



CROUGHTON NEWS

March 2021

The Parish Council Elections Are Coming!

Key dates: Polling Day is Thursday 6th May 2021 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. The deadline for formal submission of nomination papers is 4 p.m. on Thursday 8th April 2021.

Not all members of Croughton Parish Council will be standing for election in May. We will have a new Parish Council and will need new members.

If you think you may be interested in serving as Parish Councillor please contact our Clerk, Ann on 01869 819905 or email clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk or check the website www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk Alternatively, if you have questions or you are not sure and would welcome a chat with a current councillor Ann will be only too pleased to put you in touch with someone who would be delighted to help.

Don't hesitate! Give us a call.

For information on what you need to do in order to stand for election and to request a nomination pack please contact the SNC Elections Queries line on 01327 322128 or email elections.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk or visit the Electoral Commission website.

Croughton Village Show

We were not able to have a Village Show last year, and it cannot be a certainty for this year - yet! We must wait for the outcome of the government 'road map' regarding the exit to the Covid restrictions, and we hope that by 21st June we can all get back to normal.

However, things have changed during the past 18 months; one of our organisers has left the village, and I have decided, that after 13 years it is time to call it a day.

The Village Show is a day that is enjoyed by many for different reasons. The gardeners among us like to show off their produce, and at the same time like to check the competition out. Others wander leisurely around the tables looking at all the amazing produce on show, chatting with friends, and enjoying tea or coffee with cake. It has become a staple on the Croughton calendar, and we are already being asked if the show will happen this year.

The hall is booked - restrictions allowing, BUT, for the show to continue it needs people to get involved with the organisation. If you are interested in the Village Show continuing as an annual event please contact Steve Chessum on 01869 810066 ☐

Shirley Golsby

Croughton Cinema

In a normal year, we would now be choosing our last few films of the season and planning our close-down in late April – but we never opened! At least now there is some hope of re-opening on the horizon, with the introduction of the new vaccines. However, it will take some time for the level of immunity to build to give us all the confidence to mingle – especially in enclosed spaces such as our Cinema! As a result, it may be some 6 – 12 months before we could anticipate re-opening Croughton Cinema.

In the meantime, it may be that many of you have found easier ways to watch films of your choice e.g. at home, and would therefore no longer use our Cinema. In this case we would reluctantly seek to close Croughton Cinema; we would be very sad to do this, since it has been running successfully for 15 years and is regarded as a model for village cinema.

In addition to all this, there are a couple of other factors to consider –

1. Keith and Lesley are leaving the village after 24 years and heading to the far north to fulfil their long-held dream of living on a Scottish Island - if they don't do it now, they never will!
2. Keith and Pamela can't run the Cinema on their own – they also think it's time to hang-up their spurs soon and hand-over to other younger enthusiasts!

So, we have two serious questions for you to consider;

- a. Would you continue to attend Croughton Cinema if we should be able to restart in late 2021/ early 2022?
- b. Would you be willing to join with two or three others to run the Cinema when it eventually re-opens? The Cinema is financially viable with enough funds to meet the costs of equipment replacements and spares.

Please consider the above carefully and send Keith Gelder your Yes/No answers via email by April 1st 2021 to: colnagokeith60@gmail.com.

Coronavirus Volunteer Group

There are currently 20+ volunteers operating across Croughton village should anyone need any assistance during self isolation.

Each volunteer looks after the residents in the street that they live in (two volunteers per street). Leaflets have been dropped to every household in the village with the contact details; information can also be found outside the Co-op and in the bus shelter.

The volunteer group is being organised via the Croughton Chat Facebook Group. Or for more details, please contact Lotty Dollman, 07804 905747.

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 8th February 2021

Highway Matters

Drainage issues: The Council continues to press for an update on the Thames Water main line and for some solution to the drainage problems affecting some properties at Park End.

Reducing speed of traffic through Blenheim: There has been no successful outcome to the Council's request for traffic calming measures along the B4031 at Blenheim. The Highway Authority does not support vertical features such as speed cushions.

Extensions to the speed limits along Brackley Road: Plans have now been drawn up for approval to extend the 30 mph limit 50m further north. The plans also include extending the 20 mph limit to a suitable point around the blind bend where the signs would be more visible to approaching motorists than at present. A consultation will take place before any changes are made to the existing Traffic Regulation Orders.

Jitty Way, Park End to Portway Crescent: Thanks to Western Power Distribution the metal barrier has been reconstructed with new piping, perimeter fencing to the sub-station has been replaced, the tarmac surface improved to prevent pooling, and the verge prepared for planting.

Replacement VAS, Park End: Funding has been acquired to replace the VAS device at Park End. The new LED display will show an advisory 20mph sign, which during programmed school peak hours will alternate with a separate School Warning sign. It is hoped that this will lead to a reduction in vehicle speeds around the bend on the approach to the School.

Cemetery: The Council has agreed to affix a spring to the pedestrian gate and a sign asking that visitors please ensure that this gate is closed. Quotations for netting to the existing metal palings on the north and west perimeters and for post and rail fencing to the south side will be considered at the March meeting. Cemetery Fees will increase by 2% from 1st April 2021.

Reviews: The level of Fidelity Guarantee insurance cover, the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control, and the Publication Scheme were found to be adequate and appropriate.

Parish Council Meetings are held every month on the second Monday: Next Meetings: 8th March and 12th April 2021. 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.

Fix My Street

The Northamptonshire Highways Street Doctor online system for reporting minor Highway defects has been superseded by Fix My Street.

Fix My Street is mobile responsive and it allows photos to be attached to reports. The new system is available via links at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk.

Annual Parish Assembly

7.30 p.m. on Monday 26th April 2021

Last year's Assembly was not held due to the Pandemic but this year it will go ahead via Zoom. Joining details will be announced in next month's Newsletter.

Electors of the parish are invited to link up and listen to the annual report delivered by Cllr Brian Tomlin, Chairman, Croughton Parish Council.

With the replacement of SNC and NCC by the creation of West Northamptonshire Council the Annual Parish Assembly will be the final opportunity to hear from Cllrs John Townsend and Rebecca Breese in their former respective capacities of District and County Councillors.

As in previous years we look forward to reports from the School, the Base and from other parish groups and organisations.

If you are a representative of a community group and would like to give either a verbal or written report to the Annual Parish Assembly, please take this as your invitation to do so. We would very much like to hear how your group has fared during the Pandemic and to hear of your post lockdown plans.

To accept this invitation to report to the 2021 APA please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council by the end of March 2021.

Email: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

The Ability Village Bus Service

As Covid-19 restrictions ease, the Ability Bus Service will soon be able to resume the regular bus schedule.

Please register for the service now, then as soon as the current restrictions are lifted, you can take advantage of this wonderful service without delay. Please have a look at the information below and get in touch if you have any queries.

The Ability village minibus service runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays to Banbury Town centre, Gateway and the main supermarkets and on Fridays to Brackley (including the new Sainsbury's).

It is FREE to use from the village bus stops if you have a valid bus pass

You need to REGISTER with the scheme before you can use this service. You can REGISTER online here – <https://abilitycic.org.uk/register/>
Or you can contact me for a form to post.

You also need to PRE-BOOK your seat for a particular journey as spaces are limited.

To book your seat Tel: 01327 604123

For a small annual fee, a door-to-door is available

The bus will pick up from the bus stops at Park End and The Blackbird, and other pre-arranged locations in the village, at about 10am and will return at 1pm.

Face masks or a scarf MUST be worn on the bus.

If you don't have a bus pass, the single fare to Banbury is £6.70 or return fare £13.40 and the single fare to Brackley is £4.75 or return fare £9.50

Please get in touch if you have any queries, I'm happy to help!
Meryl – 16 Mill Lane, 819525/07766 495059.

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

What a glorious end to February & what a difference from a few weeks ago! I hope you've all been able to enjoy the sunshine but be aware that we may still have some very cold weather to come so be careful with your more tender plants. I have lots of hardy plants for sale on my plant stall that can be planted now as long as the ground isn't frozen & some plants for Spring colour have been added too – dwarf irises, primroses & pansies so have a walk along Mill Lane & buy some! All proceeds from my plant stall are shared between Croughton Reading Room and Brackley Hogwatch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Meryl
16 Mill Lane,
819525/07766 495059



FUN FAMILY ART COMPETITION!



Brackley Hogwatch is holding a fun art competition for all the family. We want to see your hedgehog drawings and paintings!

Send a minimum of £1.00 per entry to Hogwatch@outlook.com via Paypal (Please select 'Sending to a friend or to family' to avoid charges)

Then add a photo of your entry & include your name and your age category to our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2045515149003338>

The closing date for entries is Thursday 1st April & the three winners will be announced on Easter Sunday and will receive hedgehog themed prizes.

Age Categories

1. Up to 11 years
2. 12 – 17 years
3. 18 – 100 + years!

If you don't have Facebook you can still enter, just get in touch for details.

Thank you, Meryl Tel. 819525

Pastoral Letter March 2021: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, throughout March the Church is celebrating Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday. Mothering Sunday has its roots in our Parish Churches links with our Cathedrals, or "the Mother Church" as they were known, but more recently its roots go back to when many people were in Service and they were given a day off on Mothering Sunday to go home and visit their Mums.

It was a lovely tradition, as most folk love to have a special day to thank their Mothers and to show their appreciation. Some of us have, or had, great Mum's, while sadly others didn't! But Mothers matter, and every child deserves a good start in life. Carrie O'Regan our lay reader is collecting for a Charity called Baby Basics. For this Mothering Sunday she makes an appeal for: nappies from birth to 3 months, baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby talc, baby clothes from birth to 3 months, also items for Mum such as shampoos, shower gels, shampoo, conditioner, body lotions, and sanitary products. For more information please contact Carrie on 01280 702300, or Rev Sue 01869 810903. Thank you'.

The other date we are celebrating in March this year is Palm Sunday. This is the beginning of Holy Week for the Church and it commemorates Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on his way to the events that led to his death on the Cross. His entrance was one of great celebration: people were cheering and waving palm branches and celebrating Jesus as the one who would save them from their Roman oppressors; however, just a few days later many of this same crowd had turned on Jesus and were crying out for him to be crucified!

Following the crowd has been a human trait since time began. How often in our own time do we see a politician, or sports hero or celebrity held up and put on a pedestal, only to see a short while later that they are torn down again by the media or on social media. Everything Jesus said and did was scrutinised or criticised by the people of his day. This led some to believe and follow, and others to scoff and turn away. Jesus loved people, but He wasn't a crowd pleaser. His message was the same with everyone He met, and some folk believed him and became his followers, while others didn't.

It's the same today, the message of the good news of God's love and salvation found in Jesus hasn't changed and we can either take it, or leave it. My prayer is that you would take a fresh look at Jesus, leaving aside what everybody else may think about Him, and open your heart and mind to believe that what He said and did is true; and that God's Kingdom of love, joy, justice and peace began, and continues, in him. God bless you. With love Rev Sue. (01869 810903).

Opening of All Saints Church Croughton

March Services

Mothering Sunday: 14th March 2021 – 11am, Morning Worship
Palm Sunday: 28th March 2012 – 11am, Holy Communion

April Services

Easter Sunday: 4th April 2012 - 11am, Holy Communion
Sunday 11th April 2021 – 11am Holy Communion
Sunday 25th April 2021 – 11am Morning Worship

The government directives allow up to 30 people to attend any church service. Social distancing must be observed as will the wearing of face masks, services. If you have any concerns you can contact either:

Revd Sue Cooper 01869 810903,
Church Warden: Angie Robbins 01869 811445

Gritting – the Winter Service

With the exception of the yellow bin on Portway, all grit bins are maintained by the Highway Authority. If you discover that one of these Highway Authority bins is empty please report this to Fix My Street (Street Doctor) and ask for a particular bin to be re-filled with the approved mix of salt and sand.

The yellow bin on Portway is maintained by the Parish Council and should you find it in need of replenishment please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Email clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

The contents of all the grit bins are for use on public roads and paths – not for use on private paths and driveways.

The advice from Northants Highways is:

- Don't be afraid to clear public paths in fear someone will get injured.
- People walking on snow and ice have the responsibility to be careful.
- Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to re-freeze.

Further information can be found on the NCC website.

Search: Northamptonshire Highways Gritting

Sunday 21 March 2021

census
2021

What is the census?

Every ten years the census takes place in England and Wales, providing insight into the people who live across the country and what their lives are like.

The census is a series of questions that gives a data picture of British society and this year it will give future generations a fascinating insight into how we lived during the coronavirus pandemic.

But, more importantly, it helps the government plan and fund services in local communities. The responses might highlight a need for a new school, increased health care facilities or other services in your area.

How does it work?

By now every house should have received a Purple Postcard in the post to remind everyone that the census is on its way, and an Information Pack. This will contain a unique code which will give access to the census form online using any device. The Pack will also explain how to complete the census and how to get help if anyone needs it.

If someone doesn't want to complete the census themselves, a family member or a trusted person can do it on their behalf. People can also request a paper copy. Everything will be explained in the Information Pack.

What information is collected?

The census collects information about individuals, their households and their homes. This information is collated and analysed and the first figures will be released next year. Billions of pounds of funding depend on the results of the census.

Is personal information safe?

Yes. Any information that is published following the census is fully anonymised. This year's census records will be held securely and will be released into the public domain in 2121 when they will be available for everyone to read.

Does everyone have to complete the census form?

Yes. It's a legal requirement to complete the census.

For more information visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk)
Or call the Census Help Line 0800 141 2021

Think NHS 111 First

NHS England and NHS Improvement has launched the next phase of the latest 'Help Us, Help You' campaign which focuses on the NHS 111 service as a new way to access A&E.

If you have an urgent but not life-threatening medical need, make sure you contact NHS 111 first rather than going straight to A&E. If you do need urgent care, then NHS 111 can now book you in to be seen quickly and safely in A&E.

As well as this, NHS 111 is also able to direct to or book an appointment at Urgent Treatment Centres, access to Out of Hours GP Services, pharmacies, emergency dental services and walk-in clinics.

Contacting 111 first will also help the NHS to keep you safe by maintaining social distancing and ensure that you receive the right care in the right place, in a more timely and safe way.

If you or your loved one have a life-threatening illness or injury then you should always use 999 and if you do arrive at A&E without contacting NHS 111 you will still receive medical care, with emergency treatments prioritised.

Just think 111 first. When you think you need A&E, contact NHS 111 by phone or online at <https://111.nhs.uk/>

Further information about NHS 111 First is available at www.northamptonshireccg.nhs.uk



Public Health
Northamptonshire

Supporting Independence Programme

- Are you aged over 18?
- Have you noticed any changes in your health?
- Do you have difficulty walking or need help moving about?
- Are everyday tasks becoming difficult?
- Do you need someone to help you on a regular basis?
- Do you sometimes feel lonely or isolated?

The Supporting Independence Programme provides up to 12 weeks of one-to-one support for those of us who may have slowed a little, are feeling less confident getting around or who need someone to help on a regular basis. This could be supporting you to increase your levels of physical activity, support with your general health and daily living or providing emotional, social or nutritional support and advice. Support is currently delivered over the phone.

The assessment can be completed by anyone living in Northamptonshire, or completed on someone else's behalf to see if they would be eligible for independence support. For further information and to access the online assessment form, follow the link for the Supporting Independence Programme. <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/pages/supporting-independence.aspx>

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.