

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events....

USEFUL CONTACTS

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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
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WNC Planning Department

WNC Planning Department
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planning@westnorthants.gov.uk

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01295 713965

Chronicle Editor

Lynne Lee
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EDITOR'S WELCOME

It is high Summer and almost time for the school holidays to begin. Older students will no doubt be relieved that their exams are over, Teachers will be sighing with relief and looking forward to a rest; and some parents may be feeling a little apprehensive at the thought of having their offspring around for several weeks whilst hoping that they won't hear the 'B' (bored!) word.

July can be a glorious month. Our gardens are now in full bloom and at their best. To sit in my garden and read surrounded by the fragrance of Roses and Lavender, and watching as myriads of beautiful Butterflies float around the Buddleias and the Honeysuckles, brings me so much pleasure.

This month is also a time for many community events to take place such as Summer Fetes and Flower Shows; all easy to track down on village noticeboards or in local magazines.

July has its fair share of traditions in England. For instance: St. Swithin's Day on July 15th, when it is believed that if it rains on that day it will rain for 40 days. The superstition dates from the year 971AD when the bones of St. Swithin – who had died 100 years previously- were moved from their current resting place to a shrine in Winchester Cathedral. A terrific storm broke out and lasted for 40 days; and it was said that the Saint in Heaven was weeping as his bones had been moved.

In Piddinghoe, Sussex, on July 19th the children enjoy a Sports Day and a Tea. This tradition began in 1868 following the death of a baby called Edith Croft. Her grandmother put up the money for a treat for the village children in memory of Edith.

On July 31st the Oyster Season commences and it has been maintained that if one eats Oysters on that date, money will be plentiful throughout the coming year. I don't think that even the promise of riches could persuade me to consume an Oyster! Ugh. Definitely an acquired taste.

In France of course Bastille Day is much celebrated. We would join our neighbours at the Mairie (Town Hall) in our village to sing the Marseillaise beneath the French flag. This would be followed by sparkling wine, tasty canapes and lots of laughter and chat. The French love a party and later in the evening every town and village puts on a Firework Display. France has remained a Republic since the Revolution of 1789. Although there is an heir to the French Crown, Louis Alphonse, The Duke of Anjou, I cannot imagine that this strongly Republican nation will ever return him to the throne!

I hope that you enjoy a happy and relaxing July, whether it be by the sea, in the countryside at home, or overseas.

Lynne



ROAD CLOSURE

Following on from our mail posted in the June issue of the Chronicle (Copy below) on 05 June we received a mail from WNC informing us that the Road Closure announced on the one.network website was not a live booking but instead was a tentative "reservation".

There was nothing clearly indicating this but there was some road repairer's jargon to which we were not privy to, and are still not privy, which caused us to misinterpret. However, if they had communicated in a reasonable manner directly with us then there would have been no need to seek one.network assistance

Since 05 June we have not heard another word. Communication!! Once we hear for definite we will pick it up and run with it and then ask the question about the introduction of Improved Traffic Management to alleviate the traffic problems in Queens St, Baker St, and Chapel Lane.

Sorry but is virtually impossible to communicate with Senior Officers in WNC and that includes WNC Councillors who also share our problems.

"As many of you will already know there will be a planned road closure on the A422 from July 22 to August 4. The closure will stretch from the Chapel Lane junction to New Road junction but will not restrict movements of residents within the village.

This all sounds hunky-dory and straight forward, but we have experience of ALL such road closures in Farthinghoe over many years and I mean ALL end up paralysing Queen Street and New Road and sometimes Baker Street and Chapel Lane.

At the moment we know that this road closure is planned, via the independent website "one network" but because of the abysmal communications of WNC we have not been told officially YET. However, we want to be ready and to strike before we are struck.

Farthinghoe Parish Council will prepare a letter demanding to see the prepared traffic management plan which eliminates a repeat of all previous Traffic Closure nightmares We would like as many people as possible to sign an addendum to this letter which we will present to WNC as soon as possible.

If you are ready to sign please send me an email to confirm your intention"

Regards

Mick Morris
mick@farthinghoeparishcouncil.gov.uk

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES.

1) Time to start thinking about Christmas. We are planning on holding a live nativity for the Benefice in Croughton in December this year, and are looking for some adults to take on parts. If you are able to take on a role backstage or front, we want to hear from you. A traditional way to bring the story of the nativity to life in our villages. No previous experience required. If you can sew, paint, speak, or just be there, we have a place for you. All welcome.

2) We will have some more training sessions for serving at the Altar in the Benefice. This is an opportunity to learn more about what happens at the Altar during Communion. How to serve at the Altar, and how to receive Communion. It is informal, friendly, a chance to ask questions and to learn. Open to anyone who might wish to begin serving at the altar, those who have been doing it for years, or who are just interested in learning more about this Sacrament at the heart of our faith. Dates: 9th July – 6pm – All Saints' church in Croughton
6th August – 6pm – St. Michael and All Angels' in Farthinghoe

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Will be on Friday, July 10th from 10 – 11am. In the Church Vestry.
There will be a Raffle. Hope to see you there!

Church Cleaning

On Tuesday, July 14th from 8.30am. We would welcome more helpers, all you need is a duster and some polish!

GENERAL

GARAGE/TABLETOP SALE 2026 (back by popular request!)

Following the success of Farthinghoe's first garage sale last year, The Events Committee would like to announce there will be another sale on Sunday 27th September from 12pm. There is the option to set your sale up at the village hall, rather than at your house, if this suits you better.

Please contact Becky beckygregorywright@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to join in. It will really help if we had an idea of numbers as soon as possible. So far, we've had a very positive response to a notice put out on Facebook.

The events committee are also proud to announce that the **LONE WOLF COMEDY CLUB** are coming to Farthinghoe Village Hall on Saturday 10th October. Tickets available from August. We recommend booking promptly for "early bird" discount and to avoid disappointment!

<https://lonewolfcomedy.co.uk/show/https-wegotickets-com-f-23064/>



WANTED

Musical Director to help refound the Parish Choir at All Saints church Croughton.

A great opportunity to help people of all ages come together to sing.

We are looking for someone to lead a choir for 2-3 services a month, with rehearsals, and rest periods guaranteed. In return, we can offer the support of our Parish Organist and Administrator, RSCM standard rate of pay or above, and an enthusiastic congregation in one of England's 1000 Best Churches.

This role can be tailored for the right candidate.

To know more, please contact the Rector, The Reverend George Frost

Telephone: 01869 810 903 : e-mail: rev@gfrost.name



All Saints' church
Croughton, Northamptonshire



VILLAGE HALL

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

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

JAZZ IN THE VILLAGE – SUNDAY 26TH JULY (see poster following)

Ian Millar & Dominic Spencer - saxophone & piano duo from Scotland - the UK's hardest working jazz group! "Very cool music played in a magical atmosphere which will appeal to jazz novices as well as hardcore enthusiasts."

Ian and Dominic are unique in the UK Jazz community taking their blend of melodic jazz standards and original compositions to rural communities all over the UK. They use programmable lighting and table lights to create a wonderful intimate atmosphere for the music. They tell stories of their travels in their Tour Bus - an old converted Yorkshire Ambulance, in an entertaining evening of creative music and enthusiastic joy.

"We are delighted to be performing all over the UK in a variety of venues with sell out concerts and record sales in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival" says Ian. "We are now also making many return visits to venues up and down the country."

This is a 'Bring Your Own' alcohol event, but soft drinks will be on sale.

Tickets £12 – contact Marjorie at bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org or tel. 07900 590808

REGULAR CLASSES:

Baby Massage	Wednesday 10am - 11am
Ballet -	Monday 5.30pm - 6.30pm & 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

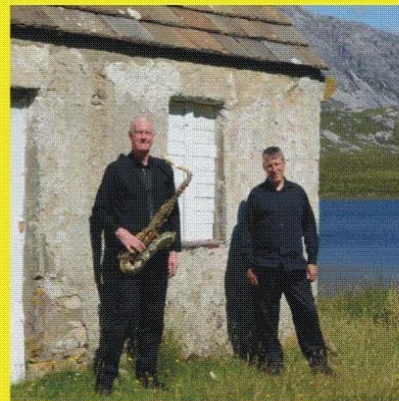
150 CLUB - APRIL DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize - £25 - No. 65 – Rachael McCullouch
2nd Prize - £15 - No. 101 – Karen Chidwick
3rd Prize - £10 - No. 45 – Hazel Lister

Jazz in the Village

"Very cool music played in a magical atmosphere - this will appeal to jazz novices as well as hardcore enthusiasts." Three Weeks Magazine

from Scotland



Ian Millar
saxophone

Dominic Spencer
piano

"Beautiful soaring magic! I was blown away by your show, just breathtaking!"

"...expect warm, intelligent, reflective, human music..."

FARTHINGHOE VILLAGE HALL

Cockley Rd, Brackley NN13 5PD

BYOB

Sun 26th July 8pm £12

Tickets from bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org

or phone 07900 590808

Accompanied
under 16s free



Ian Millar & Dominic Spencer
accessible, melodic jazz

www.millarandspencer.co.uk

Rector's Ramblings

As I was led by a churchwarden through a jeering crowd and placed firmly in the stocks, I took the opportunity to reflect on my two years as Rector here. As the first sponge connected solidly with my nose, and a man from Croughton Road in Aynho asked if I was the vicar of anywhere near here, I thought about what can happen in two years.

Two years ago, I was starting out for the first time with responsibility for my own parish. I was advised, wisely, that there would be a honeymoon period of grace which would probably last as long as that given to the new Prime Minister just taking office (I have been keeping an eye on the Vicar of Makerfield in case they make a move for my living). It is a pleasure and a privilege to be Rector of the Benefice (even as parishioners pelt me with sponges, and when I cannot dissuade the people of Aynho from gambling on trained rodents on a Sunday). A great deal has happened in our villages, and it has been wonderful to welcome new people and families regularly to services, to build on traditions, and the new ideas that are springing up (keep a look out for Christmas and Choirs). Most importantly there are the things that I cannot publish here, but do hold in prayer. Thank you all who have shared time, trust, and prayer.

In June our eight churchwardens (Evenley and Croughton are still looking for a second churchwarden), having been elected, were sworn in by the Archdeacon. They have each kindly agreed to organise, lead, clean, fundraise, lead tours, open churches, stay late, come early, and do all this unpaid and with prayer. Our Ministry Team, our clergy and Lay Readers who visit and take services, have been prompted to renew their commitments for the coming year.

Across our villages a not inconsiderable army of people work for our parishes, holding keys, serving at altars, reading, praying, cleaning, mowing, ringing bells, singing, playing the organ, cooking, visiting, and much more. Often the Church seems so monumental - and it is, the gathered people of God around the globe and across time - but it is also intensely local and personal. Rather like the building; at once permanent and ancient, and also in need of constant maintenance and work.

One of the great joys of being Rector - aside from the neat black wardrobe - is to be constantly amazed and delighted by the gifts people make of themselves. By the way that everyday activities, or passions, or talents are turned to the service of God, and the daily things of life or ourselves are hallowed and made holy. The joy of music, or the skill in speaking, the act of listening or empathy, the care of the world or individual held in prayer, or the daily laundry. It is a reminder that for all that the Church seems separate and defined, it is made up of ourselves, as the living Body of Christ in the world. Coming as we are and offering what we are.

Thank you to everyone who gives time so generously. If you can offer time, or prayer, or are interested in taking on something new and meaningful, please be in touch. If we can offer an outlet for your talent or passion, we would love to hear from you.

George Frost

BYGONE DAYS

It is interesting to note that the village school logbook opened in 1910. The headmaster was Mr. R.J Broughton aided by 3 female Teachers and a Monitress – his daughter- known by the children as ‘pudding bag’. (One wonders why that was??) One of the uncertified Teachers was paid £45 per annum which eventually rose to £57-10s.

There were 65 pupils in the school; all of whom in their English studies learned to paraphrase, to do analysis and to recite Goldsmith’s ‘Deserted Village’. In their History classes they were taught about the relations of royalty to foreign powers plus the constitution of the Government. All of this was thought to be of great importance. The boys learned to draw flat objects, circles, cylinders and sprays of leaves and flowers. The girls were taught to knit in order to re-foot the Master’s socks, to sew dust sheets; and the ‘lucky ones’ were allowed to sew sequins and beads on the blouses and dresses of the Headmaster’s wife. All of the children did basketry with willow collected from the osier beds at Cockley.

The school’s everyday problems are faithfully recorded: the days when the coal was not delivered – or the day when it was and the lorry hit the school gates. Plus the epidemics which caused absences, along with a list of ailments. The Dentist would visit frequently along with the School Attendance Officer who was especially severe on children who played truant to work on local farms (I actually recall the Attendance Officer from my own schooldays. He was known as The School Board Man and was a figure of great fear)

But the Summer Term brought treats. In July 1932, staff, children and managers took part in a trip to Kidlington Zoo and a barge trip along the Oxford canal; finishing with a visit to the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum. In Summer 1953, to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 11 every child was given a copy of ‘Elizabeth Our Queen’ by Richard Dimbleby and holidays were granted for the Banbury Fair and the annual village festival.

The high spot of the Summer was the Village Tea and Festival, hosted by Mrs. Rush. It was held at the end of the Summer Term and a special holiday was granted. By all accounts it was a glorious event beginning with a bumper tea for children and adults, served in the old Sunday School sited in John Newman’s Queen Street House. Following this the party shifted to the Bowling Green field, where swings, Coconut shies and a horse- drawn roundabout had been put in place. Mrs. Rush stood in the midst of it all; a tall stately figure always wearing a black dress and hat and carrying a black umbrella. This formidable but clearly kind lady would be surrounded by eager children as she tossed bulls-eyes into the air for the children to scramble after. If I could travel back in time to witness all of this I would revel in it!

We don’t have a Mrs Rush now but our village school still presents its Summer Festival and much more. There is still a lot to enjoy and appreciate in our village though times have changed radically. Long may it continue.

Ed.

LOCAL EVENTS DURING JULY

Chatty Cafes in Brackley.

Every Monday 2pm -4pm Esquires Cafe, Juno Crescent.
Every Tuesday 3pm -5pm The Crown Hotel, Market Place.
Every Thursday 6-30pm onwards Paisley Pear, Northampton Rd.

Veterans Breakfast Club. Paisley Pear. From 9-30am
First Saturday of the month. Breakfast, banter and friendship
Open to all veterans and serving personnel.
Brackley.chair@rbl.community for further information

Brackley History Society - Wednesday July 1st. 7-30pm
Brackley Methodist Church.
"Bess of Hardwick and Hardwick Hall".
Members Free. Visitors £3
Brackleyhistorysociety@hotmail.com

Brackley Baptist Church - Saturday July 4th 1pm -4pm.
Summer Fun Day.
Bouncy Castle, indoor and outdoor games. Refreshments
Free Family Event.
Magdalen College School. St. John's Site

Brackley Bite Club - Friday July 10th from 5pm.
Egerton Hall, Juno Crescent.
Street Food, Drinks and music.

Banbury Mayor's Fun Day - Sunday July 19th. Peoples' Park.
Live performances, Fun Fair Food and drink.
Banbury. Friday July 31st. Market Place.
Banbury Music Mix. 5-30pm – 10-30pm.
Live Music and food & drink.

Brackley Round Table Summerfest - Saturday July 25th.
12pm -8pm. Live music and performers. Food and drink.
Children's' entertainment
£12-50 entrance Under 18s free.

Lark Rise To Candleford Bike Ride for the Brains Trust

On Sunday, 17th May, Rebecca Wilde, Ruth Brittain and I went on the above sponsored bike ride. We only found out about it this year, but it has been going for 20 years and will be happening again next year and we will definitely do it again.

There are three beautiful routes to follow - 14 miles, 25 miles - which is the one we followed - and 40 miles.

The route goes through lovely countryside, including the villages of Mixbury (where the ride starts) onto Cottisford, Hardwick, Stoke Lyne - where the church welcomed us with homemade cakes and drinks.

Then onto the Tusmore Estate (which is just off the A43, with lovely footpaths and a stunning reproduction Georgian Manor - well worth visiting for a walk on the many footpaths) We followed a route through the estate not usually open to the public, going very close to the manor and offering us a glorious view of the long avenue leading to the grand pinnacle surrounded by four lions - this is on a footpath, so can be visited by walkers.

We continued to Hethe, but unfortunately didn't have time to stop at Mick the Hat's pub! Then through Newton Morrell, on to Tingewick and Finmere, where we were welcomed at the village hall with more refreshments. Then back to Mixbury to a BBQ organised by the trust. During the ride we saw pheasants, horses, Red Kites and a hare, all enjoying the glorious sunshine.

I know there are cyclists in the village and it would be lovely if you joined us next year - or sponsored the very worthwhile charity. Rebecca and I were on electric bikes, but Ruth (very fit!) was on a manual. A mountain bike or hybrid is required for the rough terrain. There are marshalls throughout the route which is very well signposted.

I'll put next year's date in the Chronicle nearer the time. If you have any questions, feel welcome to email me.

Wendy Hancock
wendy.gainford@gmail.com



Win £750 in our Spring Raffle

Our Spring Raffle is now live and it's quick and easy to [enter online](#).

Tickets cost just £1, with the chance to win £750 cash, plus other great prizes. Every ticket you buy helps Katharine House Hospice provide vital care for people with incurable illnesses and their families. Did you know? Just 10 tickets could help pay for three breakfasts for patients in our Inpatient Unit. You can [buy your tickets online](#), pick them up in our shops, or request paper tickets by calling 01295 816484.

Upcoming Open Gardens

Spring is in full bloom, and we've got a wonderful line-up of beautiful gardens opening their gates over the coming months.

To find out more visit: www.khh.org.uk/gardens

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

Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Vale Benefice July-August 2026									
	5 th July 5th after Trinity	12 th July 6th after Trinity	19 th July 7th after Trinity	26 th July 8th after Trinity	2 nd August 9th after Trinity	9 th August 10th after Trinity	16 th August 11th after Trinity	23 rd August 12th after Trinity	30 th August 13th after Trinity
Aynho	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at	9.15am Communion	11am Communion	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion		11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion	Croughton All villages invited to join together at	11am Morning Prayer	
Evenley	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	Aynho 5.30pm Evensong at Croughton	5.30pm Evensong	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion		5.30pm Evensong	5.30pm Evensong
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer	5.30pm Evensong at Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer	Evenley
Hinton-in-the-Hedges with Steane	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer	Croughton	11am Communion	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer	Croughton	11am Communion	

