ISSUE 860 October 2026

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE



Village news, notices and events….

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101

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The Horton
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The Fox Inn

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EDITOR'S WELCOME

"As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see".

Vincent Van Gogh.

October and we are truly into the Autumn; a time of abundance and unrivalled beauty, as Nature slows down and prepares for Winter. The changing colours of the leaves and the red berries in the hedgerows; plus the sculptural shapes of thistles and the deep hued branches of the dogwoods, make country walks such a pleasure. Wildlife too is changing its habits. Our Hedgehogs will be getting ready to hibernate as will the Butterflies, and if you're lucky you might hear the sounds of the Tawny and Barn Owls at dusk, or catch a glimpse of them. The Long Eared Owl can also be around at dawn or dusk in woodlands. This secretive nocturnal hunter with its 'ears' which are actually feathered tufts which can move back and forth according to the bird's moods; may stay put all year round; whilst those residing in more northerly Nature Reserves will migrate south in October. In Normandy we were fortunate to witness the Autumnal Starling Murmurations. Our home overlooked the Marais (Marshland) and we loved to watch the extraordinary aerial ballets as the birds returned to their roosts at sunset. It is not known exactly why they do this, but it has been said that flying in this manner is a method of protection from predators.

There are many traditions associated with October. The most well-known is, of course, Halloween or All Hallows Eve with its American founded 'trick or treating' – bobbing for apples – and the Jack O' Lanterns. Now mostly carved from pumpkins they were originally made from turnips. In fact, I recall as a child that people would place the carved and lighted turnips by their windows. However, pumpkin pie is a delicious autumn desert so for me it's worth buying a pumpkin in order to enjoy a little seasonal indulgence.

Apple Day is held annually on 21st October. It's the perfect excuse to visit a working orchard. In Kent the Brogdale Collections are home to the National Fruit Collection and include many heritage varieties. For a true celebration you can visit Harvest Time in Hereford hosted by the Big Apple Associations where orchards come to life with seasonal festivities. Some farms and orchards mark the Harvest with Cider Festivals and pressing days. Living in Normandy, at this time of year the Cider Apples would be picked and left to ferment in fields and gardens. Our neighbours would arrive with their tractors to gather in the fruits from our trees, and as the fruits fermented the fragrance was arresting, even more so when the presses went into action. We were always given a dozen or so bottles of the golden nectar. Selling it is illegal in Normandy unless the vendor is a registered merchant- but the Normans are a law unto themselves and everyone knew where to go to buy some good Cider!

October can be an enchanting month. The aforementioned colours of the trees and hedgerows, the subtle changing of the light as the month progresses; and cold crisp days for brisk walks, returning perhaps to a warm home and a cosy log fire. It brings a renewed sense of purpose following a long lazy Summer. Enjoy this mellow month and celebrate the joy of the season, however you decide to spend your time.

Lynne.

VILLAGE NOTICES

CHURCH NOTICES.

Coffee, Cake & Chat
On Friday, October 9th, from 10 – 11am in the Church Vestry.
All are welcome!

Church Cleaning
Will be on Tuesday, October 13th from 8.30am. Many hands make light work

Take the Next Step in Your Faith Journey: Confirmation in 2027

Have you been baptised and feel ready to affirm your faith for yourself? Or perhaps you are exploring faith and curious about making a personal commitment?

We are delighted to share that our Benefice will be hosting a Confirmation service next year!

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is a meaningful step where you "confirm" the promises made at your baptism (often made on your behalf by parents and godparents when you were a baby). During the service, the Bishop prays for those being Confirmed for God's Holy Spirit to give them strength, wisdom, and guidance to live as a follower of Jesus. It is a warm, joyful celebration of faith and community.

Preparation & Classes: To help you prepare, we will be running informal confirmation sessions ahead of the service. These are low-pressure opportunities to explore the basics of the Christian faith, ask big questions, and reflect on what confirmation means for you.

Flexible Formats: We offer both small group gatherings and one-to-one chats, so you can learn in whichever setting feels most comfortable for you.

Who it's for: Adults, young people, and anyone curious — everyone is welcome!
Interested or Want to Learn More? There's no obligation — if you'd simply like an informal chat to ask questions and see if confirmation is right for you, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with our Rector to find out more or register your interest:

Contact: The Reverend George Frost

Email: rev@gfrost.name
Phone: 01869 810 903

We look forward to sharing this journey with you!

CAST & CREW WANTED: ALL SAINTS' CROUGHTON CHRISTMAS PLAY!

Looking for a fun local project to get into the festive spirit this autumn? We are staging a special production of the Nativity at All Saints' Church in Croughton, and we're recruiting our cast and crew! Whether you are a seasoned performer or haven't trod the boards since primary school, we have a place for you

We have roles big and small, comic and dramatic. If you've ever fancied yourself as a wise king, a tyrannical ruler, a dry-witted shepherd, a member of the Holy Family, or simply want to relive your glory days as Innkeeper #2, we'd love to welcome you.

We're looking for:
· On-stage roles: Mary & Joseph, Kings, shepherds, angels, Herod, and classic ensemble parts (big and small!).
· Backstage & Creative crew: Costumes, sewing, props, and tech support.

Why join?
· Only ONE rehearsal a week, or fewer, throughout October & November.
· Script-in-hand options available—no late-night line learning required!
· A warm, friendly group (and plenty of tea and biscuits).

Show Dates: 11th & 12th December
Location: All Saints' Church, Croughton

Join us for fun, friendship, and a wonderful shared project to start the festive season. To take part, ask questions, or request a copy of the script, contact rev@gfrost.name / 01869 810 903

GENERAL

ATTENTION ALL LITTER PICKERS.

Hi everyone, I propose doing the first Litter Pick on Monday October 5th at 10.00am if the weather is dry; meeting outside The Fox. Wear stout shoes and a fluorescent gilet if you have one. Bring a black bin bag and gloves. I have 4 litter pickers.

If you are able to come along and help please let me know.

Many Thanks
Lynne.
(lynne.elizabethlee4647@gmail.com).

VILLAGE HALL

BOOKS & BAKES – FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER - 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.

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 -	Advanced	- 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
	Beginners	- 1st & 3rd Fridays 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Yoga -	Sunday	- 10.00am – 11.00am

150 CLUB - AUGUST DRAW WINNERS

1st Prize - £25 - No.104 – Neil Downing
2nd Prize - £15 - No. 39 – Ollie Cornock
3rd Prize - £10 – No. 28 – David Mellor

Minutes of Farthinghoe Village Hall AGM held on 16th September 2026 at 7.00pm

Attendees: Marjorie Morris - Chairman
Becky Wright
Wendy Hancock

Apologies for Absence: Lisa Wenmouth - Treasurer

Minutes of Last Meeting
The Minutes were approved and signed

Chairman's Report
Improvements carried out this year include redecoration which has brightened up the hall and the striplight fittings have been replaced with modern flat screens and LED tubes, which has enhanced the look of the lighting and will be more energy efficient. Work was also carried out on the windows to make them more secure.

We have also replaced the tables and chairs in the main hall, including some additional semi-circular tables to enable different seating configurations, whilst retaining some of the old ones for use in the meeting room which means we now have more capacity.

Various entertainment events were organised including the Panto in December, which was again very successful and enjoyed by all who attended. We were pleased to be able to hold a fundraising event for the same company in April when they put on 'A Night At The Musicals', which raised £915 for the British Forces Foundation. They followed this up with Soul Town Boogie another evening of great music which provided the Village Hall with a profit of £270.

In May Brackley Chamber Music Club again entertained us with a very enjoyable evening of music.

Treasurer's Report
This year we have continued with our regular bookings, we have lost the art class so our regular bookings are slightly down, but our one-off bookings (non-village) have increased.

There was no polling use of the hall, so no charge for that. The school's payment is now in line with the village user costs, after a number of years increasing by 10% each year.

Overheads remain very similar to previous years, but we have received £759 for electricity sold to the grid and we also had a generous donation to enable us to purchase the defibrillator.

We continue to receive a good rate of interest via the Epworth fund – currently at 3.77% and that is available to us on demand. Bank balances at the end of the year totalled in excess of £24,000 after payments due and we continue to hold all deposits received in a separate account. We are therefore well placed to continue with the additional work we hope to do in 2026/27.

The 150/200 club continues to contribute to the funds, but requires more members, and we will be working on this in the next month or so.

Going Forward
We are looking to purchase a new noticeboard which will go on the outside wall, combining the Farthinghoe Village Hall sign, to enable notices to be displayed advertising events on at the hall and a decision will be made on this at our next committee meeting.

Arrangements had been made for all the gutters to be cleared out and the drainpipes at the front and back of the hall to be taken down, cleaned out and put back. At the same time, some remedial outside work would be carried out and all the old building materials will be cleared from the area near the wooden shed. This work has now taken place and the only rubbish that needs to be cleared is garden waste and a few pieces of metalwork, which will be dealt with in the next month.

We will also be looking at making improvements to the outside space once it is completely cleared as this is a valuable asset when letting the hall for weddings and parties. It was suggested that it may be a good idea to purchase a Shredder to take care of the garden waste in future and this will be investigated.

On the entertainment front we have The Comedy Club on 10th October and The Panto Company will be returning in December with Cinderella.

General
We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the people who help to keep the hall running smoothly, specifically our wonderful cleaner Rachael, Keith and Teresa Bullock who look after the lawn and hedges, and Jenny and Mike Phipps who have given many hours over the years to keep the garden looking good. Plus, special thanks to all those who offer their services whenever we need “an extra pair of hands”.

Committee
Unfortunately, Sowjana Vallore has had to step down from the Committee due to work commitments and we thank her for her very valuable input over the past three years. The remainder of the Committee were re-elected as below and we do have a possible new member, but would be pleased to hear from anybody else who would like to join us:

Marjorie Morris - Chairman
Lisa Wenmouth - Treasurer
Becky Wright
Wendy Hancock

Rectors Ramblings

Throughout the Bible sheep are used as a metaphone for humanity. It is a comparison that some have found unflattering or odd. I must confess, I think it apt. When I was working as an Intern for the Church on the Isle of Man I found myself suddenly with an unexpected second job. The Precentor of the Cathedral left to take over as temporary Vicar of the Falklands (the largest parish in the world, with responsibility for all of antarctica) when his wife was sent out as a resident magistrate. The Precentor had a smallholding with a flock of sheep, and I was paid to look after them whilst he was away. I was given the job after demonstrating that I could lift a Zwartble Ewe.

One rainy Saturday I had them gathered in hurdle pen in the corner of a clifftop field, with a fine rain soaking everything, as I took care of some dagging and foot-trimming that needed doing. As will always happen in such situations, no matter how many layers you wear, how waterproof, how well tucked in and secured, the moment you bend over it will all flip up or undo to ensure the small of your back is exposed to the rain. Some things in life are a constant.

Another constant is the bloody-mindedness of sheep. As I worked the Manx Longton - an ancient and wiry breed - walked up the hurdles to escape the pen. I reflected at this point about the way the bible often refers to humanity as the Flock of God.

I remembered, back home, when we would see a lame sheep, or possibly two (never more, of course) in a field, possibly hobbling on three legs. However, when we got them in the pens these sheep would suddenly pretend to be healed. They became hard to spot, hiding to the back, pretending to a fitness they did not have. Stamping, jumping, wrestling at every point against the shepherd if found. If, somehow, they escaped the careful hours of search, they would sprint back into the field, until out of reach, when they would limp extravagantly again.

So much effort was put into hiding, denying, the ailment and resisting the treatment, out of all proportion and against its own interest. Of course, sheep do not understand this. But how much effort do we put into masking our ailments, our faults and problems, hiding them rather than fixing them? Denying rather than confronting? No one likes to think of their own sins, errors, and omissions. A denial of fault seems baked into us. Many object to faith, not because they disbelieve in the divine or the soul, but because they cannot stand the thought of this meaning that there are rules, that we may sin. But sin is not a heavenly points system. It is the love that cares enough to say no, in the trust that we may find things better. That bares the struggle in the pens to enable the flock to gambol in pastures.

We are the sheep. Not stupid, and often putting more ingenuity into hiding problems rather than fixing them, or allowing the shepherd to work on us. God is the shepherd, who guides, defends, tends His flock. I thought on what we learn about ourselves, and the love of God as, cold, wet, bruised, I moved from the pen to gather back the sheep that were determined to flee care, and to do it again and again. No matter the frustration, the shepherd tends the sheep. Some things in life are a constant.

George Frost

BYGONE DAYS

Here in Farthinghoe we are fortunate to have an active Parish Council; all of whom work hard to ensure that the village remains a pleasant place in which to live whilst trying to resolve any problems that may occur. I got to wondering how they might have deployed their tasks in decades past and just how much their duties have changed.

In the latter years of the nineteenth and the early years of the last century one of the Parish Council's duties was to nominate two people who were willing and able to serve as Parish Constables. There are no records of their commitments but an old resident of the village believed that their primary duties were to sort out domestic quarrels which got out of hand! That would not have been an enviable task! The practice of appointing constables ceased in 1942.

Additionally, the Parish Council had to appoint certain officials as Overseers of the Poor. They would most likely have worked with the Guardians - based in Brackley - to deal with the relief of distress. The last appointments were made in 1926.

The council was also responsible for arranging collections for national appeals in times of disaster or war; and for organising celebrations for coronations and jubilees. Often these were delegated to 'ad hoc' committees. Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 was loyally celebrated in Farthinghoe. There was a well-attended church service led by the Rector The Rev. Elliot and a coronation flag hung outside the Royal Oak. It was a blue flag with a white border bearing the inscription: 'May her ways be pleasantness and her paths be peace'. A flag also fluttered from the church tower and the school and the village square were suitably decorated. There was a grand village dinner with speeches, toasts and a great deal of jollity.

The council minutes do not show many mentions of the two world wars. During the 1914-1918 war there are merely two entries referring to Belgian refugees; proclaiming intentions to help them, and to provide housing for a few days. One wonders why just a few days? The 1939-1945 war receives scant mention. Records show that the school received a quota of evacuees (described as 'immigrants') some of whom remained in the village for the duration of the conflict.

Other matters that concerned the council were perennial problems, it seems. The provision of sufficient allotments and the need for a recreation ground. Then there was the need to keep footpaths and bridle paths open and in good order, plus repairing stiles and replacing planks over brooks. Village memories were important when deciding which tracks were traditionally public footpaths and Mr. Mark Trinder, whose memory was unimpaired even in his latter years, was a valuable witness at official footpath enquiries. He could describe in detail the footpaths he used to walk when travelling to Kings Sutton to summon the doctor to his wife when she was 'expecting'.

Our Parish Council today have rather different things to deal with, apart from of course looking after the footpaths; but modern life with its varying issues and difficulties that the village has to face, continues to keep them busy. We are indeed fortunate to benefit from their consistent hard work and service.

Ed

LOCAL EVENTS DURING OCTOBER

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

Banbury Canal Festival.
Sat. 3rd October 12am -5pm
Canalside. History, Heritage and Culture

Banbury Michaelmas Fair
Weds. 14th October - 17th October - 10am- 4pm
One of the oldest Fairs in the region.

Stowe House Howl - O – Ween
Mon. 19th October - Thurs 1st November 10-30am -3pm
Pug in a Pickle Trail. Spooky make and take crafts. Treasure Hunt. Details on line.

Stowe House - Secrets of Stowe Tour
Weds. 24th October - Weds. 30th October.
Rooms rarely open to the public. Various times.
From £6 - £15 Details on line.

Brackley Fireworks
Sat 31st October. Magdalen College School: 5pm -8pm
10th anniversary.

Canons Ashby Guided Countryside walks.
Each third Thurs. of the month
6 mile walk with a guide. Details on line.

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LONE WOLF
Early Bird £16
COMEDY CLUB
FARTHINGHOE
Saturday 10th October
Follow us on
Carey Marx
''International Multi-Award Winner''
Andrew Bird
''Comic's Comic Winner''
Jake Lambert
''Michael MacIntyre Tour Support''
DOOR 7pm SHOW 8pm
TICKETS £20
www.lonewolfcomedy.co.uk
Cockley Rd Farthinghoe Brackley NN13 5PD
Line Up Subject To Change

Sunday Service Planner for the Astwick Vale Benefice October-November 2026									
	4th October 18th after Trinity	11th October 19th after Trinity	18th October St. Luke the Evangelist	25th October Bible Sunday	1st November All Saints Sunday	8th November Remembrance Sunday	15th November 2nd before Advent	22nd November Christ the King	29th November ADVENT SUNDAY
Aynho	11am HARVEST	10am Morning Worship	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at **Hinton-in-the -Hedges** 5.30pm Evensong at **Croughton**	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at **Croughton**	10.15am Act of Remembrance	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at **Aynho**	9.15am Communion	10.30am Benefice Communion All villages invited to join together at **Croughton**
Croughton	9.15am Morning Prayer	11am HARVEST		11am Morning Prayer		10.45am Act of Remembrance		11am Morning Prayer	
Evenley	11am HARVEST	9.15am Communion		5.30pm Evensong		10.50am Act of Remembrance		5.30pm Evensong	
Farthinghoe	9.15am Communion	5.30pm Evening Prayer		9.15am Morning Prayer		6pm Act of Remembrance		9.15am Morning Prayer	
Hinton-in- the-Hedges with Steane	6pm HARVEST	11am Morning Prayer		11am Communion		10.50am Act of Remembrance		11am Communion	