

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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01295 710491

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Ms Sharon Turner
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Community Police Officers

101

Doctors

Brackley Medical Centre
01280 702436 ·
Springfield Surgery
01280 703431

Hospitals

The Horton
01295 275500

Vets

Croft
01280 703451
Mansion Hill
01295 712110
Taylor Vets
Brackley - 01280 474796
Middleton - 01295 233555

The Fox Inn

01295 713965

Rector

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Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
chronicle@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org

Editors Welcome

'February Fill the Dyke' is how my grandmother would refer to this month. Back then in my childhood, it was viewed as the wettest month of the year. Not so nowadays, when we can have intense rainfall frequently throughout the year. The second month of the year and the shortest - with twenty-eight days and twenty-nine each four years as assigned by Julius Caesar - was probably named after the Roman god Februu, or for Februa, the Festival of Purification celebrated on the fifteenth day of the month.

February is also notable for St Valentine's Day, when eager youngsters await the arrival of the Postman, hoping that he will deliver a mysterious card professing love; or that there might even be the delivery of a bouquet of flowers, if they are lucky. I remember at about twelve years old receiving a card and becoming very excited until it was revealed that it was from my Dad, his idea of a joke!

Valentine is the name of a number of martyred Saints who lived in ancient Rome. At least three of them are said to have died on February 14th. Although it is not known exactly who St. Valentine was, an ancient church found by archaeologists was dedicated to him, so we can conclude that he did exist. In the Catholic faith St. Valentine is the patron saint of youth, love, and happy marriages.

As is customary each month I look back to my memories of Normandy. Like us, the French celebrate St. Valentine's Day, but there are other occasions of note in February as we discovered one day. Walking our dogs around the village we heard loud singing and laughter coming from the top of the lane near to the church. Turning the corner we came across a group of teenagers pushing an old pram in which sat an odd looking dummy. I asked what was going on? "Oh it's Carnaval (Carnival) and this is Monsieur Carnaval" (Mister Carnival) they laughed. "What happens next?" I enquired. "Oh we push him down to the field next to the Salle de Fete (Village Hall) and then we burn him". "Why?" I asked. They didn't know, they told me, but it had always been done. And our French friends think that our customs are odd!!

February also sees the emergence of the Snowdrops. The Violet is the traditional 'February Flower' but for most people the delicate blooms of the Snowdrops bring about a sense of joy and optimism. They brighten gloomy days with the promise of Spring, as the year moves forward. Take pleasure in their beauty, stay cosy and warm, and enjoy your quiet days as we move slowly towards the Winter's end.

Lynne



To All Farthinghoe and Steane Residents

Please see the following excerpt (written by West Northants Council) taken from an article published in the Banbury FM News Sheet on 22/1/2025. Should anyone like to see the full article I would be happy to email a link on request.

Quote relating to an article on the cancellation of the Farthinghoe bypass on the Draft Local Transport Plan :

“To that end we have over the past four years worked with Farthinghoe Parish Council to continue to explore and identify various options. A proposal to install traffic lights was recently investigated but in consultation with the Parish Council was found not to be acceptable. We have therefore agreed to do further work in assessing other alternatives and will present the outcome of this work to residents at an engagement event in the coming weeks. These options included looking at weight limits and so this will be included during the event.”

It seems to accept that the traffic light scheme first mentioned in 2021 has been discounted, but it is also pleasing to see that the Weight Limit requested by the Parish Council is still mentioned for consideration despite the fact that the report promised in September 2023 by WNC for Spring 2024 delivery has still not been seen.

As previously mentioned a weight limit would eliminate the throughflow of HGVs on the A422 and give a big proportion of the benefits of a bypass but without some of the disadvantages and we hope that such a scheme can be supported by the vast majority of the Parish but we must have clarity of how such a scheme, if installed, can be fully monitored and controlled.

In the last few days we have learned that Kier Group Northampton, who are the contractor for Northamptonshire Highways, have booked Farthinghoe Village Hall on 10th March 2025 from 3.30pm to 7.30 pm for the purpose of an exhibition. We believe that it is important that we get attendance, with A422 users being very welcome along with residents.

As a community we have been pushing hard for changes for many many years but for HGV drivers it must be a nightmare. The fact that the number of serious accidents have been limited in such untenable circumstances is testament to their skills, if only the skills and foresight of our highway administrators, both County and Unitary, had been their equal. If anyone wants further information my email address is given below, so please do not hesitate to contact.

A reminder will be circulated closer to the time

Regards

Mick Morris

chairman@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH CLEANING

Will take place on Tuesday, February 11th from 8.30am.

CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Coffee, Cake & Chat

On Friday, February 14th, from 10 -11am in the Church Vestry.

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

FOX AUNT SALLY TEAM

For many years The Fox Farthinghoe has entered a team in the Banbury and District Aunt Sally League.

Anyone interested in playing this unique pub game, having a laugh, a drink and visiting other local pubs come along for a practice and see if this is for you.

Please contact either Ruth Brittain 07951 755171 or Sid Atkins 07799 505095

NEW YEAR'S EVE VILLAGERS' PARTY AT THE FOX

The organising committee would like to thank everyone who managed to make the party despite all the sickness that was around.

Our special thanks go to Richard who provided the music including the chimes of Big Ben at midnight. Also special thanks to Vicky who prepared a wonderful buffet and Scott and the team of bar staff for making everyone feel welcome .

It is our intention to organise an improved event next year taking the learnings of this year . All the very best to everyone .

Andy, John and Barry

HELP - HUNTING FOR A HOUSE RENTAL!!

We have just been told that our Landlord needs to sell our rental property 😞

We have rented our home for over 15 years & would love to remain in Farthinghoe or nearby.

We are registered with the online sites such as Rightmove, Primelocation & Zoopla etc, but would love it if you could let us know if there are any properties locally that are coming up for rental? Ideally, we would like a 2/3 bedroom with storage such as a shed or garage.

We would appreciate your help - please contact us by email on: melsyh@aol.com

Carmelle Harris & Emma Butt
Main Road, Farthinghoe

VILLAGE HALL

HALL IMPROVEMENTS

By the time this goes to press the solar panels will have been installed and should be up and running which is going to be a huge benefit to the hall.

With the assistance of some very helpful volunteers the two sheds were taken down in the week after Christmas and there is still some wood available for anybody who wants to go and collect it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sid Atkins and the demolition gang - Ruth Brittain, Steve King and Dave Clayton - for making this happen. We can now move forward and get the new storage container ordered.

BOOKS & BAKES - FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY - 3.00 - 4.30

Please come and join us for tea/coffee & cake and lots of catch-up chatter.

FUTURE EVENTS

Swing from Paris - 28th March

A concert by the above quartet offering Jazz and Gypsy Swing - see poster on following page.

Fashion Show - 5th April

Jackie Allen is returning to present her Spring & Summer collection. Tickets will be £5 as before, including a glass of bubbly / beer or soft drink.

Concert - 17th May

Brackley Chamber Music Group returning with another programme - further details in the next issue.

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 JANUARY WINNERS

1st Prize £25 - No.9 Steve Kirby
2nd Prize £15 - No.56 John Grant
(in memory of Angie)
3rd Prize £10 - No.13 Val Walker



An evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing

Swing from Paris are a quartet of violin, guitars and double bass, inspired by the great swing bands of the 1930s and '40s.

From Benny Goodman, Charlie Christian, and Artie Shaw to Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli and the master of tango Astor Piazzolla: **expect stylish jazz and vintage swing.**

"consistently intelligent, interesting and inventive"

★ ★ ★ ★

- **THE JAZZ MANN**

"excellent band...diverse numbers, smart arrangements"

- **JAZZ JOURNAL**

Swing from Paris at Farthinghoe Village Hall

📅 **Friday 28 March 2025** 📍 **NN13 5PD**

🕒 **7.30pm – 9.30pm.** Doors and bar open 7pm.

Tickets £16 in advance at swingfromparis.co.uk | £18 on the door

Listen:  Spotify  Apple Music  bandcamp

Follow:  swingfromparis
 swingfromparisofficial
 swing.from.paris



Rector's Ramblings

Plato's Ideal is a philosophy which holds that everything has a timeless and universal ideal form. Simply put, think of a chair. There are so many different types and forms, but all of them are undeniably chairs. Even when they seem to share almost nothing in common, we still recognize them as what they are. Plato said this was because they must all in some way echo that universal ideal in the core of what they are, no matter how much they might fall short or take a different path.

It is writing like this that will have the Diocese begging me to be the new Youth and Outreach Coordinator in no time.

We are coming out of the time of year when the local social calendar swells. In the past months I have ricocheted between Carol Services, village and club lunches and functions, concerts, carolling, light displays, and a few pantomimes. These have all been great fun. They have also all been the result of labours of love. I know many people who have enjoyed them, and I know many who have been quite nervous during their planning and execution. I am always grateful to the volunteers and enthusiasts who put on these events in our communities. So often the little jitters that affect those who step up comes from the fear that they are going to fall short, to be unable to live up to the ideal that we all share (or believe we all share).

This can be compounded by the fact that excellence is only a touch away. Why trudge out to the Carol Service, or spend a month meeting to rehearse, when the world class musicians of Kings College will come to your Living Room? Why glue sequins and learn lines, when a "star" studded panto is in Milton Keynes? Everywhere it seems possible to find people and organisations that can put our own efforts in the shade.

The problem with an ideal is that our inability to live up to it can be discouraging. Through Epiphany and into Lent, our readings in the Church remind us of the ministry of Christ on earth, and how he lived a human life entirely according to the teachings of God. How, not only in his teachings, but in his whole life, Jesus shows us the way God asks us to live, in love, charity, truth, and complete faith. Christians have had to come to terms with our inability to unflinchingly replicate this ideal life pretty much since St. Peter first opened his mouth. But this does not depress us. Instead, knowing our own imperfections, it gives us all the more reason to try. Christ's life - showing the forgiving challenging love of God - is the hand reaching out to raise us up, not the boot stamping us back into place.

St. Julian of Norwich, another philosopher, who wrote 'Revelations of Divine Love' in the 1300s (the first published book by a woman in English) argued that sin and our own shortcomings and failures are a part of life. Whilst we do not encourage them, they allow us to see the love of God revealed to us. It is in our need to be forgiven, to be lifted up, that we see the overwhelming love of God, and can mirror this in our own lives as we share it and show it to others. If we did not stumble, we would not know how ready God is to catch us, bare us, embrace us. We share that echo of the Platonic Ideal. Made in the image of God. The Divine breathed into our human clay. We are loved, and our bible reminds us that there is no place for fear in love. Let us throw off the fear that we are not good enough, and live in the light of God who not only forgives our failings, but shows us how much we can do in our lives. We welcome all talents and expressions at St. Michael's, and our village is full of groups and teams that need people. Don't just reside in our village; live here. You may find a hidden talent. You may enjoy it.

George Frost

LOCAL EVENTS TO ENJOY IN FEBRUARY

Friday February 7th

Kings Sutton Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Quiz Night.

Friday February 14th

The Mill, Banbury.
Heaven can Wait. Meatloaf Tribute Band
7.30pm

Saturday February 15th and Sunday February 23rd February

Stowe House
Cupid's Trail . Valentines event.
10.00am - 3.30pm

Wednesday February 19th - Saturday February 2nd

Charlton Village Hall
Panto 'Cinderella'.
Wed.7.30pm, Sat 2.30pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday February 19th

Stowe House
Zodiac Explorers- Chinese New Year .
10.00am - 12pm

Friday February 21st , Saturday 22nd February

Stars at Stowe. Stargazing Event.
6pm -8pm.
Book online for events at Stowe.

Friday February 28th

The Mill Banbury
Greatest Performance of my Life.
Justin Moorhouse. Comedy and anecdotes.

TAYLOR VETS

Your Pet's Happy Place

NEW



ACCEPTING NEW REGISTRATIONS

Scan our QR code to register!

Burgess Farm, Middleton Cheney, Banbury, OX17 2NE



Nurse Clinics

Professional advice for your pets, always tailored to their needs.



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Available for you and your pet around the clock with our in-house out-of-hours service.



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Fully equipped to handle both routine and complex surgeries.



Members' Club

Lower your pet's routine veterinary costs by joining our members' club.

Professional Care, Personal Service



- ✓ Easy Parking
- ✓ Relationship First
- ✓ Simple Registration
- ✓ Continuity
- ✓ Experienced Team
- ✓ Independently Owned



Call Us: 01295 233555



Email Us: middleton@taylor.vet



Register Online: www.taylor.vet



**TAYLOR
VETS**

Farthinghoe Service Details**February 2025**

2nd February White Candlemas	9.15am Communion	Rev. Dave Bell Lead/Preach	Malachi 3:1-5 Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
9th February Green 4 th Sunday before Lent	5.30pm Evening Prayer	May Leng Lead/Preach	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5: 1-11
16th February Green Septuagesima	Invited to Join with Croughton			
23rd February Green Sexagesima	9.15am Morning Prayer	Carrie Oregan Lead/Preach	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 Revelation ch.4	Luke 8:22-25

Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane Service Details**February 2025**

2nd February White Candlemas	6pm Evensong	May Leng Lead/Preach	Malachi 3:1-5 Hebrews 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
9th February Green 4 th Sunday before Lent	11am Morning Prayer	May Leng Lead/Preach	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5: 1-11
16th February Green Septuagesima	Invited to Join with Croughton			
23rd February Green Sexagesima	11am Communion	Rev. George Frost Lead/Preach	Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 Revelation ch.4	Luke 8:22-25

