

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

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101

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Hospitals

The Horton
01295 275500

Vets

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Taylor Vets
Brackley - 01280 474796
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Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
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EDITORS WELCOME

My grandma used to call February “February fill the dyke” as it was always referred to as the wettest month of the year. As we all know this isn’t the case any longer; as we can have rainy spells throughout the year. But this month does have some compensations during what can sometimes be a grey and chilly time.

February brings a quiet confidence; and its own brightness whilst we are still in the depths of Winter. There can be crisp mornings with hoar frosts coating the trees and hedgerows with silvery gleams, and on our walks we can see the tenacity of moss, lichen and hardy evergreens all holding their colour while almost the rest of nature lies dormant. They serve as a gentle reminder that things are growing in the stillness even before anything begins to bloom. However, in our corner of the countryside the snowdrops are now covering woodlands and gardens and even a few primroses are joining them. It is a time for making plans; and nudges us towards fresh energy as the days move on. A time for exploring new things or places, and an invitation to look into the future with steady optimism.

February was introduced on to the Roman Calendar by Pompilous Numa when the year was extended from ten to twelve months. The word comes from ‘februa’ meaning cleansing or purification; reflecting the rituals that were undertaken prior to Spring. The Anglo Saxons referred to February as ‘sol monath’ - cake month, as cakes were offered to the Gods. February 2nd is when the ancient Christian festival of Candlemas (The Festival of Lights) was celebrated, marking the mid-point of Winter; halfway between the shortest day and the Spring Equinox.

And, of course, February is notable for St. Valentine’s Day. Valentine being the name of several martyred Saints who lived in ancient Rome. At least three of them are said to have died on February 14th. In the Catholic faith St Valentine is the patron saint of youth, love and happy marriages. St. Valentine’s day has become big business over recent decades with excited teenagers watching for the Post to arrive; in the hope of discovering secret admirers. Back in my teenage days (in the dark ages!) I can recall the ‘competition’ with school friends all of us vying to see who’d received the most cards. Gymslips were puffed out with pride from those who’d done well and those who’d found chocolates hidden beneath the lids of their desks covered themselves with unbearable vainglory. On a memorable occasion when I was but a slip of a girl at twelve years old, a Valentine card arrived in the post for me. I was so excited and took it into to school to boast. The humiliation I suffered when I found it was from my Dad soon brought me down to earth!

Enjoy the month and look forward to the Spring. It will soon be here.

Lynne



LITTER BINS and DOG WASTE BINS-UPDATE

Following on from our note in the December issue of the Farthinghoe Chronicle in which we mentioned Litter Bins and Dog Waste Bins.

Particular reference was made to the revised West Northants Council Bylaw, including a quotation from that byelaw, which now allows Dog Waste (properly bagged-off course) to be disposed of in the regular street litter bins.

Mention was also made about two “South Northants Council” Litter Bins in the village which appear to have little use and are not being regularly emptied.

These bins being located at the junction of Bowling Green and Cockley Road as well as adjacent to the Playpark.

We are assured by West Northants Council that the impression given is because they have little use although these bins continue to be regularly emptied.

The notices on these bins forbidding Dog Waste is now outdated and this is particularly important for residents in Bowling Green, Seven Sisters Close and Cockley Road

Farthinghoe Parish Council

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

Coffee Morning

On Friday, February 13th from 10 -11am in the Church Vestry.
There will be a Raffle.
Hope to see you there, weather permitting!

Church Cleaning

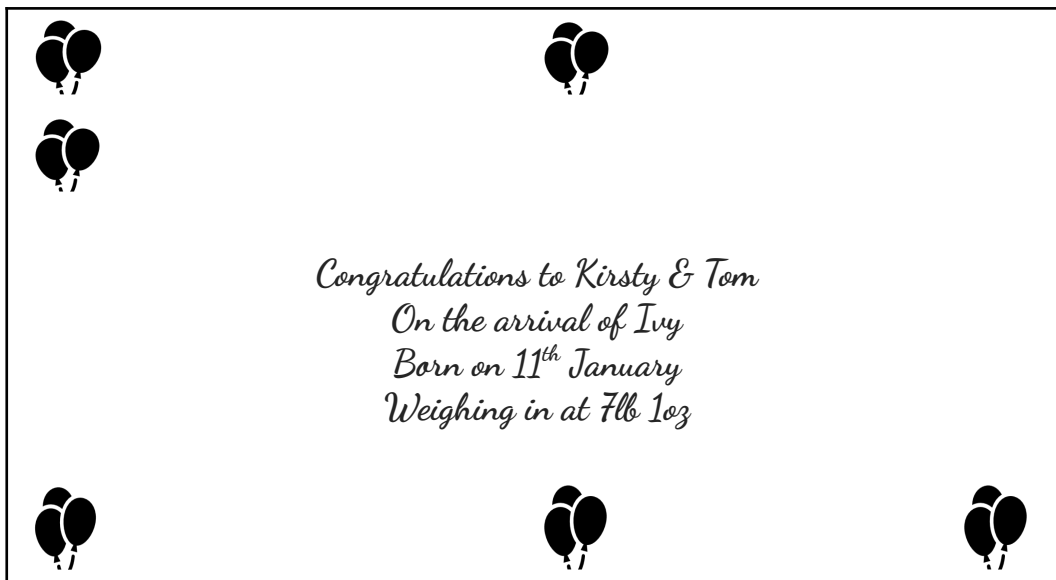
Will take place on Tuesday, February 10th from 8.30am.
More helpers welcomed!

THE FOX AUNT SALLY TEAM

Looking forward towards the start of the Aunt Sally season in the Spring we will be needing some extra players. If you have played before and would like to join the FOX team, or if you have never played but would like to give it try, please contact me for more details.

Sid Atkins

Tel. 07799 505095



OR TEL. 07900 590808

Footpaths, Dogs and Dog Fouling

Everyone in Farthinghoe has chosen to live in a rural location and we would like to ask everyone to remember that this is a working environment for agricultural production.

We appreciate that most walkers and specifically dog walkers are in tune with the countryside and often alert us to any issues they see. We would kindly ask that you stick to the designated footpaths while you're walking.

Unfortunately, we have recently had several reports of dogs worrying sheep close to the footpath areas. We would be very grateful if dogs could be kept under close control, preferably on a lead, particularly when livestock are present.

We've also noticed that some dog mess is not being picked up. Please remember to bring poo bags and use the dog poo bin conveniently located by the gate to the field next to the play park. Please do not hang it in a tree!

Dog faeces can pose a serious risk to livestock. It can contain *Neospora caninum*, which can infect cattle and lead to abortions. In sheep, dog faeces can cause a neurological condition known as gid, which affects the brain. It's also disrespectful to other walkers, runners and footpath users.

We hope this helps explain why responsible walking and dog ownership is so important on farmland.

Thank you for helping us protect the animals in our care and for respecting the land we work on every day — we really do appreciate your support.

David Goodwin

VILLAGE HALL

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27th - 3.00 - 4.30

Come and join our ever-growing group for tea/coffee & cake and lots of catch-up gossip. The Library is up and running again after the re-decorations and we will also be holding the 150 Club draw during the afternoon.

DEFIBILLATOR

The defibrillator has now been fitted on the outside end wall of the hall and is clearly visible as you come up the driveway. It has been registered with the ambulance service as being ready for use. The cabinet is locked but the code is stuck to the inside of the viewing window and is easily seen.

The Village Hall Committee would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the anonymous doner who, following the Village Show in September, provided sufficient funds to cover the cost of purchasing the Defib and Cabinet, enabling us to go ahead with this project. The fitting costs were covered by other funds raised at the Village Show.

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
£100 NEW YEAR DRAW WINNER
SHIRLEY DOWNING

Rector's Ramblings

Does belief matter? If I believe I can fly (believe I can touch the sky, even) it matters very much to me, and possibly to whomever is underneath me when I test this belief, but in other ways it doesn't matter very much. The late author Terry Pratchett often depicted belief as having a very large impact on the worlds he created, even having deities fighting for belief because that is what they live off. But that is the fiction we write, which always places us at the centre. A priest would say belief in God is important for us and for our souls. Our belief is important to God, not because He depends on it, but because He cares for us. God exists even without our belief.

Our bible readings this month speak a great deal about Justice. The eternal Justice of God, our own work to bring about Justice, and that Christ has come to establish Justice throughout the earth. But what is Justice? As I prepare for my Leave, and make preparations for crossing borders, I am reminded through numerous documents that every nation has their own unique take on Justice. What is and is not allowed, and how transgressors are measured, assessed, and dealt with. We might argue that Justice is mutable. However, our Bible, which I believe, speaks through the centuries about Justice as an absolute. Not just a concept, but something real, a property -along with Mercy- that belongs to the Divine and is shared with His creation as a gift.

If this is so, where is Justice in the world? It may be that Justice and Mercy are not inherent in the world, as they are inherent in the Divine. We as humanity, the frail clay of creation shaped in the image of the Divine and filled with the breath of God, stand between the two. It may be that it is to us to choose to turn either towards God or away; towards bringing Justice and Mercy into the world or away.

Belief does matter. It matters if our beliefs are delusional. Belief in that which exists irregardless of our belief is important because it enables us to understand the world and ourselves as we truly are. We must also be aware that some things will only exist if we believe in them. We create institutions, architecture, practice, uniforms, titles, precedent to reinforce the solidity and majesty of things that cannot survive for a moment on any of these ornaments without our continued belief in their existence and our work to uphold and maintain them. The difference between a lynch mob and a court, a security firm and the police, armed thugs and the armed forces, a residential zone and a village, is our shared conviction that they are and must be different.

Belief matters. It is not as ephemeral as we are prone to think. True belief is never passive. We choose to believe in something or not to believe in it. Our readings in church this month remind us that Justice is real. That God is over all. We cannot change these immutable facts, but we can choose to believe in them. We are shaped by our beliefs, and we shape our lives, our communities, and the world. I pray that, whatever you believe, you will know justice, love, and mercy in your life. I pray that you, we, will be able to show them in our lives as well. God bless.

George Frost**A DORSET POEM**

My Mother and Grandparents were born in Dorset so I thought I'd share with you a Christmas poem written in the Dorset dialect by Clergyman and Dorset poet William Barnes who wrote over 800 poems in the Dorset dialect and lived from 1801 to 1886

Chris'mas Invitation

Come down to-morrow night; an' mind,
 Don't leäve thy fiddle-bag behind;
 We'll sheäke a lag, an' drink a cup
 O' eäle, to keep wold Chris'mas up.

An' let thy sister teäke thy eärm,
 The walk won't do her any harm;
 There's noo dirt now to spweil her frock,
 The ground's a-vroze so hard's a rock.

You won't meet any stranger's feäce,
 But only naighbours o' the pleäce,
 An' Stowe, an' Combe; an' two or dree
 Vrom uncle's up at Rookery.

An' thou wu'lt vind a rwozy feäce,
 An' peäir ov eyes so black as sloos,
 The prettiest woones in all the pleäce,--
 I'm sure I needen tell thee whose.

We got a back-bran', dree girt logs
 So much as dree ov us can car;
 We'll put em up athirt the dogs,
 An' meäke a vier to the bar.

An' ev'ry woone shall tell his teäle,
 An' ev'ry woone shall zing his zong,
 An' ev'ry woone wull drink his eäle
 To love an' frien'ship all night long.

We'll snap the tongs, we'll have a ball,
 We'll sheäke the house, we'll lift the ruf,
 We'll romp an' meäke the maïdens squall,
 A catchèn o'm at blind-man's buff.

Zoo come to-morrow night; an' mind,
 Don't leäve thy fiddle-bag behind;
 We'll sheäke a lag, an' drink a cup
 O' eäle, to keep wold Chris'mas up.

My father was born in the South Wales valleys and I thought of including a poem in the Welsh language and then I realised that not many people would understand it!!

Mick Morris

LOCAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Friday February 6th - A Tribute to Sting /The Police

The Mill, Banbury

7-30pm -10pm

Tickets etc online.

Thursday February 12th - Guided Snowdrop Walk

Evenley Wood Gardens

11am

Tickets online

Thursday February 19th - Free Seasonal Guided Walk

Stowe Gardens

1pm - 3pm.

Sunday February 22nd - Children's Paw Printing Activity

Stowe Gardens

Details online



Garden hosts needed for 2026–27

Does your garden fill with snowdrops in late winter, burst into colour with spring daffodils, or shine at another time of year? Katharine House Hospice is looking for garden owners to take part in Open Gardens during 2026–27. Gardens can open at any time of year, either individually or as part of a village trail, helping to raise vital funds for local patients and their families. The fundraising team will support you every step of the way, with guidance and resources to help make your event a success. To find out more or register your interest visit:

www.khh.org.uk/gardens

This February, we will again be joining other hospices as part of the ‘This is Hospice Care’ national TV campaign, which encourages people to leave a gift in their will to their local hospice. [Watch the full TV advert.](#) Gifts in wills are a vital source of funding for Katharine House. In fact, one in ten people is cared for thanks to the generosity of those who leave the hospice a gift in their will. Remembering the hospice in your will is a very special way of making sure the local community can receive care and support for years to come. Find out more details about writing a will for FREE with Octopus

Legacies: khh.org.uk/support-us/leave-a-gift-in-your-will

Take on a challenge in 2026

Looking for a new challenge this year? Katharine House has a fantastic programme of events for 2026, from local favourites to once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Get involved in the Banbury Triathlon, the Oxford Half Marathon, a 13,000ft skydive, or take on the unforgettable night-time Snowdon trek, finishing with a sunrise at the summit. For something truly special, Katharine House is also offering an exclusive trek along a remote section of the Great Wall of China. Whatever your goal, you’ll be supported every step of the way while raising vital funds for Katharine House Hospice. Find out more at: www.khh.org.uk/events

Volunteering opportunities

If you’re looking to do something meaningful in 2026, Katharine House Hospice has a range of rewarding volunteering opportunities. Living Well is seeking a [volunteer complementary therapist](#) on Monday mornings (10am–12 noon) to offer hand or foot massage, helping patients relax and feel supported. We also need [weekend front reception](#) and [weekend ward reception volunteers](#) to welcome visitors, offer a friendly face and help with the small things that make a big difference. This role is flexible and can fit around your life. Find out more at:

www.khh.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities

Monthly email newsletter – keep up to date with your local hospice

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

Emma Wilberforce

Marketing & Communications Manager
Emma.wilberforce@khh.org.uk

Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Vale Benefice February-March 2026									
	1 st February <i>Candlemas</i>	8 th February <i>Sexagesima</i>	15 th February <i>Quinquagesima</i>	22 nd February 1 st Sunday of Lent	1 st March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	8 th March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	15 th March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	22 nd March <i>Passion Sunday</i>	29 th March <i>Palm Sunday</i>
Aynho	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion		11am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion		10.30am Morning Prayer	All villages invited to join together at Aynho
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion		9.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Benefice Communion		11am Morning Prayer	
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	All villages invited to join together at Aynho		11am Morning Prayer	Confirmation Service All villages invited to join together at Evenley		11am Morning Prayer	
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer	All villages invited to join together at Aynho		9.15am Communion	All villages invited to join together at Evenley		9.15am Morning Prayer	
Hinton-in-the- Hedges with Steane	4pm Evensong	11am Morning Prayer	All villages invited to join together at Aynho		4pm Evensong	All villages invited to join together at Evenley		11am Morning Prayer	

