

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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101

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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

Brackley - 01280 474796

Middleton - 01295 233555

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Editors Welcome

“Daffodils, that come before the swallow does, and take the winds of March with beauty”.
William Shakespeare : The Winter’s Tale. Act 1V Scene 111.

“March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a lamb” is what my grandmother used to say. March is a moment of change and a time of growth. It can lift our spirits as we become aware of the gradual approach of the Spring. Trees and shrubs begin to bud, Daffodils and Primroses bloom and with any luck we may be able to savour blue skies and sunshine. The birds are nesting; their songs are glorious, and the Hedgehogs are coming out of hibernation. I am hopeful that ‘our’ Hedgehog will soon return to her hog-house in the garden.

March can be magical. Watching Hares run and leap across the fields and sometimes sparring with each other is joyful. They have been a favourite creature of mine since childhood when I read about the March Hare at the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party in ‘Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland’ by Lewis Carroll. Of course there were no Hares in a big city, but my love of them - along with Lewis Carroll’s marvellous stories, has never faltered.

In my erstwhile home in Normandy Spring arrives early. Well before the beginning of March the countryside will be awash with Primroses and Wild Violets and the hedgerows festooned with Blackthorn. Its honeyed fragrance would surround us as we walked around our fields and the surrounding lanes. As for the Hares, they were regular visitors and on one unforgettable occasion we stood transfixed as one beauty sat in our garden by the gates and thoroughly groomed himself. Once he was satisfied with his toilette he loped off across the Marais (Marshland). March was also the time when the Swallows returned following their arduous journey from the far South. Firstly just a few birds would appear, then great numbers would arrive, swooping around us as if in a greeting; after which they would commence with the building of their nests in our barns. They brought us a great deal of pleasure.

At some time during March, along with a few French neighbours, we would make the annual expedition to find the local Stork’s nest. These magnificent birds build their nests where their chicks are to be raised - at the summit of a high tree. They are huge structures, one would marvel at how they managed to construct them and how the nests stayed put in windy weather. We normally knew where to find them and on arrival would stand quietly hoping that a chick might pop its head up. We were usually lucky! One parent, Mum, was always present whilst Dad hunted for food. We never lingered for long so as not to disturb the birds but it was an experience that everyone loved.

As we move towards the end of the Winter here, our countryside embraces us with budding greenery, blossoms and wildflowers, the gradual emergence of wildlife, and of course the longer and lighter days. Enjoy the bounties of March, enjoy your walks around our lovely village and look forward to the Spring. It will soon be here.

Lynn



Petition: Reinstate Farthinghoe Bypass in the WNC Local Transport Plan

As you may know, West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) have released a draft of the 2025-2045 Local Transport Plan. In this draft, mention of Farthinghoe Bypass has been removed and replaced with an 'A422 Farthinghoe Traffic Mitigation Scheme'.

The Parish Council believes it is an oversight to exclude the possibility of a bypass for the next 20 years. We have created a petition calling on WNC to reconsider their proposed Local Transport Plan and to reinstate the possibility of a bypass for Farthinghoe as part of the final plan.

Please consider signing and sharing the petition to show your support for a safer, quieter and more sustainable Farthinghoe.

You can access the petition via the following link, or by scanning the QR code:

<https://westnorthyants.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=34&RPID=6207086&HPID=6207086>



If you would prefer to sign the petition in person, please contact Sophie Nobes (sophie@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk) or Mick Morris (mick@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk).

This petition will be presented to the full Council on 13 March at the same meeting where Councillors will vote on the adoption of the LTP.

More information about the draft LTP can be found on the WNC website.

Sophie Nobes

Community Fund

Those of you who have read the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting in February will have noticed the following statement :

“Presentation from Grantscapes

Matt Young CEO Grantscapes gave a presentation on the company and their management of community funds. Grantscapes will manage the Community fund from Copse Lodge Solar Farm in Greatworth. These funds are for community use only. Farthinghoe will be allocated a sum from it. The allocation of the Farthinghoe share will be routed through the Parish Council for scrutiny and approval.”

This community fund has been allocated to the Parish Councils of Farthinghoe, Greatworth and Halse by RWE Renewables UK, the developer of the Copse Lodge Solar Farm which is located off the Cockley Road and Halse Road. We will learn more about this scheme in March.

Mick Morris

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

World Day of Prayer

Friday 7th March - 11am at Aynho Church - All welcome

Church Cleaning - Tuesday, March 11th,

Church cleaning from 8.30am.

Church Coffee Morning - Friday, March 14th,

Coffee, Cake & Chat in the Church Vestry from 10 – 11am.

There will be a Raffle. It would be lovely to see you there!

Lent Courses. We are pleased to announce that there will be two Courses run in the Benefice this year. A course at Croughton will be run by the Reverend Terry Richards, whose groups and courses have been widely enjoyed in previous years. The Reverend George Frost will also be running a Lent Course that will meet in St. Michael and All Angels' church in Farthinghoe, every Tuesday in Lent (11th March – 15th April) at 12noon. If you would be interested in joining either, or learning more, please contact the Rector.

Open the Book. If you would be interested in helping our Churches and our Schools, and introducing Bible Stories to our students in a fun and engaging way, we have a demonstration of Open the Book being held at St. Michael's church in Aynho on the 27th March at 7.30pm. Attending brings no obligation to join, and it is a chance to see what this is all about, to hear from people who have done it, and to ask questions. Tea, Coffee, and Cake will also be provided.

Ash Wednesday. We will be marking the beginning of Lent with 2 traditional Ash Wednesday Communion services with Imposition of Ashes. These will be held on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, at All Saints' church in Croughton at 9.30am; and St. Michael and All Angels' church at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

HELP - HUNTING FOR A HOUSE RENTAL!!

We are still looking for a 2/3 bed property to rent in Farthinghoe, due to our Landlord needing to sell the property we are currently renting. We would love to remain in Farthinghoe or nearby, so if anyone is aware of a suitable property coming up for rent please contact us by email on: melsyh@aol.com

Carmelle Harris & Emma Butt
Main Road Farthinghoe

NEW FARM SHOP AT GLEBE FARM

Now open - Tuesday to Saturday - 10.00am to 6.00pm & Sunday 10.00am to 1.00pm

VILLAGE HALL

HALL IMPROVEMENTS

We are pleased to report that the solar panels are now installed on the roof and we are generating our own electricity, which will enable us to run the hall at a more comfortable temperature for our users. Also, we will be able to sell a good proportion of the electricity back to the grid.

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

We are now getting between 20 - 25 people each month, so do come along and join us for tea/coffee & cake and lots of catch-up chatter. In February the pupils from the school entertained us with a few songs and we hope they will join us again.

FUTURE EVENTS

Swing from Paris - 28th March

A concert by the above quartet offering Jazz and Gypsy Swing - see poster on the following page. Tickets at £16 can be obtained from their website (I have a link if anybody is having difficulty getting them), or on the door at £18. **Please note the Bar will be Cash only.**

Fashion Show - 5th April

Jackie Allen is returning to present her Spring & Summer collection. Tickets will be £5 including a glass of bubbly / beer or soft drink. **Models wanted** - please get in touch if you would like to take part.

Concert - 17th May

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

REGULAR SESSIONS :

Art -	Tuesday 10.00am - 12.30 & 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 FEBRUARY WINNERS

1st Prize £25 - No.91 - Becky Wright
2nd Prize £15 - No.72 - Val Hovland
3rd Prize £10 - No.10 - Lin

Deeley



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

Scan for tickets





FASHION SHOW

SATURDAY 5th APRIL

FARTHINGHOE VILLAGE HALL

at 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00

(Including a glass of Prosecco/Beer/Soft Drink)

Available from:

marjoriemorris@hotmail.co.uk

Tel. 07900 590808



MODELS WANTED PLEASE CONTACT MARJORIE

Rector's Ramblings

I remember the very real fear that gripped me the first time I left my house wearing my new clerical collar. I tried to push down my nerves, the impostor syndrome, and walked out into the village. Almost every priest has had to face the day after Ordination where you have to go out into the world dressed as a vicar, and feeling utterly unsuitable and exposed. On this day I was halfway down the road when I was stopped by a man I didn't recognise. He wanted to tell me how much he had enjoyed the wedding service I had taken the other month. This was a very kind thing of him to say, and very supportive. I was rather sad to have to tell him that, as I had only been ordained the day before, I hadn't taken any weddings ever, and certainly not the one he had been to. After a bit of talking and thinking we were able to identify the priest who had taken the service. As it happens I did know them, the Reverend Pelly (known as Lulu to her friends), a kind, engaging, very thin lady in her later 60s.

I learnt something very important that day, more often than you might expect, people only notice the collar. I have been mistaken for other priests who are different ages, genders, and races (sometimes all three) simply because I am the person in a clerical collar vaguely in the space that they are expected to be. This is an aspect of being a priest that has always made me smile. We wear collars as a visible sign of the life we are called to lead, so that whether we are doing good, ill, or just buying a paper, we can be easily identified as Christian's who are trying to live according to the teachings of God.

This month we begin our Lenten Journey. It will lead us from the ashes - if not the sackcloth - of Ash Wednesday, through 40 days of self denial, self restraint, and self examination, before we reach Holy Week, the crowds, the trial, the injustice, the cross, and then the tomb. Few people look forward to lent, but it is a useful time. Societies and individuals who can train themselves to deal with hardship and scarcity, as well as plenty (we have feast days as well) find it easier to manage the ups and downs of life. It is a good habit for us all. It is also a time when we are asked to consider what we really need -what is really important to us- and to realise when something, some false idol, has snuck into our lives and begun to take over. For many it has been a shock to realise how much that chocolate cake or cigarette is key to their daily pattern, or how hard it is to actually make sure we do spend time with family or loved ones. In Lent we look at our lives and ask what it is that is really important to us, and what we wish to prioritise.

Lent is a time that is about substance rather than appearance. The collar, like any uniform, like Lent, does not make us suddenly better or different. We are asked what it is we wish to be, what is important to us, and then given time to strive towards living up to that uniform, to that calling, living up to Lent. You see, Lent and its fasting and denial is not an end in itself, the end comes at Easter, when God shows us the love that can overturn the grinding pessimism of the world, forgive sins, turn slaves, fishermen, and bigots into leaders and lovers of faith, and leaves the tombs empty. That is the end of Lent, and the beginning of new life.

Lent asks us to look beneath the superficial, to what is underneath. What is important to you, really? Once you know that, look at your life and ask where is the clutter, where am I focused, and where is God? He is there.

George Frost

LOCAL EVENTS TO ENJOY IN MARCH

Wednesday March 5th - Comedy Night

The V Lounge Wine Bar, Brackley

Ring the Bell

19.45 pm - 21.45pm

(Book online)

Saturday March 8th - 70s, 80s and 90s Disco

The Venue (Brackley Town Football Club)

£5 per person

Book online thevenue@brackleytownfc.co.uk

Saturday March 8th - Let's Walk Banbury

Guided walk with The Canal and River Trust

11am - 12.30pm

Free

Meet outside Whately Hall Hotel.

Saturday March 29th - Strictly Brackley Town

(Dance Performance)

Winchester House School, Brackley

Matinee 14.00pm - 16.30pm

Evening 19.00pm - 22.30pm

Adults £17-50 / Children up to 16yrs. £12-50 - Book online

Fundraising for Animals in Need and The Chatty Cafe Charity.

Saturday March 29th - Stowe House

Mothers' Day Bath Bomb Workshops

10.30am Creative Workshop

Further details and booking online.

Sunday March 30th - Stowe House

Secrets of Stowe House Tour - 11am.

Adults £15 Children £6

Further details & booking online

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 **Email Us:** middleton@taylor.vet

 **Register Online:** www.taylor.vet





Farthinghoe Service Details

March 2025

2nd March Green Quinquagesima	9.15am Communion	Rev. Terry Richards Lead/Preach	Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
5th March Purple Ash Wednesday	7.30pm Communion with imposition of ashes	Rev. George Frost Lead Rev. Terry Richards Preach	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Or Isaiah 58:1-12 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Or John 8:1-11
9th March Purple 1st Sunday of Lent	5.30pm Evening Prayer	May Leng Lead/Preach	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
16th March Purple 2nd Sunday of Lent	Invited to join with Evenley			
23rd March Purple 3rd Sunday of Lent	9.15am Morning Prayer	Carrie Oregan Lead/Preach	Isaiah 55:1-9 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
30th March Purple 4th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday	9.15am Communion	Rev. George Lead/Preach	Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:33-35 Or John 19:25b-27

Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane Service Details

March 2025

2nd March Green Quinquagesima	6pm Evensong	Rev. George Frost Lead/Preach	Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)
5th March Purple Ash Wednesday	9.30am at Croughton 7.30pm at Farthinghoe			
9th March Purple 1 st Sunday of Lent	11am Morning Prayer	May Leng Lead/Preach	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13
16th March Purple 2 nd Sunday of Lent	Invited to join with Evenley			
23rd March Purple 3 rd Sunday of Lent	11am Communion	Rev. Carolyn Oley Lead/Preach	Isaiah 55:1-9 1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9
30th March Purple 4 th Sunday of Lent/ Mothering Sunday	11am Morning Prayer	May Leng Lead/Preach	Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 or Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:33-35 Or John 19:25b-27

Holy Week

SERVICES

Monday 14th	9.30am—Communion—Farthinghoe 9pm—Compline—Hinton-in-the-Hedges
Tuesday 15th	9.30am—Communion—Aynho 9pm—Compline—Evenley
Wednesday 16th	9.30am—Communion—Croughton 9pm—Compline—Farthinghoe
Maundy Thursday 17th	7.30pm—Agape Meal—Evenley 9pm—Compline—Aynho
Good Friday 18th	11am—Passion Story—Evenley Village Hall 2pm—Good Friday Liturgy—Hinton-in-the-Hedges 9pm—Compline—Croughton

All Welcome!

