



CROUGHTON NEWS

August 2021



Croughton Village Flower and Vegetable Show

We are delighted to announce that the Croughton Village Flower and Vegetable Show will take place on **Saturday 28th August 2021**.

This will be the 14th show and we look forward to welcoming entrants and visitors on the day.

Having been unable to hold the show in 2020, we are excited to make it a celebration of 'lockdown life' and how growing plants and vegetables took on even more meaning.

Entry forms can be dropped in to the organisers at:

Steve Chessum 16 Wheelers Rise 01869 810066

Sheena Hayward 3 Mill Lane

Jean Coles 54 High Street

Megan Scott 58 High Street

If you would like to help in any way, please let one of us know.

MERYL'S CHARITY PLANT STALL

Summer is marching onwards with the typical British changeable weather but there's still time to add new plants to your garden and there's lots available on my charity plant stall. New additions include some small purple asters, small lavenders, exotic agave plants & spider plants (only 50p each) that are ideal for summer bedding.

There's a nice selection of houseplants on my front windowsill for sale too, just ring the doorbell if you'd like one. Please come & have a look outside my house Mill Lane at all the plants on offer, all at reasonable prices! All proceeds are shared between Croughton Reading Room and Brackley Hogwatch.

Thank you very much to those who came to support my stall at the Aynho Summer Fayre last Sunday.

It was a lovely day & £163 was raised to help sick & injured hedgehogs in our area.

111 hedgehogs have been rehabilitated and released so far this year – 8 in Croughton including a three-legged male hedgehog with a tracker aerial, that is currently being monitored. Follow his adventures on the Croughton Chat Facebook page!



The Reading Room

I am pleased to announce Coffee Morning is coming back - on **Tuesday 17th August**.

In the Back Room of The Reading Room 9.00am to 11.00am

Tea/Coffee 40p Homemade Cakes 60p per Slice.

We would enjoy seeing you all again.



Community Herb Garden

There are plans to turn an unusable allotment into a sustainable community herb garden. We would like your ideas for what you would like to see there.

Please contact Vee.griffiths@gmail.com with your suggestions, all will be put to the parish council for approval.

ABILITY - A Community Bus Service for residents of Croughton

You need to register with this service before you can use it & seats must be booked in advance. It's easy to register online - <https://abilitycic.org.uk/register/> or contact me for a form to post.

Forms are also available at The Blackbird, Croughton Tea Rooms & the Co-op

The service runs on Tuesdays & Thursdays to a variety of locations in Banbury Town centre and on Fridays to Brackley, including the new Sainsbury's.

There are also a number of summer trips to a variety of locations including Milton Keynes, Bicester shopping village, Heart of the Shires & several garden centres etc. Contact Ability for more details!

It is FREE to use from the village bus stops if you have a valid bus pass & for a small annual fee, a door-to-door is available.

Please telephone ABILITY to book your seat in advance - 01327 604123

The bus picks up from the bus stops at Park End & The Blackbird & other pre-arranged locations in the village, at approx. 10am & returns at 1pm, the duration is longer for the summer trips. Face masks or a scarf need to be worn on the bus & hand gel is provided.

Please get in touch if you need any help or more information – Meryl 16 Mill Lane 819525

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 12th July 2021

The Chairman, Cllr Griffiths welcomed 5 members of the public to the meeting. One member of the public wished to speak to the item on traffic calming options within the 20 mph zone and was invited to do so. Three members of the public had come to listen to the discussion relating to issues at Park End Works, specifically the possible but unlikely suggestion (no formal plan or proposal has been received) of an emergency access from Portway Drive, and there was encouraging interest in filling one of the 2 vacancies on the Parish Council from another person.

Traffic Calming: Data downloaded from the solar powered VAS over the previous month to 11th July 2021, temporarily positioned in the High Street near the chicane, showed that 97% of all vehicles had been travelling above 20mph. With over 100 pages of data it was not possible to fully consider the report at the meeting and it will be revisited at the next meeting on 9th August 2021. No traffic calming options were put forward for the 20mph zone. Any suggestion of a 3-way traffic light system at the junction of High Street and Wheelers Rise was dispelled. This must have come as a relief to the member of the public who had spoken against this option seeing it as having an undesirable and even harmful impact on residents and pedestrians, whilst potentially making matters worse.

Health and Safety: Much effort has been spent by members of the Council to bring 1 of the allotment plots up to standard and ready for cultivation for a new tenant. Work continues to tidy up pockets of the site. The deteriorating condition of some sections of the allotment wall is commanding the Parish Council's attention. The seat in Mill Lane has a loose plank and this will be re-secured with additional bolts. Several minor highway faults have been identified in Blenheim and Mill Lane, some in Wheelers Rise and will be reported online to Fix My Street. www.fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk

Footway Lighting: Having had it confirmed by our Lighting Contractor that existing stocks of and components for the orange SOX lamps will soon be unavailable has prompted the Parish Council to review the need for footway lighting, its current lighting schedules and energy costs. As a first step, advice from the Lighting Contractor is being sought on the best way forward.

Fortunately, few problems have been detected with the 57 Parish footway lights. Faults are reported to the Lighting Contractor who will advise on whether a repair or LED replacement will be needed.

Please remember that when reporting a lighting fault to the Clerk (clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk) that any number above 57 will not identify a footway light. Where a lamp is on a freestanding column the number will be on the column. Where a lamp is bracketed to a wooden post (usually BT) the number is not so easy to see as it will be high above on the box just below the lamp.

When reporting faults please also give the location of the footway light and your contact details. Thank you.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: 7.30 p.m. on Monday 9th August 2021 in the Parish Room, Croughton Village Hall. Two seats on the Parish Council remain to be filled and the Parish Council will be considering written expressions of interest from eligible adults who are motivated to serve on the Council.

Do get in touch with the Chairman or the Clerk if you would like to put yourself forward!

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

The Agenda will be published on the parish noticeboards at the Village Hall and Co-Op car park and on the website. Visit www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Please note that this Meeting is open to Members of the Public. 10 minutes in total (up to 3 minutes per person) are set aside for public participation, usually the third item on the Agenda, and this provides the opportunity for members of the electorate to speak to items listed on the Agenda.

If you wish to attend please register with the Clerk via email in advance of the meeting. Although the Government lifted almost all restrictions relating to Covid-19 on 19th July 2021 please remember to sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the building and respect other people's space.

The wearing of face masks/face coverings during this meeting is optional. Thank you.

Village Hall Playing Fields

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.

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.

Village Hall

Hopefully soon we will be able to welcome people back in full but for the moment, Short Mat Bowls and Pilates are running on a Monday evening. If you would like to make a booking for the future please email:

croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Croughton Wine Appreciation Group

Enjoy a glass (or two) of wine on occasion?



We are an informal group who meet up around 6 times per year in the Village hall.

Throughout the lockdown we have, very successfully, held online wine tastings - about 14 so far! We intend to keep some of these going in addition to the face-to-face events.

We usually taste 2 wines in an online tasting event and 7-9 wines at face to face events. Half way through we have a break for a selection of cheeses to complement the wines. It is great fun and a chance to meet other people from the village and have the opportunity to explore and learn about new wines.

You do not have to be an expert, or to be able to tell different wines apart. The aim is to have fun and learn a bit along the way.

If you would be interested in finding out more contact Martin via email at croughtonwag@gmail.com or alternatively call 01869 810721

“Thirsting for Great Wine”

(Wine tasting with the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group)



At last! Join us on **Friday 10th September at 8pm** in the Village Hall for our next Wine Tasting event, our first event back in the Village Hall since March 2020! James Butler from Brackley Wines will be joining us with his recommendations.

If you are a member of the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group, membership has been rolled over to 2022. Members pay £10 and non-members pay £15. Please let us know in advance that you're coming so we can ensure we have sufficient wine and food.

Email Martin at croughtonwag@gmail.com

Dates for your diary: We are hopeful that our October and December events will be face to face in the Village Hall:

15th October: One heel of an (Italian) wine tasting

3rd December: The best of lockdown wines Awards

Pastoral Letter August 2021: Revd Sue Cooper writes

As I write, we have just past “Freedom Day”, and many folk are being very cautious still; understandably as the numbers of Covid continue to rise, however, thankfully we are not seeing the same rise in deaths, which is largely due to the vaccines. In our Churches we will move forward gently, and each Parish may do things differently, but I would ask you all to consider the people sitting around you in Church, and their wellbeing as well as your own. Freedom day doesn't feel very free somehow!!!!

I have been struck with how anxiety producing the daily news is, either for good things such as freedom day, or bad such as being “pinged”. Every day there is a new problem or misdemeanour that outrages people, or spreads fear, and it is fuelled by the media.

There used to be a saying when I was young that said “Today's news is tomorrow's fish and chip paper” ... which meant that whatever was headline news one day, would be gone and forgotten the next, and the newspaper then used to wrap fish and chips in (I am showing my age now). Whatever the issue of the day, we will always be affected by the news headlines, and the news around freedom day was no different.

The thing is, mankind has always reacted to “the latest issue” since time began,, it's nothing new. In the New Testament the apostle Paul was having trouble with the outrage of people over the food laws and conventions of his time, and he was having to bring a calming message to settle things down again. The argument was about what type of meat was being eaten, and the new freedoms the Christians were exercising with their newly found freedom in Christ.

In this new time of “freedom”, not all people are in the same place of feeling thrilled about the lifting of all restrictions, so let's continue to extend our care and concern to our neighbours as never before, and let's not get so drawn in by media hype that we lose sight of our love for one another.

God bless you all,

With love Rev Sue.

All Saints Church, Croughton

August Services in Astwick Vale Benefice

Sunday 8th August

10.30am Holy Communion with Baptism, Evenley
10.00am Morning Worship, Aynho
10.00am Morning Worship, Farthinghoe
10.30am Holy Communion, Croughton
6.00pm Evening Prayer, Steane

Sunday: 15th August

10.30am Benefice Service with Holy Communion, Croughton

Sunday: 22nd August

9.30am Morning Worship, Evenley
10.30am Morning Worship, Croughton
11.00am Morning Worship, Aynho
11.00am Holy Communion, Hinton
6pm Evening Prayer, Farthinghoe

Sunday 29th August

10.30am Holy Communion with Baptism, Aynho

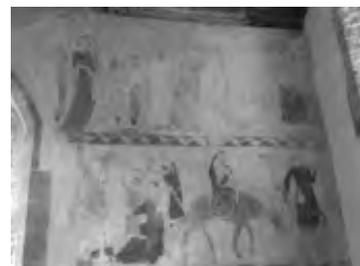
Services are held in accordance with Corvid guidelines.

Please check the Church notice board for any unavoidable changes to the Service timetable

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

I Need Your Help

Your Croughton church possesses possibly the most artistically important medieval wall paintings in the country. They are considered by the art world to have heralded the foundation of British painting.



However, this cultural treasure is in dire need of restoration before they fade completely. Although I have raised £15,800 to date it is only a small part of the £70,000 which restorers require to halt the decline and enhance their appearance for the benefit of future generations to enjoy.

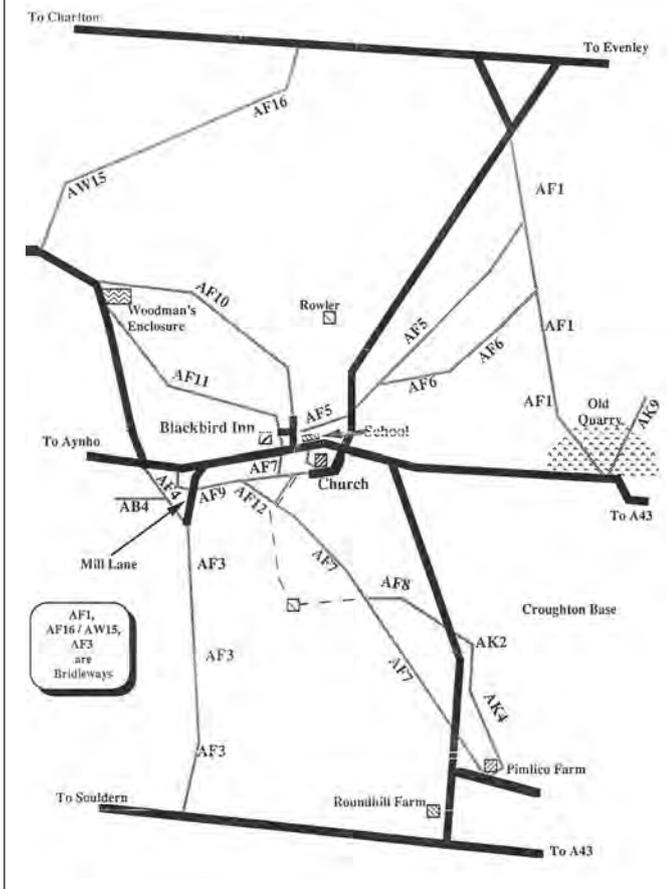
I have received plenty of advice for which I am so grateful but I am now in need of physical assistance in raising the rest of the money. So, if you are able, for example, to apply to and undertake a Lottery Fund application, or are able to undertake fund raising opportunities or are even an experienced crowd funder, I shall be delighted to hear from you.

I am obviously very concerned that I feel I cannot continue to carry this project forward alone anymore, which would sadly see the wonderful cultural heritage on our doorstep unable to be saved for the nation. So, if you can help, I will be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact me: Brian Smith 01869 810 540

email: brian.smith71@btinternet.com

Simplified plan of footpaths and bridleways around Croughton (not to scale).



The Post Lockdown Aynho Gardening Club Flower And Vegetable Show

... will be held on **Saturday 21st August 2021** in Aynho Village Hall between 2.30 and 4.30pm. Tea/Coffee and Cakes available and a raffle.

Entrance to Show (non-exhibitors): 50p children: Free

Members of the Aynho Gardening Club are encouraged to enter – just fill in the form and bring it along with your exhibits and entry money on Saturday morning between 10.30 and 11am Contact Meryl Rimmer for an entry form.

Aynho Gardening Club is also open for Croughton residents to join. Please check details at: https://www.aynho.org/village_life/gardening-club/



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road
Adderbury
Oxon OX17 3NL

What a summer we've been having with all our kind supporters opening their gardens for Katharine House. So far, we've had the pleasure of visiting gardens in Adderbury, Chadlington, Churchill, Hornton and Middleton Cheney. Coming up, you can visit more beautiful gardens in:

Culworth House, OX17 2AT, on Sunday 15 August, 2–5pm

Hook Norton Open Gardens, where you will be able to discover more than 15 gardens over two afternoons on 4–5 September. These Open Gardens are opening in aid of local causes as well as Katharine House.

Please get go to www.khh.org.uk/gardens to find out more.

What's coming up later this summer and into the autumn

This year there are more ways than ever to get involved and help make every moment matter for local families living with a life-limiting illness. Below is news of just some of what's coming up in the next few months.

Wingwalking – 2 September

Join us for this amazing experience with the world's most experienced wing-walking team. It's something to strike off your bucket list and build memories that last a lifetime.

Firewalk – 17 September

Test your courage and take part in one of the shortest sponsored walks in the world! By signing up to take part in the Katharine House firewalk, you'll be walking over embers burning at a temperature that could melt aluminium – without any injury or pain. Pam Hamblin, who took part in our previous firewalk, said: 'I had taken part in quite a few charity walks and thought the firewalk a bit different and it would be a real challenge for me. Some colleagues joined in and we made a great evening of it, raising funds for KHH at the same time – definitely a win-win!'

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Please sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with what's happening at Katharine House Hospice, including news of our fundraising events and developments at the hospice.

Find out more – Just head to our website to find out more about all these events and news: www.khh.org.uk.

The Brackley Morris Men

... will be dancing at the Blackbird at 11.00am on Sunday 29th August. Come and join the fun. Newcomers always welcome! www.thebrackleymorrismen.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
The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.