

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

West Northants Councillor

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Website

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07900 590808
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Allotments

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07951 755171
Henry Bankes-Jones
01295 710491

Primary School Head Teacher

Ms Sharon Turner
01295 710406

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

Rector

Office@astwickvalebenefice.org
Phone - Benefice Administrator
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WNC Planning Department

WNC Planning Department
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planning@westnorthants.gov.uk

The Fox Inn

01295 713965

Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
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Editors Welcome

**"We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led:
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies."
We Shall keep the Faith by Moina Michael.**

I could not begin this editorial without paying tribute to the fallen as we approach the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. In 1945 the country celebrated the long awaited ending of the War in Europe and there were street parties all over the country. The King and Queen appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with Mr Winston Churchill, in front of thousands of people. An unforgettable occasion and here on 8th of May 2025, the country will celebrate anew, with buntings, parties, and of course the lighting of the beacons, as we shall do in Farthinghoe.

May is a month of many traditions. The dancing around the Maypole, which always looks so complicated; but when well performed is a delightful spectacle. In Welford upon Avon the Maypole still stands and the dance still takes place. In times gone by young girls would be encouraged to wash their faces in the morning dew on May Day and were assured that the first man they came across following their dawn ablutions, would be the man that they would marry. That could have been quite tricky!

Such customs go back for centuries and are often featured in fiction, for example in Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles the symbolic May Day Dance in which she takes part will seal her sad fate. All of the girls wear white dresses and carry white flowers, but only Tess wears a red ribbon, Hardy's nod to bloodshed and her subsequent death. In reality, such ceremonious dances had been held for hundreds of years.

The May blossoms will soon be in full flower. As a child I recall my Grandmother telling me never to pick the May blossoms and certainly never to take them indoors. When I asked why, she wagged her finger sternly and told me that only bad luck would follow.

In France the May Day custom is to give bunches of Lily of the Valley to those whom you care about. We would take the fragrant bunches round to our elderly neighbours, and in return we too would receive the blooms. It is a charming tradition.

Nature is coming into her own now. Beautiful blossom everywhere, glorious bird song, and the countryside enveloped in greenery. Walking is a joy and if we are lucky enough to have some sunshine, we can take pleasure in relaxing in our gardens – or working in them. 'Our' Hedgehog has returned to her 'hog house' and we are seeing all manner of birds including the Woodpecker who visits our feeders regularly. Wonderful! Enjoy the outdoors when you can, and relish in the beauties that May can bring.

Lynn



VE DAY – 80th ANNIVERSARY

May 8th is the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe day and Farthinghoe Parish Council will be joining in with the National Lamp Lights of Peace ceremony at 9.30pm at the village Beacon in New Road. Prior to this event, at around 8.15 pm we have arranged for The Fox to provide Soup & a Roll for all attendees.

If you intending to join us and have not yet booked your place please contact Barry Willet as soon as possible - barry@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk or Mobile 07881 917212

VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR.

West Northamptonshire Council Parish Elections 1st May 2025

Farthinghoe and Steane Parish Council should comprise a total of seven Parish Councillors. This consists of five for Farthinghoe Ward and two for Steane Ward. Six people had registered their nominations prior to the stated Nomination closure date, these being :

Trevor Jarvis
Tom McCullough
Mick Morris
Sophie Nobes
Barry Willet
David Chidwick

Because nominations were less than seven it was deemed that no election would be required on May 1st and all of the above nominees will form the Parish Council for the AGM meeting at Farthinghoe Village Hall at 7.00 pm on May14th.

The above situation means that an additional Councillor will be required, using the statutory co-option procedure, to bring the Parish Council up to full strength. This procedure will begin on May14th and a decision will be made at the Parish Council meeting on June11th

Should you wish to be considered for this vacancy please contact Dave Weston, Clerk and RFO Farthinghoe Parish Council, on the following email address:

clerk@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dave Weston will reply to you informing you of the full details of the procedure involved.

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Will take place on May 6th at 7pm. in the Church Vestry.

Coffee Morning

Friday, May 9th, from 10 – 11am. In the Church Vestry.

Coffee, Cake & Chat plus there will be a Raffle.

It would be lovely to see you there!

Church Cleaning

Tuesday, May 13th from 8.30am.

We would welcome more helpers.

Church Fete

This will be held at the Village Hall, on Sunday, June 29th. More details later. Save the date!

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 and 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

VILLAGE HALL

STORAGE CONTAINER

The new storage container has been delivered and is sited where the two sheds were previously. We will now be able to move some of the lesser used items out of the store area in the hall making it much easier to manage that space.

FASHION SHOW

Another very enjoyable and successful evening, with 28 attendees and a big thank you to Lynne for entertaining us on the catwalk.

CPR TRAINING

Unfortunately, this had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the trainer not being well, but we hope to book another date in the near future.

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY 30TH MAY - 3.00 - 4.30

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Concert - 17th May

Brackley Chamber Music Group returning with another programme – tickets now on sale see poster following.

Village Show

Preparations have been started for this year's show, so if you would like to be involved in any way please get in touch with Marjorie or Lynne.

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 (Hayley) Thursday 9.30am – 10.30am (Lisa)

150 CLUB MARCH WINNER

1st Prize £25 - No. 55 – Ruth Brittain
2nd Prize £15 - No..153 – Lynne Lee
3rd Prize £10 - No. 28 – David Mellor

Brackley Chamber Music Club
proudly presents 'Pologonia'...

Chamber Music Magic and Fantasy

A concert full of romance, fizz and charm,
featuring the wonderful Mendelssohn Octet,
conjuring up the energy and mischief of
Midsummer Night's Dream

Sat 17th May 2025
7:30pm

Mendelssohn Octet

Vivaldi Concerto for Two Mandolins

Rob Garcia, Stuart McGowan - Mandolin

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3

Doug Abrams - Violin
Anna Fleming - Violin
Penny Tolmie - Violin
Claire Hedges - Violin
David Barker - Viola
Rhian Frankcom - Viola
Sian Welsh - Cello
Jenny Hubble - Cello
Chris Seddon - Bass




Farthinghoe Village Hall, NN13 5PD
15% Discount Special Offer; Early Bird tickets (on sale until 17th April)
Admission: £12 Early Bird: £9
Under 16s free entry
www.tickettailor.com/events/bcmc/1643591
Profits from this concert will go to: Farthinghoe Primary School Charity number: 1085971

Brackley Chamber Music Club is pleased to present their third season of chamber music for strings this May Spring at Farthinghoe. The string group Pologonia consists of a growing small group of talented players whose enthusiasm and creativity shines through each performance.

Mendelssohn Octet for Strings

Written when Mendelssohn was just 16, this piece is a remarkable display of youthful brilliance and sophistication. Attending a performance of Mendelssohn's *Octet* is a chance to experience one of the genre's most stunning masterpieces. It's a work that truly has it all—energy, complexity, beauty, and emotional resonance. Don't miss the opportunity to hear it live!

Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Mandolins

What makes this work so captivating is the interplay between the two mandolins. Vivaldi uses them not just as solo instruments but as voices in an intricate conversation.

Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 3

Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G major, BWV 1048* is a vibrant and lively masterpiece that showcases the brilliance of Baroque instrumental music.

Rector's Ramblings

As I write we are still in the afterglow of Easter. The news of the death of Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome, this week seems to have affected many people, some of whom came to the Rectory on Monday, or have been in contact since. The death of a public figure, particularly one who attracted strong feelings and opinions by the very nature of his role, as well as his actions, is always an important and sometimes unexpectedly moving event, particularly as it comes the day after Easter.

Easter is the resurrection, the death of death and the beating heart of the Christian Faith. Being confronted with the reality of death immediately after that can be hard. On Easter Sunday a small group of us gathered for the Dawn service. The Easter fire was kindled, and from it we lit the Paschal Candle. This large candle is the light of Easter, a reminder of the presence of the Risen living Christ. It is lit on Easter Morning, but it shines at every service throughout the year. On Feast days and festivals, on ordinary Sundays and midweek services. It shines at the Altar during weddings, is placed at the head of the coffin for funerals, and is used to light the baptism candles at christenings, a reminder that our Baptism adopts us into the life of the risen Christ, which we share in.

The Church calendar is determined that the season of Easter will last until the 7th June. The truth, however, is that it lasts far beyond that. Easter is eternal. We sometimes look for Christ in that Easter tomb, but he is gone. The same is true of the empty cross. Some find in death either the death of faith and hope, or the only use for faith, but the light of Easter penetrates all of life and death, so it shines in our joy, our sorrow, and the day to day. Like Mary, weeping in the Garden when she could not find Jesus in the grave, we find that he is alive and with us in life.

There will no doubt now be a lot of pomp, and speculation, and worry. The same is true of the longer process of discerning the next Archbishop of Canterbury, but ultimately the leadership and course of the Church remains the same, despite the worries, intrigue, failure, or fear. Even whilst the Archbishop's Throne, or the Throne of St. Peter are vacant, the light of the Easter burns unfailingly. Even in the face of Death, we are in the life of Christ.

George Frost

LOCAL EVENTS TO ENJOY IN MAY

CELEBRATIONS/COMMEMORATIONS 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY - 8th MAY

Farthinghoe

8-15pm The Fox Inn Courtesy of the Parish Council for a bowl of vegetable soup & roll.

9-30pm National Lamp Lights of Peace Ceremony & Lighting of The Beacon

Middleton Cheney

8am - Proclamation outside Henry's Cafe.

9am - Raising of the commemorative flag in the Primary School playground.

10am - Ringing of the Church Bells.

12pm - 2pm - Commemorative Fish & Chip Lunch at village establishments.

9.30pm - Lighting of The Beacon.

10pm - Banbury and District Band will play at Laidlaw Memorial

Brackley Town Park

Celebrations in the park with Music of the War years, Food Van and the presence of a WW2 Historian.

6.30pm The Cherry Bells, The Jubilee Choir and The Glee Choir will perform.

9.30pm Lighting of The Beacon.

Apr. 28th - May 5th – Stowe House

One Man's Treasure. 11am -4pm

Celebration of Heritage and Nature Conservation at Stowe with Paul Stefanovic.

10th-11th May – Stowe House

Gothic Temple Open Days 10.30am - 4-30pm

A chance to see inside the Gothic Temple.

May 10th – Banbury

5-6 Parsons Street – Live music at 9pm

Different Wavelengths.



SPRINGing into action

Whether you join us at an event, sign up to be a volunteer or shop with us – your support makes a difference! Without the generosity of our wonderful community, we couldn't keep caring for local people when they need us the most. Thank you!

Remembering a loved one

This month we have launched the return of our popular Rose to Remember event. You can remember a loved one by purchasing a beautiful yellow hand-crafted metal rose as a tribute to the life and memory of someone special. 500 yellow roses will form a stunning temporary installation in the hospice gardens from Tuesday 10 June to Sunday 22 June, but you will need to buy your rose ahead of the display. We have a limited number of roses available, so find out more and order yours here: www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember.

Having a spring clean?

If you're having a clear out and have good quality clothes that need a new home, how about donating them to one of our six charity shops across the area? Rather than throwing out your pre-loved unwanted items, donating to a charity shop is more sustainable and helps raise money for our hospice. Find the details for all our charity shops here: www.khh.org.uk/retail.

Start your day differently

Looking for an unforgettable adventure? Then why not join Katharine House in a trek across the Great Wall of China next year? Taking place on 9-17 October 2026, this trek is exclusively for Katharine House supporters and will take you to a remote section of the Great Wall of China, from Gubeikou to Jinshanling and Simatai. Not only will you trek on the wall itself, but you will also have the opportunity to trek through wild and remote landscapes with distant views of rolling green hills and mountain peaks – with one of the great wonders of the world as the backdrop. Find out more on our website here: <https://www.khh.org.uk/trek-china>

Leaving a lasting legacy

Katharine House Hospice recently joined forces with more than 140 hospices across the UK in a nationwide campaign to encourage people to leave a gift in their will to their local hospice. The 'This is Hospice Care' TV campaign aimed to challenge the perceptions of hospice care, and we're proud to say our very own Sally from fundraising was on the steering committee. You can see the national TV advert [HERE: www.youtube.com/watch?v=BguWCwJiFjQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BguWCwJiFjQ). Get a tissue ready.

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your local hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter and keep in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice. www.khh.org.uk/newsletter

Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Vale Benefice May 2025				
	4 th May 2nd after Easter	11 th May 3rd of Easter	18 th May 4th of Easter	25 th May Rogation Sunday
Aynho	11am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Croughton Bishop John visiting	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Evenley	9.15am Communion
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer			11am Morning Prayer
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer			5.30pm Evensong
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion			9.15am Morning Prayer
Hinton-in-the- Hedges with Steane	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel			11am Pet Blessing

Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Benefice June 2025					
	1 st June 6 th of Easter	8 th June Pentecost	15 th June Trinity Sunday	22 nd June 1 st after Trinity	29 th June 2 nd after Trinity
Aynho	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Aynho	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Evenley
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion		11am Morning Prayer	
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion		5.30pm Evensong	
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer	
Hinton-in- the-Hedges with Steane	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer		11am Communion	