



# CROUGHTON NEWS

April 2020

## A message from Croughton Parish Council on the current Coronavirus pandemic.

We hope everyone is keeping safe and optimistic and is receiving support from friends, family and neighbours in a great effort to overcome the impact on our lives of Covid-19.

Please stay at home if you can and follow the Government's advice on hygiene precautions, hand washing, social distancing, avoidance of gatherings, and self-isolation. Keep informed of definitive advice by following the news for updates and/or visiting the Public Health England website.

There is a commendable strength of community spirit amongst residents some of whom are volunteering to assist the vulnerable and elderly with food shopping and other requirements.

### Emergency Community Larder Scheme

This is being set up by South Northamptonshire Food and Education Alliance from a collection hub in Towcester. There will be a weekly delivery of food to the hub which will receive an estimated 1 tonne of food supplies for the district, to be allocated into parish lots based on parish population data.

If your household has no means of getting in food supplies and desperately needs support please contact Lotty Dollman on 07804 905 747 who is willing to act as co-ordinator for this Scheme.

Thank you to Lotty and her helpers on their admirable efforts!

Please note that for traceability reasons recipients will be required to fill out a 'membership' form agreeing to look after the food well and to store it appropriately, and that the food is not for resale.

### Launch of Meals on Wheels Service

This is an overwhelmingly generous and uplifting response

to the present difficulties and disruption and the providers deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation.

If you are aware of someone in Croughton who might rely on this life-line ...

Please contact Lotty Dollman on 07804 905 747 for more information.

Please note: Meals will be delivered frozen.

Thank you to all concerned!

After considering Government rules and guidance on keeping safe we have decided, on balance, not to publish the Newsletter in hard copy this month and for the foreseeable future. Instead it will be available on the website [www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

The Parish Council is aware that not everyone will have access to the internet but considered with regret that the practicalities of handling hard copies associated with collection, delivery and receipt outweighed this disadvantage.

Thank you to our Editor, Georgina for this month's issue.

Thank you to Georgina and her volunteer delivery team for past issues of Croughton News.

We are also immensely grateful to everyone who has supported the Newsletter either in kind or through sponsorship and very much hope that normal service will resume as soon as possible.

Thank you and Keep Safe!

### Croughton Village Hall and Croughton Play Park

In line with Government restrictions imposed in response to Covid-19 Croughton Village Hall and Croughton Play Park remain CLOSED.

Notices to this effect have been posted on the entrance doors to the Village Hall and at various points within the Play Park.

The Village Hall Management Committee is grateful to everyone for their co-operation and understanding during this difficult time.

## 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.

## Croughton Village Website

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

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

## Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 2020

**Vehicle Activated Sign:** The Parish Council agreed to proceed with the purchase of one solar powered VAS device that will be moved as and when between 4 different sites, within two speed limit zones. The settings are able to be adjusted to ensure that the calibrations are synchronised to the speed limits and the correct visual message is displayed. The VAS will be attached to lamp columns and will display a smiley or sad face according to the actual recorded vehicle speed. Lamp column No. 30 at Portway will host the VAS first of all, after which the volunteer Operational Team will decide on the next location. Prior to installation the Parish Council must apply for a Licence for permission to site the VAS along the Highway.

**Local Elections:** A new Parish Council was to be elected on 7th May 2020 at the local elections. These have now been cancelled and re-scheduled for 6th May 2021, 6 years since the current Parish Council was elected in 2015 for a 4-year term of office!

Thank you to those who had expressed an interest in standing for election this year. We hope you will still be willing to do so in a year's time.

**Planning Consultations:** In a move away from paper consultations, South Northamptonshire Council has provided Croughton and other Parish/Town Councils each with equipment to allow applications to be dealt with electronically. In future, paper plans will not be sent through to the parishes. Instead, the plans will be downloaded and projected on to a screen at Council meetings. We have not yet had occasion to take planning applications in this way and await the opportunity to do so.

The Council updated its Asset Register to include the new equipment at nil value on account of its having been donated at no cost to the Parish Council.

The Council's insurance policy will also be updated to cover the equipment at replacement value.

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## Western Power Distribution, Important Update

### Renewal of a High Voltage Electric Cable through Croughton

Due to the current situation with the corona virus pandemic, the decision has been made to postpone these works until such time that it is appropriate to do so.

As it stands Western Power Distribution shall be looking at re-scheduling these works to re-start on Monday 27th July 2020 with a view to completing on Friday 2nd October 2020.

Should there be an earlier or later resolution to the situation then Western Power Distribution shall revise their program accordingly.

Residents of Croughton shall be kept updated in advance before works re-commence through both Parish Council liaison and on the Notice Boards.

In the meantime, Please Stay Safe.

## A note on the holding of Parish Council Meetings

As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and Government rules on gatherings and social distancing the Parish Council will no longer be holding physical meetings.

Arising from the Coronavirus Bill that was enacted on 25th March 2020, secondary legislation to allow for meetings to be held electronically is imminent. For the foreseeable future Croughton Parish Council will be holding virtual meetings and, to this end, had an informal test run at the end of March in preparation for the Meeting on 6th April.

It should be possible to allow for members of the public to participate in virtual meetings as they are able to do so now under the existing rules. But, at the time of writing, this has yet to be worked out.

Please note that the Annual Parish Assembly which was to be held on 27th April 2020 in the Parish Room at the Village Hall has been cancelled.

We do not know whether this Meeting will be rescheduled but would like to thank everyone who had accepted the invitation to attend, those who have already submitted reports, and those of you who were intending to come along.

For enquiries, please contact the Clerk via email  
clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

The Parish Office is now closed and the Clerk is working from home.

## Beware Scammers & Fraudsters

Times like these bring out the best in people, and the worst in people. Already we are hearing of unscrupulous exploitation of the situation, including:

- Fraudulent emails containing hyperlinks or attachments, which people in a heightened state of worry are more likely than normal to click on.
- Advice circulating on social media that people self-isolating should physically mark their houses in some way if they need help, e.g. by displaying a sticker in their front window or tying a ribbon to their front door. This is effectively putting a target on the house for people up to no good.
- People offering goods that are in temporarily short supply (e.g toilet roll) or increased demand (e.g. face masks) for sale at knockdown prices, taking payment and then never delivering the goods.
- Fraudsters posing as volunteers and conning vulnerable (particularly elderly) people by taking their credit cards so that they could do their shopping for them, and then making additional unauthorised purchases.

The list above is a small sample of the depths some people will stoop to. It's a time for being extra-vigilant, pausing before clicking, and making sure that online and offline security measures are in place and up to date.

For further information see  
<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>.

## Croughton Cinema

We're sorry to tell you that, because of the current health emergency, we have decided to temporarily close our Croughton Cinema, at least until the beginning of our 2020/21 season on 23rd October 2020.

Optimistically, we have already set our next season dates as follows;

**2020: October 23rd ; November 13th ; December 11th ;  
2021: January 8th and 29th; February 26th; March 19th  
and April 16th.**

Clearly, time will tell whether we are able to open as planned but we live in hopes! In the meantime, take care, look after each other and we look forward to our re-union at Croughton Cinema.

Best wishes to you all, Keith Gelder and Keith Ramsay

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## Help With Garden Supplies

Since the latest Government news has meant non-essential shops are now closed, it's difficult to get gardening supplies but Preston Bissett Nurseries are offering a FREE delivery service on a vast range of garden items – seeds, composts and plants etc. See <http://www.thenurseries.com>

Peter (the business owner) has confirmed there will be NO delivery charge when we place a collective order from the village. I am very happy to co-ordinate this, so please have a look at their website and please contact me with any orders or queries you might have.

You can also order and pay Preston Bissett directly by phone, 01280 848038 - just say it's for the Croughton group delivery. I will have the order delivered to my address and contact you to collect. If you're able to or my hubby will deliver to anyone vulnerable or self-isolating.

I know not everyone has Internet so please share this information with anyone who might find this useful.

Meryl, 16 Mill Lane. Tel. 819525 or 07766 495059.

### MERYL'S PLANT STALL

My charity plant stall continues to be open for the time being. I wasn't sure what to do in these difficult times but as long as everyone follows the guidelines on personal safety and are just passing on their daily exercise, there's no reason why you can't buy a plant on your way home!

If you would rather not leave cash in the tin please pop an I.O.U. note through my door and we can settle up at a later time. I have some beautiful planters of mixed tulips, primroses, grape hyacinths, forget-me-nots & lots of other plants too.

Make the most of this unusual time and get planting in your gardens! All proceeds go to Croughton Tea Rooms and Brackley Hogwatch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Meryl



## April Church Notices

[www.astwickvale.co.uk](http://www.astwickvale.co.uk)

It is with great sadness that we announce that all of the Churches of The Astwick Vale Benefice will remain locked and closed following the announcement from the Government and under Bishops instructions. This is with immediate effect due to advice on the coronavirus threat. If you need any help please contact the Rector

### April 2020 Pastoral letter from the Rector

Dear Friends, I hope you are all managing to adapt to our 'new normal' so to speak. Anyone from my generation know nothing of these kinds of restrictions on our lives, and so have been completely flummoxed by it. Social isolation is hard for everyone because we are social creatures and in a crisis we naturally want to be together to solve it. My Mother lived through the Second World War, and so did some of you. You already know that sacrifices have to be made for the greater good of everyone; this is a lesson the rest of us are learning now. I spoke to a lady the other day about this, and I said she must already have an understanding about these things having lived through the War, but she replied, "Yes Sue, but we could at least see the enemy planes flying over us, Coronavirus is an unseen enemy, which is in some ways more dangerous." And of course, she is right.

What has been seen however is the extraordinary kindness and generosity of people who have offered, and given, of their time and energy and resources to help others. We particularly saw this in the response to the Government asking for volunteers to support the national effort to make sure that everybody, especially the most vulnerable of society, are cared for. It has been truly humbling, heart-warming and encouraging to see.

I would like to add my thanks and praise to all the many good people who are keeping our nation going in their various jobs and roles. There are too many to name individually here, but especially the doctors, nurses, hospital workers and care workers, shop and delivery workers and our council workers; thank you, you are the heroes in all of this. And it is wonderful to see how the Village folk are pulling together collectively to help one another, and the most vulnerable in our community. Thank you all.

I have been sending out messages regularly to folk on my e-mailing list, and please do email me if you are not already on my list and would like to receive these. My contact details are [revsue.cooper@gmail.com](mailto:revsue.cooper@gmail.com) and tel 01869 810903. And please do contact me if you need help.

Finally, let's not forget that we will be celebrating Easter shortly. If ever there was a time that we needed to feel hope and peace it is now. And the Christian faith is founded on hope, peace and love. Because of Jesus, and that 1st Easter, we are able to call God 'Father'. We are able to pray to him and put our hope in his never failing love. This means that even in these most terrible of times, we can experience peace of heart and mind, and can keep hope alive in our hearts for ourselves, and for others. And more than this, we can even dare to believe that out of this present darkness and chaos, light and good can, and will, and has already come.

God bless you all, with love Rev Sue.