



# CROUGHTON NEWS

January 2022

## “ABILITY” - A Community Mini-Bus Service for all residents of Croughton

The Ability Community mini-bus service runs to Banbury on Tuesday & Thursday to the town centre, various supermarkets & retail parks. On Friday to Brackley or to Bicester to visit the market & various shops as well as special trips out to a variety of locations – see list below.

The service is Covid secure with friendly drivers that are happy to help & assist!

The service is FREE to REGISTER and to USE if you have a valid bus pass and use the village bus stops. A door-to-door service is also available for a small annual fee.

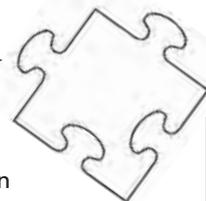
You need to complete a form to register with this service before you can use it. Seats need to be booked in advance by telephoning Ability on 01327 604123. It's easy to register online - <https://abilitycic.org.uk/register/> Forms are also available at The Blackbird, Croughton Tea Rooms or the Co-op. Or contact Meryl Tel. 819525 for any queries etc.

### Ability Transport Trip, January – March 2022

Wednesday 19th January – Oxford Distillery Tour  
Tuesday 25th January – Buckingham Garden Centre  
Monday 31st January – Bicester Village and Garden Centre  
Wednesday 9th February – Oxford Bus Museum  
Wednesday 16th February – Milton Keynes Centre  
Tuesday 22nd February – Yarnton Garden Centre  
Tuesday 1st March – Oxford Natural History Museum  
Wednesday 9th March – Brackley Antiques Cellar  
Wednesday 16th March – Oxford Westgate Centre/Oxford Castle and Prison  
Tuesday 22nd March – Burford Garden Centre/Wildlife Park/Village  
Tuesday 29th March – Witney Village

### Jigsaw swap

With the colder weather & darker days, why not do a jigsaw?! Several Croughton residents have a good selection of jigsaws and are happy to lend them to others in the village. Contact Meryl on 819525 for more details.



## All Saints Church Christmas Hamper Raffle

The draw took place in Croughton Tea Rooms on 17th December 2021

The winning tickets were: 1st 437; 2nd 378

The Raffle raised £245.00 for All Saint Church.

The PCC would like to give a big thank you to Sarah and her team at the Tea Rooms for their support in raising this amount.

We would also like to thank the people for their generosity for donated the lovely festive items for the hampers.

## 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 Parish 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.

### Please can you help?

We are very grateful to the current team who clean the church, but the numbers have dwindled recently and we do need some extra help.

It is not an onerous task, with some dusting/polishing and vacuuming - which does not normally take more than an hour, even less if you bring a (socially distanced) friend.

If you feel you can help us to care for our lovely old church, even if just a few times, please ring Chris on 01869 226383.

## Portway Pocket Park

It's so wonderful to see over the recent months the Portway Pocket Park being used by many local residents and young families more than ever to relax, play and meet in a clean and safe environment. Dogs are welcome in this Community Park, but do please remember, if your dog fouls in this public area please pick up and bin it. Thank you.

Friends of Portway Pocket Park

## Croughton Village Website

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

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

# Report on the Croughton Parish Council meeting on 13th December 2021

## Report from RAF Croughton

The update on landscaping plans was postponed to the next meeting, due to illness.

## Budget for 2022–2023

The council discussed a 5% increase in expected costs reflecting expected inflation, the large increase in energy costs, the increase in clerk's salary and training fees. Approval of the finalised budget and precept to be made next meeting.

## Energy Costs

The council continues to investigate options to save costs and energy. Further correspondence with energy suppliers is needed and once specific options are identified, residents will be consulted.

## Planning

The council offered no objections to planning consultations on 14 High Street and 6 Church Lane.

## Allotment Wall

The Council is awaiting a survey on the stability of the wall, but a trench is required for investigation before advice can be given. The council has requested quotes from insured contractors.

## Parish Clerk

The council are pleased to welcome our new clerk on January the 4th.

## Traffic in Wheeler's Rise

The council noted that on public events, the overspill of parking for the village hall can cause traffic problems for residents. Whilst the council has no powers in this, they will contact the hall management to ask them to advise users to park considerately and to suggest the car park behind the Reading Room be used as an alternative.

## Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 7:30 pm on Monday the 10th of January 2022 in the Parish room Croughton Village Hall

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

Please note this meeting is open to members of the public. 10 minutes 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. Please sanitise your hands on entering and leaving the building and respect other people's space. The wearing of facemasks/ face coverings during this meeting is optional. Thank you.

## The Reading Room

### Coffee Morning Tuesdays

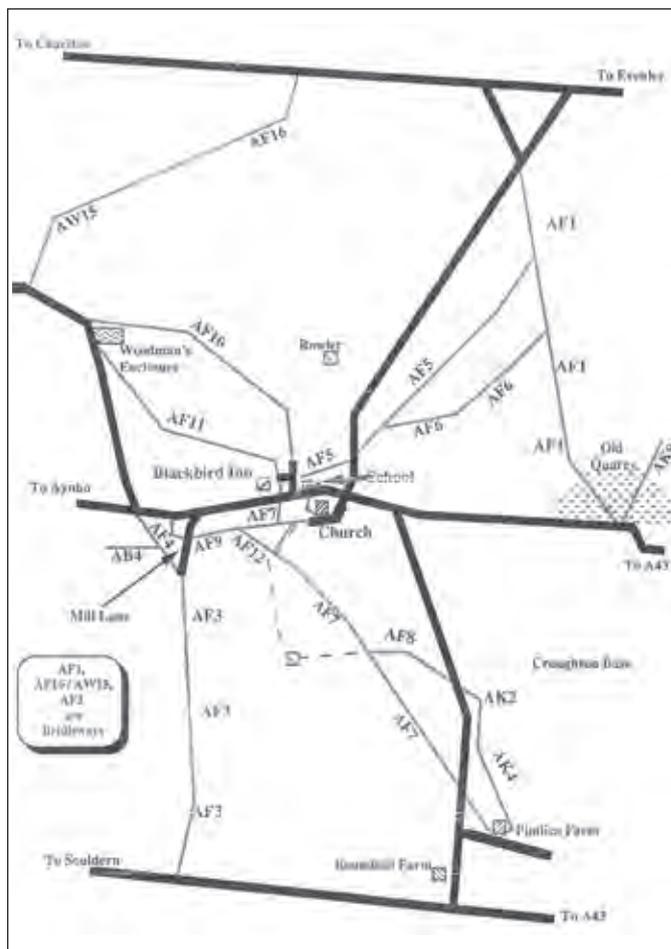
The Reading Room in the Back Room 9 to 11

Cake 70p a slice, Tea/Coffee 50p

Raffle every week.



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



## 'Home Safe' – helping residents tackle jobs around the house

'Home Safe' will offer support with a range of small home improvements such as small repairs, home security and energy efficiency measures, gas safety checks, fitting smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, trip reduction measures, the installation of grab and stair rails and assistance with electrics, plumbing and carpentry.

The scheme is available to home owners and tenants on low incomes if one or more of the following criteria applies to them:

- If they suffer from a long term chronic illness or have a physical disability
- If they have been identified by a hospital as needing urgent minor adaptations or services to facilitate discharge
- If they are at risk of further injury or illness without essential minor works or services
- If they are aged 65 or over

For more information on the scheme visit

[www.careandrepairnorthamptonshire.org.uk](http://www.careandrepairnorthamptonshire.org.uk),

email: [office@careandrepairnorthamptonshire.org.uk](mailto:office@careandrepairnorthamptonshire.org.uk)

or call 01604 782250.

## Pastoral Letter January 2022: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, I hope your Christmas and New Year's celebrations went well. It's strange how quickly things change isn't it? At the beginning of December Omicron had hardly been heard about, and now it is dominating the news and to a large extent the way we are living. Even as I write this (on 27th Dec) I am aware that by the time you read this, everything could have changed again!!

I wonder what your hopes and dreams are for this coming year. I think most folk I have spoken to have given up on New Year's resolutions, and are just trying to get through these days of uncertainty, the trouble is, we can waste our lives worrying and waiting for things to be different, but this attitude will not serve us well. Alternatively we can decide to put aside the constant stream of bad news, and live.

This is not burying our heads in the sand and pretending that covid is not an issue, because it is a very serious issue. However, if we decide to put aside the constant stream of bad news, it is an act of defiance, and a refusal to allow covid to spoil everything we love and hold dear. So much has been lost to it already; but as I said, we can worry and wait for things to be different or we can find ways to live again as fully as possible. It's true that we will need to exercise caution, but that shouldn't stop us from finding joy in our days, and more importantly spreading joy to others where ever and whenever we come across them.

I have spent a lot of time looking forward to "things getting back to normal"! and I know I am not alone with this. I have also spent time looking back to "the good old days", when all we talked about was Brexit, (only joking ☺), but the good old days before lateral flow tests, face coverings and self-isolating; the time before every cough and sneeze was considered suspect!

As I said, we can waste a lot of valuable time out of our lives wishing things were different, but that will not serve us well. Instead, let's enjoy the days, one at a time, trying to be people who lift others' spirits while keeping our own Spirit's high.

No day is a given, it is a gift from God, and we should treat every day as the gift it is to us. So this New year, don't live in the past, and don't live in the future, live in the present, enjoying the blessing of every new day. It's called the present because it's a gift. Have a very blessed and joyful New Year, with love Rev Sue.

### 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](mailto:croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com). Many thanks.

## All Saints Church, Croughton

### January Services in Astwick Vale Benefice

#### Sunday: 9th January

9.30am Holy Communion, Croughton  
9.30am, Morning Worship Farthinghoe  
10.00am Morning Worship and Baptism Aynho  
11.00 Holy Communion. Evenley

#### Sunday 16th January

10.30am Benefice Service, Holy Communion, Croughton

#### Sunday 23rd January

9.30am Holy Communion Aynho  
9.30am Morning Worship Evenley  
11.00am Morning Worship Croughton  
11.00am Holy Communion, Hinton  
4.00pm Evening Prayer, Farthinghoe

#### Sunday 30th January

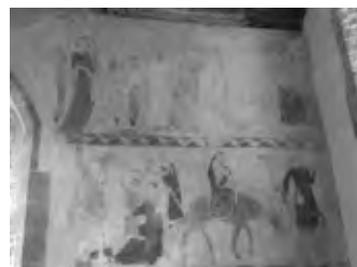
10.30am Benefice "Sock Sunday" Evenley

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 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](mailto:brian.smith71@btinternet.com)



## Nothing on Telly?

Why not come and join us at our Village Hall – The Croughton Short Mat Bowls Club. We are a small friendly club who meet every Monday evening at the Village Hall. Our motto is “We don’t do serious” !! All equipment provided, just a small weekly subscription required. Please contact Cyril on 01869 810207 for more details.



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road  
Adderbury  
Oxon OX17 3NL

### Heading into 2022

The New Year is usually a time of reflection on the past 12 months as well as making plans for the future. So, as well as some hospice news and updates, we’ve also got details on some exciting events coming up in 2022 and a few different ways you can help us. Thank you!

### Royal visit

We were thrilled to welcome HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Katharine House on 19 November as part of our 30th birthday celebrations.

As well as meeting patients, volunteers and staff, His Royal Highness also officially launched our Celebration Tree. Our specially commissioned rose tree is a wonderful way to celebrate the lives of loved ones and you can find out more about making a dedication on our website.

### Goodbye James

December 16 was a sad day for everyone at Katharine House when we said goodbye to our much-loved chaplain James Grote.

For the past six years, James has not only played an essential part in the care of our patients and their families, but he has been a crucial support for staff guiding us through tough times, particularly during the pandemic. We wish James all the very best for the future – he will not be forgotten!

### New year, new you?

Looking for a challenge in 2022? Well, look no further! We’ve got some fantastic events coming up this year to suit everyone from adrenaline junkies to those who just want to get out in the fresh air – and all of them will help to raise money for our hospice. From wingwalks to our rebranded Moonlight Walk, abseiling to cycling – there are lots of ways to get involved. Take a look at our Challenge events on our website to find out more.

### Could you spare a few hours?

We couldn’t continue to care for local people without the support of our amazing volunteers. So, if you have some time to spare, why not think about volunteering? We have one-off opportunities as well as more regular roles, which are all listed on our website. We’d love to hear from you.

### Charity shops treasures

If you’re having a post-Christmas clear out, don’t forget about our six charity shops across the area. Rather than throwing out your good quality unwanted items, donating to a charity shop is more sustainable and helps raise money for our hospice. You can find the details for all our charity shops on our website.

### Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice.

### Find out more

Head to our website to find out more about all these events and news: [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk).

## Think NHS 111 First

NHS England and NHS Improvement has launched the next phase of the latest ‘Help Us, Help You’ campaign which focuses on the NHS 111 service as a new way to access A&E.

If you have an urgent but not life-threatening medical need, make sure you contact NHS 111 first rather than going straight to A&E. If you do need urgent care, then NHS 111 can now book you in to be seen quickly and safely in A&E.

As well as this, NHS 111 is also able to direct to or book an appointment at Urgent Treatment Centres, access to Out of Hours GP Services, pharmacies, emergency dental services and walk-in clinics.

Contacting 111 first will also help the NHS to keep you safe by maintaining social distancing and ensure that you receive the right care in the right place, in a more timely and safe way.

If you or your loved one have a life-threatening illness or injury then you should always use 999 and if you do arrive at A&E without contacting NHS 111 you will still receive medical care, with emergency treatments prioritised.

Just think 111 first. When you think you need A&E, contact NHS 111 by phone or online at <https://111.nhs.uk/>

Further information about NHS 111 First is available at [www.northamptonshireccg.nhs.uk](http://www.northamptonshireccg.nhs.uk)

## Aynho Gardening Club

Aynho Gardening Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Aynho Village Hall. There are a variety of events throughout the year including talks on gardens as well as trips out to visit gardens. Croughton residents are very welcome to join, we’d love to see some new faces!

Please check details here:

[https://www.aynho.org/village\\_life/gardening-club/](https://www.aynho.org/village_life/gardening-club/)



Brackley community radio is an online radio station.

To access the station just go to [www.brackleyradio.uk](http://www.brackleyradio.uk)

You can also listen on your Alexa echo or Google hub just say enable brackley community radio..

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.