



# CROUGHTON NEWS

June 2020

## Village Hall, Covid-19 update

The green space at the park is open to public now but please follow the current distancing rules in place. The play area is still closed at the point of writing this. The tennis court is open to singles games or same household use, again please follow the distancing rules in place at the time. We are in the process of repairing the net, which hopefully is in place by the time you get this newsletter.

The recycling clothes facility is not yet being collected so please do not leave anything as it is full. As soon as we know the date for collection we will post it.

The village hall is still unavailable for general hire. It is hoped that preschool will be back soon though.

We have had an incident on the field with youngsters and cars generally driving dangerously, leaving litter and being a nuisance. We believe they are from outside the village so if you see anything, please call the police.

## Essential Maintenance Works on A43 Trunk Road

To repair and replace damaged drains, partially reconstruct the carriageway, renew any damaged kerbs, refresh road markings and install road studs.



**In June 2020:** A43/M40 Ardley Roundabout

Work is due to take place

- between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday (week night closures)
- from 8pm Friday until 6am Monday (full weekend closure during one weekend)

**In August 2020:** A43 Northbound RAF Croughton and Barley Mow Roundabout and A43 Southbound at Tusmore (combined build)

Work is due to take place

- between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday (week night closures)
- from 8pm Friday until 6am Monday (full weekend closures for 3 weekends)

Thank you.

## 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.

## MERYL'S PLANT STALL

Thank you everyone for supporting my plant stall so well recently, it's been a very hectic time but very worthwhile too as lots of gardens in the village now have beautiful bedding plants in their pots, hanging baskets & borders & I also received a lovely thank you message from Andrew of Hogwatch for the latest donation. I still have lots of plants available but it's best to come & have a look as there's a quick turnover of plants at the moment. I try to add new plants regularly & any donations of plants or seedlings are very welcome. All proceeds go to Croughton Reading Room & Brackley Hogwatch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Meryl



## Group order to Preston Bissett Nurseries

Now that most of the garden centres have re-opened due to the lockdown being relaxed, I won't be co-ordinating any further orders to Preston Bissett Nurseries unless it's for someone who is vulnerable & still self-isolating.

You can now book a 50 minute appointment to visit Preston Bissett as they are allowing a restricted number of visitors at a time. I went last Saturday and it was all very well managed. Buckingham Garden Centre has also re-opened as well as lots of other local garden centres. Please check their websites for further information. Thanks, Meryl

## Croughton Village Website

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

[www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

# Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2020

**Election of Chairman:** Five years to the day since being voted in as Chairman of the newly formed Parish Council on 11th May 2015, Cllr Brian Tomlin was elected Chairman for the coming year, an office he has held on 4 previous occasions since 2012.

Cllr Tomlin succeeds Cllr Chris Fox who was warmly thanked for her work as Chairman during 2019/2020. Cllr Vee Griffiths was elected Vice Chairman. The other members of the Parish Council are Cllrs Trevor Davies, Rodger James, Mike Tadman and Bill Morris making a total of 7 Members out of a possible 9.

The Parish Council will be endeavouring to co-opt 2 new members to fill the vacant seats. All seats will be up for election on 6th May 2021. If you are 18 years of age or older and would like to serve on the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk or the Chairman via email.

clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk  
or chairman@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

A large portion of the Annual Parish Council Meeting was concerned with financial matters associated with the end of year audit.

The Council approved various financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2020, including the Receipts and Payments Account, the Asset Register, level of Reserves and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2019/2020. The unaudited statements relating to sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR as well as the supporting documents are now published on the Parish Council website. Visit [www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Any person who wishes to inspect the accounts is entitled to do so between Monday 15th June and Friday 24th July 2020. Please make an appointment with the Clerk if you wish to exercise your public right. All information is on the Parish Council website.

The Council also renewed its insurance policy for the year to 31st May 2021.

**Parish Council Meetings are held every month on the second Monday**

**Next Meetings:** 8th June 2020, 13th July 2020, 10th August 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 attend virtual 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](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:  
Georgina Lucas, 50 Portway Drive, Croughton.  
Tel: 01869 810923, or e-mail [galucas@waitrose.com](mailto:galucas@waitrose.com)**

**The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.**

## Pastoral Letter June 2020: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, can you believe that we are almost half the way through this year already! And what a year it has been. It's hard to tell where we are at with regards to coronavirus, there are so many competing voices; some want to lift lockdown to get everything going again, others are very fearful that any lifting is going to open the door to another spike in cases and lead to many more deaths. There is no easy answer to all of this, and this is taking its toll on everybody.

As I write this letter, we are just entering into a week that has two big themes; 'Mental Health Awareness week', and 'Thy Kingdom Come' Season in the Church. And I see the two as very much connected.

As its theme this year Mental Health Awareness week is focusing on 'Kindness'. Most people are kind to others, and we have even seen a wonderful increase in kindness in our communities, but many folk are not kind to themselves, and that is a shame. I am going to leave you with a prayer to help you continue to get through this time, and it is better known as 'The Serenity Prayer'. Please be kind to yourself, you are doing the best you can, and please know that God is with you and loves you.

God bless you,

With love Revd Sue. x

### *The Serenity Prayer*

God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.

## Office to Rent Upper Aynho Grounds

### Courtyard Office Suite 1: 812 sq ft

Part of The Great Barn estate — a beautiful 18th century venue set in 250 acres between Aynho and Souldern.

These single storey former farm buildings have been converted into 4 individual eco offices, with natural slate roofs and timber, brick and stone facades.

The interior is open plan with separate kitchen and WC's, as well as ample car parking.

For further information contact:

Jerry Stephenson

01869 810823

[jerry@adayinthecountry.co.uk](mailto:jerry@adayinthecountry.co.uk)

## Footpaths

We are fortunate in the village to have such an assortment of footpaths to enjoy and have been able to use them for our daily exercise in the current situation.

It is important that walkers/riders and landowners all work together and I would like to thank the walkers for contacting me with their concerns over our paths and landowners for dealing with responses quickly and for keeping them in working order.

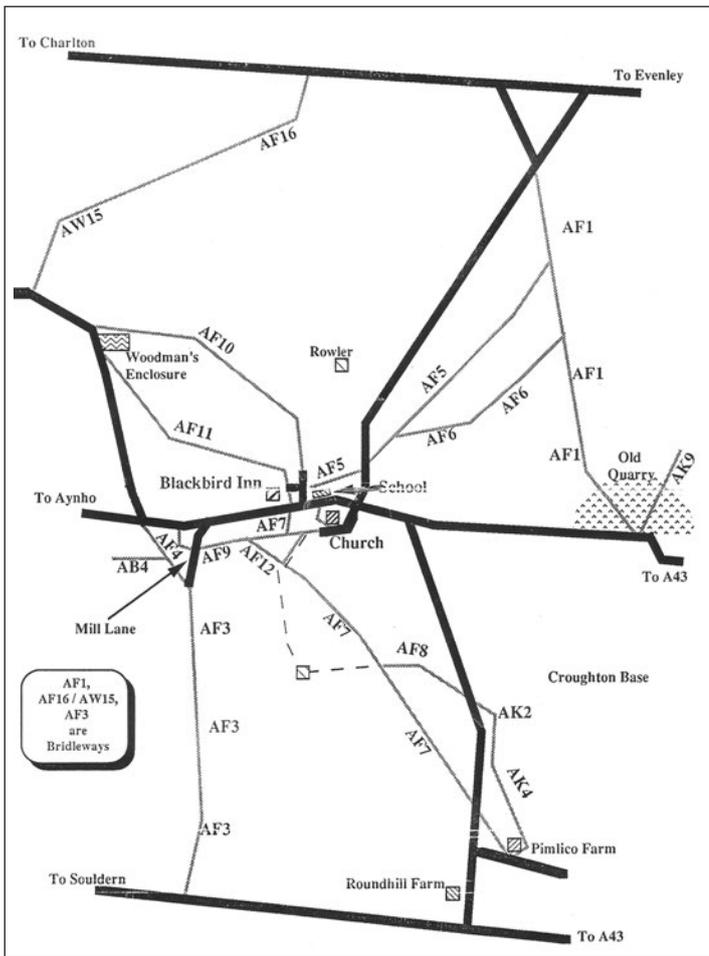
A reminder that we need to:

- Keep our social distance of 2 metres.
- Keep dogs under control as there are flocks of sheep with their young in the meadows now along with horses and other dogs on walks.
- Please PICK up our dog's poo and TAKE it home or place in a bin. Picking up the poo and then just leaving the bags on the ground or tied to a hedge is NOT acceptable.
- The dog bin without a flap is unfortunate and will be dealt with by the contractors when restrictions are lifted.

I am attempting to keep the nettles down along AF11 (alongside the play area) and AF5 alongside the school playground.

Any concerns please contact Chris Fox on 01869 811655

*Left: Simplified plan of footpaths and bridleways (not to scale).*



## Tribute to Jean Coles following her resignation from the Parish Council

A resident writes:

*We arrived here over 21 years ago and met Jean and Basil on our first evening in the village. She welcomed us with open arms made us feel part of the community. No words can truly explain just how highly thought of she is by so many... her friendly down to earth warm heart is what makes her special.*

This goes some way to illustrating what the community of Croughton feels about Jean based on her warmth and generosity as a person and the unswerving service she has given to the community over many decades. Part of this service has been through the Parish Council at which her attendance has been exemplary over the decades and at which she could always be relied upon to bring 'the voice of the people'. Not to mention the pots of tea and refreshments that she served at Annual Parish Assemblies and Little Brook Ward Meetings! Thanks to Jean's efforts many years ago, the allotments site was marked out and tenants found to cultivate the plots. Although not for the faint hearted, the allotments continue to be a great source of pleasure and activity for many people, and at this particular national crisis, are even more greatly appreciated. Her position as Councillor with an allotment has been beneficial as she has been the first point of contact for tenants and has also carried out the annual safety assessments.

Her service began however in the 1970's when she started a girls' club which then became a youth club. In 1991 she was appointed as one of the first 'Poors Allotment Trustees' by the Parish Council and continues in this role today. She has also worked tirelessly for Neighbourhood Watch over the years and many cups of tea have been drunk by every community police officer as she has been striving to help

keep the village safe. She was also given an 'unsung hero's' award by the Northamptonshire Police.

Other notable service has included being Chairman of the Queens Jubilee committee, serving on the Playing Fields and Village Hall Committee and being Warden of the Old Allotments Pocket Park. Her daily life has also included delivering the newsletter for many years; being Croughton's correspondent for the Banbury Guardian; helping with collection of the poppy appeal; collecting for Marie Curie; taking part in the speed awareness campaign and helping with the annual flower show.

Her coffee mornings have been legendary (not just for her home-made wine, jams and crafts) as she has raised funds for countless charities over the years. At one time she was also the village liaison person for Brackley Cottage Hospital raising funds and collecting donations door to door from villagers over many years.

Despite all of these commitments Jean chats to everyone and welcomes them into her house with friendly cheery encouragement. She can now feel justifiably proud of what she done in the spirit of being the best neighbour anyone could possibly have – commendable testimony to her community spirit and efforts. On that note we all wish Jean a long and fulfilling retirement – even though I suspect she will continue doing what has always done – being a unique and caring person who is always willing to lend a hand.

Brian Tomlin

Chairman Croughton Parish Council, on behalf of all the members of the council.

**NHS  
VOLUNTEER  
RESPONDERS**

DELIVERED BY  
**ROYAL  
VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE**

**NHS**



# Do you need some help while self-isolating?

If you, or someone you know, needs a hand with collecting shopping or prescriptions, or just wants someone to talk to, our **NHS Volunteer Responders** are here to help.

Join the thousands of others throughout England who are already receiving support – even if it's just for a friendly chat.

**Call 0808 196 3646 or visit  
[nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk](https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk)**

Help is available if you have a medical condition which makes you vulnerable to COVID-19, especially if you are over 70. You also qualify if you are pregnant or have a disability.