

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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01295 712110
Taylor Vets
Brackley - 01280 474796
Middleton - 01295 233555

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Chronicle Editor

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EDITORS WELCOME

Loose vapours caught
 In whitest furs of woolly white,
 Such leaps of clouds,
 Of texture almost tame,
 In which the sun may seem to sleep.
 As in a light divan.
 Hang our dark green hills,
 Whence far away,
 Into the ocean sinks the sober day.

May Morning: William Wordsworth.

May gently reminds us that change can be beautiful and that there will always be new beginnings. As the days grow longer and the world comes alive with colour, we can pause, reflect and appreciate the simple blessings of Nature. May brings about a different ambience. We have warmth in the air and the greenery becomes deeper. We are able to throw open our windows and look outward to see what is opening up around us. We can be curious and step into a new month with the confidence that socially, culturally and personally, we will be able to make small changes that will bring pleasure and joy into our lives. The open garden season commences and across towns and villages people unlock their gates in aid of local charities. When visiting one can often pick up ideas; buy plants and enjoy a cup of tea and a piece of home-made cake.

May's prime natural moment is that of the Hawthorn. Stretches of countryside turn white virtually overnight as if the hedgerows have been covered in lace. There is a faint almond scent in the air as the 'May Tree' makes its entrance, marking the exact point of the year. It's a brief performance but is well worth appreciating. My Grandmother used to instruct me not to pick the blossoms; wagging her sharp and scary finger as she did so. When I asked why not? I was met with a grimace, and a muttered "No good will come of it".

May is notable for some historical facts. For example: On May 1st 1840 the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black went on sale in Britain. Sending a letter became affordable for most people and not just for the wealthy. Communication was revolutionised.

The month is a time of many traditions, not least that of dancing around a Maypole. The dance looks very complicated but when well performed is a delightful spectacle. In Welford upon Avon the village Maypole still stands and the dancing continues to take place. In past centuries young girls were encouraged to wash their faces in the morning dew on May Day; and were assured that the first man that they came across following their dawn ablutions would be the man that they would marry. It is not difficult to imagine that such an event could have been quite tricky!

In Normandy the custom on May 1st is to present bunches of Lily of the Valley to those whom one cares about, be they friends or relatives. We would take the fragrant flowers to our elderly neighbours and in return we would receive posies. It is a charming tradition.

As Nature comes into her own; enjoy your walks in our lovely countryside, and relax in your gardens when the sun shines. Relish the beauties of May.

Lynne



To All Farthinghoe and Steane Residents

Drainage Changes and Road Repairs

We have recently discovered that the long-awaited drainage changes and road repairs at the Main Road Pinch Point are booked for July 22nd to August 4th.

The road will be closed for all through traffic completely 24/7 from 8.00 am on July 22nd to 17.00 pm on Aug 4th.

I say discovered because we have not been advised by WNC Highways or their contractor Kier directly but we have found the details on the One Connect website

We have still not heard any meaningful detail about the progress of the Weight Limit project despite the fact that we have been asking since January. As soon as we hear more we will inform you

Regards

Mick Morris

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES.

Coffee, Cake and Chat

Will be held on Friday, May 8th from 10 – 11am in the Church Vestry
There will be a Raffle.
Hope to see you there!

Church Cleaning

On Tuesday May 12th, from 8.30am. Many hands make light work!

GENERAL

USED STAMPS

I will continue to collect used stamps, and if you do have a I'm more than happy to collect from anyone in the village; or do feel free to drop them off at 6, Seven Sisters Close.

Many Thanks
Jane Atkins

LITTER

Would anyone be interested in taking part in a monthly Litter Pick around the village?
It is sad to see how much litter is disposed of in our lovely village. Charlton Road, Main Road and Clark's Lane seem particular targets for 'Litter Louts'. but it appears everywhere.

I believe that the Council will supply pickers and rubbish bags and am happy to investigate if we can get enough volunteers. Half a dozen people could make such a difference.

Please mail me if you are interested - lynne.elizabethlee4647@gmail.com

Many Thanks
Lynne

PLAYPARK

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to temporarily close the Park again, due to a recent incident when one of the swings collapsed whilst children were playing on it. It was found that the posts had rotted below ground level and it is now necessary for the remainder of the wooden posts supporting the other equipment to be inspected to ensure the safety of people using it.

VILLAGE HALL

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY MAY 29th - 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.

CHARITY CONCERT – “A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS”

This was an incredible evening of entertainment enjoyed by 61 attendees and we are pleased to report that £915.00 was raised for the British Forces Foundation.

We have a varied programme of musical entertainment arranged for the next few months starting with:

SOULTOWN – FRIDAY 5th JUNE

The group who entertained us with ‘A Night at the Musicals’ are returning with a different show on the above date – **yes, the young man in the middle will be here again** – see poster following for further information. The seating format will be very similar with a bottle bar and ‘nibbles’. **Tickets £15 – contact Marjorie at bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org or tel. 07900 590808**

followed by:

JAZZ IN THE VILLAGE – SUNDAY 26TH JULY

Arrangements are now in place for this evening with Ian Miller and Dominic Spencer a Jazz Duo from Scotland who are touring the country. It looks like being a very entertaining evening – see poster following. This is being organised on a ‘Bring Your Own Drinks’ basis, however we will have soft drinks available also (cash only).

Tickets £12 – available from Marjorie as above

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. 24 – Lisa Wenmouth
2nd Prize - £15 - No. 44 – Robert Bunce
3rd Prize - £10 - No. 70 – Jean Parker



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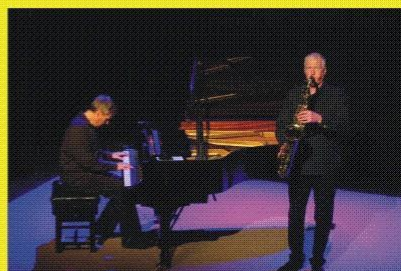
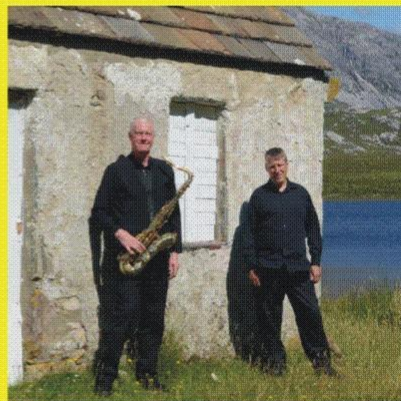
Soultown Boogie

Farthinghoe Village Hall
Friday 5th June
Doors open 7pm - Start 7.30pm
Tickets - £15 - Includes Nibbles
To book tickets: bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org - Call: 07900 590808

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

Sun 26th July 8pm £12

Tickets from bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org

or phone 07900 590808

BYOB

Accompanied
under 16s free



Ian Millar & Dominic Spencer
accessible, melodic jazz

www.millarandspencer.co.uk

Rector's Ramblings

As I write this the Archbishop of Canterbury is in Rome to meet with the Pope. I must confess that I find it a mix of annoying and amusing that the Archbishop has been called by Almighty God to His service as a priest, has been ordained into the line of the Apostles, and after years of service, has been called to act as first amongst equals for the English Bishops as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, part of an unbroken line of priests called by and dedicated to God that stretch back further than the line of English Kings, but all anyone seems to find interesting or remarkable about her is that she is a woman. The Archbishop has preached, baptised, blessed, and prayed at the tomb of St. Peter, speaking with God who called them both to the same ministry in different times. The Pope and the Archbishop have issued statements on the need for the Church to unite and condemn the violence and injustice in the world. The Archbishop then gifted the Pope a jar of honey from the bees in her garden; the distilled sweetness of creation (or is that too saccharin?).

One world leader (who has recently claimed either Divinity or a Doctorate for himself) criticised the Pope for being weak on crime and terrible for foreign policy. As a good Protestant I am happy to pile in with pontifical criticism. The inability or otherwise to legislate or govern by the teachings of Christ is the challenge posed by Pilate when he held God captive in court. What do we say to the people caught up in violence that accounts them as lamentable necessities? What do we say to the suffering allowed or stored up for the future through inaction or half measures? Christ preached the law of the Kingdom of God, but in our own realms we find it hard to legislate to love our neighbour as we do ourselves, or to fashion any form of punitive justice that enshrines perpetual forgiveness or the countering of evil with good. It may seem that only a fool would genuinely try to uphold these lofty ideals. And yet... the changes that have come from the time the fearful St. Augustine first came to plant a church in Canterbury, in a Pagan land ruled by warlords, and he lamented that it would be impossible by slow prudence to make mild a rugged people, and through soft degrees subdue them to the useful and the good. Since Peter lived in the slums of a city where slaves were sold and crowds laughed over human bloodsports and Christians offered only the resistance of prayer as they were burnt as torches. Is it possible that things may slowly improve?

Christians are asked to live in the world, but to be ambassadors of God's Kingdom. The teachings of faith seem far removed, but by degrees we may move closer. Who would ever have thought our first female Archbishop would pray with the Pope in Rome? Who would have thought war in Europe would shake the foundations of Nato? For better or worse our world changes, immovable as it seems in any moment. The world turns, the cross stands, and perhaps we are not quite so trapped between the grinding constraints of the world and larger forces as we tend to think.

Closer to home, with our annual reports for our parishes compiled, in faith we have buried the dead, baptised children and adults, welcomed confirmations, celebrated weddings, distributed money to those in need, blessed the land, and a slightly increasing number have met each week in prayer and praise. God is Good. God Bless.

George Frost

BYGONE DAYS

May Day has been celebrated for centuries in England; not least here in Farthinghoe. It appears that May Day was an occasion for much jollity and rejoicing. In the early years of the last century there would first have been the crowning of the May King and Queen; who then paraded around the village accompanied by their attendants. The procession would reach as far as Cockley Brake and Steane. A chair was constructed from sticks and decorated with flowers. The village children made garlands from flowers given to them by villagers, which they subsequently carried around the village - knocking on peoples' doors and singing:

"Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,
We wish you a happy May.
We've come to show our May Garlands,
Because it is May Day".

After these events there was dancing around the Maypole in one of the fields.

In May 1977 the village school celebrated its Centenary. Maypole dancing was a long-held tradition in Farthinghoe; it was revived for the Centenary Celebrations, and was performed with much dexterity. It was received with great pleasure and many people expressed their hopes that it might become an annual display. Following the Maypole dancing, the children plus a number of spectators took part in some country dancing; thankfully with some instruction from those who seemed to know what they were doing!

Their vigorous efforts were rewarded by a 'Victorian Bar' in the Village Hall arranged by the Landlord of The Fox, Mr. Taylor; with old style beer and cider from the barrel. It was followed by a Pig Roast; Farthinghoe's first, which brought the Centenary Celebrations to a triumphant close. It all sounded like a lot of fun. What a pity it has died out now. Does anybody fancy erecting a Maypole and having a go?

As a child I recall May Day in a city being somewhat different. In the 1950s there were Maypoles in some city parks which were utilised for dancing by schoolchildren; and there were, always, Morris Dancers who would visit the streets and the parks to entertain us. Our Milkman and our Baker would appear with their horses and carts; all of which would be richly decorated with flowers, bells and ribbons. It would be wonderful if some of these old customs could be resurrected, though I'm sure they'd be deemed impractical nowadays, and of course we no longer have deliveries by horse and cart. Nevertheless, they were happy times, and nice to look back on.

Ed.

LOCAL EVENTS DURING MAY

Brackley: Weds. 6th May, 7-30pm
Brackley Methodist Church.
Brackley History Society. Prof. John Clark.
" Brackley and the Bottom Station"
Members free. Visitors £3
Karen Gees: 01280 702837
Brackleyhistorysociety@hotmail.com

Banbury: Sat. 16th May, 11-30am.
The Mill.
The Ultimate Bubble Show.
Sculptures and magical displays.
Book online.

Banbury: Sat 16th May. 3pm- 8pm
St. Mary's Church.
Bridgerton Inspired Concert.
Book online.

Evenley: Tues. May 19th 8pm
Evenley Gardening Society Talk
" Crazy Daisies" - Robin Pearce.
Members £3 Visitors £4 Cash only
Refreshments and Raffle.

Brackley: Sat. 30th May 10.am -4pm
Brackley Canine Carnival
Brackley Leisure Centre.
A celebration of all things Dog!

Chatty Cafes in Brackley.

Every Tuesday, 3pm- 5pm - The Crown Hotel.
Every Thursday 6-30pm onwards - The Paisley Pear.
Tea, coffee and chat.



SAVE THE DATE



FARTHINGHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

QUIZ NIGHT!

**SUNDAY 24TH MAY
7PM AT
THE CREWE ARMS
HINTON**



**OPEN TO ALL
£50 PUB VOUCHER FOR THE
WINNING TEAM**



£10 per team - up to four people
£5 per extra team mate

Email

PTA@Farthinghoeprimaryschool.co.uk
to book in your team!

School ties



For
FARTHINGHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL



FARTHINGHOE FESTIVAL



After the success of last year,
we're doing it again!

Join us for our second summer
festival and support our wonderful
village primary school



Craft stalls
Bouncy castles
Food trucks
Tea and cake
Face painting
Music
Free children's games
Pottery painting
Ice creams
Raffle
and more!

14TH JUNE
11AM - 3PM

Farthinghoe Village Hall
and Sports Field

School ties



FOR FARTHINGHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL





It's a Knockout teams wanted

Local groups are being invited to take part in a fun-filled "It's a Knockout" event at the Bloxham Steam & Country Fair this summer, all in aid of Katharine House Hospice. The event will take place on Saturday 27 June in Bloxham, and organisers are hoping to welcome 12 teams from the local area. Expect plenty of laughs along the way, with inflatable obstacles, water games, colourful costumes and lots of cheering from the sidelines. Teams of friends, families or colleagues are encouraged to come together and take on eight lively challenges. Entry costs £600 per team (with 6 to 10 people per team), which includes admission to the fair, and there's no requirement to raise additional sponsorship. Anyone interested in taking part can find out more and sign up at: khh.org.uk/its-a-knockout-bloxham-steam-country-fair

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.

Rose to Remember

Rose to Remember has become a special part of our hospice calendar, and we're pleased to share that it will be returning this June. From 9 to 21 June, 600 beautiful purple roses will form a temporary installation in the peaceful grounds of the hospice, creating a space for reflection and remembrance. Each handcrafted metal rose honours the life and memory of someone special, and over 200 have already been sold. To find out more or buy your rose, visit: www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember

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.

- **Dates for your diary:**

- [Saturday 2 May: The Old Vicarage, Adderbury](#)
- [Sunday 17 May: From Garden to Vase, Culworth](#)
- [Sunday 31 May: Middleton Cheney gardens](#)
- [Sunday 7 June: Tysoe garden](#)
- [Sunday 7 June: Aynho gardens](#)

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 May - June 2026									
	3rd May 5th Sunday of Easter	10th May Rogation Sunday	17th May 7th Sunday of Easter	24th May Pentecost	31st May Trinity Sunday	7th June 1st Sunday after Trinity	14th June 2nd Sunday after Trinity	21st June Eve of St. Alban	28th June Eve of Peter & Paul the Apostles
Aynho	11am Communion		10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at Evenley	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion	11am Communion	10.00am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion	9.15am Communion
	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am Communion					11am Communion	All villages invited to join together at Farthinghoe	11am Morning Prayer
Evenley	11.00am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Benefice Evensong All villages invited to join together at Croughton	5.30pm Evensong	All villages invited to join together at Hinton-in- the-Hedges	11am Morning Prayer	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Benefice Evensong All villages invited to join together at Croughton	5.30pm Evensong
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer		9.15am Communion	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer	5.30pm Evening Prayer
Hinton-in-the- Hedges with Steane	6pm Evensong Steane Chapel	11am Morning Prayer		11am Communion			11am Morning Prayer		11am Communion

