



CROUGHTON NEWS

September 2021

ABILITY - A Community Bus Service for residents of Croughton

Happy FIRST BIRTHDAY to our wonderful mini-bus service! It's been a great first year and the team at Ability have worked tirelessly to provide us with a safe and invaluable bus service in very challenging circumstances.

Lots of Croughton residents are now enjoying the regular bus to Banbury and Brackley as well as the special trips out to local shopping areas and garden centres too, so please consider registering to take advantage of this amazing service.

There is a twice weekly bus to Banbury on Tuesday & Thursday, and a bus to Brackley on a Friday to visit the market & various shops, as well as planned trips out – Bourton On The Water is coming up soon!

The mini-bus service is FREE if you have a bus pass and use the village bus stops or for just £3 a month a door-to-door service is available with all shopping carried to your front door.

It's very easy to register for the service, either online - <https://abilitycic.org.uk/register/> pick up a form at the Blackbird, the Tea Rooms or Co-op or get in touch with me and I'll deliver a form to you to complete and put in the post.

Meryl, Tel 819525

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

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.

Croughton Village Flower and Vegetable Show

Our annual village vegetable and flower show was held on 28th August and a great day was had by all. The weather was kind to us and a constant flow of visitors came to view the lovely array of exhibits, from vegetables, flowers, home baking to flower arrangements and childrens' classes. The refreshments, tombola and raffle all proved very popular.

The final amount raised along with the list of winners will be published in the next Newsletter, but until then thank you to all the exhibitors, organisers and helpers, judges, the Church for serving the teas, the kite flyers in the field and of course to everyone who came along to make it a special day.

A special thank you to Waitrose Brackley, The Blackbird, Croughton Co-op and others who kindly donated prizes.

Croughton Parish Council vacancy for a Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

Working 10 hours per week initially (£12.98 - £14.42 p/h, pay award pending). Closing date 24th September 2021. Please apply with CV and covering letter to Vee Griffiths, Chairman:
chairman@croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

“Thirsting for Great Wine” (Wine tasting with the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group)



At last! Join us on **Friday 10th September at 8pm** in the Village Hall for our next Wine Tasting event, our first event back in the Village Hall since March 2020! James Butler from Brackley Wines will be joining us with his recommendations.

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

Dates for your diary: We are hopeful that our October and December events will be face to face in the Village Hall:

15th October: One heel of an (Italian) wine tasting

3rd December: The best of lockdown wines Awards

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 9th August 2021

Co-Options to the Parish Council: The Parish Council co-opted 2 new Members and is now at full strength with all 9 seats filled. Cllrs Steven Caldwell and Stephen Lyons, who signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office after the Meeting had closed, will take their seats at the next Meeting of the Parish Council on 13th September 2021. The Chairman thanked them both for their interest in serving on the Parish Council and looked forward to welcoming them on board.

Traffic Calming: Data downloaded from the solar powered VAS in the High Street for the period 9th July to 1st August, continues to show that 97% of all vehicles had been travelling above 20mph. Whether activation of the sign causes drivers to travel on at a slower speed is not known but hopefully there will be some positive effect.

The Parish Council wishes to clarify that all traffic calming options within the 20 mph zone, including that of a 3-way traffic light system at the junction of High Street and Wheelers Rise, are still up for discussion and will be considered at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Footway Lighting: Lamp 47 outside 31 Park End, which was first reported as faulty in November 2020 has become corroded due to water ingress and the Parish Council has been advised that it is no longer repairable. The old orange SOX lantern will be replaced with an LED light and affixed to a new bracket, at a cost of £290 + vat.

The Parish Council is reviewing its lighting schedule and has received advice from the Lighting Contractor on options, including the cost of changing individual lights from being on from dusk to dawn, to being on from dusk to midnight and on again at 5a.m. if light levels are low. Details on how to proceed and how to consult with the community are yet to be worked out and this will be an item on the agenda of the

next Parish Council meeting. 'Giving a Voice' to members of the community on efforts to improve services is one of the objectives of the Parish Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2020 -2022 that was approved on 9th August 2021.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: 7.30 p.m. on Monday 13th September 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

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.

Conclusion of Audit 2020/2021

The Audit of Accounts for Croughton Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2021 has been completed. There were no matters that came to the attention of the External Auditor who has certified that the Annual Return was completed in accordance with Proper Practices. Information is published on the Parish Council's website. Visit www.croughtonparishcouncil.org.uk/finance

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

“One heel of an (Italian) wine tasting ”

(Wine tasting with the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group)



Join us on Friday 15th October at 8pm in the Village Hall for our next wine tasting event. Autumn may be around the corner but we will be enjoying a taste of Italian sunshine at our October event. We will be sampling a range of wines from the South of Italy - specifically focusing on Italy's second biggest wine region - Puglia.

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: croughtonwag@gmail.com

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. Many thanks.

MERYL'S CHARITY PLANT STALL

Last year I'd planned to cut back on my plant stall but with the pandemic I kept it running with the help of my lovely hubby and some good friends. Now that life is starting to return to normal, I need to reduce the number of plants to make it more manageable, so all plants on the stall are now HALF MARKED PRICE! There are lavenders, crocosmia, buddlejas, hebes, irises, tall pink perennial geraniums, black mondo grass, violets, wild strawberry plants, a variety of herbs and lots, lots more. Hurry along to Mill Lane to bag some fabulous plants at very reasonable prices! As always, all proceeds are shared between Croughton Reading Room & Brackley Hogwatch.

On Sunday 26th September I will have a stall with Plants & Hedgehog themed gift items in aid of Brackley Hogwatch at the Farthinghoe Village Show, please see the details on back page



All Saints Church, Croughton

September Services in Astwick Vale Benefice

Sunday 5th September

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

Sunday 12th September

9.30am Holy Communion, Harvest Festival Croughton
10.00am Morning Worship, Aynho
10.00am Morning Worship, Farthinghoe
11.00am Holy Communion, Harvest Festival, Evenley
6.00pm Evening Prayer, Steane

Sunday 19th September

10.30am Baptism, Benefice Service with Holy Communion, Aynho

Sunday: 26th September

9.30am Morning Worship, Croughton
9.30am Morning Worship, Evenley
11.00am Harvest Festival, Aynho
11.00am Holy Communion, Hinton
6.00pm Harvest Festival, 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.

The Village Hall

We are always on the lookout for new members to join our committee having a say in the running of our lovely village hall. If you feel you could help with this or would like to support the hall in any way, please get in touch.

croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com Sally Ward 01869 810447

Thanks. Village Hall Committee

Pastoral Letter September 2021: Revd Sue Cooper writes

Dear Friends, I hope you have had an enjoyable August especially if you have been away on holiday. As we head into September thoughts of autumn and Harvest festivals fill our minds. Harvest Festival is still one of the major Christian festivals of the year in our Churches, and there is something very nostalgic about it. It reminds us of happy times when all kinds of produce were brought into Churches and schools; and Harvest continues to allow us an opportunity to give thanks to God for the food we eat, and for the cycle of seasons that produce it, along with farmers, factory workers, lorry drivers and shops who supply it.

In our Churches folk will donate an array of produce, which will either go to the foodbank to help families, or be auctioned off and the money given to Charity. In the past we saw a lot of fruits and vegetables at our Harvest festivals, but we are just as likely to see packets of pasta, tins of tomatoes and boxes of cereals now. Harvest festival allows us to reflect on, and be grateful for, all the food we have in the UK; we are very blessed.

In recent years in the Church of England September has been designated as "Creationtide Season", where we focus on issues such as living with a focus on sustainability, and tackling climate change, and in recent months all of this is fast becoming an urgent imperative for the whole of society, rather than just a personal life style choice.

Our planet is a beautiful gift from God, who created it just right for us to live on, but sadly in our generation we are

seeing so much loss on the planet because of humankind's unsustainable appetite for consumption. I have found myself longing to live in simpler ways and reminiscing back to a time when the milk float used to come round every morning. It was an electric vehicle and the milk was in glass bottles which, when empty, were collected and washed and reused. In those days ham and cheese were bought at a shop counter, cut to your required needs, and wrapped in paper. We used to live in a sustainable way! Where did it go wrong?

There certainly is a growing movement for simpler living and it seems that we will all be driving electric vehicles in a few years' time. But now it is not just about wistfully looking back to when things were simpler and more sustainable, now it is about consciously looking forward to preserve our planet for future generations.

In our Creation story in the Bible, God gave humans the responsibility of looking after the earth and the animals, the wildlife, the vegetation and everything he had created. It is a big responsibility, and we cannot take any of this for granted anymore, it is all a gift, and it is in our power to cherish it, or to just use it up and wear it out; it is in our power to preserve it for our children and grandchildren, or to leave them with problems that may be irreversible.

Harvest has always been a great time to thank God for all of his gifts in creation. This year however we can do more than give thanks, we can choose also to change certain aspects of the way we live, in an effort to ensure a lasting future for those we love, and for those coming after them.

God bless you all. With love Rev Sue.

Farthinghoe Village Show

Sunday 26th September, 12pm onwards

Plenty of 'free' parking spaces in the fields opposite.

Programmes can be purchased on the day, or in advance from The Fox for £1 per person. Entry on the day, £1.50 per adult, children 12 and under free.

To include a quiz with a £50 cash prize – entries to be handed in at the gate by 3pm.

Craft stalls • BBQ • Bar • Cream Teas • Ice Creams • Morris Dancers • Stocks • Aunt Sally • Table Tennis Play-off • Guess The Teddy's Name • Tug of War (3 categories, men, women and children) • Local School Children with Songs from the Musicals

Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning, September 2021

Thursday 16th 10am - 12 noon

Friday 17th 2pm - 4pm

Saturday 18th 10am - 12 noon

Coffee, cake and chat! • Donation please for coffee etc
• Chocolate / Bottle Tombola

Charity Christmas Cards on sale donating to Macmillan, The Alzheimer's Society and Together for Short Lives

Elizabeth Wilson, The Orchard House, 6 Church Lane, Croughton. hello@elizabethscards.com

Milton Keynes National Trust Association

Our aim is to support the work of the National Trust. We number nearly two hundred members, locally and throughout North Bucks and beyond.

Meetings will no longer take place at Bradwell Abbey, mainly because an increasing number of our members have expressed concerns about travelling at night and the Cruck Barn is used by schools during the day and is therefore not available to hire any earlier.

Our new venue is the Oak Tree Centre, Wallinger Drive, Shenley Brook End, Milton Keynes MK5 7GZ, which has regularly been used by the local U3A among others. The session which is available to us is the first Thursday of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, and we have therefore provisionally booked 7 October, 4 November and 2 December for our afternoon meetings. The October one will be the postponed talk by David Squibb on Malta. Details of further lectures will be publicised as soon as possible. The fee will be 2 pounds per meeting.

For more information and contacts see:

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/milton-keynes-association

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.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road
Adderbury
Oxon OX17 3NL

What's coming up later this summer and into the autumn

This year there are more ways than ever to get involved and help make every moment matter for local families living with a life-limiting illness. Below is news of just some of what's coming up in the next few months.

Firewalk – 17 September

Test your courage and take part in one of the shortest sponsored walks in the world! By signing up to take part in the Katharine House firewalk, you'll be walking over embers burning at a temperature that could melt aluminium – without any injury or pain. Pam Hamblin, who took part in our previous firewalk, said: 'I had taken part in quite a few charity walks and thought the firewalk a bit different and it would be a real challenge for me. Some colleagues joined in and we made a great evening of it, raising funds for KHH at the same time – definitely a win-win!'

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Please sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with what's happening at Katharine House Hospice, including news of our fundraising events and developments at the hospice.

Find out more – Just head to our website to find out more about all these events and news: www.khh.org.uk.

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

