



CROUGHTON NEWS

January 2015

It takes all sorts to be a Parish Councillor ...

... that's what helps make Croughton Parish Council work well.

We need people with diverse backgrounds and skills but what we need from every Parish Councillor is to:

- **care** about Croughton
- **commit** to one two-hour meeting a month
- **contribute** with ideas and balanced judgment
- **collaborate** with co-councillors on regular activities and occasional projects, and
- **comply** with the Code of Conduct for Parish Councils.

The Elections are in May 2015 and we would like you to think about being nominated.

We arrange training for every newly elected Parish Councillor and continuing guidance is available from our qualified and experienced Clerk. Our Council is a nationally recognised Quality Council and we have processes in place to guide our work.

The best way to find out what it's like to be a Parish Councillor is to talk to someone who is doing it now so why not **speak to one of our councillors** and find out what they think of the job?

You are also welcome to **come along to a Parish Council meeting** (forthcoming ones are 12 January, 9 February and 9 March starting at 7.30 p.m.).

We will be holding an **Open Meeting in late February** so that you can come along and ask us questions.

In the meantime, there is **more information** on the role and the work we do on our web-site www.croughton.org.uk

Super Fast Broadband

Those that have followed the progress of the Gigaclear campaign will know that Aynho have just about reached their target but we need just a few more people to commit to the new Super Fast System.

If you are one of those that intend to sign up but have not yet done so, there is still time. You can do this by going to the Gigaclear website. www.Gigaclear.com

It will be many years before BT are able to offer us a high speed system and it is unlikely that any other provider will come along in the near future, so please sign on and help us to make Croughton an even more attractive place to live. We cannot be left as the only village around that has such poor broadband.

RAF Croughton Burns Night – Friday 23 January 2015

The British-American committee at RAF Croughton is once again hosting a Burns Supper, on **Friday 23 January 2015**. The Burns Supper will take place at The Crown on base; participants should arrive from 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start.

The evening will include a three course meal with optional haggis, a bagpiper, toasts, speeches and revelry, and dancing to a DJ to end the evening. Tickets cost £25 per person and include the meal, entertainment and wine and whisky on the tables. There will also be a cash bar available on the night.

This event is always a fun evening, so fish out your tartan and come along and join in the fun! For tickets, please call or Jenny Collyer on 07764 166079 or email jennifer.collyer.2.gb@us.af.mil.

Jenny Collyer 422 ABG Community Relations Adviser

What's On.

Wednesday 7 January at 7.00 p.m. for start at 7.30 p.m.
Whist at The Reading Room.

Friday 9 January, doors open at 7.30 p.m.
Croughton Cinema "The Grand Budapest Hotel", at Croughton Village Hall.

Monday 12 January 2015, 7.30 p.m.
Parish Council meeting, Parish Room, Croughton Village Hall.

Wednesday, 21 January 2015, 7.30 p.m.
WI meeting in Croughton Village Hall.

Thursday 22 January at 7.00 p.m. for start at 7.30 p.m.
Whist at The Reading Room.

Friday 23 January 2015, 7:00 p.m. for a 7:30 p.m. start
RAF Croughton Burns Supper at The Crown on the base.

Thursday 29 January 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Archie Dobson's War, at Croughton All Saints C.E. Primary School.

Friday 30 January, doors open at 7.30 p.m.
Croughton Cinema "Tracks", at Croughton Village Hall.

Friday 6 February, 8.00 p.m.
Wine Tasting Evening with the Croughton Wine Appreciation Group, Croughton Village Hall.

Wednesday 4 February at 7.00 p.m. for start at 7.30 p.m.
Whist at The Reading Room.

Monday 9 February 2015, 7.30 p.m.
Parish Council meeting, Parish Room, Croughton Village Hall.

Croughton Village Website

For all information on events, parish council meetings and general information etc., please go to the website: www.croughton.org.uk

Parish Council Meeting held on 8th December 2014

The Meeting was conducted in accordance with the new 'Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014' which the Chairman announced to Members of the Public at the start of the Meeting.

Rights of Way: Mrs Margaret Rings, Footpaths Warden presented an interesting and informative report on a training event she had recently attended. Different categories of public rights of way exist and accommodate different modes of transport.

- Byways: Open to all traffic and are similar to unclassified roads with vehicles subject to traffic regulations
- Restricted Byways: Open to non mechanical vehicles
- Bridleways: Open to horses and bicycles
- Footpaths: Open to walkers and prams

Look for the waymarks if you are not sure of the type of path.

If you are not familiar with Croughton's Rights of Way network visit the website to find a route you may enjoy walking along. www.croughton.org

Budget 2015/2016: The draft budget, comparable to the current budget, will be in the region of £23,000. It is intended that £2,500 will come from reserves, including one major item of anticipated expenditure, election costs. The Council will approve its Budget and set the Precept in January by which time the Tax Base figure will be known enabling the Parish Council element of the Council Tax to be calculated.

Highways: A request for a 30 mph roundel to be applied to the carriageway on the western approach to Blenheim has been accepted by Northants Highways who is also looking into other measures to slow traffic coming down the hill. The Council decided not to proceed with a bus stop designation for the layby at Park End.

Dates of Meetings: Meetings in 2015 will be held on the second Monday of each month, opening at 7.30 p.m. and will take place in the Parish Room in Croughton Village Hall. Members of the Public are welcome to attend and may speak to items on the Agenda during the Public Participation item. Please notify the Chairman at the Meeting or the Clerk, in advance if you intend to do so.

Next Meetings: 12th January 2015; 9th February 2015; 9th March 2015.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Team.

In addition to reporting incidents to the police, it is imperative that members communicate with each other. Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators will disseminate information received from the Community Messaging System to their members in the most appropriate way.

The Croughton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are:

Mrs Jean Coles, High Street, tel: 01869 810473.

Will Merrell, Portway Drive, tel: 01869 810569

Maureen Burgess, Portway Crescent, tel: 01869 811821

Brenda Reeves, Park End, tel: 01869 810468 .

Mrs Christine Tomlin, Mill Lane, tel: 01869 810124.

Beckie Jones, Wheelers Rise, tel: 01869 819734.

Oil Thefts

Thefts of oil have occurred across the region and Northants Police are urging people to be vigilant especially during oil deliveries and to report vehicles and persons that look out of place.



Oil Security:

- Do you need to have a full tank?
- Do you have a flow alarm?
- Is the tank hidden?
- Do you have any thorny plants around the tank?
- Do you padlock the taps?
- If you are replacing a tank, is it double skinned?
- Can it be located somewhere more secure?

Your own oil supplier may be able to provide advice and there is information online including www.stopoiltheft.co.uk.

You can obtain oil tank alarms from a number of suppliers, and also stickers to try and deter thieves:

<http://www.personalalarms.com>

<http://www.oilsecure.com/html/solution.html>

<http://www.redlinesecurity.co.uk>

If you have any information about any incidents, please contact the Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The Croughton Poors Allotment Charity

The Trustees of this charity hold the proceeds of the sale of the old allotments that were on the Charlton Road, in trust, to assist the needy in the village.

If you hear of anyone who has slipped through the net of the Social Services and needs some assistance, or if you need help, please contact the Chairman, the Rev. Simon Dommetton, on 01869 810903 who will deal with it in complete confidence.

In the past year the fund paid for the cabinet to house the defibrillator which is installed on the front of the Reading Room, but there have been no other requests.

Village Pavements

With the cuts in the various council budgets, we do not get any help towards keeping our pavements clear and at this time of the year, when the leaves have fallen, some of the pavements in the village are becoming dangerous.

It would be a great help if households would adopt the pavement in front of their property and keep it clear of leaves and vegetation, to make it safer for all. In some cases there are a few bushes projecting over the fences which are causing problems, so again it would be a helpful if these could be trimmed back.

Northamptonshire County Council, Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

From 1st February 2015 the opening hours of all sites will be from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. for 5 days per week.

Towcester Household Waste Recycling Centre:

OPEN: Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays

CLOSED: Tuesdays and Wednesdays

For information on the HWRC service please visit: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/hwrc

Archie Dobson's War



'Archie Dobson's War' is a once in a lifetime experience about a young boy when some of his family members choose to go to The Great War. This is a great shock for Archie but thankfully he has his kind and caring mother and moody sister Mabel, who like all big sisters, loves Archie on the inside even though she rarely shows it.

So come along and meet the Dobson's; come and live through bad times and good times fight the War or stay back home. There may be some tragedies and some thrilling moments but at the end of the day they're just an ordinary family.

Beatrice Sheperd, Year 6 and Molly Parsons, Year 5.

Thursday 29th January 2015, 7:30pm at Croughton All Saints C.E. Primary School. Ticket price: £5.00, OAP: £4.00.

Croughton Cinema

Our next two films for 2015 are planned for:

Friday January 9th "The Grand Budapest Hotel". The current owner of the hotel, M. Zero Moustafa, recounts the story of how he became the hotel's owner and why he holds onto it and keeps it open despite it obviously making him no money. Zero's story begins in 1932, when the hotel was in its golden era. Zero was the novice immigrant lobby boy, who, like all the other hotel staff, was under the guidance of M. Gustave H., the devoted concierge. Gustave aimed to please, giving the guests whatever they wanted, especially the wealthy blonde women.

And on **Friday January 30th**, "Tracks". At the age of 27, Australian naturalist Robyn Davidson crossed the Australian outback in 1977, from Alice Springs to the Indian Ocean with only four camels and her dog as companions. Nominated for Best Film at the Venice Film Festival, Director John Curran's "Tracks" documents Davidson's nine-month journey of 1677 miles without adding layers of melodrama to distract us from her true spirit of adventure and love of nature.

At the Village Hall. Doors open 7.30pm. Licensed Bar. CFC Members: £3.00. Non-Members: £5.00. Under16s: £3.00..

The Reading Room

Whist ... Why not start 2015 doing something new? Whether you are a beginner or an experienced player, you will be most welcome – just come along.

We are now resuming fortnightly sessions and in January they are: **Wednesday 7 January** and **Thursday 22 January** at 7.00 pm for start at 7.30 p.m. This is a light-hearted and enjoyable evening - £3 per person including light refreshments.

February dates will be: **Wednesday 4 February** and **Thursday 26 February**.

Coffee Mornings ... every Tuesday from 9.00 to 11.00 a.m. Do join us with your friends and try some of Jane's delicious cakes.

The Reading Room is available for private hire for parties, meetings and other social events – please telephone 01869 810004 for details.

January Church Services

Details at www.astwickvale.co.uk

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

Sunday, 11th January

9:30 AYNHO Communion
9:30 CROUGHTON Communion
10:00 FARTHINGHOE ~ All Age Worship
11:00 EVENLEY ~ Communion
6.00pm HINTON ~ Evensong BCP

Sunday, 18th January

10:00 BENEFICE ~ Communion EVENLEY
4:30pm PIZZA PRAISE ~ EVENLEY

Sunday, 25th January

9:30 CROUGHTON ~ Communion
10:30 AYNHO ~ Family Service
11:00 EVENLEY ~ All Age Worship
11:00 HINTON Communion BCP
6.00pm FARTHINGHOE ~ Evensong BCP

Sunday, 1st February

9:30 FARTHINGHOE ~ Communion said
10:00 CROUGHTON ~ Family Service
11:00 AYNHO ~ Communion
11:00 HINTON ~ Morning Worship
6.00pm BENEFICE ~ Taizé Worship ~ EVENLEY

Cuppa and Chat starting February.

Come and join a new group called Cuppa and Chat. We will start meeting in February and be meeting for six weeks looking at the most famous prayer-the Lord's prayer. We may be very familiar with saying it but what did it mean? And what does it mean today? Come and explore with a chat. If you would like to host a group please get in touch with rev Simon Dommett, so that more details can appear in the February newsletters. Look out for more details.

Weekly Pews News

Each week I publish up to date information about services and events around our five churches which may not have got into the monthly newsletter. If you would like a weekly copy delivered FREE to your inbox, send an email with PEWS NEWS in the subject line or body text to astiwck.vale@gmail.com and I will add you to our circulation. You can unsubscribe at any time by emailing astwick.vale@gmail.com with the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject or body text at any time. But I hope you will find it useful that you wont want to.

Joyous New Year, Simon

P.S. don't forget our Website www.astiwckvale.co.uk for updates and diary.

Croughton WI

All members of the WI were able to meet together for the excellent Christmas meal at the Rose and Crown in Charlton in December.

The January meeting will be on **Wednesday, 21 January**, starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall. This will be a demonstration given by a florist from Bloomers in Brackley. So, ladies of the village, you are welcome to join members as guests for what promises to be an evening of learning about the art of flower arranging.

Don't miss out on your free NHS health check

Feeling okay? Keep it that way with a free NHS Health Check – that's the message from public health experts at Northamptonshire County Council.

Everyone is at risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and some forms of dementia - the good news is that these conditions can often be prevented.

The NHS Health Check is available to most people aged 40 to 74 and is a chance to make sure they are better prepared for the future and to be able to take steps to maintain or improve their health. It's like a midlife MOT.

Having a health check only takes about 20 to 30 minutes and includes blood pressure, cholesterol and BMI checks. After the health check, personalised advice is given about how to lower any risks that have been identified and stay healthy.

To book a health check people can contact their GP or visit www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/healthchecks to find out about clinics taking place near you and check their eligibility for a free health check.

Ballroom & Latin-American Dance Class for Adults



Enrolling now!

BEGINNERS' CLASS

starts
Thursday, 15th January, 2015
7.30 pm - 8.30pm

Croughton Village Hall

Classes at other levels also available

w. www.dance-addiction.co.uk
e. info@dance-addiction.co.uk
t. 01295 788079

Newsletter submissions by 28th of each month to:
Georgina Lucas, 50 Portway Drive, Croughton.
Tel: 01869 810923, or e-mail galucas@waitrose.com
The Croughton Newsletter is published by the Parish Council.

Croughton Village Hall Regular Activities

You are welcome to join any of the groups,
just call the contact or drop in...

Croughton Pre-school 01869 811968
Monday 9-1pm (including lunch club)
and Tuesday to Friday 9.00-3.00pm

Parent & Toddler Group Michelle 07715 464694
Monday 1.15-3.00pm, term time

Art Class Kathleen Bartlett 01295 780493
Monday 2.00-4.00pm

Short Mat Bowls Cyril 01869 810207
Monday 7.30-10.00pm

Gym Dodgers Class Wendy 07775 661365
Tuesday 5.45-7.15pm

Karate Tracy 07779 760006
Wednesday 7.00-9.00pm, beginners welcome

Badminton Heather 01869 811104,
Paul 01869 819734, Julian 01869 8116326
Thursdays 6.00-7.00pm

**Ballroom and Latin American Dance Class
for Adults** 01295 788079
Thursdays 7.30-8.30pm,

W.I. Pam 01869 810393
3rd Wednesday in the month 7.30-9.30pm

History Group Leo 01869 810545
4th Tuesday in the month 7.30-10.00pm

Cinema - see newsletter for dates of films

Croughton Wine Appreciation Group
meet alternate months, Claire 01869 810987

For further information on **Village Hall bookings**
contact Sally Ward on 07923 449202 or email
croughtonvillagehall@gmail.com

1st Fritwell Scout Group ...

...would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with our recent jumble sale. A total of £476 was raised at the sale which will really help our Group as funds are low at the moment. The left over jumble will be collected by a recycling organisation called Eco Kids who will pay us so much a sack – so nothing is wasted.

This has been a very difficult time for our Group, especially the leaders, as our Scout Leader Terry Benbow died very suddenly at the age of 30. The leaders had known Terry from a very young age and the Cubs and Scouts all thought the world of Terry – he was fun loving, had a great smile and enjoyed a wonderful rapport with them. Terry leaves a widow, Mandi, his parents Angie and Dave and three sisters from Croughton. We would like to thank everyone who helped the Group with the party for Terry which was held at the Scout Hut after the funeral service.

Our Scout Group has vacancies for Beavers who can now start at age 5¾ and Scouts who must be 10½. For further information please contact Sheila Ultsch on 01869 346665 or s.ultsch@btinternet.com