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

The Ability Village Bus Service

The Croughton Ability bus service is currently running to Banbury on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and to Brackley on Fridays.

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

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

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

It is FREE to travel from the bus stops if you have a valid bus pass. A door-to-door service is available for a small yearly fee.

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

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:

Join via the internet by going to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84003786178?pwd=YlA4YWDzdB1vERRTg6YXdx3YnNCQT09

Join by telephone by dialling 0203 901 7895 and inputting Meeting ID: 840 0378 6178

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.

Email: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Think NHS 111 First

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.
Parish Council Meeting held on 8th March 2021

Cemetery: New post and rail fencing has been erected on the south side, and netting has been attached to the existing metal palings on the north and east boundaries. With the perimeter now much more secure the Parish Council hopes that this tranquil haven will no longer be disturbed by foraging muntjac. It would also be helpful if all visitors to the Cemetery ensure that both gates are closed after them. Thank you.

7.5T Amenity Weight Restriction: Thank you to everyone who provided sightings of HGVs travelling though Croughton during the back end of 2020. Using the information provided by the Parish Council Northants Highways contacted the hauliers concerned to impress upon them that, unless they are delivering to or collecting from a site within the restricted zone, drivers should be advised to take routes that avoid entering weight restriction areas. However, due to the large area covered by the 7.5T Amenity Weight Restriction (it stretches as far as Fathinghoe and King’s Sutton), the diversion of Police resources from other areas of the service, that vehicles are often not found to be over 7.5T or have legitimate reason to be travelling into the restricted area, enforcement can be difficult.

Local Elections: An on-line elections briefing given by the shadow West Northamptonshire Authority was attended by more than 200 interested people comprising prospective candidates, agents and local authority officers. Not all would have been considering standing in the town and parish elections as on 6th May elections are being held for West Northamptonshire Council and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Should there be fewer than 9 candidates for Croughton Parish Council, there will be no contested parish election on 6th May although elections for WNC and the PFCC will go ahead. Parish Council candidates who had submitted valid nomination papers by 4 p.m. on 8th April 2021 will take their seats on 10th May at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: 7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th April 2021 via Zoom. Please see Agenda for joining details. Visit www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings –from 7th May 2021 onwards- remote or in-person?: Since April 2020 Parish Council meetings have been held remotely, via Zoom, an internet platform. Joining details via the internet or telephone were published on the Agenda. Thus, members of the public were able to be in remote attendance at meetings one way or another and also to participate by speaking to items that were listed on the Agenda.

Special legislation permitting local authorities to meet by remote means was included in the Coronavirus Act 2020, but with a sunset clause meaning that the provisions apply only to “meetings required to be held, or held, before 7 May 2021”. There is uncertainty over whether legislation will be brought in to extend the period permitting local authorities to meet by remote means and when there will be a return to in-person meetings.

We await guidance on the format for the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 10th May 2021.

Village Hall

We would like to remind people that no dogs are allowed in the playing fields area, either the sports side or the park side. Thank you.

Most people will have completed online or returned by post their census forms. If you requested a paper form and it’s not arrived, don’t worry – it may not be too late to complete your census form/questionnaire.

The Information you received in early March will tell you what to do. Use the unique code given in the Pack to access the form online using any device.

If you can’t find the information, or need any help (such as getting another access code or a paper copy) call the Help Line. It is acceptable for a family member or a trusted person to complete the form on someone’s behalf. A young carer can also complete on behalf of an adult.

Call the Census Help Line on 0800 141 2021 or visit census.gov.uk.

You can also call the Northampton based Census Support Centre on 01604 446 1888 where trained staff can provide telephone and one-to-one support (by appointment only) to complete the form.

Does everyone have to complete the census form?

Yes. It’s a legal requirement to complete the census. Failure to do so may result in a fine of £1000.

What will happen if I still haven’t completed the form?

Field staff from the ONS will visit people’s homes if they haven’t yet filled in their form. They’re there to help anyone who needs extra support.

Field staff from the ONS will:

• always wear an ID badge and identify themselves immediately
• will leave straight away and not call again if you have already filled in your form
• never ask to see personal documents like passports or birth certificates
• never ask for payment for helping
• never ask to come inside your home

What happens during a visit?

Census field officers visit to offer guidance, encouragement and information about how to complete the census questionnaire. They will not be helping people to fill in their census questionnaire on the doorstep.

Field officers can provide paper questionnaires where needed. They carry a language card which contains information about where to get help with the census in multiple languages.

How will census field staff stay COVID-safe?

Census field officers will be working in the same way as a postal or food delivery visit. They will never need to enter people’s houses; they will always be socially distanced, wear PPE and work in line with all government guidance.

Footway Lighting

The Parish Council is responsible for the 57 lights around the village. If you notice a light that is not working please report its location to the Parish Clerk.

The columns will carry a number between 1 and 57 for further ease of identification. Those lights that are bracketed to telegraph poles do not have numbers on the poles. The number is not so clearly visible but can be found on the box to which the light is attached. Faults are reported for remedial action to the Parish Council’s Lighting Contractor. Thank you.
Pastoral Letter April 2021:  
Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, This past year the things we have witnessed have been depressing beyond belief. Death has stalked the whole world in the form of Covid, and over 126000 people have died either of, or with Covid in the UK alone. There is nothing that can be said or done to make this better. 

But out of this devastation the promise and the hope of the 1st Easter morning still shines, which is the Christian gospel message that new life is found in Jesus after we die to this world. We can know this to be true because Jesus showed us this was possible by being raised to new life again himself, and we don’t need to understand every detail of this to believe that it is true. The early Church and the Christian Gospel spread very quickly because the disciples were witnesses to something so remarkable that they could not keep it to themselves, even though they did not fully understand it.

New life through Jesus is not wishful thinking or hopeful fantasy, it is the reality that awaits us,, and it is for all of us. Miracles cannot be explained and this is why many folk turn their back on Jesus. Jesus’s disciple Thomas couldn’t make sense of what he had heard after hearing the news that Jesus was alive, and so he refused to believe,,,, later Thomas could not explain what he was seeing when Jesus appeared to him,,, he could only respond with awe and amazement,,, and Jesus said to Thomas,,,what he is saying to us all,,, “Stop doubting and believe.” God bless you.

With love Rev Sue.

Opening of All Saints Church, Croughton

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, for services.

If you have any concerns you can contact either, Revd Sue Cooper 01869 810903, or Church Warden: Angie Robbins 01869 811445.

Sunday 11th April
9.30 am, Morning Worship, Evenley
10.00am, Morning Worship, Aynho
11.00am. Holy Communion, Croughton

Sunday 18th April
9.30 am, Morning Worship, Farthinghoe
11.00am, Holy Communion, Hinton

Sunday 25th April
9.30 am, Holy Communion, Evenley
11.00am Morning Worship, Croughton
11.00am, Holy Communion, Aynho
6.00pm, Evening Prayer, Farthinghoe

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With love Rev Sue.

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.
Repair, Restore, Repurpose

Repairs, restorations and alterations undertaken with care, skill and attention to detail by highly experienced Furniture Maker, Engineer and Museum Technician

TrebleR - Repair Restore Repurpose

Based in Fritwell, I provide a local and friendly service tailored to your needs. If you’ve got something damaged, worn or that just doesn’t work for you I can usually help: Furniture, cabinets, kitchens, shelves, drawers and doors. Garden furniture, storage or tools. Flat pack furniture assembly and fitting. Art, picture, mirror hanging or mounting. Bicycles. Children’s furniture and toys and more.

Welcome to the first Arts News of the new West Northamptonshire unitary authority, compiled by the Arts Development Officer of what was SNC’s Healthy Communities team (which hasn’t changed). The intention remains the same, providing arts news for the south of the county and nearby.

Towcester Library
is operating a ‘click and collect’ book service and offering a variety of online activities and reading suggestions for all ages, including the Book Club, Storytime, Rhymetime and more.

See Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/towcesterlibrary

The Heseltine Gallery
The gallery team of volunteers and Project Manager are celebrating a very productive year, moving the exhibitions online a year ago, developing a huge new social media community in addition to the Friends and preparing for reopening the actual gallery with new signage and a programme of exhibitions from September, including an Open Exhibition for local artists. If you prefer information by email or post, email friends@theheseltinegallery.org.uk to become a member.

Brackley Youth Theatre
Airlie Scott’s classes return to Egerton Hall, Brackley on Wednesday 21 April for all groups apart from Seniors who meet on 14 April to continue rehearsing their NT Connections’ piece “The IT” - smaller roles still available in this production.

Classes: Minis (5–7 year olds) 5.15–6.15pm, Juniors (8–11 year olds) 6.30pm-7.30pm and Seniors 7.45–9.15pm. Spaces are filling up for the Summer Term, so book on https://byt.class4kids.co.uk now if you are interested as they are limited to just 15 places in each age group under the current guidelines. Two free trials for new students.

The People’s Show Choir
A new choir for people who love musical theatre songs will be starting as soon as is permitted, in Turweston.

Contact Rey Lear for further information about joining: reylear7@gmail.com.

1-23 May Oxfordshire Art Weeks
Art and craft to enjoy and for sale across Oxfordshire and online.

Arts information, opportunities and funding
See the Arts Council England website and sign up for the newsletter for updates so you don’t miss new grant opportunities (which often have short response deadlines). Also details of how to enjoy many exciting cultural activities and projects from around the country.

Sue Carverhill, Arts Development Officer
Healthy Communities, Wellbeing Directorate
Direct phone: 01327 322334 | 07725 781328;
email: sue.carverhill@westnorthants.gov.uk
West Northamptonshire Council
The Forum | Moat Lane | Towcester | Northants NN12 6AD
www.westnorthants.gov.uk

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.