

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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101

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Hospitals

The Horton
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Vets

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Taylor Vets
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Chronicle Editor

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EDITORS WELCOME

Gone were but the Winter,
Come were but the Spring,
I would go to a covert
Where the birds sing;
Where in the whitethorn singeth a thrush,
And a robin sings in the holly-bush.

Spring Quiet: Christina Rossetti 1862

Christina Rossetti's lines sum up, for me, the emergence of Spring. As we enter March there is a feeling of change and a sense of growth. Our countryside begins to embrace us with budding greenery, blossoms and wildflowers, along with the gradual reappearance of wildlife. Hedgehogs come out of hibernation, and it is always such a pleasure to see 'our' hedgehog return to her hog-house in the garden. Maybe this year as with before, she will bring her babies.

The dawn chorus tunes up from mid-March with the Blackbird one of the first to get the party started. His melodious flute-like song is designed to attract a mate and builds up to a crescendo before and after sunrise. As early risers due to demanding pets, we often just stand quietly in our garden and listen. Soon the other birds such as Robins and Thrushes join in the choir, and this ritual that continues through the breeding season into May never fails to lift our spirits.

As well as being a beautiful month, March can be magical. In my beloved Normandy Spring arrives early. In February and sometimes even in January the hedgerows can be awash with Primroses and Wild Violets and the Blackthorn with its honeyed fragrance will be in full bloom. By the time that March arrives the countryside is glorious. So many times I wished that I could bottle the delicate perfume of the Blackthorn as I walked around the lanes and fields! The legend of the 'Mad March Hare' from 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' by Lewis Carroll came to life as these wonderful creatures appeared on our land. Watching them run and leap and spar with each other was joyful. Although seemingly timid they never faltered on glimpsing us watching them from a distance and would sometimes pause to groom themselves before loping off across the field. Marvellous, and such a privilege.

March is also notable for Mothering Sunday, celebrated in the UK on the fourth Sunday in Lent. In the Middle Ages it was a day honouring the mother church, ie the church where one was baptised. In Victorian times it was a day when servants were permitted to visit their mothers and to attend their own mother church with them, and usually with the rest of their families. In 1913, Constance Adelaide Smith revived the observance to honour Mother Church, the Virgin Mary and Mother Nature. It later gained popularity in response to the originally American Mother's Day and is now known as such in the UK, having become a secular celebration of mothers and motherhood; often involving family meals and gifts of flowers and chocolates given to mothers.

There is much to appreciate in March as we move towards the end of Winter. A month of hope and renewal, of longer and lighter days and the emerging beauties of the countryside. I hope that you will enjoy the bounties of March and all that the countryside around our lovely village has to offer. Look forward to the Spring, it will soon be here.

Lynne



Dear Residents

Some advance notice that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday April 22nd 2026 at 7.30pm

Now some very important news which is concerning for the Parish Council and we feel it very important that residents become involved individually.

The Farthinghoe Parish Council Meeting was held on February 11th 2026 at 7.00pm. Less than an hour before that meeting the Parish Council received 2 emails. The first one came from a Town Planning Specialist Company offering us their commercial services in relation to possible changes to the West Northants Council Local Plan, changes that we had not been told about directly - Why!!.

A further quick investigation seemed to indicate West Northants Council would be allocating house building requirements to quite a number of Parish Councils, who previously had no allocation, just like Farthinghoe. Our first concern was that we discovered this second-hand and not as a direct communication from WNC and this concern has not yet been allayed. Fortunately, both of our Ward Councillors were at the meeting and both were unaware of the exact details of this subject, however with some judicious searching the next morning they discovered that Farthinghoe's allocation is apparently 19 houses. A Public Consultation will follow, after which these allocations might become a requirement. I stress that these allocations come with no details at the moment or even where they might be built if confirmed.

The second email mentioned above came from WNC Highways more than a month after we requested an update on the progress on two very important subjects for Farthinghoe. One being the implementation of a Weight limit/Speed Limit Extension/Average Speed Camera installation on the A422 through Farthinghoe and the other being the repositioning of the Gas Main at the A422 pinch point and the implementation of a new surface water drainage system on the A422/Baker Street junction which had been promised to start immediately the 2026/2027 Financial Year began for WNC (i.e. April 4th 2026). This email contained very little meaningful information but there was enough to confirm that the April 4th 2026 start date will not be met or even be close. We have immediately requested a more comprehensive reply.

If you have the chance, please take a careful walk from Manor Lane along the A422 to the driveway of Little Farfield and look at half a metre of road width adjacent to the kerb. It is destroyed to the point of being dangerous. Most of that which has washed away is probably in the open drain across the road from Baker St, which is blocked to the gulleys and has not been emptied in months. The Parish Council takes the view that the above-mentioned emails, which were received almost simultaneously, are very much connected. WNC has no intention of

responding to our emails in timely fashion but when they want answers they demand instant action.

HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT HOUSE ALLOCATION DEMANDS UNTIL WE RECEIVE AN IRREVOCABLE DETAILED COMMITMENT FROM WNC HIGHWAYS TO SOLVE FARTHINGHOE'S TRAFFIC PROBLEMS?

Now the opportunity for us all to become involved as individuals, Residents and Councillors alike. On Wednesday March 11th 2026 (12.30 pm to 18.00 pm) there is an open invitation to Brackley Town Hall where, WNC Planning are holding a Public Presentation to discuss and answer questions concerning the Local Plan changes which includes Housing Allocations.

***Let there be a Farthinghoe deluge on that afternoon!**

Following that Consultation there will be an on-Line Consultation which has been submitted before March 27th 2026. It can be accessed via the following link:

<https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/housing/have-your-say-draft-housing-allocation-policy-2026/>

When my family came to live in Farthinghoe in January 1992 our estate agent's brochure clearly stated "A Bypass for Farthinghoe is imminent". Well since that date nothing tangible has been done by NCC or WNC to improve the traffic situation although smoke and mirrors have been regular visitors. What we have seen is an existential growth of Brackley and Banbury both domestic and industrial.

Some sample questions for the Planning and Highways Depts of WNC follow -

How many new houses have been built in Brackley since January 1992?

Currently how many houses in Brackley (incl. Turweston) have passed planning but have not been built?

How many houses in Brackley are part of current Planning Applications?

How many houses in Brackley are currently being discussed by WNC Planning which will soon become Planning Applications?

What is the WNC assessment of how the answers to these questions affect Farthinghoe traffic?

When you see the answer to that question they should think carefully about why they are allocating 19 new houses for Farthinghoe in the Local Plan revision?

What has been the effect on weekend traffic through Farthinghoe since the Gateway Shopping centre in Banbury opened in October 2015?

Some or all of the above questions are examples of things which could be raised at the March 11th presentation

Regards

Mick Morris

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES

World Day of Prayer

On Friday, March 6th, at 2pm at Evenley. All welcome!

Lent Bible Study: Jonah and the Big Fish

Join us at the Aynho Rectory at 6pm every Wednesday in Lent (4 meetings), for a Bible Study looking at the Book of Jonah.

All Welcome, refreshments provided. Please contact the Rector.

Church Cleaning

On Tuesday, March 10th from 8.30am. Always glad of extra help!

Coffee, Cake and Chat

On Friday, March 13th, from 10 -11 in the Church Vestry.

There will be a Raffle. Everyone is most welcome, so why not come along!

GENERAL

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

VILLAGE HALL

DEFIBRILLATOR / CPR TRAINING

Unfortunately, due to lack of response, we had to cancel one of the days that had been organised for this, which was very disappointing. However, the feedback received from those who did come along and take part was that they considered it a very worthwhile exercise.

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

Come and join our ever-growing group for tea/coffee & cake, lots of catch-up gossip and peruse the books in the Library. We will also be holding the 150 Club draw during the afternoon.

CHARITY CONCERT – SATURDAY 11TH APRIL – “A Night at the Musicals”

A Charity function in aid of the British Forces Federation organised by TPB who do a lot of work with this charity by providing entertainment for Forces personnel and their families both in this country and abroad. See poster and further information on the following pages.

Tickets £15 available via email – bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org

Or tel. – 07900 590808

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 - FEBRUARY DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize - £25 - No.192 -Theresa Bullock
2nd Prize - £15 - No. 28 - David Mellor
3rd Prize - £10 - No. 55 - Ruth Brittain



TPB PRODUCTIONS
For every stage
WWW.TPBPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK

A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

Farthinghoe Village Hall
Saturday 11th April
Doors open 7pm - Start 7.30pm
Tickets - £15 - Includes Nibbles

To book tickets: bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org - Call: 07900 590808

Westend to Broadway and beyond

Night At The Musicals

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music, celebration, and community spirit as we present **A Night At The Musicals** — a spectacular concert featuring some of the most iconic songs from the world of musical theatre and film.

From the bright lights of London's West End to the magic of Broadway and beyond, this uplifting performance will take audiences on a journey through classic favourites and modern showstoppers. Expect powerful ballads, rousing ensemble numbers, and beloved hits from some of the greatest musicals and movie soundtracks of all time.

But this evening is about more than just incredible music. All proceeds from the concert will be proudly supporting The British Forces Foundation — a charity dedicated to boosting morale for UK servicemen and women and supporting their families both at home and overseas. Through live entertainment and community engagement, the foundation brings moments of joy and connection to those who serve our country and the communities that stand behind them.

 Tickets: £15 per person. (includes a plate of delicious nibbles to enjoy during the interval of the performance).



A bar will be available for refreshments throughout the evening.



Charity Raffle: Take part in our raffle for the chance to win fantastic prizes while further supporting this wonderful cause.

Whether you're a lifelong musical theatre lover or simply looking for a fantastic night out in support of a meaningful charity, Night At The Musicals promises soaring vocals, heart-warming performances, and an atmosphere filled with generosity and joy.

Come along, sing along, and help us make a difference — one show tune at a time. 

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

Chamber Music Masterworks

from the radiant wit of
Beethoven, to the drama and humour of
Shostakovich and the dramatic depth of
Mozart, tracing a rich arc of expression across three
masterworks...

Sat 25th April 2026
7:30pm

Beethoven

Horn Sextet

Shostakovich

String Quartet No. 1

Mozart

String Quintet in G minor

Helen Newing - Horn

Bob Powell - Horn

Doug Abrams - Violin

Claire Hedges - Violin

David Barker - Viola

Rhian Frankcom - Viola

Chris Seddon - Cello



Farthinghoe Village Hall, NN13 5PD

15% Discount Special Offer; Early Bird tickets (on sale until 4th April)

Admission: £12 Early Bird: £9

Under 16s free entry

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bcmc/2092042>

Profits from this concert will go to: **Farthinghoe Primary School** Charity number: 1085971

Brackley Chamber Music Club – Concert 25th April

We love coming to Farthinghoe, for the warm welcome of locals who support us, as well as the beautiful acoustics of the Village Hall, which is a privilege to play in. We welcome you to an intimate evening of chamber music, which can feel like stepping inside the composer's imagination - where wit, drama, vulnerability, and brilliance unfold at arm's length. This concert brings together three masterworks spanning more than a century of musical history, pairing Classical elegance, Romantic warmth, and 20th-century humour and angst in a program of striking contrast and deep emotional resonance. You also get a glass of wine and nibbles thrown in at the interval for free!

Programme

We begin with Beethoven's Horn Sextet in E-flat major, Op. 81b - a delightful gem in the chamber repertoire. The pairing of two horns and a string quartet creates a sonority that is noble and playful, evoking the outdoor serenade tradition while showcasing Beethoven's unmistakable inventiveness in his early classical phase.

There follows the String Quartet No.1 in C major, Op. 49 by Dmitri Shostakovich. Written in 1938, this offers a fascinating glimpse into the composer's world at a precarious time in his life. Having recently endured political criticism in Stalinist Russia, Shostakovich turned to the intimacy of the string quartet, which would become his most personal and profound form of expression.

The program concludes with the String Quintet No. 3 in G minor, K. 516 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. His quintets - scored for two violins, two violas, and cello - represent the pinnacle of his chamber writing, and the G minor Quintet stands among his most emotionally complex creations. G minor, a key Mozart reserved for moments of heightened drama, frames a work of intensity and expressive breadth.

This informal concert invites you not only to hear great music, but to experience it from within - to witness the spark between players, the subtle exchange of motifs, the collective shaping of sound. It is an evening of contrast and connection, brilliance and depth – a journey through three master composers at the height of their powers. If you been to a concert like this before, be brave and give it a go! All profits go to the Farthinghoe School Charity.

Tickets available on the following website :

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bcmc/2092042>

Rector's Ramblings

According to whomever keeps track of these things, roughly 91% of New Year's resolutions do not last to the beginning of March. This is good news for gyms, which sell many more memberships than they could accommodate because they know most will be used only once or twice. This may be less good news for us. After all, for some reason, it is more painful to give up on a New Year's resolution - to try and change something and fail- than it is to never try at all.

This month (8th March, 10.30am, Evenley) 6 people will be confirmed in our Benefice. Baptism can take place at any age. There is no charge, no tests, only the will to be baptised in faith is required (for those under 7, the will of parents and their promise to raise them in faith). It is an embodying of the embracing love of God, which is trusting, missionary, and comes to us even before we understand it.

At a Confirmation service a person who has been baptised comes to make their baptismal vow, either repeating them or making them for themselves for first time. Confirmation is not a completion of Baptism. It is when a person has been living as a Christian, and after reflection and discussion, knowing the successes and failures of life, the world, and faith; stands before the Bishop and the church to say that this is their faith and that they commit themselves to continuing in this life. The Bishop will then pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit, that they will have the strength to live as Christians.

New Year's resolutions and Confirmation are not about the event itself. In both cases it is the examination of where we have been, where we are, and then the determination and informed commitment to where we want to go. Like a resolution, like Lent, at Confirmation it is not the single act that is most important. It is the resolution each day, each moment, to renew this commitment for our lives when decisions and trials come.

However the commitments of your life are faring, each moment comes with the challenge, and the opportunity, to direct it as you really wish it to be. Baptisms are never washed away. Commitments are renewed with each breath, and if we stumble we can rise again. The Grace of God is over all. If you would like to explore confirmation, Baptism, or any question, I would love to hear.

I pray you have a good Lent, and know the Joy of Easter renewed each day.

George Frost



Stations of the Cross

Join us as we follow the journey
of Christ to the Cross each
Thursday in Lent at 12 noon.

19th February—St. Michael's, **Aynho**

26th February—All Saints, **Croughton**

5th March—St. George's, **Evenley**

12th March—St. Michal & All Angels', **Farthinghoe**

19th March—Holy Trintiy, **Hinton-in-the-Hedges**

26th March—St. Michael's, **Aynho**

All Welcome!



Holy Week

SERVICES

Monday 30 th March	9.30am—Communion—Hinton-in-the-Hedges 9pm—Compline—Farthinghoe
Tuesday 31 st March	9.30am—Communion—Croughton 9pm—Compline—Aynho
Wednesday 1 st April	9.30am—Communion—Farthinghoe 9pm—Compline—Croughton
Maundy Thursday 2 nd April	7.30pm—Agape Meal—Evenley 9pm—Compline—Evenley
Good Friday 3 rd April	11am—Passion Story—Evenley 2pm—Hour Before the Cross— Hinton-in-the -Hedges 2pm—Good Friday Liturgy— Aynho 9pm—Compline—Croughton

All Welcome!

BYGONE DAYS

Musing on how things have changed over the past centuries and decades, I got to wondering what daily life was like in the village way back then.

In 1849, Farthinghoe had two Public Houses, The Fox and the Royal Oak, two Bakers, a Butcher, two Shoemakers, a Grocer, four Builders, a Cooper, a Blacksmith and a stone mason.

In 1894, there had been three Carriers, the Misses Mary and Charlotte Cook and George Castle. It appears that there were three Public Houses, The Fox, The Oak and the Royal Oak. The Fox is the sole survivor. Mrs. Bertha Jarvis remembered two Shoemakers in the village. She herself made pillow lace and walked to Brackley to sell it. She also remembered gleaning in the harvest fields.

In 1987, a resident who had been at school during the early days of the twentieth century recalled that in his childhood there were three shops, two Bakers, two Publicans, two Blacksmiths, a Butcher, a Coal Agent, a Carrier, and a Policeman.

The children in those times enjoyed the freedom which today's children lack. The roads were mostly clear of traffic and so safe for play, and where Bowling Green is today there was a field where they could roam at will. They took their hoops and happily trundled them along the main road and whipped their spinning tops vigorously along the gutters. They played cricket and other games on the green opposite to Mr. Deeley's barn; and at times played games such as British Bulldog across the road (not to be recommended now-a-days!) along with marbles, skipping and hopscotch.

Clearly Farthinghoe was a busy and thriving village where life was lived simply and with all daily needs and requirements available. I would love to 'step back in time' and spend a day in our village as it was back then. However, though many things have changed and life is no longer as simple as it was, Farthinghoe remains a happy place in which to live, and I feel fortunate to have made my home here.

Ed.

LOCAL EVENTS IN MARCH

Sunday 1st March - Milton Keynes Wedding Show.

Stadium MK DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel.

Full info. www.centralexhibitions.co.uk.

Wednesday 4th March - Talk on First World War Diaries of William 'Jack' Lindsey

Brackley History Society.

Brackley Methodist Church. 7-30pm

Members Free, Visitors £3. All info. 01280 702837 or Brackleyhistorysociety@hotmail.com

Friday 6th March - Banbury Farmer's Market.

Market Place from 8am.

First Friday of every month

Tuesday 17th March - Evenley Gardening Society Talk.

. "Do your Roots need doing?" by Andrew Mikoljaski.

Evenly village Hall – 8pm

Members £3 visitors £4 (cash only) Raffle & Refreshments.

Saturday 21st March - An Andrea Bocelli Candlelight Opera Experience.

Banbury St. Mary's Church 5pm

Details to be found at the Church (or council website)

Sunday 29th March - Sulgrave Manor Reopens for the season.

Sunday – Tuesday 10-30am-4pm

Follow the story of the ancestors of George Washington and his road to the Presidency.



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

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 March-April 2026									
	1 st March 2nd Sunday of Lent	8 th March 3rd Sunday of Lent	15 th March Mothering Sunday	22 nd March Passion Sunday	29 th March Palm Sunday	5 th April Easter	12 th April Low Sunday	19 th April 3rd Sunday of Easter	26 th April 4th Sunday of Easter
Aynho	11am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion Confirmation Service	10.30am Morning Prayer	10.30am Benefice Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Croughton	9.15am Communion
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer		11am Morning Prayer			11am Communion	11am Morning Prayer		
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	All villages invited to join together at Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	All villages invited to join together at Hinton-in-the-Hedges	All villages invited to join together at Aynho	9.15am Communion	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evensong St. George	5.30pm Evensong St. George
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion		9.15am Morning Prayer			9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer
Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane	4pm Evensong					11am Communion	11am Morning Prayer	6pm STEANE Evensong	11am Pet Blessing