



# CROUGHTON NEWS

May 2026

## Portway Pocket Park Community BBQs

After a hugely successful 2025 programme, this year we're hoping for more of the same – more new faces, more laughs and plenty more warm sunny evenings for our free-to-attend community BBQs, held on the beautiful and ever-improving Pocket Park on Portway Drive in Croughton (what3words: ///reform.shrubbery.commeded).

This year, BBQs will be held on the last Saturday of every month between May and August as follows:

- Saturday 30 May
- Saturday 27 June
- Saturday 25 July
- Saturday 29 August



### How it works

Join us on the Portway Pocket Park from 5pm onwards. Bring your own food to cook on the communal gas BBQ as well as your favourite tippie, plus a dish to share (e.g. a salad, some nibbles, fruit or a dessert).

The BBQ will be ready to cook on from 6pm until around 7.30pm, then we'll chat, maybe kick a ball around or play a game, plus you can keep warm later into the evening by the fire pit. It's family friendly, and well-behaved dogs are welcome too.

If you are able, a small donation helps with our running costs, and will be most gratefully received.

## Croughton Village Fête 2026



There's something special in the air as we look ahead to this year's Croughton Village Fête, and I couldn't be more excited to bring everyone together again. Please do pop the date in your diary: **Saturday 20th June 2026 from 2pm at All Saints Church Croughton**. It promises to be a wonderfully relaxed and sociable afternoon for all ages.

We are now officially **collecting donations** for both the **raffle** and **children's bric-a-brac stalls**, and your support really does make a difference. If you have any good-quality items to contribute, you can also drop them off at our collection points:

- Blackbird Pub
- Croughton Tearooms
- Croughton All Saints School
- Co-op
- 43 Park End

Every item helps us create the vibrant, well-stocked stalls that make the fête such a success.

### What's in store?

There will be something for everyone to enjoy:

- Children's Bric-a-Brac
- Pomeroy & Oliphant Ice Cream
- Books
- Cakes Stall
- Plant Stall
- Raffle
- Tombola
- Plus tea and coffee to keep you fuelled and chatting all afternoon

### Volunteers Needed – before and on the day!

To make the day run smoothly, we would love a few extra pairs of hands:

- Setting up (tables, stalls, and a bit of pre-fête buzz)
- Helping on stalls (even a short shift is hugely appreciated)
- Serving, selling, and smiling
- Packing down at the end of the day

If you can spare an hour, a morning, or the whole day, it would be greatly appreciated and makes a real difference.

**Raffle tickets** will be going on sale shortly, so do keep an eye out – there are always some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

Above all, this is about community, connection, and enjoying a lovely afternoon together. I very much hope to see you there.

If you can volunteer or have any other questions please contact Kate at [kateg6789@gmail.com](mailto:kateg6789@gmail.com) Thanks

## Vacancy

Croughton Parish Council is now seeking applications for the post of Parish Clerk /responsible financial officer (RFO) following the retirement of the previous post holder.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with the right skills and experience to support a small but passionate parish council. Because the Clerk is the Council's first point of contact with the community, good people skills and an approachable attitude are required in the successful candidate.

Croughton Parish Council has nine seats, but presently has only seven sitting.

The position is part time at 10 hours per week and offers a salary of £16.35- £17.85 per hour depending on experience.

Applications should be made in writing by **5pm on 21st May 2026**. For further details or if you have any questions, contact Cllr.Simon.Kerby@CroughtonParishCouncil.gov.uk

## Croughton Village Website

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

[www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## Croughton Parish Council – April 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](http://www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

There were no new Planning Applications to discuss this month

A selection of items discussed:

- **Financial:** The year end accounts were reviewed and approved ready to be submitted to the Auditors.
- **Dog waste bins:** There have been no recent reports of overflowing dog waste bins suggesting that the situation may have resolved itself. However, the bins will continue to be monitored.
- **Cemetery tidy-up session:** On Saturday, 11th April a number of councillors and residents (including from the RAF Croughton) turned up to help with the general tidy-up of Croughton Cemetery. A huge pile of topsoil was moved

to fill in around graves where the earth had collapsed. Thank you to everyone who gave up their Saturday morning to help.

- **Allotment Working Group:** Due to the number of vacant allotment plots, the AWG have been discussing a change to the current policy to allow tenants to hold more than one plot. The council agreed in principle but asked for more details about how it would work in practice.
- **Vacancy for a clerk:** The current clerk has submitted her resignation as she intends to retire by the end of August. An advert will be going out for the post, with interviews to take place in June.
- **Councillor vacancies:** There are still 2 vacancies on the Council. Anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should speak to a current Councillor or contact the clerk for more information: [clerk@croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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)

### Faulty Footpath Lighting:

Please report any faulty footpath lamps 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](mailto: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 through the website: [www.fixmystreet.co.uk](http://www.fixmystreet.co.uk)

## Annual Easter Raffle

Sarah at Croughton Tea Rooms organised All Saints Church Annual, Easter Raffle.

1st Prize Raffle no: 5 2nd Prize Raffle no 23.

£229.00 was raised for All Saints Church, our thanks go to Sarah and her team at the Tea Rooms for organising the raffle, the kind people who donated the prizes and the people who bought tickets

Thank you. All Saints Church PCC

## The Blackbird

### May events

Back Garden open to all.

**7th May** – Quiz night with Uggy's Pizza van.

**9th May** – 7 O'Clock Junkies live 4 piece band with Indian food van from 5pm in car park (eat in or takeaway).

**23rd May** – Patrick Foley live, with saffron/ kebab food van from 5pm.

And every last Tuesday Kan's Kitchen will be serving their Thia food ( not to be missed).

All the best to you all – Adrian & Chris.

### Suspicious activity surrounding the Base

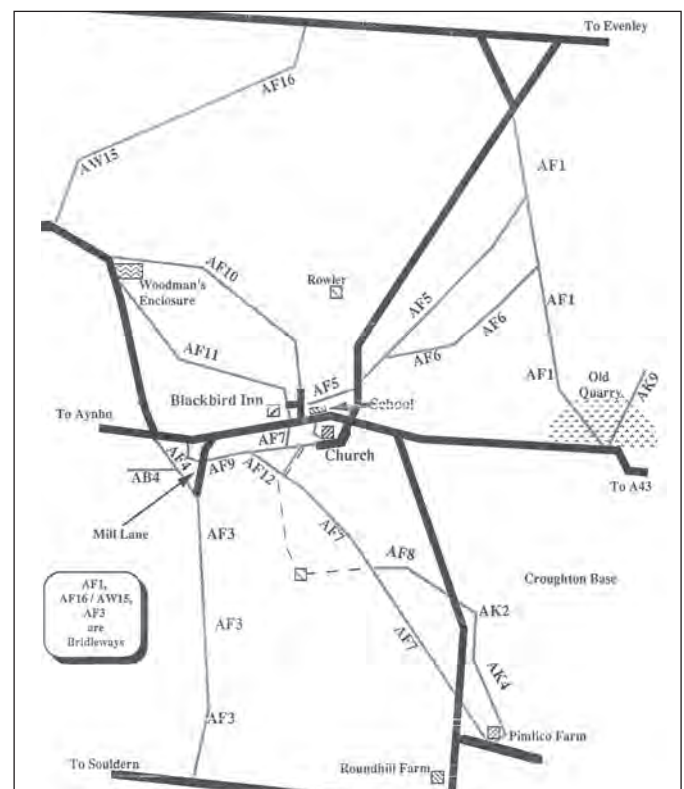
... can be reported 24/7 to the MoD Armed Mobile Patrol on 07773 971 924. Please do not use this number to report civilian issues – that should properly be brought to the attention of Northamptonshire Police. Call 101 or go online.

## 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.

## Simplified plan of footpaths and bridleways around Croughton (not to scale).



### Your Village Hall needs YOU

If you want to have a say in this or feel you can help in any small way from ideas to checking over the hall or just a bit of weeding in the summer, please get in touch.

We are such a small committee we really need help to keep this wonderful place in order but we need help to do so.

Thanks. [croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com)

## Croughton School PTFE 100 Club



### Results April 2026

1. Kate Reeves 2. Becci Worrod 3. Mary Marriott

Congratulations to all the winners!

## Croughton WI

The next meeting of Croughton WI will be held at Croughton Village Hall on **Wednesday 20th May, starting at 7.30pm.**

Our speaker for the evening will be: Northamptonshire Police on the role of a "Fast Response Unit Officer"

We are a small but very 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](mailto:diane3222@hotmail.co.uk)

# TUESDAYS 10-12



# COFFEE MORNING

## BACK ROOM OF READING ROOM EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

## Rector's Ramblings

As I write this the Archbishop of Canterbury is in Rome to meet with the Pope. 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 condemning 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.

## Astwick Vale Benefice Services for May 2026

### Details at [www.astwickvalebenefice.org](http://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

### 10th May

11am Communion, Croughton  
9.15am Communion, Evenley  
5.30pm Evening Prayer, Farthinghoe  
11am Morning Prayer, Hinton

### 17th May

10.30am Benefice Communion, Evenley  
5.30pm Evensong, Croughton

### 24th May.

9.15am Communion, Aynho  
11am Morning Prayer, Croughton  
5.30pm Evensong, Evenley  
9.15am Morning Prayer, Farthinghoe  
11am Communion, Hinton

### 31st May

10.30am Benefice Communion, Hinton

**Croughton All Saints Church will be open on Wednesday afternoons, 2-4 pm, until the end of August.**

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.



**KATHARINE  
HOUSE  
HOSPICE**

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

### Pace Around the World virtual challenge

Katharine House Hospice is inviting the local community to take part in its first-ever virtual challenge this June. Pace Around the World is a flexible and inclusive event, open to everyone, with participants encouraged to get involved in a way that suits them. Running from 1 to 30 June 2026, the aim is to collectively travel 40,000 miles in 30 days. Activities can include walking, running, cycling, swimming, gardening or any form of movement — every mile counts.

Taking part costs £20 (early bird, increasing to £30 after 1 May), with a minimum sponsorship of £50. All participants will receive a free challenge T-shirt.

The challenge can be completed anywhere and at any pace, making it accessible for individuals, families and groups.

To find out more, visit: [khh.org.uk/pace](http://khh.org.uk/pace)

### 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](http://www.khh.org.uk/gardens)

Dates for your diary:

- Sunday 17 May: From Garden to Vase, Culworth
- Sunday 31 May: Middleton Cheney gardens
- Sunday 7 June: Tysoe garden
- Sunday 7 June: Aynho gardens
- Saturday & Sunday, 13 & 14 June: Hook Norton gardens
- Sunday 14 June: Brackley Care Home garden
- Sunday 5 July: Katharine House Hospice garden
- Friday 14 August: Old Prebendal House, Shipton-under-Wychwood
- Year round, by request: South Newington garden

### Rose to Remember

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: [www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember](http://www.khh.org.uk/rose-remember)

## BRACKLEY HOGWATCH FUNDRAISING STALL



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

I'm very pleased to say that two of the rehabilitated Hogwatch hedgehogs that were released into my garden last year, have now emerged from hibernation and are regular visitors to my feeding houses. It's so heart-warming to see how the money raised by our fundraising helps hedgehogs that would not have otherwise survived. Many thanks for your continuing support.

We don't have any fundraising events this month but we have a little fundraising stall at Croughton Tea Rooms. There's lots of lovely items for sale as well as a couple of houseplants in china pots. There is also a box to recycle your inkjet printer cartridges. It's well worth having yummy breakfasts, lunches or homemade cakes while you're there too!

[www.brackleyhogwatch.co.uk](http://www.brackleyhogwatch.co.uk) Registered Charity no. 1188770

## Croughton Village Hall Regular Activities

**Pilates** Monday 6pm  
contact Sandy on 07944 826687

**Short Mat Bowls** Monday 7.30pm  
contact Martin on 07762 659589

**Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School**  
Tuesdays 4.00pm onwards  
depending on age/class  
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

**Ladies Fit Club** Tuesday 7.30-8.30pm  
contact Zoe 07701 339605

**Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School**  
Wednesdays 4.00pm onwards  
depending on age/class  
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

**WI**  
3rd Wednesday in the month  
contact Diane on [diane3222@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:diane3222@hotmail.co.uk)

**Sewing/Craft Drop In**  
2nd & 4th Wednesday each month 6.00-8.00pm  
contact Sally 0749074106  
or email [croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com)

**Gymnastics - Brackley Gymnastics School**  
Fridays 4.00pm onwards depending on age/class  
Contact Natalie on 07447743237

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

## Sewing/Craft Drop In - 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.

Remember you don't have to sew or knit particularly, just any type of craft you want to join in and natter along at the same time. There's always some space if you do need to spread out.

Either come along or message the village hall email - [croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com) or drop Sally a message on 07949 074106.

**Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:  
Georgina Lucas, 810923. email: [galucas65@outlook.com](mailto:galucas65@outlook.com)  
The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish  
Council.**