

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

West Northants Councillor

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Dave Weston
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Website

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Village Hall Bookings

Marjorie Morris
07900 590808
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07951 755171
Henry Bankes-Jones
01295 710491

Primary School Head Teacher

Mr Ricky Emms
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
- 01280 702861

WNC Planning Department

WNC Planning Department
Phone - 0300 126 7000
planning@westnorthants.gov.uk

The Fox Inn

01295 713965

Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
chronicle@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Editors Welcome

Hello everyone. Here we are in high Summer. Time for many people to go on holiday, enjoy being at home with family, or spend time relaxing in the garden, if the weather permits. Our gardens are in full bloom and I think of August as the last 'hoorah' of Summer before we move towards the Autumn in September.

There are many traditions associated with August. The Royal National Eisteddfod takes place in Wales during the first week in August, and can be traced back to 1176 when the first one was held. The Priddy Sheep Fair is held in Somerset in mid-August and in Kettlewell in Yorkshire there will be a Scarecrow Festival with life-sized Scarecrows competing for a prize. In Bath one can visit the Roman Baths by torchlight; and in Derbyshire many towns and villages will execute the art of well dressing. In Northumbria the Feast Day of St. Oswald is still celebrated in some areas. St. Oswald was a Northumbrian Warrior King and champion of Christianity, who was killed in 642AD at Maserfield near Hexham; in a battle with Penda, King of Mercia. Thus, August is a month of varying traditions both ancient and extant.

In our previous Normandy home August was a busy month, notwithstanding that most French people go on holiday at that time. If you wanted any work doing, home repairs or alterations for example; you knew that you'd have no chance of getting anyone to do it during August. It was unthinkable! However, it was also the time when the Farmers would come and bale the grass that they had previously mown on the Marais (Marshland) that fronted our home. It was a joy to watch as the huge tractors collected the grass and rolled it into bales; followed enthusiastically by the Storks; who knew that the small mammals on which they fed would be exposed as the grass was hurled around.

It was also the month for getting in the logs. Normans are very protective about their wood stocks and logs are like gold dust following August. Our Farmer friend Pierre would arrive at our home towing a large trailer full of logs behind his tractor. Payment would be in cash followed by a glass (or three) of red wine in our kitchen and a good chat. We'd then have to stack the logs in our wood store hoping that the heavens wouldn't open (as they sometimes did) while we were at work. However, it was normally a congenial and neighbourly afternoon.

Let us hope that the weather is kind during August so that we can all savour the last few weeks of our Summer. Whether at home or away, take time to relax and enjoy your holidays.

Lynne



Appointment of Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

Farthinghoe Parish Council is seeking applications for the post of Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. The position has become available with the resignation of the current clerk.

The Parish Clerk has responsibility for the administration of the business and the finances of the Parish Council.

You should be suitably qualified, although additional training will be provided where required via the NCALC training schemes. You should be highly motivated and community focused.

You will work from home and have good IT and administration skills (a laptop, printer and scanner are provided), be able to work on your own initiative, be flexible and a good communicator.

The position will require attendance at one evening meeting per month, usually the second Wednesday in each month, excepting August and December. Additionally, attendance is required at the Annual Parish Meeting for one evening in April.

Salary is in accordance with nationally based terms and conditions (LC1 SCP 14-17; currently in the range £15.84 to £17.29 per hour) for 20 hours per month.

Applications are invited by a covering letter and CV to the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Mick Morris, by email (mick@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk) or by mail to 3 The Old Rickyard, Manor Lane, Farthinghoe NN13 5XT

A more detailed job description is available by emailing:

clerk@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk



“An Excerpt from the July Meeting of Farthinghoe Parish Council”

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Held on Wednesday 9 July 2025 at 7.00pm at The Village Hall

Councillors present Cllr Mick Morris (Chair) (MM)
 Cllr Barry Willett (BW)
 Cllr Sophie Nobes (SN)
 Cllr David Chidwick (DC)
 Cllr Tom McCullough (TM)
 Cllr Andrew Mills (AM)
 Cllr Richard Butler (RBu) WNC
 Cllr Rebecca Breese (RB) WNC
 Cllr Rosie Herring (RH)
 Mr David Weston (Clerk) (DW)

Also present: Nick Henstock (NH) Assistant Director WNC Highways

Apologies: Cllr Trevor Jarvis (TJ)

ITEM		ACTION
25/12 7	To receive and approve apologies for absence. Cllr Trevor Jarvis offered his apologies which were accepted by the meeting.	
25/12 8	To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. (Members should disclose any interests in the business to be transacted and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business.) None declared	
25/12 9	Bypass & A422 mitigation update and Cllr Richard Butler/Nick Henstock NH stated that following an initial review it appears there is no obvious legal reason preventing WNC implementing a weight restriction on the A422 through the village. NH stated his preferred extremes of the limit would be from the roundabout at Brackley and at the Middleton Cheney Roundabout, although this needs more detailed study. There needs to be a legal pathway formulated to be able to remove this limit in the limited instances when the M40 traffic has to be diverted.	

	WNC legal team will look into this, and once they have satisfied NH it can be done then the weight limit plan can be progressed. Kier will now be looking at modelling the potential unintended consequences of imposing this weight limit i.e. transferring the LGV traffic onto unsuitable local roads. There is also a need for an approved alternative lorry route,M40/A43 being the most obvious, which requires negotiation with National Highways. NH is hopeful to have the legal pathway resolved by September. The next move would be to start to talk to other affected agencies such as the Police. The Govt are now withdrawing the Major Road Network (MRN) funding which could have been a source for a bypass fund. MM: asked for the implementation of a 20mph limit to be extended outside the village boundaries supported by average speed cameras. As a starter NH suggested an initial request from FPC to extend the current 30mph limit and then as the weight limit looks likely request it be lowered to 20mph. Clerk to make that request. MM: asked for the speed cameras to be turned back on. NH said the previous administration turned them off, a Political decision, then turning them back on is a conversation to be had with Cllr Butler (WNC Highways portfolio holder). RBU: Will also speak with the Police regarding intermittent speed camera van deployment. SN: asked about enforcement of any weight limit. NH confirmed the council can enforce any limit but for example, foreign number plates are a difficulty, not being on any UK database system. DC: asked if a diversion along Welsh Lane is possible. NH said that it was not possible as the road is currently considered unsuitable without substantial financial investment. No Current Budget being available **Later Added Note—There is nothing legally which precludes individual HGV drivers from choosing to use the Welsh Lane** RBU: Agreed to have regular discussions with NH as the weight limit project progresses to ensure exactly what is needed to be looked into. NH: the sinking road on the pinch point, the gas mains pipe is protected by a large concrete slab, but Kier and British Gas are working on a plan to re-route the gas pipe and thus enable an improved surface water drainage scheme to be installed at the A422/Baker Street junction RBU asked NH to thank his staff for their prompt action over the Silverstone weekend in removing the temporary traffic lights which were installed the A422 by a Utility Company at the last minute without notice. A SUBSTANTIAL NIGHTMARE averted	DW
		DW

	RBu: there is no further information on the 700 house development in Brackley other than it has gone to appeal. MM: there is a frustration that National Highways never seem to meaningfully comment on planning matters that will affect traffic through this village. NH: agreed to let the clerk know further details on forthcoming road works. NH, RBu left the meeting at 1945hrs and were thanked for their appearance	
25/130	Public participation session (members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes. Members of the public should address their representations through the chairman of the meeting). No parishioners were present	

From: Parish Clerk <clerk@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk>
 Sent: 18 July 2025 17:24
 To: Nick Henstock Subject: 30 mph extension for Farthinghoe.

Nick, following the recent Farthinghoe Parish Council meeting which you attended, you suggested we initially apply for an extension to the current 30mph limit before moving to apply for a 20mph limit. Please see our request below and my (very) rudimentary map showing the proposed locations.

Main Road (A422)

Eastern End of Farthinghoe village the limit should be relocated from the Queen Street Junction to the eastern side of Homeland Farm (reducing the triple dangers of the Hinton Airfield junction, the horses crossing from the Bridle Way, and the blind and dangerous entrance/egress from Homeland Farm

Western End of Farthinghoe village-The limit should be extended to the western side of the A422/New Road junction. Thus reducing the dangers of accidents caused by traffic queueing to turn into New Road on a blind junction.

This would then give the opportunity to reduce the immediate 60MPH limit in New Road to 30MPH and to complete a continuous 30MPH Limit to beyond the New Road/Queen Street Junction

Regards
 Dave Weston
 Clerk and RFO Farthinghoe Parish Council

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

Coffee Morning

Will be on Friday, August 8th, from 10 – 11am in the Church Vestry.

Coffee, Cake & Chat

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

Church Cleaning

On Tuesday, August 12th from 8.30 am. If you would like to help just come along!

Church Fete

The result of the Fete was £1382.10 at the venue, and £1200 from the Colready Highlands on-line raffle, making a total of £2582.10. This was an excellent amount, and thanks go to everyone who contributed in any way. Well done! If you would like to see what individual stalls etc made, there is a list in the Church.

ALLOTMENTS 2025 RENT COLLECTION

Rentals for the Church Piece allotments become due on the first Monday in September, i.e. Monday September 1st. Rentals remain at £12 per plot, which is extremely good value for something which provides year-round physical and mental well-being.

Rentals will be collected in person by the trustees, Henry Bankes-Jones and Ruth Brittain, at 7pm in the Church. If plot holders would like 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

There are several vacant plots available. 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.

HOUSE RENTAL

We are still looking for a 2/3 bed property to rent in Farthinghoe or nearby, due to our current property being sold, so if anyone knows of anything suitable please contact us on:

melsyh@aol.com

Carmelle Harris & Emma Butt

Main Road Farthinghoe

VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday, 20th August at 7.30, please come along and join in.

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY 31st August - 3.00 - 4.30

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

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)

We are pleased to announce that Rosie Kingston will be returning with the Mother & Baby class on Mondays from September 8th.

150 Club - Subscriptions

Thanks to all of you who have renewed or signed up for this year. There are still some of you who have not yet paid, so don't delay! And we still have numbers for anyone wanting to join for the first time!

If you are unsure whether you are in the draw, then do contact any of the committee who can check for you or email treasurer@farthinghoevillagehall.

150 CLUB JULY WINNERS			
1 st Prize	- £25	- No. 76	- Paul Rogers
2 nd Prize	- £15	- No. 74	- Joan Midman
3 rd Prize	- £10	- No. 161	- Karen Chidwick

VILLAGE SHOW SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

Arrangements are now going well for the Show (See poster following). We have had a great deal of interest from people wishing to take stalls, so along with the usual attractions below it should be a great day - come and enjoy it all.

- Cash Bar
- BBQ & Soft Drinks
- Cream Teas
- Aunt Sally
- Raffle
- Bouncy Castle

If you wish to enter in the produce competition in any of the following categories please bring your entries to the hall by 11.30am so that they can be put on display

Produce Competition - 50p per entry

Vegetables - Beans, Courgettes, Tomatoes, Onion, Potatoes, Carrots, etc.

Chutneys & Jams - whatever you like

Cakes - Victoria Sponge, Fruit Cake, Scones - all to your own recipe

Flower Arrangements - Fresh or Dried

Also, if you would like to be involved in any way, either helping to set up on the day, by running a stall, or judging the Produce, please get in touch either by email or phone

marjoriemorris@hotmail.co.uk

Phone - 07900 59080



FARTHINGHOE VILLAGE SHOW

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

12 NOON - 4.00PM

Produce Competitions

Bouncy Castle

Aunt Sally

Children's Games

Raffle

Name the Teddy

Cash Bar

BBQ + Soft Drinks

Afternoon Teas

Plus

Stalls Selling a Variety of Goods

All profits this year will go towards providing a second defibrillator for the village to be sited at the Village Hall.



Rector's Ramblings

Amongst the many questions I am asked on a regular basis, including 'how old is this place?' 'are you the vicar?' and 'more tea, one of the most common is 'why do you believe in God?'. It is asked in many different ways, with some people frightened that you might not have an answer, and some frightened that you do. It is also a question that, perhaps surprisingly, is often on the minds of many Christians. Faith is not blind or unconsidered, but it can still be hard to come up with a pithy aphorism to describe it.

Pascal's Wager is a good argument that can convince the mind but seems too little to really move the soul. Our Archdeacon would say that it takes a certainty few can match to look at the world around us, life and creation, and declare with certainty that it all came from nothing at all, unlike anything else we can observe, which all has some origin. Similarly to say that a faith that has been practiced and followed, and attested to in the lives of individuals back to the earliest written records, and from them back into a time before writing in an area we call the cradle of civilization, and the tenants of which are echoed in unconnected human societies around the world is all just bunk is a statement that takes a lot of certainty, and which I do not find convincing.

However, why do I believe in God. Belief seems a fragile thing, a lot of trust and hope bundled together in a hard world, but it is not. I have felt and wondered at the presence of God in prayer, and remember the times that I have been inexplicably moved to call, to speak, to act, without knowing why, but suddenly certain that this I must do, and to find that I have to do so at just the moment when someone was in deep need, as if I had been drawn to them. I remember a terrible accident on the farm, sincere prayer, and a recovery that same day without a scratch that could be found that the doctors could not credit and just shrugged at. I see, not in an airy-fairy Disney way, but quite sincerely the mark of our creator in the world around us and in people. Imperfect, but indelible. I have felt God at work around me and within me, have felt him hold my life and challenge it, and have answered a call that I tried to shake off in my later teens, when I did not want to become a priest, and felt as if I were pursued. I gave in, and although it is not an easy fit, would not wish to do anything now aside from live in answer to that call to service in Ministry. I have seen enough death, and something more than breath and movement leave a person when they die, and believe because of this, because of God's work in the world and my life, in the resurrection of his son. I have seen too much of life to just discount anything that I cannot nail down (which is the same instinct in us all that caused us to doubt a round world, gravity, and the platypus until proof of it grew large enough to beat us over the head with). I have seen so much of God that even someone as cynical and distrustful as myself has cause to wonder and rejoice.

I believe in God, not as a far-removed philosophical concept for us to render judgment on, but as a part of our lives whether we know it or not. I believe because my experience has given me faith, and my faith has allowed me to trust.

I hope this is something of an answer in the limited space allowed. If you have any other questions I would be most interested. And, yes, more tea is always welcome.

George Frost

LOCAL EVENTS TO ENJOY IN AUGUST

Banbury Museum and Gallery - 19th July 2025 - 11th January 2026

Dinosaurium

An exhibition looking at the long history of our relationship with Dinosaurs.

Hands on Family activities. Check website for opening hours.

Banbury Mill Arts Centre - August 1st - 3rd

Spot's Birthday Party. A show for children performed with words and music.

Friday 4pm, Saturday 11am, Sunday 2pm & 4.30pm

Cropedy - August 4th - 5th

Fairport Convention

Festival Warm Up show. £35

Sulgrave Manor - Sunday August 10th

Display of vintage Alvis cars in the paddock

10am-4pm

Banbury Mill Arts Centre -- August 23rd - 7.30pm

EMSP Showcase. A showcase of musicians from all over the UK.

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Brackley's Big Party in the Park – 12noon

Chemical Dance Laser Show, Spectra T, Eminem Tribute Show and other attractions.

Stowe House - August 25th

Bank Holiday Family Fun. Free Craft activities for children.

10.30am – 4.30pm

BYGONE DAYS

Summer is traditionally a time to enjoy pleasurable pursuits and it is interesting to look at how the village entertained itself in times past. Cricket was played in Farthinghoe for many years. One of the earliest recorded matches took place in July 1883. The team played against Marston St. Lawrence and were beaten. However, an excellent dinner served at The Fox and provided by Mr. G. Rush, went a long way to cheer up the losers. Cricket was played in various fields such as Home Field, The Piece and Briars Close. A cricket square was laid in the early 1930s and a wooden pavilion was erected in 1951. Sadly, it was demolished in 1968.

Happy memories linger on. Mr. Maurice Phillips of Brackley tells us that his connection with the Cricket Club began in 1951 after he had completed his National Service. He remained with the team for around 10-12 years and writes that even when 'rain stopped play' they would gather in the Jarvis's front room for an impromptu concert and a sing-song. The skipper was Mr Maurice Jarvis, who on one occasion asked "We've got a new ball this year, shall we use it today?" The opposing team won the toss and the new ball went into action, but to no avail as they lost the match. Apparently one chap used to take out his teeth before going into bat. He'd wrap them in a handkerchief and give them to his brother for safe keeping. Plus, on one occasion when playing at Radstone, someone noticed that two chickens' feet were sticking out of the wicket. Presumably they were the left overs of a fox's dinner the from the night before.

Long ago there were three Inns in Farthinghoe; The Fox, The Oak and The Royal Oak. The Fox is the only survivor and was known for its prowess in pub games. Today Aunt Sally is still played by the Fox team.

The Friendly Society also known as The Sick Club would host a celebration in early Summer, on Whit Wednesday. There would be a meeting, and a procession led by a band. Afterwards came the grand dinner followed by dancing. In 1884 there were 118 members. Miss Lilah Smith recalls Magic Lantern Shows held in the old chapel; and we are told that in 1927 the first church fete took place in the Rectory grounds with stalls and sideshows; in a similar manner to our current church fetes. Miss Smith loved hay time and harvest and would jump on to the hay wagons for a ride. She helped her mother to prepare the Harvest Supper and enjoyed the festivities, and went to Banbury Fair by train.

In July 1932 staff, children and managers of the village school took a trip to Kidlington Zoo, and in 1972 50 children and parents spent an interesting day on a barge along the Oxford Canal, followed by a visit to the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum. In the summer holidays children loved to play outdoors as they still do today. Traffic was much less in the late 19th and early 20th century than nowadays; and they enjoyed the kind of freedom which is sadly lacking today. Where the Bowling Green exists there was a field to roam in, and they would also buy hoops from the Blacksmith's near to The Fox Inn and trundle them happily along the main road. They could buy spinning tops for a halfpenny, and would whip them along the gutters. They played ball games on the green opposite Mr. Deeley's barn and enjoyed skipping, marbles, conkers, hopscotch and tig in the road. Along with I Acky (Acky One two Three where I grew up!) and British Bulldog. Those of you who may be as ancient as I am, might also recall playing those

games as a small child. I certainly do remember playing all of those games in roads and local parks and just going home when I felt hungry.

Times have changed, children have not; and I'm sure that the Summer remains a time when our village youngsters still take pleasure in simple games and pastimes just as they did back then.

Editor



Challenge accepted!?

Are you part of a local business, community group, college or school? Do you have what it takes to beat the rest and become the ultimate accumulator? Katharine House will give you an initial £50 investment and task you with raising as much as you can between October 2025 and February 2026. Visit www.khh.org.uk/accumulator to find out more.

Play our lottery!

Playing the Katharine House weekly lottery couldn't be simpler! For just £1 a week, you can be in with a chance of winning one of our 20 weekly cash prizes. When you join the Katharine House Hospice lottery, you'll be supporting local people living with an incurable illness, as well as their families and loved ones. Players must be 18 and over. Find out more and sign up here: www.khh.org.uk/lottery.

Help us celebrate a community united since 1985

In July, we launched our hospice history campaign, inviting people to share their memories of Katharine House Hospice over the years. Our founder, Neil Gadsby, set up the official Katharine House charity in 1985 after his daughter, Katharine, sadly died of cancer at the age of 20 years. Your local hospice was named in her memory and opened its doors in 1991. Thanks to Neil's determination and the incredible support of local people, the hospice opened its doors in 1991. We're celebrating how he rallied the community to raise the funds needed to build the hospice — and how that support has continued ever since. Go to www.khh.org.uk/khh-memories to find out more and read shared memories.

Wanted! Volunteers to help us run our Christmas events smoothly

It's never too early to prepare for Christmas! And we at the hospice are no exception. The run up to Christmas is a hectic time for the fundraising team, with a frenzy of festive events taking place to help raise vital funds to support the incredible work of our hospice. We are only a small team and can't do this without you. Can you please spare some time and help us coordinate some of our fabulous events and be a special Santa's Helper? Find out more from early September at: www.khh.org.uk/santas-helpers.

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 August-September 2025									
	3 rd August 7th after Trinity	10 th August 8th after Trinity	17 th August 9th after Trinity	24 th August 16th after Trinity	31 st August 11th after Trinity	7 th September 12th after Trinity	14 th September 19th after Trinity	21 st September 16th after Trinity	28 th September 23 rd after Trinity
Aynho	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion	11am HARVEST
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion		11am Morning Prayer		5.30pm Evensong	9.15am Morning Prayer		11am Communion
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	All villages invited to join together at Aynho		5.30pm Evensong		All villages invited to join together at Hinton-in-the -Hedges	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer		5.30pm HARVEST		9.15am Communion	11am Morning Prayer
Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer	Aynho	11am Communion	11am Communion	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer	11am Communion

