



CROUGHTON NEWS

January 2025

The Blackbird

December saw a busy month in the Blackbird after the hugely successful re-opening. A fantastic Karaoke on Christmas Eve, live music on New Years Eve to see in 2026 and a hugely successful return to their home for the Blackbird Jammers (and plenty of new guests on December 27th). Adrian, Chris and Hannah send their best wishes for 2026 to everyone, and on behalf of the Blackbird Orphans we return the feelings along with many thanks for being such amazing new landlords to the pub.

More events are planned in the coming weeks. There is a quiz on **January 17th** - please register teams of 4 at the blackbird as soon as possible to avoid disappointment then live music with Harry on **7th February** and Patrick on the **27th February** and more Karaoke and Jamming sessions to be scheduled (keep an eye on the Facebook page for more details).

Please do continue to support Chris and Adrian by meeting up at the Blackbird – for those of you on dry January don't worry as they stock Heineken and Guinness 0.0, as well as a non-alcoholic ale and plenty of other soft drinks.

Best Regards, Dave Marsden

Sewing/Craft Group - 2nd & 4th Wednesday in the Village Hall

We have an informal get together twice a month where you can share ideas, join in with projects we have or simply do your own thing and chat. Bring along yourself and a craft/ knitting, hand sewing or your machine and latest project for 2 hours on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month. No commitment and come along whenever you want - even if it is once a month or just occasionally. £3 per session just to cover the cost of the hall.

Either come along or message the village hall email - croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com or drop Sally a message on 07949 074106.

Croughton School PTFA 100 Club

Winners of the Croughton School PTFA
100 Club for December 2025

Kirsty Fordjour

Kelly Morris

Graham Burke

Congratulations to all the winners

We do still have some numbers available if you would like to sign up croughtonschoolpta@gmail.com



Your Parish Council Needs You Are you over the age of 18? You could become a Parish Councillor and influence the things that matter to you in the village.

Being a Parish Councillor is not a huge task. You would need to be available to turn up to meetings once a month (the 2nd Monday in the month, at 7:30pm). Once you have got to grips with the meetings, there are more ways to get involved, depending on your skills and availability.

If you want to know more, please contact Karen, the Clerk, who can put you in touch with a current councillor: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07863 356095 (call or text)

You are also welcome to come along to a meeting and see what happens. Visit the Parish Council website to find out what we do: www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

There are currently 3 vacancies on Croughton Parish Council.

Croughton Short Mat Bowls



We are a small friendly club who meet in the Village Hall on Monday evenings 7.30pm to 9.30pm (bowls provided). Come along and give it a try. For more information contact Martin on 07762 659589.

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Smith
High Street , Croughton, Northamptonshire, NN13 5LT
Tel. 01869 810727 bursar@croughton.northants-ecl.gov.uk
www.croughtonallsaints.northants.sch.uk

Nursery Places Available

We opened our Nursery in September 2023 which is now thriving and have spaces available for children aged 3+ for a Sept, Jan or April start.

We provide an EYFS Unit which operates in school hours with an amazing indoor and outdoor provision as well as wonderful, experienced staff.

We are flexible with hours, offering both 15 and 30 hours as well as the ability to pay for additional hours if needed. Nursery children can benefit from our wraparound provision and a daily hot school meal with our catering provider.

Please do contact the school on 01869 810727 or email bursar@croughton.northants-ecl.gov.uk to arrange to look round, ask any further questions and apply!

We look forward to welcoming you.

Croughton Village Website

For all information on events, parish council meetings and general information etc.

www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Croughton Parish Council – December 2025 meeting

CPC meetings are held on the second Monday in the month, at 7:30pm in Croughton Village Hall.

The minutes of all Croughton Parish

Council meetings are published on the website:
www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The meeting began with an item to co-opt a new Councillor, Kate Goodchild. Kate was warmly welcomed to the Council and took her place at the table for the rest of the meeting.

Planning Application discussed:

1. <https://wnc.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/2025/3681/FULL> – Proposed single storey rear extension with garage conversion.

The Council found no reason to raise any comments about the Planning Application above.

Other items discussed:

- The Budget for 2026/27 was discussed and approved, including an allowance for applying for a loan to pay for rebuilding the Allotment wall. To pay for this, the precept

(the CPC section of the Council Tax) will be increased for the 2026/27 year but will be reduced substantially the following year.

- **Traffic Working Group:** Members of the working group are still ploughing through the data received from the Traffic Survey, as well as actively reporting HGV's which are driving through Croughton in contravention of the 7.5T weight limit.
- **Allotment wall:** The decision date for WNC Planning to rule on the Lawful Development Certificate for rebuilding the allotment wall was the 15th December. It's hoped that the Council will finally be able to move forward with this project in the new year.
- **Vacancies:** There are still 3 vacancies on the Council. This is an opportunity to influence decisions in the community and we welcome anyone who is interested to speak to a current Councillor or contact the clerk for more information: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07863 356095 (call or text). (Please note that the clerk works part-time, so there may be a delay in responding to your message)

The Village Hall

If you want to use the hall to play badminton or table tennis, just get in touch, we have tables and nets available. Email: croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com

ABILITY – Your Local On-Demand Minibus Service

ABILITY is a not-for-profit organisation that provides an on-demand bus service available to all ages.

There is a regular shopping service from Croughton to Banbury on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Fridays to either Brackley or Bicester. There are also special trips out to a variety of locations, see the special trips for January below. Contact Ability for the full list of special trips. Concessionary bus passes are accepted. Non-bus pass holders will be charged a fare.

You need to be registered to use the service. There is an initial registration fee of £10 and an annual fee from £15 to £45 for single or from £20 to £55 for joint membership, depending on which level you choose. You also need to book your seat before you travel on a journey. Registration forms are available at Croughton Village Hall, Croughton Tea Rooms & the Co-op. You can also register online at: <https://abilitycic.org.uk/membership/> or telephone Ability between 9am & 2pm on: 01327 604123 (Voicemail after 2pm)

Croughton WI

The next meeting of Croughton WI will be held on **Wednesday, 21st January at 7:30pm**, in Croughton Village Hall.

Our speaker for the evening will be Stuart Cummins on Victorian and Edwardian household innovations.

We are a friendly and informal group with our meetings consisting of a speaker or activity ending the evening with a raffle and refreshments.

All ladies will be made most welcome so please do come along to our next meeting.

For further information, please contact Diane on diane3222@hotmail.co.uk.

Footpath lighting

Please report any footpath lights to the Clerk. You will need the number of the light, located on the lamppost, and the street name. To contact the Clerk: clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07863 356095.

Other issues

If you are aware of any other issues around the village (blocked footpaths, overhanging vegetation, flooding, potholes etc.) please report them to West Northamptonshire Council through the WNC website: <https://fix.westnorthants.gov.uk/>

There are emergency numbers for issues such as flooding or urgent out-of-hours problems.

ABILITY – Mini-Bus Service, Special Trips, January 2026

Date	Destination	Trip cost	
Weds 21st January	Yarnton Garden Centre	Free	A popular location including large garden centre, shopping and restaurant.
Tues 27th January	The Butchers Arms, Fringford	Free	Two Course Senior Menu for £13.95
Fri 30th January	Warwick	£20 fare	Popular town on the River Avon, known for Warwick Castle and St. Mary's Church.

TUESDAYS 10-12



**COFFEE
MORNING**

**BACK ROOM OF READING ROOM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Suspicious activity surrounding the Base

... can be reported 24/7 to the MoD Armed Mobile Patrol on 07773 971 924. Please do not use this number to report civilian issues – that should properly be brought to the attention of Northamptonshire Police. Call 101 or go online.

The Croughton Wine Appreciation Group



A Very Happy New Year to All.

Our dates for the New Year kick off with an on-line event on **6th February**, followed by a pop-up event in the Village Hall on the **13th March**. This will explore alternative outlets for wine such as Savers and B & M. Bring your own food. More info to follow.

24th April is our AGM, the topic for the wines to follow.

Other dates for your diary are 5th June, 10th July, Vineyard visit in August, 25th September, 6th November and Xmas black tie event on 6th December.

All events to be held in the Village Hall at 8pm.

If you are not already a member and wish to attend please email Martin at croughtonwag@gmail.com or 01869 80721

Rector's Ramblings

Having written last year about why I believe in God, I am going to try and answer another question I am asked frequently, along side 'How much does a Christening cost?' (Free), 'Are you the Vicar here?' (Depends), and 'Milk and sugar?' (Just milk): Why do you go to Church?

It is a good question. Going to church takes up precious time in our valuable and shrinking weekends. It is ritualistic, filled with things one might get wrong or not understand. Its too old fashioned, or if it isn't, its too painfully 'trendy'. The obvious answer, of course, is that if I didn't go to church people would start asking questions, and the Bishop would probably remove me from my Living.

Scientific studies have, of course, picked over the fact that communal singing increases Oxytocin and Dopamine, that shared texts of references build community bonds and understanding, that periods of quiet prayer are good for mental health and resilience, that communities that observe fasts and feasts (Lent and Advent, Christmas and Easter) are better placed to confront the challenges of economic or environmental hardship. Basically, it has been observed and catalogued that people who regularly attend church are, on average, happier, healthier, live longer, and are less likely to suffer from depression. But, it is more than that. Cringeworthy though it may be to admit, I enjoy going to church.

This would make sense, as church going is something we are asked to do for ourselves, not for God. Going to church is not

Astwick Vale Benefice Services for January 2026

Details at www.astwickvalebenefice.org

St. Michael, Aynho • All Saints, Croughton, •
St. George, Evenley • St. Michael and All Angels, Farthinghoe
• Most Holy Trinity, Hinton-in-the-Hedges

11th January

10.00am Morning Worship, Aynho
11.00am Communion, Croughton
9.15am Communion, Evenley
5.30pm Evening Prayer, Farthinghoe
11.00am Morning Prayer, Hinton

18th January

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, Evenley

25th January

9.15am Communion, Aynho
11.00am Morning Prayer, Croughton
5.30pm Evensong, Evenley
9.15am Morning Prayer, Farthinghoe
11.00am Communion, Hinton

Annual Church Raffle

The raffle draw was taken on Friday 19th December 2025 in Croughton Tea Rooms.

1st prize ticket no:271

2nd prize ticket no 165.

This year £362.00 was raised for All Saints Church

Our thank,go to Sarah and her team for organising and selling the tickets, the people who donated the lovely gifts and you the people who purchased the tickets.

Grateful thanks, Croughton P.C.C.

something God demands of His faithful so that He can get a kick out of taking a weekly census. It is something we do to help us in our faith, and it would make sense that it is good for us.

The reason I go to church is because living our faith can be challenging, difficult, and everything that goes on around us in life and in the wider world can be an added pressure. I am glad of the chance of an hour a week set aside just so I can hold my life and the world in prayer; our joys and sorrows. Where I can hear the story of generations that have lived the same faith, have known God, and have strived and struggled, and to see it linked to my own life. I can ask questions, share answers, and do so in the company of people in the same village who are doing the same.

I enjoy going to church. The familiar pattern of the words, the mystery of the sacraments, the peace of prayer, the favourite hymns (and some I groan at when I hear them announced), and the people. But mostly, I go to church because this one hour enables me to live my faith in my own life for the other 167 in the week. If that sounds like something that would be helpful to your faith or of interest to you, or if you have found coming to our churches during Christmas a good in your life, come along. You are always welcome.

I hope this is something of an answer in the limited space allowed. If you have any other questions I would be most interested.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road
Adderbury
Oxon OX17 3NL

Charity shops treasures

Having a post-Christmas clear-out? How about donating your good-quality unwanted items to one of our charity shops? Donating to a charity shop is more sustainable and helps us raise much-needed funds so we can carry on looking after people in our community. You can find the details for all our charity shops on our website: www.khh.org.uk/retail.

Garden hosts needed for 2026–27

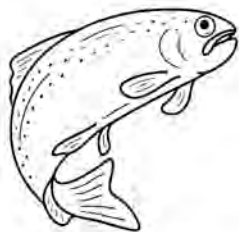
Katharine House Hospice is looking for garden owners to take part in Open Gardens during 2026–27.

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

Volunteering opportunities

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: khh.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities



UPPER AYNHO FISHERY
Est. 1973

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME for 2026 season

- Three beautiful secluded lakes just outside Aynho - family friendly
- Natural setting - fly fishing as nature intended
- Various membership options available to suit your budget (see website)
- Sorry, no day tickets (membership only)

Enquiries

jerry@rhs-son.co.uk

Tel: 01869 810823

www.upperaynhofishery.co.uk

Croughton Village Hall Regular Activities

Baby & Toddler Group Monday 9.30–11.30 am
contact Kelly 07716 981263

Pilates Monday 4.45pm & 6pm
contact Sandy on 07944 826687

Short Mat Bowls Monday 7.30pm
contact Martin on 07762 659589

Ladies Fit Club Tuesday 7.30–8.30pm
contact Zoe 07701 339605

Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School

Wednesdays 2.10pm – 9.10pm onwards
depending on age/class
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

WI

3rd Wednesday in the month
contact Diane on diane3222@hotmail.co.uk

Sewing/Craft Socials

2nd & 4th Wednesday each month 6.00–8.00pm
contact Sally 0749074106
or email croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School

Fridays 2.10pm – 9.10pm onwards
depending on age/class
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

Wine Appreciation Group

Friday 8pm (bi-monthly)
contact Martin 01869 810721 or Claire 07751 375689

BRACKLEY HOGWATCH FUNDRAISING STALL



**Funding the research, rescue,
rehabilitation and release of hedgehogs
in Brackley and surrounding villages.**

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in 2025, it has helped us to care for many sick, injured or orphaned hedgehogs in our local area, we are very grateful for your continued support.

Our fundraising stalls will be back in the Spring but we do have a little fundraising stall at Croughton Tea Rooms with a lovely selection of hedgehog-themed gifts and cards plus some small houseplants in china pots for sale. There is also a box for you to recycle printer inkjet cartridges, all in aid of Brackley Hogwatch. Croughton Tea Rooms serves delicious homemade Don't forget to have some delicious breakfast, lunch or homemade cake while you're there!

www.brackleyhogwatch.co.uk Registered Charity no. 1188770

Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:

Georgina Lucas, 810923. email: galucas65@outlook.com

The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.