



# CROUGHTON NEWS

November 2021



## Croughton Xmas Fayre

Come and get in the festive spirit as Croughton Xmas Fayre returns to the Village Hall in its traditional slot on the last Sunday in November. There will be all the usual activities to enjoy – shopping, food and raffle for the adults, plus Grotto, games and fun for the kids. Our Oxford Head Chef will be back with scrumptious food to keep you fuelled, plus spiced punch to keep you warm.

It's free entry and guaranteed to get you set for Christmas! All funds raised will go towards supporting the children at Croughton All Saints school and improving the outdoor areas.

### Doors open at 11am on Sunday

**28 November**, with the raffle drawn at 2.45pm. Raffle tickets available on the door or in advance from the school. First prize – £50 cash.

## MERYL'S CHARITY PLANT STALL

With my continuing back problems, it's time for me to reduce the number of plants on my stall to a manageable level. Luckily, I've found a fantastic local charity called "Helping You Live" to take many of the plants to support their fundraising. Their mission is to relieve and prevent poverty in Brackley and the surrounding villages.

I will continue to run my stall on a reduced level, mainly selling seasonal plants with a few surprises along the way so please continue to visit my stall in Mill Lane, Croughton as I will still be raising funds for Croughton Reading Room & Brackley Hogwatch. Thank you for your continued support.

I will have a fundraising stall in aid of Brackley Hogwatch at the Croughton Xmas Fayre on Sunday 28th November. There will be a few seasonal plants for sale, hedgehog items as well as Brackley Hogwatch Calendars and Christmas cards. I hope to see you there!



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

Lots of Croughton residents, including me, are enjoying the regular bus service to Banbury and Brackley and now a weekly Friday service to Bicester has been added.

There are also special trips out to local areas – see list below. Why have the hassle and expense of using your car when you can travel for FREE with Ability?!

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, the Tea Rooms or Co-op.

If you have a valid bus pass it's FREE to REGISTER and to USE when you use the village bus stops.

The service also offers a door-to-door service for a small annual fee.

Please consider registering to take advantage of this amazing service with really helpful drivers and a Covid safe environment. There is a real danger of losing this service if we do not support it.

I'm happy to help if you have any queries. Meryl Tel. 819525

## Ability Transport Trips Autumn/Winter 2021

Monday 8th November – Stratford Upon Avon (£12 fare)

Monday 15th November – Oxford City

Wednesday 24th November – Yarnton Garden Centre

Monday 29th November – Bletchley Park, Bucks (£10 fare)

Monday 6th December – Birmingham Xmas Markets (£20 fare)

Monday 13th December – Bicester Village/Garden Centre

## 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.



## 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 11th October 2021

**Planning.** The new planning application for RAF Croughton's new main entrance was discussed and it was noted that the suggestions put forward to the applicants prior to it being submitted have been incorporated in the application.

**Cemetery.** The works needed at the cemetery were discussed. Further discussion is needed to prioritise and plan the tasks. We are seeking volunteers to assist with where possible.

**Traffic Calming.** Various options for traffic calming measured were discussed including local resident's suggestions. Possible options included a zebra crossing, traffic lights at the school, and ANPR zone through the village. The Parish council decided to properly investigate ANPR through the village, its cost and technical requirements at either 20/30mph and to contact Helen Howard at WNC and seek support from our Member of Parliament.

**Dog Waste Bins.** The replacement of the dog waste bin besides the Co-Op was approved, subject to the final cost being in the order of 250 pounds.

**Parish Engagement.** The parish council discussed the possibility of carrying out a parish survey to discover the priorities of Croughton electorate. Aynho Parish have generated a "Village report" and the parish council will consult with them on the subject to understand the benefits and advantages which they found to come out of their survey.

**Neighbourhood Watch.** Cllr Morris wishes to stand down from the Neighbourhood Watch liaison and expressions of interest in the role are requested.

## Parish Council Meeting held on 25th October 2021

**Planning.** The planning application for 23 Wheelers Rise was discussed and the council responded with no objections.

**Dog Waste Bins.** The final cost of the dog waste bin was 236.01 pounds plus VAT, and was approved. The replacement order has been sent.

**Date of the next Parish Council Meeting: 7:30 pm on Monday the 8th November 2021** 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.

## Village Hall

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



## The CWAGLAS - the best of Lockdown wine tastings"



### (Wine tasting with the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group)

Get your red carpet outfits ready as the votes are in for the best wines the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group tasted in lockdown! Come and join us on **Friday 3rd December at 7.45 pm** for a sparkling red carpet reception in the Village Hall for our Christmas Wine Tasting event. Wine tasting begins at 8pm.

Our Christmas wine tasting is always a wonderful event with lots of Christmas nibbles and a wine related raffle!

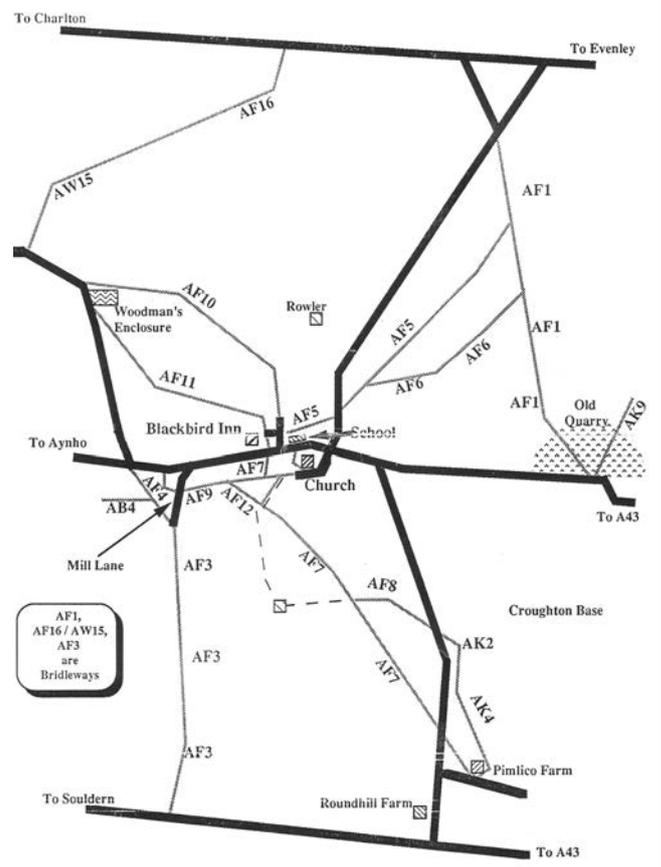
Members pay £15 and non-members pay £20. Please let us know in advance that you're coming so we can ensure we have sufficient delicious Christmas nibbles and wine.

Email: [croughtonwag@gmail.com](mailto:croughtonwag@gmail.com)

## 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.

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



## 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.

## 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.

## Jigsaw swap

If you enjoy doing jigsaws, why not join in with the village jigsaw swap? Several residents have a good selection of jigsaws & are happy to swap with others in the village. Contact me for more details! Meryl 819525

## All Saints Church, Croughton

### November Services in Astwick Vale Benefice

#### 7th November

9.30am H.C. Farthinghoe  
11.00am H.C. Aynho  
11.00 am. Morning Worship, Hinton

#### 14th November, Remembrance Services

10.15am Aynho  
10.45am Croughton (H.C. will be held in the Church after the Remembrance Service)  
10.45am Hinton  
10.50am Evenley, On the Green  
6.00pm Farthinghoe

#### 21st November

10.30am Benefice Service with H.C. Evenley  
Bless the Traveling Cribs  
3.00pm Deanery Confirmation Brackley, St Peters

#### 28th November

9.30am Morning Worship, Croughton  
9.30am Morning Service, Evenley  
Toy Service  
11.00am H.C. Aynho  
11.00am H.C. Hinton  
6.00pm Evening Prayers Farthinghoe

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

## Pastoral Letter November 2021: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, It's hard to believe that we are coming towards the end of this year, and during November we will be remembering, as a nation, the brave men and women who have died in War and conflicts in service to Queen and country. Remembrance Sunday is our opportunity to honour them and recall the sacrifices they have made for our freedoms. It is also an opportunity for us to remember all ex Service men and Women, especially those who are living today with traumatic memories and physical disabilities, and whose lives have been blighted by war and conflict. We are holding Remembrance services in all of our villages within the benefice, to which I warmly invite you.

During our Benefice service on November 21st at Evenley Church, we shall be blessing our Cribs. These will go into schools or homes for a few weeks, to then be brought back into our Churches for our Christmas Eve and Christmas day services. Last year Christmas was a much scaled back affair in our homes and Churches as we were going into another national lockdown; let's hope for a much more enjoyable celebration of the Festive season this year.

As I said, it's hard to believe that we are coming towards the end of 2021, and it's been another challenging year for us all. We are told that we must now learn to live with the Covid virus, just as we do with other viruses such as flu, and this is proving more challenging than expected. It is now a minefield of small daily decisions that we need to make for ourselves, and others, for safety and protection from Covid, and all the while trying to balance this with our very human

need to gather, and to be with people for our joy and pleasure, not to mention for our mental wellbeing too!

There is a wonderful poem called "Footprints in the sand" which perfectly sums up the way God is with us in all of life's events and circumstances, and it reveals how although we don't always think that God is even aware of our problems and predicaments, on the contrary, he is holding us up through them all:

#### *Footprints in the sand*

One night I dreamed a dream. As I was walking along the beach with my Lord, across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord. After the last scene of my life flashed before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only one set of footprints. I said to my Lord, "I don't understand why, when I needed you most, you would leave me." He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." (Margaret Fishback Powers, (1964)

This poem has blessed me countless times over the years as it expresses the way that we all feel at times and helps us to understand the truth of where God is in it all, and that we are never left alone, especially in hard times. And isn't that reassuring to know! God bless you all, with love Rev Sue

## 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)



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road  
Adderbury  
Oxon OX17 3NL

## What's coming up later this autumn and into winter?

As we head into winter, we've got some fantastic events lined up to see us into the festive season with a smile. Your support helps us to keep making every moment matter for local families living with a life-limiting illness. Here are just a few things that are coming up...

### Are you a wrap star?

If you're nifty with ribbons and a dab hand at wrapping, then we need your help! We're looking for volunteers to help with our gift wrapping on 3 and 4 December at Banbury Castle Quay. These sessions help us to raise much needed funds for the hospice, so if you could donate some time to help then email [getinvolved@khh.org.uk](mailto:getinvolved@khh.org.uk) or visit [www.khh.org.uk/collectiondays](http://www.khh.org.uk/collectiondays) to find out more.

### Care for a Curry

This autumn, why not host a #CareForACurry event and help raise money for Katharine House? Simply pick a date, get some friends and family together and enjoy! It's a simple and tasty way to raise money for Katharine House.

### What's on the cards this Christmas?

We have a fantastic range of Katharine House charity Christmas cards this year. As well as some great traditional designs, we have cards ranging from snow-covered local scenes to a rather glitzy partridge in a pear tree! So why not stock up on your Christmas cards now and get ahead of the game. Cards are available to buy in our shops as well as online.

### Santa Fun Run – 5 December

Forget mistletoe and wine, if you truly want to feel festive this Christmas then make sure to sign up to our Santa Fun Run. The race is taking place on Sunday 5 December at Spiceball Park, Banbury, and you have a choice of the 1.5km route or the full 5km – kitted out in stylish Santa suit, of course. Tickets are available to buy online now!

### Schools Santa Run

Why should schools miss out on all the festive fun? We're bringing back the Schools Santa Run – and this year we plan to make it even bigger and better. We'd love to see as many local schools as possible helping to put the 'fun' in fundraising, so if you know of a nursery, primary or secondary school who might like to take part, then let them know.

### RC Baker Christmas Tractor Run – 18 December

The RC Baker Tractor Run is making a welcome return, bringing all the glitz and glam of Christmas. On Saturday 18 December, a fleet of fairy-lit tractors will be taking a tour around local villages to spread some Christmas cheer and raise money for Katharine House Hospice.

### 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).**

## Oxfordshire Craft Guild

We are delighted that after a long drought of being unable to exhibit The Oxfordshire Craft Guild will once again be staging its centre-piece six week long exhibition at The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock running **from 20 November until 30 December 2021**.

With over 30 crafts people showing their work, visitors can be assured of finding a range of quality handcrafted items to enjoy, and those looking to find unique gifts for Christmas will find a wealth of beautiful objects from which to choose from.

The Craft Guild seeks to promote quality of making and design in a wide range of crafts. All of their members have had to go through a fairly rigorous selection process.

So visitors to these exhibitions can be assured of finding a range of quality handcrafted items to enjoy, and those looking to find unique gifts for Christmas will find a wealth of beautiful objects from which to choose from.

Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock

20 November -30 December

Tues – Sat 10.00 am-4.45 pm

Sundays 2.00 pm-4.45 pm

Closed Mondays



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.**