



CROUGHTON NEWS

August 2020

Brackley Community Hospital 2020 Trust Update, end July 2020

It's time to spread a little more good news about the new hospital and the fundraising efforts over the past couple of months. Hot off the press, our latest donation has come from the INEOS Community Fund which has granted us £10,000; thanks go to Mercedes AMG Petronas for the introduction here.

Over the past six weeks we have received £6,000 from the Town Mayor's Charity which reflects the tremendous work achieved by Tony Bagot-Webb and his wife, Kareen, during a rather strange year of office which eventually lasted some 14 months but for which events were curtailed after less than 10 months. We were the recipients of a grant of just over £5,000 from a group of local Masonic lodges which included contributions from Brackley, Banbury, Silverstone and Towcester.

As was reported last month, three local organisations (Brackley Rugby Club, Starlight Dance Academy and Brackley Spiderman) have undertaken their own initiatives and these together have brought in nearly £5,000.

Our Treasurer, Paul Bennett, had itchy feet and was very conscious of fundraising events being either cancelled or postponed. He had planned a street collection which was thwarted and he therefore produced a small leaflet inviting personal donations to the trust. Initially, he had 4000 leaflets printed and these have all been distributed around town; he

is now on his second batch of 4000 which will include some coverage of surrounding villages. Individual donations, several of them anonymous, have totalled so far around £1,500. We can only thank Paul and a few volunteers (whom I shall not name for fear of omitting one or two that I might not even know about!) for doing this and our contributors for their quick response.

The thermometer is therefore now well over £150,000 and we are within 10% of our original target of £165,000. This, however, will not be the end of it as, once the target for the x-ray machine has been reached, we will then start on raising money for the ultra-sound scanner, recliner chairs and television sets.

A final major donation – though not monetary – was the gift of an almost new high-spec recliner armchair from a Brackley resident. This was purchased for his father who sadly died before he could really benefit from the purchase. Ideally, the NHFT would like to have one of these chairs, which cost over £2,000 each, in each bedroom on the second floor, so this gift is another great boost.

With the goodwill and amazing generosity and initiative of local individuals, organisations and businesses, the targets will be reached, and our Community Hospital will be a flagship facility of which we can all rightly be proud.

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.

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.

UPDATE ON ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE WORKS

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

Work is due to start 10th August 2020 and is scheduled for completion by the beginning of September 2020.

The work will be carried out:

- between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday
- from 8pm Friday to 6am Monday

N.B Full weekend closures: 15th -16th August; 22nd – 23rd August; 5th – 6th September)

Planned works are subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances, such as clashes with other emergency work on the diversion routes.

During all road closures fully signed diversion routes will be out in place. Please note that there is a low bridge (4.6m) on the A4421 at Finmere and that it is not suitable for high sided vehicles. All carriageways will be open, as usual, outside our working hours.

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2020

Chairman, Cllr Brian Tomlin, welcomed co-opted Members, Cllrs Martin Hacon and Simon Kerby to their first meeting.

Renewal of Electricity Cables through Croughton:

Mr David Edwards, Electrical Engineer, Western Power Distribution updated the Parish Council on the original programme of planned works commencing on 27th July 2020. In addition to the replacement of the high voltage cable, a length of the low voltage cable between the 4 substations from Park End to Mill Lane would now also be upgraded at the same time, an upgrade that would be needed in preparation for potential increases in low carbon technology projects such as electric vehicle charging.

The work schedule mirrored that of the original 5 Phase programme, details of which are on the noticeboards.

Action Plan 2020/2021: Representatives were appointed to help maintain good reciprocal communications with village organisations, including the School (which was considered to have coped remarkably well in these recent testing times), Church, Village Hall, Reading Room, Poor's Allotment Trust and Friends of Portway Pocket Park. Liaison with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordination will be carried out by Cllr Bill Morris and Mrs Jean Coles. Cllr Rodger James was appointed Highways Rep, whilst Cllr Morris continues as the Traffic Calming Rep. Cllr Chris Fox was re-appointed Footpaths Warden. The Automated External Defibrillator housed at the Reading Room continues to be regularly monitored and inspected by our conscientious AED Guardians. The value of investing in a remote monitoring service was considered but, at this stage, not thought to be much more beneficial than the existing arrangements.

The Parish Council appreciates the support shown by all these volunteers.

Mobile VAS: Delivery of the solar powered VAS is expected in August, now that the supplier has resumed operations since the easing of lockdown. The device will be affixed in the first instance to Lamp No. 30 at Portway where the hedge will need to be cut back. Similarly, the hedge at Blenheim is also interfering with Lamp No. 54, another of the locations for the VAS, and will also require cutting back.

Cemetery: There has been a problem with muntjac visitors with a partiality for floral tributes. The Council has been looking into ways to close off gaps in the perimeter hedge and has accepted a quotation for a length of 30m of post and rail fencing with stock netting along the eastern boundary (roadside). A further 28m of stock netting is to be fitted to existing posts.

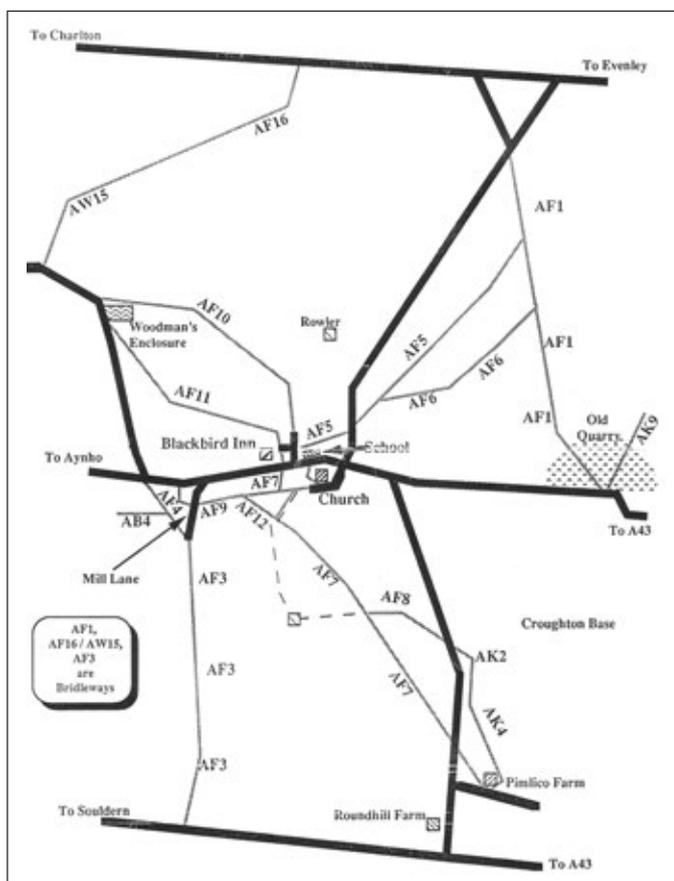
Health and Safety: Councillors undertook the annual inspection of public areas and of footway lighting and will report back to the next Meeting.

Parish Council Meetings are held every month on the second Monday. Next Meetings: 10th August, 14th September 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



Scrubs for NHS

Are you or any of your contacts handy with a sewing machine and would you like to do something really practical to help the NHS? If yes, why not consider making scrubs for clinical staff carrying out reviews in care homes. Check out this page on what's involved: <http://www.dgft.nhs.uk/making-scrubs-for-our-hospital-staff/>

Locally, the NHS needs 8 sets x Large and long, 2 sets x Large and short, and 4 sets x Medium long. Connect through the Northants Together Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonshireEmergencyResponseVolunteer/>.

Footpaths

Firstly the law does not require stiles to be for dogs to get through/over as it's the dog's keeper who has who has the right of passage.

Footpath users do not have the right to move /alter the stock fencing as someone has on AF9 so as to get a dog through. The fencing is put up by the landowner to keep his animals safe as is his right.

Please be considerate and enjoy the varied types of footpaths around the village. Chris Fox

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

Courier Fraud

Courier fraud is becoming more PREVALENT and SOPHISTICATED – What You Should Know



Also known as social engineering or vishing, generally, but not exclusively, courier fraud is where the fraudster cold calls the victim on their landline (whether in possession of the victim's details or not).

The victims are generally elderly/vulnerable.

Fraudsters make claims designed to encourage the victim to divulge specific personal information ultimately requesting the victim to provide their PIN.

Some of the most common are:

- Claiming to be POLICE – citing recent arrests of individuals in possession of the victim's details and requiring the victim's ASSISTANCE to investigate.
- Stating that the victim's bank card(s) has a design FAULT and needs replacing. The victim is asked to cut their card down the centre ensuring the INTEGRITY of the chip.
- Citing a fault with the victim's online bank card reader.
- Saying that there is a CORRUPT bank EMPLOYEE working at the victim's bank and the caller needs the victim's ASSISTANCE in catching the culprit.
- Claiming that the bank card is required for FORENSIC examination re. police INVESTIGATION.
- Asking the victim to assist with a police investigation and actually go to the shops and purchase goods – the current favourites are ROLEX watches and APPLE products.
- Asking victims for their personal goods such as iPhones etc.

Some of the courier FRAUDS have PROGRESSED with the victim called on a second occasion and requested to withdraw all the cash from their other current account "due to a CORRUPT bank EMPLOYEE" and place the funds into a separately named account – a so called "mule account".

The fraudster will then arrange either an innocent TAXI company or ASSOCIATE to collect the bank card from the victim's home address and deliver it to a pre-arranged location where the card(s) are picked up. Consequently, the fraudster is in possession of both the victim's bank card and their PIN.

The suspect will either use the card to withdraw cash, use the card to purchase online goods or use it in stores to purchase high value goods.

Your BANK and the POLICE will NEVER ask for your PIN.

If you receive one of these calls END it immediately.

Useful Contacts: www.northants.police.uk

www.northants.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention

www.actionfraud.police.uk or tel. 0300 123 2040

www.victimsupport.org.uk or tel. 01604 603477 or 0845 030 0900

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

Houseplants are now on my plant stall! Two varieties of spider plants, peace lilies, pink kalanchoes, sweet little succulents and some money plants including a variety named "Gollum", all with china pots. The irises in my garden have been split and there are now three different bearded iris plants available – mauve, burgundy and yellow. Other plants for sale include hostas, blue agapanthus, orange day lilies, mauve buddlejas, scabious, rockery sedums, succulents and lots, lots more! There are also foxgloves and calla lilies that will flower next year so start planning your 2021 garden now. Come and have a look! All proceeds go to Croughton Reading Room and Brackley Hogwatch. Thank you for your support.

There is quite a good population of hedgehogs in Croughton, many of them thanks to the past care of Brackley Hogwatch. If you spot a hedgehog in your garden or elsewhere in Croughton please let me know, it would be great to build up a map of how many there are and where they are living in the village. More importantly if you see a hedgehog out in the daytime please contact me as it may be poorly and need treatment.

Thank you. Meryl

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07766 495059



Pastoral Letter August 2020: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, August is usually holiday time, and hopefully many of you will try to get away for a break. I have been reflecting on childhood summers, when life seemed so simple. Although package holidays had begun to be popular in the late 1960s and early 1970s, my family holidayed in the UK. My Dad had a particular love of camping; a love that my Mum and us girls did not share!! However, seaside holidays were a wonderful treat to look forward to each year and they hold many treasured memories. After spending much of this year under Covid restrictions, I wonder what you are looking forward to now? We all need things in life to look forward to otherwise we will become despondent. So like I said; I wonder what you are looking forward to?

August is traditionally a time to slow down and enjoy the summer. Don't let this summer pass you by, allowing the Covid-19 restrictions to rob anymore of your precious life. Life is a gift, and every day is a gift, as any person who is having treatment for a serious illness or who is terminal will tell you. God has made a beautiful world, and we don't have to go on holiday to see it. If you can't get away this year, why not plan one or two nice things to do, perhaps a walk, or a picnic; a nice pub lunch somewhere, or even just some lazy afternoons in the garden with a long cool drink, or a lovely cup of tea and a good book. God has given us the gift of life and his beautiful creation, seen all around us in the fields, the birds and the flowers. God bless you all, and make sure you go and plan something nice to do in August to look forward to,

With love Revd Sue.

**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**

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.