

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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101

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Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
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EDITORS WELCOME

Happy New Year everyone !

January can be a month of contrasts. The word 'January' comes from the Roman God Janus; the God with two faces – looking back and looking forward. This sums it up for me; for as the New Year enters we might look back at the past year, sometimes feeling glad that we made it through, or we might spend time looking forward to the coming months. January arrives after days of celebration, with twinkling fairy lights still lingering, but it also brings a kind of quiet calm - now let's breathe in the soft beginnings and simple pleasures of Winter days. Curl up with a book by the fire, maybe enjoying a little leftover Christmas cake and a cup of tea, or go for a walk and feast your eyes upon the joyful resilience of the Snowdrops; bravely appearing in churchyards, woodlands and in our gardens. These tiny white miracles push through frozen earth bringing back light, and displaying a sign of hope and new beginnings.

January also brings the feast of Epiphany or Twelfth Night as it is more commonly known. It is not widely celebrated nowadays in the UK, but in our old home in Normandy it was an important date. On January 5th all of the towns and villages take part in 'La Galette du Roi' (Kings Cake). In our village the Salle de Fete (Village Hall) would be decorated with greenery by the ladies of the commune and long trestle tables would be laid with bowls of clementines and chocolates. Once our Maire had welcomed us all in; the cakes would be served along with copious amounts of red wine. The cakes - or tarts - would be filled with Frangipane or Apples - and some would have a 'feve' (a charm) hidden inside them. Whoever found a 'feve' would be crowned a King and would have to wear a gold paper crown for the evening. The village children vied for the 'feves' and tradition decreed that they would hide underneath the tables and jump out to steal a 'feve' from their parents, if they'd found one. There was never just one serving of the tarts, they kept on coming round the tables until we were begging the ladies to stop, as we were so full! The red wine of course continued to flow. When it was considered that everyone had been amply served and the tarts had all been eaten, the singing began. All French celebrations include hearty singing. Finally coffee was poured along with more chocolates and gradually everyone happily left the Salle to walk (or totter!) home beneath a starry sky. It was always an evening of neighbourliness and laughter.

However you have chosen to celebrate the New Year, either at a party, dinner with friends and family, or quietly at home, I wish you A Very Happy and Healthy 2026.

Stay warm and cosy.

Lynne



**Farthinghoe Parish Council wishes all residents a very
Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year**

Accessing Urgent Dental Care

Recently we have received the following information from the NHS concerning Urgent Dental Care. It is not easy to put this into a suitable format for the Farthinghoe Chronicle, but anyone who would like an email copy please contact me on - mick@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk

The NHS has introduced a number of urgent dental appointments so those needing help can get seen quickly. So, what is an urgent dental appointment? And how do you get one? If you have any of these dental conditions they should be considered for an urgent dental appointment:

- Severe toothache - persistent and intense pain that cannot be managed with self-help advice and over-the-counter painkillers
- Dental abscess- infection causing swelling, pain, and possibly fever
- Broken or knocked-out tooth - trauma resulting in a fractured or completely dislodged tooth.
- Bleeding in mouth following a dental procedure or an injury that doesn't stop bleeding
- Swelling - significant swelling in the mouth or face that could indicate an infection.
- Fractured, loose or displaced fillings causing pain
- Severe bleeding from gums, or acute conditions affecting other soft areas of the mouth (such as cheeks or tongue) which require urgent treatment.

Some dentists will class other treatments as an urgent dental appointment, and these are at the discretion of the dentist. If you have any of the conditions listed firstly contact your regular dentist to arrange a visit for urgent dental care. If you don't have a regular dentist, call NHS 111. NHS 111 will ask you a series of questions and if appropriate arrange an urgent dental appointment for you with a local dentist within 24 hours. It may not be your usual dentist. If you're not sure about how serious your dental condition is, talk to your regular dentist or NHS 111. Delaying urgent dental care can lead to more serious, long-term complications, so it's important that you make the call right away.

Learn more about NHS Dental Services at <https://www.icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/dental>

Mick Morris

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

Happy New Year

Coffee Morning

Coffee Cake and Chat

On Friday, January 9th, from 10–11am
in the Church Vestry.

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

Church Cleaning

Will be on Tuesday, January 13th
from 8.30am.

Many hands make light work

CAROL SINGING AT FARTHINGHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Having just visited the school to join the carol singing with the children, I would just like to say how much the 'two Vals' from Seven Sisters Close enjoyed it. It had been planned to have the singing outside around the Christmas Tree, but the weather forced everyone inside. We joined the happy pupils, Headmaster, teachers and parents to sing carols and enjoy refreshments. It was the first time we had visited the school, and we'd both like to thank the Headmaster for showing us around this cheery place; most unlike the primary school that I attended in South Devon. (Yes I do remember!)

Val Walker and Val Hovland.

USED STAMPS

Katharine House Hospice accept used stamps for their charity. They need to have a small margin around them and I am willing to take any collected from the village to the Hospice in the New Year. You can pop them through my door, or message me and I can collect from your house.

Many thanks

Jane Atkins
6 Seven Sisters Close
07873371615



Waste and recycling arrangements this Christmas & New Year

Collection changes - South Northants area

Collections due Thursday 1 January will take place on Saturday 3 January.

Garden waste

Subscribers are advised there will be a short break in the garden waste collection service, which will be suspended from Monday 22 December through to Sunday 4 January. It will resume its usual schedule from the week beginning Monday 5 January.

Additional recycling

If you have more recycling than your bin can handle, you can put it in clear plastic bags or boxes and present it alongside your recycling bins or boxes. You can also take this to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre

Real tree collections

Crews will collect real Christmas trees from Monday 5 January through to Friday 16 January. You do not need a garden waste subscription to take advantage of this. Residents should put real Christmas trees out on the day garden waste is due to be collected in their area. Please ensure trees over 6ft tall are cut in half so they fit in the lorries safely. They can also be taken to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre

Food waste

Food waste bins will continue to be collected on their usual weekly schedule. Please remember you can recycle leftover raw and cooked foods, including veg peelings, egg shells, out-of-date food, plate scrapings, solid fats, meat and fish bones. Do not put in any liquids and don't forget that when it comes to lining your caddy - any bag will do! Find out how to make the most of your food waste collection service

Find more information about collections together with top tips for reducing your waste and recycling more this Christmas on the Council's waste and recycling pages

VILLAGE HALL

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY JANUARY 30th - 3.00 - 4.30

The Christmas Books & Bakes was an extremely enjoyable afternoon and our thanks go to all who came along, so come and join us in January for tea/coffee & cake and lots of catch-up gossip. We will also be holding the 150 Club draw during the afternoon.

PANTO – SUNDAY 21st DECEMBER

TPB Productions once again put on an excellent, very inter-active show which was well attended, with 71 tickets sold, and thoroughly enjoyed by the children and adults alike. We are already in discussions with TPB to organise a couple of events during the spring and summer

DEFIBILLATOR

We have now taken delivery of the new defibrillator to be sited at the hall and will be arranging fitting in the next few weeks.

NEW CLASS STARTING JANUARY - 'Little Senses Baby Massage'

A friendly and relaxed class for you and your baby (0-12 months). Learn how to massage your baby each week, guided by an instructor in a safe and welcoming environment. All equipment will be provided, including oil. The sessions last approx. 1 hour and a course lasts 5 weeks. You will be provided with hot drinks, cakes and bakes, baby weighing scales will be available and we are breast and bottle feeding friendly. Please follow us on social media for all information and booking details [@littlesensesbabymassage](#)

REGULAR CLASSES :

Baby Massage	Wednesday 10am - 11am
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 - NOVEMBER WINNERS

1st Prize - £25 - No.92 – A. Wilde
 2nd Prize - £15 - No. 49 – Jacquie Hooper
 3rd Prize - £10 - No. 116 – Jenny Phipps

SPECIAL NEW YEAR DRAW - ONE PRIZE OF £100

You still have time to sign up as there are several numbers available

Please contact Sowj Vallore for more details sowjvin@gmail.com

Rector's Ramblings

Having written last year about why I believe in God, I am going to try and answer another question I am asked frequently, alongside 'How much does a Christening cost?' (Free), 'Are you the Vicar here?' (Depends), and 'Milk and sugar?' (Just milk): Why do you go to Church?

It is a good question. Going to church takes up precious time in our valuable and shrinking weekends. It is ritualistic, filled with things one might get wrong or not understand. It's too old fashioned, or if it isn't it's too painfully 'trendy'. The obvious answer, of course, is that if I didn't go to church people would start asking questions, and the Bishop would probably remove me from my Living.

Scientific studies have, of course, picked over the fact that communal singing increases Oxytocin and Dopamine, that shared texts of references build community bonds and understanding, that periods of quiet prayer are good for mental health and resilience, that communities that observe fasts and feasts (Lent and Advent, Christmas and Easter) are better placed to confront the challenges of economic or environmental hardship. Basically, it has been observed and catalogued that people who regularly attend church are, on average, happier, healthier, live longer, and are less likely to suffer from depression. But, it is more than that. Cringeworthy though it may be to admit, I enjoy going to church.

This would make sense, as church going is something we are asked to do for ourselves, not for God. Going to church is not something God demands of His faithful so that He can get a kick out of taking a weekly census. It is something we do to help us in our faith, and it would make sense that it is good for us.

The reason I go to church is because living our faith can be challenging, difficult, and everything that goes on around us in life and in the wider world can be an added pressure. I am glad of the chance of an hour a week set aside just so I can hold my life and the world in prayer; our joys and sorrows. Where I can hear the story of generations that have lived the same faith, have known God, and have strived and struggled, and to see it linked to my own life. I can ask questions, share answers, and do so in the company of people in the same village who are doing the same.

I enjoy going to church. The familiar pattern of the words, the mystery of the sacraments, the peace of prayer, the favorite hymns (and some I groan at when I hear them announced), and the people. But mostly, I go to church because this one hour enables me to live my faith in my own life for the other 167 days in the week. If that sounds like something that would be helpful to your faith or of interest to you, or if you have found coming to our churches during Christmas a good thing in your life, come along. You are always welcome.

I hope this is something of an answer in the limited space allowed. If you have any other questions I would be most interested.

George Frost

BYGONE DAYS

Christmas and New Year is a season when many people travel up and down the country as well as nearer to home. I got to wondering how villagers managed to get around in times past. Until the turn of the last century there were virtually no public services in Farthinghoe.

Electricity became available for private homes before WW2, but street lighting was not provided. Moving around the village on a dark night must have proved somewhat challenging. An illustration is seen in a note from Mr. Boswell in 1894, when he requested that the Clerk to the Parish Council should write to the Postmaster in Brackley to inform him about the problems of finding letterboxes on dark nights. It seems that no-one could authorise the provision of street lighting, and so the matter was left unresolved. However it was again discussed in 1948, permission was granted in 1949, and in 1952 the first four streetlights were installed in Farthinghoe.

Public Transport was for many years supplied by the Railway. It ran from Banbury to Farthinghoe, then the line divided going to Northampton, and through Brackley to Buckingham. Although the Station, with Mr. George Tustian employed as the Station Master, was quite a way out of the village; and the steep climb up the hill towards Farthinghoe must have been rather a struggle for housewives with shopping baskets and others with heavy loads.

Nevertheless, the Bus Service appears to have become fairly frequent during the last century, and was reasonably cheap. As for private transport; Mr. Trevor, a farmer at Steane, was the first person to own a car in the village, the Harris family had a donkey cart which was often used, and there was a brougham in the village available for hire.

How life has changed. We are now for the most part car owners and drivers, and we have the good old 500 Bus to take us on local journeys. Mobility is accessible to everyone, and we can all come and go with ease. Even if some of us (me for instance) do at times hanker for those quieter days. I shall put on my poke bonnet, harness my donkey and head for Sainsburys.

Ed.

LOCAL EVENTS IN DECEMBER.

The Mill - Banbury

January 3rd - Dire Streets
Tribute act to Dire Straits.

January 9th - Natalie Black
Adele tribute artist - Hometown Glory Candlelit Concert.
All details & tickets: www.themillartscentre.co.uk

W.I. Hall, Manor Road, Brackley

Tuesday 6th January.
Line Dance Lessons.
Beginners' class - 6 weeks course - 5-45-6-45pm.
To Register : 07590-558765

Evenley Village Hall - January 20th - 8pm

Evenley Gardening Society Talk
" A Life with Plants". Timothy Walker.
Members £3 Visitors £4 (cash)
Raffle & Refreshments.

Stowe Gardens.

January 21st onward - Monthly Dog Walks - 10-30am - 12pm

January 25th 10-30am - 12pm
Children' s Paper Flower Crafts.

January 25th. 13-30pm - 15-00pm
Winter Wassail.
" Make a lot of noise to help ward off bad luck."
Afternoon cheer and outdoor fun.

All details & tickets etc. Stowe Gardens online.



Volunteer complementary therapist needed on Monday mornings

Living Well are looking for a friendly volunteer complementary therapist to join us on Monday mornings from 10am – 12 noon, offering hand or foot massage to patients who attend our Living Well service. The aim is to promote relaxation and a sense of wellbeing, while always being mindful of individual needs. If you're able to offer just two hours a week, you'd be making a real difference to the lives of our patients. Read the volunteer role profile and apply here: khh.org.uk/complementary-therapist-volunteer

Take on our Trek China challenge

Join us in October 2026 for an unforgettable adventure along a remote section of the Great Wall of China. Trek through stunning wild and remote landscapes all while raising vital funds for the hospice. Our friendly team will support you every step of the way, and you'll meet your fellow walkers before the challenge begins. Find out more: khh.org.uk/trek-china

Meet our new Chaplain, Alice

Alice is one of our newest members of staff and our hospice chaplain, offering support and a friendly listening ear to patients, families and staff across Katharine House. Her role takes her all around the hospice, including the Sanctuary, a quiet and welcoming place open to all faiths and none. We spoke to Alice to find out what a typical day looks like and what she enjoys most about her role. khh.org.uk/alice-chaplain

Upcoming events

Lights of Love – 4 December

We will be holding our annual Lights of Love event on Thursday 4th December at St Mary's Church, Banbury. We'd love you to join us for a special gathering where we come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those we have loved and lost. Book your free seats here: khh.org.uk/lights

Big Give Christmas Challenge – 2nd - 9th December

For one week in December, every donation made to Katharine House Hospice online through The Big Give will be doubled thanks to match funding. To help us maximise the funds raised, please consider making a donation in this week. khh.org.uk/big-give

Christmas Wrapping at Castle Quay, Banbury - 5th - 6th December

Come on down...bring your presents and our elves can help wrap for a donation to the hospice...(cash and card payments available). Find us near the customer service desk

Emma Wilberforce

Marketing & Communications Manager

Emma.wilberforce@khh.org.uk

Farthinghoe Service Details January 2026

4th January White Epiphany	9.15am Communion	Rev. G. Frost Lead/Preach	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
11th January White/Gold The Baptism of Christ	5.30pm Evening Prayer	R. Waterhouse Lead/Preach	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-end
18th January White 2nd of Epiphany	Invited to join Evenley 10.30am			
25th January White 3rd of Epiphany	9.15am Morning Prayer	May Leng Lead/Preach	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 9:1-22	Matthew 19:27-end

Service Details Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane
January 2026

4 th January White Epiphany	4pm Evensong	Rev. G. Frost Lead/Preach	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
11 th January White/Gold The Baptism of Christ	11am	R. Waterhouse Lead/Preach	Isaiah 42:1-9 Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-end
18 th January White 2 nd of Epiphany	Invited to join Evenley 10.30am			
25 th January White 3 rd of Epiphany	11am Communion	Rev. Carolyn Oley Lead/Preach	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 9:1-22	Matthew 19:27-end