

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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101

Doctors

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01280 702436 ·

Springfield Surgery

01280 703431

Hospitals

The Horton

01295 275500

Vets

Croft

01280 703451

Mansion Hill

01295 712110

Taylor Vets

01280474796

The Fox Inn

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WNC Planning Department

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Lynne Lee

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EDITOR'S WELCOME.

**Christmas Eve and twelve of the clock.
"Now are they all on their knees"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.
'The Oxen' Thomas Hardy 1915.**

Winter has arrived and Christmas beckons. Along with my family, I love Christmas. During the darkness of December days Christmas provides a joyful beacon - a time when family and friends come together to celebrate the season and to commemorate the Nativity Story.

Christmas is a wonderful time for children - with their excitement building throughout the days of Advent, as they await the visit of Father Christmas. As a child of the 1950s (that's blown it !) I recall opening my stocking in my parents' bed. There was always a clementine, a few walnuts and some penny chocolate bars in the foot. Plus a few little gifts like a yoyo, or a puzzle. Then came the pillow case. Gifts from Aunts and Uncles and Grandparents, and always a Cadbury's Selection box. I have a vivid memory of a particular Christmas Eve when I was about nine years old; standing in the front window of our old house, watching snowflakes gently drifting through the beams from the lamp post outside, whilst the Salvation Army band played carols on the street corner. It was magical.

In France our Christmases were of course different to the English ones, but nonetheless memorable and enjoyable. In France nothing 'Christmassy' will be in evidence before December 1st. On that date every town and village will be festooned with fairy lights, there will be cribs outside all of the churches, and all will remain in place until January 6th - Kings Night.

French families have their main celebratory meal on Christmas Eve. It usually consists of Duck or Goose. All Cafes and Restaurants are closed but the Butchers stay open for the collection of the Poultry and the Bakeries never close. Napoleonic Law states that the French must have bread available on every day of the year. We were lucky to be invited to a few French family Christmas Eve meals during our time there. They were marvellous occasions, delicious food, and lots of singing and laughter between the courses, which were plentiful. Though I must admit they did find our insistence on pulling the crackers that we had brought along, and wearing silly paper hats a little incongruous. "Quoi ? " (what?) " Vous faites comme ca chaque Noel ?" (you do this every Christmas?) " Well yes we do". Puzzled looks and more laughter. "Oh les Anglais sont dingues" (The English are potty!)"

Stay healthy and warm and have a Very Happy Christmas.

Lynne.

**As Tiny Tim observed, " God Bless Us Every One".
A Christmas Carol.
Charles Dickens 1843.**



Farthinghoe Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor to represent the ward of Steane

Expressions of interest are welcomed from anyone who is over 18 years old and has an interest in the community.

As a councillor representing your community you will help keep it a great place to live and work. You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook, a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team.

If you are interested in joining the council, please contact either of the following for more information :

Clerk on 07920 888250 / email clerk6102@outlook.com

or

Councillor Mick Morris email chairman@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org

The Parish Council currently meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7pm. If you care about your community and would like to help to make a real difference, then why not...

Become a Parish Councillor!

The council is holding a meeting on 8 January 2025 at 7pm. You will be invited to come along and say briefly why you wish to join the council. There will then be a vote of the existing Councillors.



To Farthinghoe Residents

In last month's Chronicle you will have seen details of our mail sent to the Chief Executive of WNC. Seven weeks have passed and no reply has been received - more to follow soon on this subject.

In the meantime many of you will have been aware of a current Planning Application number WNS/2021/0492/EIA for 700 New Houses on Land West of Brackley (adjacent to A422)

Please see the Farthinghoe Parish Council objection which has recently been logged onto the WNC Planning Portal concerning this Planning Application

"Dear

Thank you for the information which you have provided. You will doubtless have seen the Farthinghoe Parish Council response dated 22 February 2021 to the developer's Public Consultation. This document was also submitted as our PC Objection to the WNC Planning Portal on 14 July 2021.

Since our portal submission was made in 2021 there has been a fundamental change to WNC Highways attitude and plans for solutions to Farthinghoe's well publicised traffic problems. A fundamental change to the considerable detriment to our village and its residents along with the current users of the A422. A change based on suspect theories rather than what occurs in reality. If you study the WNC Draft Local Transport Plan issued in July 2024 you will note that the oft promised (for a period of 35+years now) Farthinghoe Bypass has now been deleted.

Now read our attached letter dated 22 February 2021 with the hindsight of the detail in the above mentioned Draft Local Transport Plan and you will understand how the whole of our village feels about any future increases in the traffic using the A422, not only our village but also consider the 12,000 drivers per day who currently use the A422.

You may also be aware of the fact that National Highways has also designated the A422 from M40 J11 to the A43 in Brackley as part of the official A43/A422 Motorway Diversion route in the event of M40 closures. The National Highways responses to this Planning Application are numerous and confusing and we can find little reference to the A422 being used as a diversion from this Strategic Highway and even less relating to how the A422, with its currently untenable traffic flows, can cope with both the additional traffic from a Motorway Diversion and the additional traffic which would be created by this 700 home residential development or any other development.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO REQUEST NATIONAL HIGHWAYS TO PROVIDE SOME CLEAR INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THIS ISSUE?

Moving on to the data provided by the developer. The traffic data provided is 2.5 years old and traffic volumes during this 2.5 years have visibly increased substantially towards, if not surpassing, the levels prior to lockdown. A combination of the effects of WFH declining and the effects of additional housing in both Brackley and Banbury coming on stream.

Warehousing in Banbury and Brackley has increased and three large warehouses at Frontier Park at J11, unoccupied for 3 years, are about to open, along with another large logistics complex at J11 now at the Planning Appeal Stage.

The data supplied by the developer seems to cover only one specific day (from 7am to 7pm) and we have no idea whether this is a random choice or indeed a carefully selected choice, but it most certainly does not smooth out the effects of any freak highs and lows. Our interest in Farthinghoe is for up-to-date statistics 5-day Monday to Friday (24 hour) average figures based upon a much longer period and not including School Holiday periods.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS PROVIDED.

In the email received from the developer the following is mentioned:

“Please note that in the future year of 2031, this junction is improved to include a fourth arm that becomes the southern access to the site”

I assume that this data includes the predicted data for the A422, both NORTH and SOUTH. What are the origins of this data and can we be provided with a copy?

During the past 10 years there has been considerable development in both Brackley and Banbury, both domestic housing and industrial, particularly Logistics development. Our claims to be considered for 106 monies from these developments have always been refuted because we are not affected, too far away or even over a county border. Despite these claims, in reality, we have been affected in one way or another by all of them. At the height of the housing construction in Brackley North the A422 was saturated by 30 tonne tipper trucks, 5 days per week and for months. This particular proposed development is only 2.8 miles, not “too far” and we will be affected should it be built

IN THE EVENT THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT IS APPROVED 106 MONIES FOR FARTHINGHOE MUST SURELY BE CONSIDERED TO FINANCE MEANINGFUL A422 IMPROVEMENTS

PS: The Tarmac Company has had an established Railhead in Banbury for the supply of Aggregates and other building materials to a wide area to the east of Banbury and a very large proportion of the 30 tonne tippers (along with Readymix trucks) which leave that railhead use the A422 through Farthinghoe to deliver to construction sites in this wide area. The A422 is saturated with these 30 tonne tippers. Would it be possible to receive some data on this subject?

PPS: Unfortunately we are not able to include information about a weight limit study for Farthinghoe in the above piece about the Draft WNC Local Transport Plan but we have been waiting months to receive this long overdue report despite numerous reminders being sent to both the Assistant Director for Highways and the CEO of WNC. Seven weeks ago a reminder was sent to the CEO of WNC and to date there has been no reply from her.

Regards

Mick Morris

Farthinghoe Parish Council

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Friday, December 6th from 10 – 11am in the Church Vestry.
It is hoped the children from the School will sing for us!

There will be a Raffle. Hope to see you there!

CHURCH CLEANING

Tuesday, December 10th from 8.30am. Many hands make light work!

DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Would you like to help decorate the Church this Christmas? Your help would be much appreciated!

ALLOTMENTS 2024

Several vacant plots are available, including one where chickens are allowed to be kept, and new plot holders will be very welcome. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ruth or Henry. Contact details can be found on the inside cover of the Farthinghoe Chronicle.

Rentals are £12 per plot, which is extremely good value for something which provides year-round physical and mental well-being, and can be collected in person by the trustees, Henry Bankes-Jones and Ruth Brittain, or if plot holders prefer to pay online, the bank details are as follows:

Account name: FARTHINGHOE RECTOR CHURCHWARDENS TST CHURCH PIECE
Sort code: 40-09-02
Account Number: 41727885
Reference: Plot holder's name

VILLAGE HALL

VILLAGE SHOW

It was decided at our November Committee meeting that 50% of the profits from the show would be donated to Guide Dogs for the Blind and this has now been done. In the village we are all aware of the wonderful benefits of this charity, when we see Steve with his dog.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS & BAKES - FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER - 3.00 - 4.30

At this busy time of the year it is important to take some time out from Christmas preparations and shopping, so we look forward to welcoming all our regulars, hopefully along with some new faces, for tea/coffee and cake and some catch-up chatter.

PANTO - SATURDAY 21st DECEMBER

TPB Productions from Middleton Cheney are performing **Jack and the Beanstalk** at the Village Hall on the above date. Tickets are £5 each available in advance from

bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org or phone 07900 590808.

HALL IMPROVEMENTS

We are at last in a position to move forward with the installation of solar panels on the roof and are looking at having this work carried out early in the New Year. To free up space in the storage area which will be needed for batteries and equipment, we are also proposing to purchase a shipping container to go outside the emergency door, which means we will have to take down the two sheds currently sited there.

So, if anybody wants to work off the excess food they have consumed over Christmas we would welcome all the help we can get to do this. Your reward is FREE firewood.

REGULAR SESSIONS :

Art -	Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00 & Friday 10.45am - 1.15pm
Ballet -	Monday 5.00pm - 7.00pm & Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm
Martial Arts -	Sunday 11.30am - 1.30pm
Pilates -	Tuesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm & Friday 9.30am - 10.30am
U3A -	Spanish 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm Spanish for beginners 1st & 3rd Fridays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Yoga -	Sunday 10.00am - 11.00am

150 CLUB DECEMBER WINNERS

To be confirmed



**Saturday
21st
DECEMBER**

**Farthinghoe Village Hall
Jack & The Beanstalk**

Doors open 6.30pm - Start 7pm

Tickets - £5 - under 2's Free

To book tickets: bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org

Call - 07900 590808

**Saturday
21st
DECEMBER**

Rector's Ramblings

December is a time for stories. There is one great Christmas story, and we will hear and see it again this year. But first, let me tell you another: Picture a town on the Mediterranean many centuries ago. Behind it mountains tower up before dropping almost vertically to the sea. The settlement clusters around the small deepwater port that provides its purpose and livelihood. The place is Myra in the early 4th century. A vital port on the long and inhospitable coast that offered a rare and valuable safe harbour between the provinces of Africa and the Roman Empire's capital. Myra is like a service station, useful, a welcome sight, but rarely loved.

I want you to picture the town at night. Look in closer, zooming in over the tile roofs, the maze of streets, boats riding the gentle tide at rest in the harbour, watchmen making their patrols as the last few stagger home from the Inns and Taverns, until you come to a single small dwelling in the tangle of whitewashed houses. It could be described as simple. There is not much inside in the way of furniture, but the few pieces that are there are good quality, but worn. In a single bed three young girls are sleeping. Their father, a little aged by worry, sits by the glowing embers of the dying fire. Once prosperous, he now barely has enough to get by. Things are only getting worse, and his daughters are approaching the age of marriage. Without anything to offer as a dowery for one daughter, let alone three, the prospects look bleak. If debts are called in everything he has could be taken, he and his children bonded into slavery. Without the prospect of marriage for his daughters, the only option might be to sell the only thing they have, themselves. In any case, the 4th century did not deal kindly with poor unmarried unprotected young women. Their plight is known, but all their neighbours and remaining friends have offered is sympathy and pity.

As the father begins to doze, a shadow moves in the street outside, and a hooded figure creeps stealthily towards the house. A hand emerges from the recesses of its robe, and there is a clink and the faint glint of something metal concealed. Reaching up to the window the figure pushes something through, and it lands with a sudden thud on the floor inside. The father wakes with a start, waking his daughters in turn. Quickly and cautiously the father moves to investigate this parcel whilst his girls crowd round to see. Later, when the story is told and retold, people will say that the bag landed in one of the girl's shoes or snagged in a stocking hanging up to dry. In the mystery bag they find a wealth of coins, enough to provide a very handsome dowery, to bargain for a comfortable future. There is no sign of where it came from, nor any clue when they look outside. Charity at this time was rare, anonymous charity unheard of. The miracle, as they saw it, was repeated the next night, waking the house sleeping more soundly than they had in months, with another clinking thud. The night after they waited up to see what would happen. It was a long vigil, with false starts at every sound in the street, but a little past midnight there came the now familiar thud of the third gift. They rushed outside in time to glimpse a recognisable figure running away down the street. The anonymous donor was Nicholas, the young leader of the persecuted Christian community in the town. Born when Christianity was illegal, he was elected leader as a young man. On becoming a priest he sold his possessions, and distributed the proceeds anonymously to those in need in the town. Now remembered as St. Nicholas (or Santa Claus in Holland) there are many miracles credited to him, as well as his work to reprieve prisoners condemned to death, distribute food in times of famine, and set out the Creed at the first Christian Council. However, it is a simple act of charity, not miraculous, but Divinely inspired, that has been best remembered. Even through the centuries, we can still understand what it is to be in need and to be offered help.

If you would like to know more about the great story that shaped Nicholas' life, and the lives and acts of millions before and since, you are invited to join us this December at St. Michael's. It's an invitation that does not wear out. Until then, God bless you, have a happy Advent and a Merry Christmas.

George Frost

LOCAL EVENTS TO ENJOY IN DECEMBER

Saturday 23rd November - 24th December - Lost Magic of Christmas

Evenley Woods Garden - 9-30am until dusk

Tickets £19.95

Friday 28th November - Tuesday 24th December - A Christmas Quest :

Arthurian inspired visit to Canons Ashby House

Saturday 7th December - 'A Celebration of Christmas'

Performance by Brackley Jubilee Choir

Egerton Hall, Brackley - 7.30pm

Tickets £12.50 available in advance via a Choir member or at the door

Saturday 7th December - Festive Handbell Ringing

Canons Ashby Church - 11-30am - 12-15pm

Sunday 8th December - Christmas Tractor Run

Brackley from 6pm

Friday 13th December - A Knight Before Christmas

After hours tour of the Canons Ashby house and Christmas decorations from 6pm

Sunday 22nd December - Community Carol Service

On the Piazza outside Brackley Town Hall - 6pm

Thursday 26th December - Brackley Morris Men

Dancing outside the Town Hall - 12 noon



As we head towards the end of the year, we want to thank you for all your support. We couldn't continue to support our wonderful community without the help of people like you. Here's the latest news and events from Katharine House

Make a run for it

Get festive, have fun and support our community this Christmas by signing up for our Santa Fun Run on Sunday 1 December. Join hundreds of stylish Santas taking part in our 1.5km or 5km fun run at Spiceball Park, Banbury. We ho ho hope you can join us! Tickets are available to buy on our website now! www.khh.org.uk/santa

We need you!

Do you want to gain valuable skills and experiences while meeting new people and doing something amazing for your community. We're looking for more shop volunteers to join one of our 7 charity shops. You'll be part of a friendly team, helping raise vital funds that support our care for patients and families. If this could be you, visit www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-shops.

Lights of Love

We'd love for you to join us for our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 5 December at St Mary's Church, Banbury, where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Find out more www.khh.org.uk/lights.

Tractor Run returns

On Saturday 14 December, a festive 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. The super-popular Tractor Run sees will depart from Spring Hill Farm, Barford St Michael at around 5pm and travel through the local villages, chugging along into Banbury, as well as driving by Katharine House Hospice to wave hello! If you're in the area, it's a sight to behold! Find out more here www.khh.org.uk/tractor

Branching out

Our brilliant tree-cycle scheme is back, giving people the opportunity to get rid of their Christmas tree in a hassle-free, environmentally friendly way once all the festivities are over. You make a donation to Katharine House Hospice and, in return, we will send one of our elves to collect and recycle your tree. Head to our website to find out more and check if your postcode is included in the scheme. www.khh.org.uk/christmastree

Karen Walsh
Head of Marketing



**New Year's Eve Party
at The Fox**

Join us for a Villagers' family and
friends party to see in 2025 at your local

Music and buffet
Midnight toast
Fireworks
7.30 pm to 1.00am

Admission by ticket only
£20 Adults
£10 under 15's
For tickets contact
Andy 07769 880668
Barry 07881 917212
John 07957 862192

Don't miss out!

One week left to get your tickets for the New Years Eve party at The Fox. Please contact Barry, John or Andy to confirm how many tickets you would like to allow them to finalise the catering arrangements.

SCHOOL EVENTS

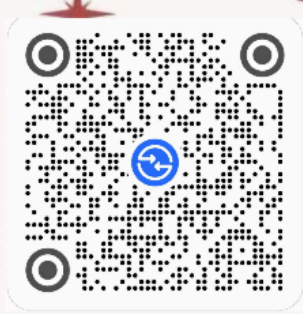


Farthinghoe School Ties

Christmas Auction 2024

30th of November- 7th of December

Over 70 amazing lots to bid on.
Farthinghoe school ties would like to
thank all that have kindly donate.



 Find the auction on facebook

Santa float



10TH OF DECEMBER FROM 6PM

Farthinghoe school ties will be knocking & collecting this year. Please help support our little village school

**Brackley
Round Table**

**Wishing Everyone A Very Merry Christmas
From Farthinghoe School Ties**

FARTHINGHOE CHURCH SERVICES

DECEMBER 2024

1st December Purple Advent Sunday	9.15am Communion	Rev. George Frost Lead/Preach	Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
8th December Purple 2nd Sunday of Advent	5.30pm Carol Service	Rev. George Frost Lead	9 Lessons	9 Lessons
15th December Purple 3rd Sunday of Advent	10:30am Benefice Communion	Rev. George Frost Lead Rev. Terry Richards Preach	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:7-18
22nd December Purple 4th Sunday of Advent	9.15am Morning Prayer	Carrie Oregan Lead/Preach	Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
24th December Purple White/Gold (midnight) Christmas Eve	5pm Crib Service	Rev. George Frost Lead	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)	John 1:1-14
25th December White/Gold Christmas Day	10am Communion	Rev. George Lead/Preach	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
29th December White 1st of Christmas	Invited to join with Hinton-in-the- Hedges			

