



CROUGHTON NEWS

February 2026

Church Fete 2026 – Let’s Make It a Cracker!

Saturday 20th June 2026

Dust off your sun hats and warm up your “fete face” — Church Fete 2026 is on its way!

Join us in the All Saints grounds for a proper community day out, full of stalls, smiles, and a bit of friendly chaos (the best kind).

What’s in store?

- Children’s Bric-a-Brac
- Books
- Cakes Stall
- Plant Stall
- The Infamous Tombola (legendary for a reason...)
- Plus tea and coffee to keep you fuelled and chatting all afternoon

Volunteers Needed – Before and On the Day!

To make the magic happen, we need a few lovely people to help out with:

- Setting up (tables, stalls, general pre-fete excitement)
- Helping on stalls (even a short shift is a huge help)
- Serving, selling, smiling (essential fete skills!)
- Packing down (the not-so-glamorous bit... but we’ll be grateful forever)

If you can spare an hour, a morning, or the day — you’ll be a fete hero.

Donations Coming Soon

We’ll be collecting items in due course for the various stalls, so please don’t get rid of anything just yet — we’ll share details soon on what we need and when to drop it off.

Want to volunteer or lend a hand in any way?

Email me: kateg6789@gmail.com

Let’s make it fun, friendly, and full of laughter — see you there!

Croughton WI

The next meeting of Croughton WI will be held on **Wednesday 18th February at 7.30pm**, Croughton Village Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Northampton Police on The Fast Response Unit

We are a friendly, informal group and our meetings consist 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.

Three Parishes Community Fridge at the Bus Stop

We hope you are enjoying your goodies from the Bus Stop! You will notice a clip board in the bus stop from now on – we are trying to record how many people this food is feeding, which will help TPCF apply for grants. All you need to do is write the village you are from, if not Croughton, and the number of people in your household. Please do this each time you take things from the bus stop.

We’d also ask you please to keep the bus stop tidy and take away any packaging you might see which really helps us when we are trying to clear up. You might also consider making a donation to TPCF, which will help them continue to run the fridges and freezers and provide hampers to families in need. You will see a QR code at the Bus Stop, or you can scan the code below to make your donation.

You can also visit their GoFundMe page at <https://gofundme.com> and search for Three Parishes Community Fridge. Ignore the Merry Christmas greeting - they are too busy sorting out food collections to update it!!



TUESDAYS 10-12



COFFEE MORNING

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

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Croughton Parish Council – January 2026 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

A selection of items discussed:

- The Budget for 2026/27, which had been approved at the last meeting, was reviewed with no further comments made. The precept (the CPC section of the Council Tax) for 2026/27 was approved at £51,437 which is an increase from 2025/26, but it will mean that the Council can set the ball rolling to pay for the repair to the allotment wall. Once the wall is fixed and the necessary loan to cover the shortfall is repaid, the precept will reduce over the next couple of years.
- **Traffic Working Group:** Members of the Traffic Working Group are continuing to report instances of HGV's which are travelling through Croughton to Highways enforcement officers, and the general feeling is that the number of HGV's has gone down.
- **Allotment wall:** WNC Planning Department have confirmed that the Council does not need to apply for planning permission to rebuild the wall, so work on the borrowing application to be able to apply for a loan to cover the shortfall can now move forward.
- **Christmas Tree:** A suggestion has been received from a resident that it would be a nice idea to have a Christmas tree in the middle of the village. After a lot of discussion, it was agreed to support a community lead initiative, but the Parish Council doesn't have any money in the budget for Christmas 2026.
- **Defibrillator:** The village defibrillator, which has been in place on the wall of the Reading Room for 11 years, was used for the first time on Boxing Day. A small group of 'Guardians' have been checking and maintaining it every week for 11 years and the Councillors wished to acknowledge this and to thank them for their commitment. The unit has been out of action since Christmas, waiting for replacement pads which have proved difficult to source. Going forward, the Council is intending to look at purchasing a new one, but the cost of approx. £2,000 is beyond the budget for this 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)

Hi, I'm Kate Goodchild, a local resident and a recently co-opted Parish Councillor. I joined the Parish Council because I believe the best way to protect what we love about our community, and improve what needs fixing, is to get involved, listen properly, and follow through with action.

If you're interested in supporting our village and having a say in local decisions, the Parish Council is a great place to start or get involved in a working group. You don't have to be an expert as your perspective as a resident really matters.

ABILITY – Your Local On-Demand Minibus Service

Ability is a not-for-profit organisation that operates as a 'ring and ride' minibus service, which anyone can use.

There is a regular shopping service from Croughton to Banbury on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Fridays to either Brackley or Bicester. The excursions list is currently being improved and updated and will return in March. Concessionary bus passes are accepted. There is a fare payable to any non-concessionary bus pass holders. You need to register before you can use the service.

You also need to book your seat in advance before you travel on a journey. You can join as a Bronze or Silver Member and travel from your nearest bus stop, or enhance your membership to Gold to get closer to home for added convenience and comfort. A one-time-only Administration Fee of £10 applies to all new memberships. 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 01327 604123 Monday-Friday 9am – 2pm (Voicemail out of hours) We look forward to welcoming you on board

The Croughton Wine Appreciation Group



The first event of the new year will take place online with all members receiving a link via email from Martin. If you are not a member please contact him using the contact on bottom of this notice.

March 13th sees us getting together for our first face to face in the Village Hall at 8pm. This will be a pop up event where we will source wines from the less usual sources i.e. Savers, B&M etc for a bit of fun and may discover something drinkable at a reasonable price. Bring your own snacks for this.

April event has been moved to 17th please note. This is our AGM plus wines. Your chance to hear how we are doing and join the committee should you be so inclined.

I would ask for all these events that you both let us know if you want to come and have any dietary requirements, i.e. gluten/dairy free.

All events are held in the Village Hall at 8pm and anyone wanting to contact us for the first time contact Martin on 01869 810721 or croughtonwags@gmail.com

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 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

BRACKLEY HOGWATCH FUNDRAISING STALL



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

Our first fundraising stall of 2026 will be at Little Oaks Pre-school Spring Fair at Egerton Hall in Brackley, more details next month but save the date and please come and support us!

We also have a mini fundraising stall at Croughton Tea Rooms which has a nice selection of hedgehog-themed cards & gifts and 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 breakfasts, lunches and homemade cakes, so enjoy some while you're there!

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

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.

Rector's Ramblings

Does belief matter? If I believe I can fly (believe I can touch the sky, even) it matters very much to me, and possibly to whomever is underneath me when I test this belief, but in other ways it doesn't matter very much. The late author Terry Pratchett often depicted belief as having a very large impact on the worlds he created, even having deities fighting for belief because that is what they live off. But that is the fiction we write, which always places us at the centre. A priest would say belief in God is important for us and for our souls. Our belief is important to God, not because He depends on it, but because He cares for us. God exists even without our belief.

Our bible readings this month speak a great deal about Justice. The eternal Justice of God, our own work to bring about Justice, and that Christ has come to establish Justice throughout the earth. But what is Justice? As I prepare for my Leave, and make preparations for crossing borders, I am reminded through numerous documents that every nation has their own unique take on Justice. What is and is not allowed, and how transgressors are measured, assessed, and dealt with. We might argue that Justice is mutable. However our Bible, which I believe, speaks through the centuries about Justice as an absolute. Not just a concept, but something real, a property -along with Mercy- that belongs to the Divine and is shared with His creation as a gift.

If this is so, where is Justice in the world? It may be that Justice and Mercy are not inherent in the world, as they are inherent in the Divine. We as humanity, the frail clay of

Astwick Vale Benefice Services for February 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

8th February

10.am Morning Worship, Aynho
11.am Communion, Croughton
9.15.am Communion, Evenley
5.30pm Evening Prayer, Farthinghoe
11.am Morning Prayer, Hinton

15th February

10.30am Benefice Holy Communion, Aynho

22nd February

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

Croughton School PTFA 100 Club



Croughton School PTFA 100 club results
January 2026

- Diane Shepherd
- Will Harper
- Philip Dean

Congratulations to all the winners We still have numbers available if you wish to join

creation shaped in the image of the Divine and filled with the breath of God, stand between the two. It may be that it is to us to choose to turn either towards God or away; towards bringing Justice and Mercy into the world or away.

Belief does matter. It matters if our beliefs are delusional. Belief in that which exists irregardless of our belief is important because it enables us to understand the world and ourselves as we truly are. We must also be aware that some things will only exist if we believe in them. We create institutions, architecture, practice, uniforms, titles, precedent to reinforce the solidity and majesty of things that cannot survive for a moment on any of these ornaments without our continued belief in their existence and our work to uphold and maintain them. The difference between a lynch mob and a court, a security firm and the police, armed thugs and the armed forces, a residential zone and a village, is our shared conviction that they are and must be different.

Belief matters. It is not as ephemeral as we are prone to think. True belief is never passive. We choose to believe in something or not to believe in it. Our readings in church this month remind us that Justice is real. That God is over all. We cannot change these immutable facts, but we can choose to believe in them. We are shaped by our beliefs, and we shape our lives, our communities, and the world. I pray that, whatever you believe, you will know justice, love, and mercy in your life. I pray that you, we, will be able to show them in our lives as well. God bless.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

Aynho Road
Adderbury
Oxon OX17 3NL
www.khh.org.uk

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.

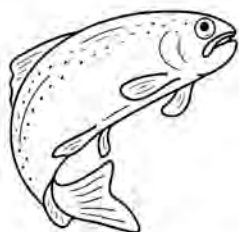
To find out more or register your interest, visit:
www.khh.org.uk/gardens

Christmas events round-up

We are incredibly grateful to our community for the amazing support shown during our Christmas fundraising events.

In December, you may have supported Schools Santa Runs, the iconic Tractor Run, Christmas Tree-cycle, collections or gift wrapping. Whether you took part, donated, volunteered or helped spread the word, every contribution made a difference. Thanks to your generosity, you helped us to raise a phenomenal £130,142.

Now more than ever, community support is vital. It costs over £5.9 million a year to run every element of Katharine House Hospice — the equivalent of £16,261 every day. With only around a third of this cost provided by the government, we rely on our local community to help us continue delivering vital specialist palliative care for local adults living with an incurable illness.



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

Bridge

Sixteen Lessons to Learn, a Lifetime to Master



Join our beginners' course

Sixteen lessons on Tuesday evenings starting in March 2026 in Kings Sutton Memorial Hall.

Phone Jeremy on 07812 727744 or Julian on 07961 398331 for course details and/or to request a taster session.

Full information is on our website:

Bridgewebs.com/kingsutton

Kings Sutton Bridge Club

Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:

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

The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.