



CROUGHTON NEWS

March 2022

ABILITY - A Community Mini-Bus Service for all residents of Croughton - "Connecting people with places"

Services to Banbury Brackley and Bicester

We help people get out and about by providing transport for those who need to get 'out and about'.

Passengers are required to be registered with us. 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

When you book your journey, a seat will be pre-booked for you. All shopping/trolleys is stowed in the rear of the bus.

A variety of special trips are now available, call for more details!

Tel: 01327 604123

Email: info@abilitycic.org.uk

www.abilitycic.org.uk

Call to register and book your journey today!

Use it or lose it!

Supported by West Northants District Council
Social Enterprise 11448957

"Trelawney Wines of Evenley"

(Wine tasting with the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group)

We like supporting local wine sellers and producers and are delighted to welcome Trelawney Wines of Evenley to present our next event in the Village Hall on **Friday 18th March at 8pm.**

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



Viewing The Church Paintings

Following considerable interest in the recent article which appeared on Croughton Chat and on Facebook concerning the fate of our local cultural treasure on the walls in Croughton Church, I am pleased to announce that both the Revd. Terry Richards and I will be delighted to open the church for booking a viewing of the paintings for any interested individuals or parties.



As previously described, the early fourteenth century paintings are regarded as a remarkable contribution to our knowledge of a phase of English art, and an important document to the history of the development of English painting.

As Simon Jenkins remarked in his book England's Thousand Best Churches, "the fourteenth century murals to be seen there is a treasure house which can be compared with contemporary and later work in Italy, even invoking the name of Giotto." High praise indeed!

The paintings which were originally discovered in 1921 under several coats of whitewash were in 1960 treated rather than restored. They are now in desperate need of expert restoration before the cultural gem on our doorstep is lost to us for ever.

For booking a viewing contact:

Brian Smith on 01869 810 540

or Terry Richards on 01869 811 251

Welcome to Croughton Womens Institute.

The Croughton WI are again holding their meetings at the Village Hall, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

We have a guest speaker each month covering various subjects, but it is also a chance to meet new people and friends (especially in these unprecedented times).

We are a very friendly group and would be delighted to welcome any ladies who would like to join us.

If you wish to know more, please contact Pam on 01869 226266 / email: pamela.robbs37@gmail.com. or Diane on 07548254406 / email: diane3222@hotmail.co.uk

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 14th February 2022

Finance: It was resolved to apply an 5% inflationary rise to the cemetery fees

Planning Application: No objections were submitted for the applications for 9 Deer View Portway Drive, 39 Park End or 23 Wheeler's Rise.

Allotments: Investigations into the stability of the allotment wall are expected late February. The plan to turn plot 2 into a herb garden was approved including a tree planting to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: The council discussed possible options for celebrating the jubilee on the 5th of June and would be glad to hear from any community groups with plans or ideas.

Please email clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Emergency Response Plan: The Council is reviewing the plan, a few items remain outstanding. The emergency response kit is now completed and up to date.

Asset Mapping: The working group reported on the progress of mapping the assets already identified and hoped to record them on Parish Online. The deadline for completion is the end of March.

Litter bin: The possibility of placing a litter bin in the informal layby at the Blenheim end of the village was discussed and is being investigated with West Northants Council.

Parish Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 am until 3 pm and Thursdays 2pm until 4 pm

Grass cutting: Mr Dempsey has been contracted.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14th March 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

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. Please 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.

Jigsaw swap

With the colder weather and darker days, why not do a jigsaw?!

Several Croughton residents have a good selection of jigsaws and are very happy to lend them to others in the village.

Contact Meryl on 819525 for more details.



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.



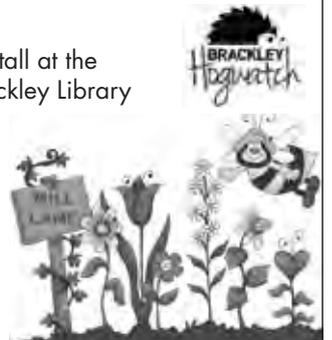
MERYL'S CHARITY PLANT STALL

My plant stall has now reopened with a PLANT CLEARANCE SALE! There are miniature roses, tall pink geraniums, mauve irises, lilac fleabane, tall purple Iris Sibirica, buddlejas, violets, wild comfrey, sorrel, sedums and raspberry canes – **All just for a donation!**

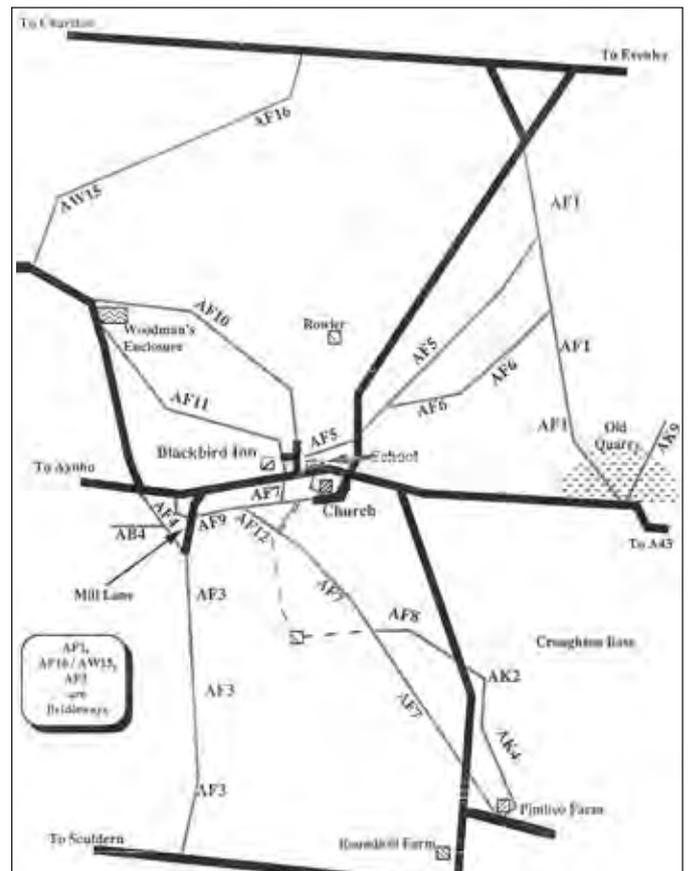
Hurry along to my stall in Mill Lane, pick up some bargains and help raise funds for Croughton Reading Room and Brackley Hogwatch.

The fundraising table at Croughton Tea Rooms is doing well so pop along and have a look, and don't forget to have some delicious lunch or cake while you're there!

We are having a fundraising stall at the Mother's Day Craft Fair at Brackley Library on Saturday 19th March from 10am to 1pm, selling lots of hedgehog themed items in aid of Brackley Hogwatch. Please come along & support this event. Thank you everyone for your continued support.



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



Village Hall

The hall is now back and filling up fast for those parties. Please email croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com if you wish to book.

Aynho Gardening Club

The Aynho Gardening Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at Aynho Village Hall. New members are always welcome!

On **Wednesday 9th March**, the talk will be given by Dan Winter, who is the present Head Gardener at Evenley Wood. His talk, starting at 7.30pm, is called '**Spring in Woodland**'.

Evenley Wood is a wonderful 60 acre privately owned woodland garden, containing a large and notable collection of plants ranging from unusual trees and shrubs to a wide selection of lilies and other bulbs. At present the woodland floor is covered in snowdrops and these, of course, will be followed by swathes of daffodils. It is a lovely place to go for a walk at any time of the year and easy to get to from Aynho or Croughton. In May an afternoon visit has been arranged for the Aynho Gardening Club Members when the azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias should be in their full glory.

Meryl, who kindly organised the '**Seed Swap**' last month, will be bringing the seeds again. Any donations go to the Gardening Club.

Thank you to those who have offered to do the teas and coffees. If you would like to bring a guest to a talk, please do, the cost is £3 for the evening.

Please contact Meryl - Tel. 819525 - for more information or any queries

Pastoral Letter March 2022: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Spring has sprung, with beautiful snowdrops, daffodils and crocus's heralding the beginning of brighter longer days to come. But as I write this (on Feb 19th) we have just had two severe storms, with high winds. Storm Dudley, and just two days later we had Storm "Eunice" and parts of the UK were severely affected.

Life can be unpredictable sometimes; when storms of circumstances keep coming at us, threatening our peace and wellbeing, or the peace and wellbeing of our loved ones. These can be storms of sickness, storms of redundancy or financial hardship, storms of personal pain due to conflict within our families or workplace or schools, or a storm of pain that we feel for our children and loved ones, when they are beset by the troubles of life. Sometimes it feels as though the storms just keep coming, with ever increasing strength, and they threaten to overwhelm us; this can be both frightening and wearying.

I often hear folk say that all they want in life is peace. Peace of heart and mind for themselves and their loved ones. But where is it to be found? Although not fashionable, routines and good habits are invaluable for helping us to stay on an "even keel" and to keep things in perspective, because some things in life do need to remain constant and permanent for a sense of wellbeing to be felt.

All Saints Church, Croughton

March Services in Astwick Vale Benefice

Sunday: 6th March, 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30am, Said Communion Farthinghoe
11.00am Holy Communion, Aynho
11.00am Morning Worship, Hinton

Sunday: 13th March 2nd Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday 20th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

10.30am Benefice Service, Holy Communion, Hinton
1.00pm Wedding, Aynho

Sunday 27th March 4th Sunday of Lent

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

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

Church and religion has come under a lot of flak in recent years, with some folk seeing them as part of an old institutional way of life that needs throwing overboard. And whilst there are certainly some things in Church and religion that do need to give way to new life, it is wrong to "throw the baby out with the bath water" so to speak.

Having faith in God, and practicing religious routines, such as praying daily and attending Church weekly, are solid foundations on which we can build our lives upon. People have been doing this for centuries. Because when everything around is in turmoil and the storms of life are battering us, and when we look for something or someone to cling to or escape to ... God is there, and so is The Church. Practicing holy habits such as praying daily and attending Church every week can be the very things that keep us standing strong and steady in the hard times. Because when we pray we bring God into our situations, and then we no longer feel alone in it all; and at Church we experience a warm welcome, and kindness from others, who understand that life is sometimes hard. But together with our friends and with God, we can face any storm, no matter how bad.

God bless you all, with love Revd Sue.

2Thessalonians 3:16 "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you".

Milton Keynes National Trust Association

You can join an association in Milton Keynes that arranges visits to National Trust properties, lectures, holidays, and social events.

For details, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/milton-keynes-association.



Public Health
Northamptonshire

Supporting Independence Programme

- Have you noticed any recent changes in your health, or needed to make changes to your life??
- Are you struggling to manage a health condition or your general wellbeing?
- Do you sometimes lack motivation, feel lonely or isolated?

The Supporting Independence Programme is a free countywide service provided by Public Health Northamptonshire.

It is tailored to prevent, support and manage the health and wellbeing needs of anyone eligible over the age of 18, who may be showing signs of reduced independence. With up to 12 weeks of one to one support, our team of dedicated Wellbeing Advisors are committed to providing you with the knowledge and resources needed to make your wellbeing a priority.

Using scientifically validated assessment tools, you will work with a trained Wellbeing Advisor to identify your needs, receive personalised support and improve areas of your health and wellbeing, helping you achieve a better quality of life.

Examples of support include:

- Advice, information and support on managing the long-term effects of COVID-19
- Identification, support and referrals as appropriate to support daily life including housing support and money advice
- Identification, intervention and support for low-level mental health and emotional difficulties
- Advice, information and support on lifestyle issues such as nutrition, smoking and alcohol use
- Identification of other issues such as blood pressure or use of multiple medicines and referral where appropriate including to memory clinics, continence services or community pharmacies

To self-refer or make a referral on someone else's behalf, please complete the short eligibility assessment, and a member of our administration team will contact you within two working days to arrange an initial appointment.

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/pages/supporting-independence.aspx>

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.



Brackley community radio is an online radio station.

To access the station just go to www.brackleyradio.uk

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



KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE

Aynho Road
Adderbury
Oxon OX17 3NL

Springing into action

Just like this time of year, we've got lots of exciting things coming up! From new partnerships and improvements, to a whole range of incredible events to raise money for our hospice. It's thanks to your ongoing support, we can continue to care for local people and families when they need us the most.

New lease of life for Banbury shop

We're excited to announce that we have signed a new 10-year lease and will be staying right where we are – at the heart of the Banbury community. But that's not all. We will also be giving our Banbury shop some TLC with a revamp that will make the most of all the fantastic donations we receive, as well as improve the shopping experience.

Recycle more with Paw Paw

As part of an exciting recycling initiative, Paw Paw will donate 5p to Katharine House for every plastic container that is returned in good condition when a customer orders their next meal. It's great news for our hospice and also helps cut down on plastic waste! The recycling scheme runs across all three of Paw Paw's Chinese takeaways in Banbury, Leamington and Warwick.

Growing our Open Gardens

We're always touched by the enthusiasm of our supporters to open their gardens for us – and we'd love to see our events grow. You can find out more about how to get involved and where this year's events will be taking place on our website. We already have six Open Garden events lined up! But keep checking back for others added throughout the year.

High and mighty

Are you looking for a BIG challenge this year? Then why not sign up for the world's highest static abseil? At a staggering 127 metres tall, the National Lift Tower in Northampton makes Big Ben look positively little! Our Extreme Abseil event is taking place on 2 April and we'd love YOU to be part of Team Katharine House and help us to raise money for our hospice.

A run for everyone

The Blenheim Fun Run is back and taking place on 15 May. Run, jog or walk in the spectacular grounds of the World Heritage site in Oxfordshire – and raise money for Katharine House at the same time. You can choose from the main 7km race, the 4-mile run suitable for buggies or wheelchairs, or the 1-mile route for under 15s. There's even an event for dogs so your four-legged friends don't miss out!

On your bike!

Are you ready for the ride of your life? The RideLondon-Essex 100 event is taking place on 29 May and we've managed to secure three places to ride in this highly sought-after event. If cycling 100 miles on traffic-free roads through the heart of London and neighbouring Essex sounds like the event for you, then sign up today.

Head to our website for more details, events and news: www.khh.org.uk.