hedgehogs. Thank you for your continued support.

Meryl, 16 Mill Lane
819525/
07766 495059



Home Help Required

Croughton-based Home Help required for elderly lady. Food preparation/light duties. Sunday and Monday 11am to 1pm. References and previous experience essential. Pay negotiable. Contact juliabryan@icloud.com

Brackley Community Hospital 2020 Trust

I am delighted to be able to announce that our first target has been reached. The trustees have been amazed at the very enterprising ways in which people have, in spite of or maybe because of the Covid19 pandemic, managed to engage with others and continue to raise funds despite so many activities being currently not possible.

We have almost reached the magic figure of £165,000 which would ensure the provision of the digital, state-of-the-art X-ray machine with fixed table, and discussions earlier this week with the Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust clarified that this piece of kit is now not going to cost quite as much.

This means – more good news – that we already have adequate funds also to ensure the provision of a Smart TV set in each room which will not only combat loneliness for the patient but will also enable consultations with specialists and family, all compatible with the NHS Pathway which will ensure total confidentiality. Also, most importantly, the televisions will be free at the point of use to the patients – no slot machines at all.

Now, we move on to the next challenge. There is more that is needed to enhance the facilities for local residents within the building. The first item on the list is the ultrasound scanner of which we have been aware since the beginning. Next, we understand that cardiologists have expressed an interest in holding clinics at Brackley but this will require equipment, so, in order to benefit our local residents who would then not need to travel to other hospitals and who would thus also reduce their carbon footprint, that is added to our list. For the same reason and for different beneficiaries, equipment to enable ophthalmologists to come here rather than us all go to them is also being investigated.

Your continued support is therefore requested and required. If you can think of innovative ways to raise funds, we are happy to help in whatever way we can. Personal donations are of course welcomed: there are many ways to help including through EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile, and our Treasurer, Paul Bennett, is always happy to drop by and pick up a cheque if you would like!

The bricks and mortar are almost complete; the fitting out will start in the next month or so. Not everything will be on site and operational from Day One, but in due course, together, we will ensure that the new Brackley Community Hospital is the best it possibly can be so that all of us, residents of Brackley and of all our surrounding villages, are able to benefit from the wonderful new facility.

Caryl Billingham MBE, Chairman of Trustees 060920

**Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:
Georgina Lucas, 50 Portway Drive, Croughton.
Tel: 01869 810923, or e-mail galucas@waitrose.com
The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.**

Please can you help?

We are very grateful to the current team who clean the church, but the numbers have dwindled recently and we do need some extra help.

It is not an onerous task, with some dusting/polishing and vacuuming - which does not normally take more than an hour, even less if you bring a (socially distanced) friend.

If you feel you can help us to care for our lovely old church, even if just a few times, please ring Chris on 01869 226383.

Three Peaks, Three Choirs, One Voice, One Mind!

150 singers are participating in climbing the 3 Peaks—Ben Nevis, Scafell and Snowdon—some physically and some virtually (à la Captain Tom) singing at the summits to raise their voices and money for “Mind” and other choir charities.

Helen Swift (MD) and Jonathan French (pianist) are leading the challenge climbing Ben Nevis (4,413 feet) and Scafell Pike (3,281 feet) on 25th/26th September and Snowdon (3,560 feet) on 11th October with a keyboard to sing at the top!! Hundreds of singers are joining to walk the 22,110 steps either in person or virtually in their homes, villages and towns. Socially distanced fundraising, all taking up the mantle of working together for a common cause, support!

The Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir, Towcester Choral Society and Thame Choral Society are all combining with one common goal to raise their voices and funds to support the mental health charity “Mind” and their choirs.

Covid 19 has devastated the musical communities that once thrived in our country. Many singers have been isolated in their homes since March and are still shielding. They have not been able to leave the house in six months!! Singing together for so many of us is so much more than a hobby, it's a lifeline, a community, a family. Singing with others balances our mental and physical health and Corona Virus is destroying our choirs and communities that have been built up over 100 years.

Our mental health is paramount and now more than ever we can see the importance of its silent voice that can enable and unravel. Singing is a lifeline for our mental health. We want to support the mental health charity Mind and also our singers, many of who are singing online, coping with months of isolation, trying to find ways to come together and support them during this pandemic.

Thank you for reading, we value your support so very much.

Donate to support:

<https://www.sponsorme.co.uk/victoriaedwards/three-peaks-three-choirs-one-voice-one-mind.aspx>

Sue Carverhill

Arts Development Officer

Healthy Communities, Wellbeing Directorate

South Northamptonshire Council

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