



CROUGHTON NEWS

August 2026

Village Defibrillator

Please support us as we all come together to Help Raise £4,000 to buy new Public-access Defibrillators for Croughton Village. A just Giving Page has been set up as a joint initiative between local village groups, individuals and Croughton Parish Council.

Our current defibrillator based at Croughton Reading Room remains operational, but it is nearing the end of its service life and replacement parts are becoming increasingly difficult to source. To ensure our village remains prepared for future emergencies, we are raising funds for two new defibrillators, which will be installed at opposite ends of the village to provide better access for all residents.

On Boxing Day last year, the Brackley Morris Dancers were once again performing outside The Blackbird in Croughton, entertaining a large crowd as they kindly do every year. During the event, one of the Morris Dancers suddenly suffered a cardiac arrest.

What happened next showed the very best of our community. Local residents acted quickly, and with the help of the village defibrillator, they were able to save his life.

On St George's Day this year, the Morris Dancers returned to The Blackbird, and we had the pleasure of meeting Glynn, the gentleman whose life was saved that day. Seeing him back on his feet was a powerful reminder of just how important this life-saving equipment is. The donation of £150 collected by Brackley Morris Dancers that evening, has been kindly added to this fundraising cause.

The quick actions of local people, combined with the availability of a defibrillator, made the difference between life and death on Boxing Day. We want to make sure that this vital equipment is available whenever it is needed again.

Every donation, no matter how large or small, will help us reach our goal and make Croughton a safer place for everyone. Donations can be made via this Just Giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rebecca-jones-521?utm_medium=CF&utm_source=EM

Or <https://www.justgiving.com> and search for "defibrillators for Croughton Village"

Thank you for your support.
The Croughton Defibrillator Group.

Croughton School PTFA 100 Club

Results July 2026

1st: Diane Shepherd, 2nd: Gillian Marks, 3rd: Mary Hassan
Thank you



7th Croughton Family Beer Festival

Coming soon....**On Saturday 12th September 2026**.....Another fantastic afternoon of local beers, cider and perry along with games and activities for all ages.



This year the beer festival is going to be a joint effort between the beer festival and the Blackbird pub! We are raising money to replace the old defibrillator at the Reading Room.

We'll be serving 5 local real ales, cider and perry. There will be a bouncy castle, face painting and other activities. The festival will feature a range of live bands in the afternoon.

Everyone is welcome to come. Tickets for the beers, cider and perry will be £8 per person. This includes a festival glass and beer tokens! Discount for CAMRA members who show a membership card.

See more details on our facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/CroughtonFamilyBeerFestival>

The beer list and a timetable will be added shortly

Tickets are available on the day. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer or to sponsor a barrel of beer - please contact Martin at: mpscouse@hotmail.com

The Blackbird

Please note revised opening times:

MONDAY 5 – 11pm

TUESDAY TO SUNDAY 12 – 11pm



The 1st Blackbird Band Fest was a great success! We would like to thank all who supported us and enjoyed the entertainment, we hope to repeat the event next year!

August and Early September Events

6th Our monthly Quiz night with Uggy's Pizza.

15th Harry Pane with Cotswold Burger van.

22nd Amy Fleur with Red Line Pizza van.

29th Fi Channon with Better than Mammas (Jamaican food).

3rd September – monthly Quiz – with Uggy's Pizza van.

5th September – Night Ride Home, with Old Style Burger van.

** KITHCEN NOW OPEN

– SERVING LUNCH FROM 12 TO 2:30PM **

Contacts : Facebook "The Blackbird in Croughton"

Email : Blackbirdinn38@gmail.com

Croughton Village Website

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

www.croughtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



Croughton Parish Council – 13th July 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

There were no new Planning Applications to discuss this month

A selection of items discussed:

- **Allotment Wall:** The Clerk has obtained the additional information for the Borrowing Application to the MHCLG, subject to confirmation of the original estimate for the work. Once this has been received, the application will, once again, be submitted for the MHCLG to approve.
- **Traffic Working Group:** The working group now have a final working draft of the traffic survey, which is being checked for data accuracy. Once this is completed it will be submitted to the Council before being made available on the website.
- **Allotment:** It was noted that there is currently a temporary hosepipe ban imposed by Anglian Water, which affects allotment holders. It was agreed that the clerk will let them know about this.
- **Footpaths:** The Council were reminded that issues of overgrown vegetation along public footpaths should be reported through www.fixmystreet.com
- **Vacancy for Clerk (part-time):** Interviews for the post of clerk have taken place and it is hoped that there will be a new clerk in place very soon.
- **Councillor vacancies:** There are still 4 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
or 07863 356095 (call, text or WhatsApp).

Please note that the Clerk works part-time, so there may be a delay in responding to any messages.

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 4 vacancies on Croughton Parish Council.

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 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

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 or drop Sally a message on 07949 074106.

BRACKLEY HOGWATCH FUNDRAISING STALL



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

It's a very busy time of the year for our carers with hoglets arriving nearly every day, they do their utmost to give the hedgehogs in their care the very best treatment and chance of recovery before they are returned to the wild.

This year's heatwaves are devastating for our wildlife, placing shallow bowls of water outside will really help them.

Our August fundraising stalls are at the events below:

Wednesday 5th August 10–2pm Brackley Teddy Bear Picnic in Brackley Town Park.

Sunday 30th August 12–4pm - Evenley Fete.

Our fundraising stall at Croughton Tea Rooms has lots of lovely items for sale so please have a look once you've enjoyed some delicious breakfast, lunch or a homemade cake! There is also a box to recycle your inkjet printer cartridges. Thank you for your continued support.

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

The Village Hall

...is available to hire for some evenings and parties at weekends. 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



Raising the Roof!

by '24' – the acclaimed chamber choir

*Tavener: Song for Athene Whitacre: Sleep
Chilcott/Joel: And So it Goes Rusby: Underneath the Stars
Esenvalds: Only in Sleep RVW: Turtle Dove
and a smattering of lighter fun for a fizzing Sunday evening*

Sunday 13th September 4–5pm

£15 Tickets on the door include refreshments
www.vq24.fun dj@vq24.fun @acappella24

All proceeds go to All Saints Church
Doors open 3.30, accompanied under 18s free



VENTIQUATTRO

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.

Rector's Ramblings

As I write, I have just returned from the family farm. My Grandfather is back home, and continues, despite dementia, to keep up work. Today I found him engaged in the endless job of sweeping up the dusty earth that comes with the warmer weather. Together we managed to leave the track by the orchard spotless. We also found a penknife I had gifted him that had been missing for a decade. Wiped clean it is as good as new. Seeing Granddad engaged in the endless task of sweeping the ground clean, I was reminded of the phrase from Remembrance, 'all valiant dust that builds on dust'. It is common in scripture to speak of the ultimately passing things of the world as dust, but I think not enough attention is paid in that sentence to the term 'valiant'; which speaks to the enduring human spirit that ever strives and builds, even if only -ultimately- with dust.

But today, at the orchard, three things struck me. None new, but worth repeating. The ground sweeps down to the pond, and all the fields I could see had turned brown. The only exceptions are the trees. Trees put down deep roots, which allows them to endure dry weather in a way other plants cannot. Jeremiah speaks of faith like a tree planted by a river, which can thrive in the good, and is rooted enough in the water of faith to put forth green shoots in the drought. (Jeremiah17:7-8)

Astwick Vale Benefice Services for August 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

9th August

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

16th August

10.30am Benefice Communion, Croughton
5.30pm Evensong, Croughton

23rd August

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

30th August

10.30am Benefice Communion, Evenley

Croughton All Saints church will be open on Wednesday afternoons, with free bottled water during any heatwave.

Here in Croughton we have the most wonderful iconic medieval 'All Saints' church. It is however expensive to maintain.

With easyfundraising! You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!



For years in the orchard there was an apple tree whose trunk had snapped, and it had fallen across the ground. However, it remained alive and continued to fruit as it lay there. A few years ago the tree was cut down to a stump to clear the ground and prevent it rotting. Out of the stump a fresh and straight shoot is now growing. The tree is preparing to stand up again. Seeing this suddenly made sense of the passages of scripture where there is reference to a tree going wrong, so it would be cut back to the root to allow it to grow properly -a metaphor for life, where sometimes a bad path must be abandoned to begin on the right one anew. I understood the meaning, but now I have seen it in action.

Finally. As I remembered watering a pear tree one dry summer, in the hope that it might survive to begin producing something, I was put in mind of Luke13:6-9. Where the owner wants to remove a tree that has never grown any fruit as a waste of good space. The Gardener asks for a year to get it to fruit, where he will give extra care, and dig round it and manure the ground. A parable to speak of the love of God even for those of us who have produce little in love, action, or faith; whereby this dearth of return causes God to invest even more. A reminder that whilst we may not feel it, God can be at work in our lives to do great things and show great care. That, even when it feels – like the tree – that we are merely encircled by manure, God is moving.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

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

Rose to Remember

For two weeks at the beginning of June, the grounds of Katharine House Hospice were transformed by 600 beautiful hand-crafted purple roses as part of our fourth Rose to Remember event. Planted by our wonderful volunteers, each rose represented a special person who is loved and missed, creating a stunning display and a peaceful space for reflection and remembrance. Thank you to everyone who dedicated a rose in memory of a loved one. As well as bringing people together to share memories and celebrate lives, the event raised an incredible £19,686 to support the work of Katharine House Hospice.

Welcome to Living Well at the hospice. Hospice care isn't only for the final stages of illness.

Our Living Well service is available from diagnosis and can be accessed alongside having treatment, offering a different way to access support for people with a life-limiting illness. It is free of charge and focuses on connection, wellbeing and helping you live as well as possible. Sessions include activities such as arts and crafts, music, gardening and gentle movement, as well as time to relax and meet others. You can join in as much or as little as you like, with a regular timetable of sessions to choose from. You can refer yourself online or call our Living Well team on 01295 228500 to get started.

Living Well is open to patients and those close to them, with free transport to and from the hospice available if needed.

Find out more about our Living Well Service here: khh.org.uk/living-well-services

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

Sewing/Craft Drop In
2nd & 4th Wednesday each month 6.00–8.00pm
contact Sally 07949074106
or email 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

**BANBURY
EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

26-27 SEPTEMBER 2026

GONZAGA BAND • BLONDEL
THE LITTLE SONG PARTY
LINAROL CONSORT • LYNDAY SAYCE
ENSEMBLE AUGELLETTI

CONCERTS • WORKSHOPS • MAKERS
PERFORMANCE PLATFORMS

www.banburyearlymusicfestival.com

Maggie's in Northampton

A cancer diagnosis can turn life upside down, not only for the person diagnosed but also for everyone who loves them. At Maggie's, we're here to help anyone affected by cancer, offering free practical, emotional and psychological support in our centres and online. You don't need an appointment or a referral – just come in.

Our team includes Cancer Support Specialists with expert knowledge of cancer and its treatment, as well as psychologists, benefits advisors and qualified art therapists, nutritionists and tai chi instructors. Together, they offer a range of support designed to help people manage the challenges that cancer brings, rebuilding confidence and wellbeing. You don't need to be receiving treatment at Northampton General Hospital to use Maggie's Northampton. We're open Monday to Friday, 9.00am–5.00pm, and everyone is welcome.

Maggie's Northampton at the Diana Russell Building, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Cliftonville Northampton, NN1 5BD

Contact us: 01604 218 425. northampton@maggies.org
www.maggies.org/our-centres/maggies-northampton

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