



CROUGHTON NEWS

July 2020

Essential Maintenance Works on A43 Trunk Road



A43 Northbound RAF Croughton to Barley Mow Roundabout & A43 Southbound at Tusmore

To carry out deep resurfacing work to partially reconstruct the carriageway, renew any damaged kerbs, install new road markings and road studs.

Work is due to start in early August for completion at the beginning of September 2020:

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)

During working hours there will be weekend closures, lane and full carriageway closures. Route diversions will be in place. Outside working hours all carriageways will be open as usual.

Croughton Playing Field

By the time this newsletter comes out, the play area should be open again but please remember to be aware of social distancing still and hand washing as the equipment will be open to everyone.

We have had issues with litter and groups in the grass areas and have had to lock the gate in the evenings. We will continue to do this but anyone wishing to hire the area with the goalposts for professional training please contact croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com or message Croughton hall on facebook/messenger.

Please help us to keep the area available for everyone by taking home your litter, don't leave it behind for others to pick up.

At the point of writing this we have not got a date for the recycling facility to be emptied so until it is, please do not leave any items by the side of it as it is currently full.

Thanks.

Croughton Playing Field & Village Hall Committee

Renewal of a High Voltage Electric Cable through Croughton

As you know, Western Power Distribution were planning to replace one of their old electric power cables through the village during springtime.

Due to Covid 19, these works were postponed and plans were to re-schedule in the summer.

We can confirm that their work shall be **starting on Monday 27th July 2020 and will be completed by Friday 2nd October 2020.**

There will be some disruption as they carry out excavation works, but only in small areas as they work their way along. The team carrying out the work will liaise with you should there be any disruption that is likely to affect you directly.

As far as power interruptions are concerned, the engineer is looking into carrying out the transfer without interrupting your supply. Should there be any planned power cuts, you will be notified well in advance.

As social distancing is still in force they felt it better not to send around letters again as you are already aware of what is happening.

There will, however, be a plan showing the basic details and the timescales of how they plan to progress through the village on the outdoor noticeboards at three locations: the Village Hall, the Reading Room and the Co-Op.

If you have lost the original letter informing you of contact details of their representatives, we have that information at the Parish Council. Contact: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Thank you.

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 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.

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 June 2020

Co-Options: Martin Hacon and Simon Kerby have been co-opted to serve on the Parish Council until the local elections in May 2021. They will take their seats on 13th July and join Cllrs Brian Tomlin, Vee Griffiths, Trevor Davies, Chris Fox, Rodger James, Mike Tadman and Bill Morris. The Parish Council is now at full strength with all 9 seats occupied.

Upcoming development at RAF Croughton: Sqn Ldr Clive Wood from the Base, colleagues from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Project Management Company presented proposals on 2 separate projects — a new main gate with Large Vehicle Inspection Site (LVIS) to be built along the B4031 approx. 650m west of the Barley Mow roundabout, and construction of two new radomes and associated communications equipment at an existing building on the Base adjacent to the A43. Submission of each planning application was pending. The Parish Council will be formally consulted on these by the local planning authority in due course.

Community Response to the Coronavirus epidemic: Members acknowledged the wonderful support that had been made available to self-isolating and vulnerable residents during lockdown. Help with collecting prescriptions, fetching in supplies or dealing with other needs had been well co-ordinated and would continue. The morale boosting Meals on Wheels service had operated for a ten-week consecutive period and had sustained many residents with a daily meal. These were tremendous initiatives for which everyone involved deserves immense thanks.

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 published on the Parish Council website. Visit www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

The closing date for any person wanting to inspect the accounts is **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.

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

Next Meetings: 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 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

Brackley Community Hospital 2020 Trust

Update from the Chairman of the Trust, Cllr Caryl Billingham

The trustees of the recently formed charity were able to make a visit to the new building on 11 June. Excellent progress is being made, although the building is now understandably behind schedule, principally due to lockdown.

The building is now officially due to be handed over during the first week of September after which the fitting out will take place, and that is scheduled to take four to six weeks. By autumn, Brackley Medical Centre will have a new home and the Brackley Community Hospital will be open to the public.

Of particular interest is the large quantity of solar panels on the roof of the Hospital which will ensure that the building is as green as possible and that running costs are accordingly reduced.

From a fundraising point of view, the thermometer is regularly updated. We have been fortunate to receive a massive pledge from the Brackley Hospital Trust (which managed the old Cottage Hospital and whose trustees had resolved that their residual funds would go towards a new hospital once it was in existence) along with some very generous public donations – from individuals as well as from local organisations and surrounding villages.

The Trustees are so very grateful to everybody who has given in any way – every penny counts – and look forward to your continued support as we head towards our first target and then move on to the next one. Thank you all.

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



Temporary opening times:
Wednesday – Friday 9.00am – 1.30pm
Saturday 9.00am – 1.00pm

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well in these testing times. I would like to say a huge thank you for the support given to the Croughton Tea Rooms by the village and the lovely comments from customers about our service during the past few months, it is much appreciated. Based upon recent announcements I am pleased to advise that the Tea Rooms will be open to customers to eat inside from Wednesday 8th July. I will continue to provide a delivery service for those who would prefer this method and take away is also available. The Tea Room hours will still be limited to those stated above however I will review this during July and extend hours if necessary.

One change we are implementing in July is for those wishing to eat inside the premises this will need to be done by making reservations in advance. This way I can ensure social distancing is monitored and will give you our customers confidence we are operating the Tea Rooms in a safe manner. When visiting please follow the guidance displayed inside over social distancing, sanitising, hand washing and use of facilities due to government stipulations we need to adhere to.

The Tea rooms will revert back to its full menus for Breakfast & Lunch along with lunch specials of the week with our normal drinks menu. Homemade sliced cakes and scones will also be available.

Full English breakfast and breakfast sandwiches are still available for delivery which has been very popular during the lockdown period. Full lunch menu can also be ordered for delivery.

Once again take care everyone and keep safe, we are really looking forward to seeing you back in the Tea Rooms again.

Kind Regards

Sarah and the team.

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.

Pastoral Letter July 2020: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Hello to you all. We have just passed the longest day of the year, and the best thing about this time of year for me is the long, light evenings. The annual rhythms are reassuring, but this has also felt like the longest year in history. So much turmoil in our everyday lives that it has been a struggle to keep up. This is where there is comfort in resting in the knowledge that God never changes. God is the one person we can look to and know that, whatever else is going on in the world, or in our lives, ultimately we are in God's hands.

I wonder how you are all doing individually. As lockdown restrictions lift there is more freedom for many of us, but this is not without some risk as Covid-19 has not disappeared. I am concerned however for the wellbeing of those who are still not able to mix in society due to their vulnerability, which hasn't changed. It has been incredibly isolating these past few months for all of us, but there will be many for whom nothing has changed and they cannot leave their house. Let's all be aware of them, and not leave them behind.

Our Churches are open for private prayer, and each Church has its own arrangements depending on ability to adhere to all the regulations. I am pleased to tell you that Croughton Church will be opening up every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00pm -4.00pm for folk to go in to pray, or just to have some quiet time to sit and rest and think. Please do come along, you will be made very welcome.

The strange thing during lockdown has been how much we have come to realise that we have taken our Church buildings for granted. I am as guilty as anyone for often having said, "The Church is the people of God, not the building". But in these past few months of restriction, a renewed appreciation has developed in many folk for our Church buildings. It is no secret that Churches are places of profound peace, but what is less known to many folk is the feeling that is experienced, when you take time to sit in a Church; the feeling of the weight of the years of prayer and spirituality that has been absorbed into the very fabric and stones of the building; you really do feel Gods presence in a way that is hard to put into words.

In the Church we have Sacraments, and a Sacrament is something that is an ordinary everyday thing that takes on Spiritual significance when it is set apart for God. So ordinary things like, bread, wine, water and oil become symbolic of something sacred. We all have things at home that have tremendous value to us, and which take on a significance far greater than the item itself because they have been given to us by someone we care greatly about. For example, a simple cup given or received as a gift comes to represent times spent over a cup of tea chatting with a treasured friend and so the cup becomes almost sacred; it's not that the cup is anything particularly special, it is what it represents. This is what happens with our Church buildings. They have been standing open in our communities for 100's of years and they represent the prayers and lives of the people all throughout those years, with all the history that has gone with them, and they stand as a Spiritual presence which holds a far greater significance than the Stones and mortar that hold them together. They are Sacred, and one can find great peace and encouragement after time spent in them.

Whether we are in Church or not God hears our prayers always, and that is always a huge comfort to know. God bless you all,

With love Rev Sue.

Deut 33.27 "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Suspicious activity surrounding the Base ...

... can be reported 24/7 to the MoD Armed Mobile Patrol on 07773 971 924. Please do not use this number to report civilian issues – that should properly be brought to the attention of Northamptonshire Police. Call 101 or go online.

Message to Dog Walkers

We appreciate the efforts of most dog walkers in picking up after their dogs and putting it into one of the four RED Dog Waste bins that are situated in the High Street and Park End, but there are still a few who do not pick up or, if they do, leave the bag for others to clear.

Can we please encourage everyone to pick up and place on the correct bins.

The red dog waste bins are emptied every week very early in the morning by a specialist contractor, whereas the black litter bins are emptied by SNC and should not be used for dog waste.

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

With the flurry of bedding plants now passed, my plant stall has settled down just a little but there is still a good selection of plants available with new plants being added regularly, including a selection of very reasonably priced Hostas, bright pink hardy ice plants (*Delosperma*) which are ideal for a rockery, calla lilies and mauve bearded iris. I've received some lovely donations of large blue agapanthus plants, romanesco cauliflower plants, sorrel and some unusual tomato plants – "Ildi" (mini, sweet yellow, pear shaped cherry tomatoes). I also received some extremely useful trays to help with watering the plants. Thank you everyone! All proceeds from my stall go to Croughton Reading Room and Brackley Hogwatch

I had a lovely letter of thanks from the Trustees of the Reading Room for funds raised so far this year so thank you everyone who has supported my stall.

Andrew and Brackley Hogwatch have asked me to send their thanks for all of your support, which has been invaluable in helping to provide food and medical treatment for many hedgehogs throughout the year and includes four hedgehogs that have recently been released in Croughton, which is a great bonus to the local population. All fundraising events for the charity have been cancelled this year and funds are very much needed. There are some great ways you could help including shopping online with Amazon Smile and Easy Fundraising, at no cost to you or come and buy a plant from my stall!

Thank you for your continued support.

Meryl



Brackley News

You can now listen to Brackley Community Radio on Amazon echo speakers!! Visit <https://amzn.to/2BwZeqR> and click on 'enable' to activate BCR on your Amazon account. Then all you have to do is say "Alexa, play Brackley Community Radio" and you can listen right away! You can also say "Alexa, ask Brackley Community Radio what song is playing" and it will tell you the current track!

Go try it out today, and tune in!

From next Monday June 29th, the 500 Bus, Brackley to Banbury, will run every 30 minutes based on its Saturday timetable. A reminder that X5 Cambridge–Oxford runs hourly in Buckingham, 45minutes towards Bicester and Oxford, and on the hour towards Cambridge. Remember face masks must be worn and social distancing applies with limits as to passenger numbers maximum 11 per bus, if bus displays FULL then you have to wait for the next bus.

National Express services may start next month

With more local shops opening, use them if you can and help local business support the local economy. Access to the Market House Courtyard in Brackley is still possible even though the road in from to the Courtyard Shops is closed to allow Brackley Market to spread out.

Here are the usual reminders of where you can get help.

Northants County Council have set up a hub for a great resource for help <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Pages/request-help-and-support-coronavirus.aspx> If you are not receiving support and need help then you can call 0300 126 1000 and select Option 5 (Mon–Fri, 8am–6pm) or email customerservices@northamptonshire.gov.uk

A reminder that a couple of facebook pages have been set up Brackley v Coronavirus and Buckingham Support Network where people can either offer to help or to ask for help. Buckingham Town Council have put together a page of Buckingham-centered advice, from how to get essentials and food, medical and financial advice to entertainment. www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/coronavirus/

There are more details on the Brackley and Buckingham Online Post website <http://www.globalmapping.uk.com/blog/> Please forward this information to your friends and encourage them to sign up. The more people know about what is going on, the more we can help each other.

Keep supporting your local businesses as much as you can. They need us as much as we need them!

Take care, stay safe and keep smiling.

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.