

# THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE

*Village news, notices and events....*



*Shrove Tuesday falls on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

## USEFUL CONTACTS

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### Community Police Officers

101

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Springfield Surgery

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### Hospitals

The Horton

01295 275500

### Vets

Croft

01280 703451

Mansion Hill

01295 712110

Taylor Vets

01280474796

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## **To All Farthinghoe and Steane Residents**

**Please see the following email received from West Northamptonshire Highways by the Parish Council on 12 January 2024:**

Dear Mr Weston

### **A422 Farthinghoe Strategic Outline Case**

I write with the intention to provide a comprehensive response to feedback we have received on the A422 Farthinghoe Strategic Outline Case to date from the Parish Council. This comprises the following feedback:

- Comments on the A422 Farthinghoe Strategic Outline Case for Bypass August 2023 received from Farthinghoe Parish Council dated 22/09/2023.
- Addendum to Farthinghoe Parish Council response to Strategic Outline Case for Bypass August 2023.
- Comments relayed to WNC by James Grant from BBC Radio Northampton on behalf of Farthinghoe Parish Council in an email dated 28/12/23.

West Northamptonshire Council has undertaken a technical assessment of the case for a Farthinghoe bypass and concluded that it is not currently economically viable as it has been appraised as representing low value for money. The scheme would require funding from central government and because of this appraisal the scheme would be highly unlikely to attract this. Furthermore, the appraisal would suggest the scheme is not a good use of Council funding either, and so the Council does not intend spending further resource advancing the scheme. The Council has committed to explore other options to address issues caused by the A422 through the village. This includes work already undertaken on a traffic signal scheme in the village, and work which is underway to investigate the possibility of a weight restriction through the village accompanied by an upgrade of the parallel B4525 to accommodate the rerouted traffic.

The Parish Council's position that their prime objective is to secure a bypass but that a weight restriction on the A422 through Farthinghoe should be considered a necessary 'interim measure' is problematic for a number of reasons. Significant work and cost may

be required to implement this weight restriction so that there is adequate alternative route provision for HGV's. The Council is investigating this further. Any weight restriction would reduce the road's strategic importance. It would also undermine the route's current designation as part of the Major Road Network (MRN), as HGV flows were part of the criteria considered when the DfT designated the MRN. All this could mean funding opportunities for any bypass in future were limited, and reduce the prospects further that any business case/funding bid would be successful. The Parish Council in their comments acknowledge an interim weight restriction "will solve a large proportion of the traffic problems experienced in Farthinghoe".

The Strategic Outline Case (August 2023) (SOC) produced by consultants WSP on our behalf has been developed in line with the Department for Transport's (DfT) Transport Appraisal Guidance (TAG). Details on this guidance can be found here [Transport analysis guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/transport-analysis-guidance) but the SOC coupled with the Farthinghoe Area Modelling- Local Model Validation Report (LMVR) explains the method for the assessment.

Any major transport scheme seeking funding from central government requires a business case in line with TAG. This enables the DfT to make a fair comparison between the merits of various types of transport schemes in various locations. The SOC has reflected issues concerning HGV flows through the village and carriageway width issues at certain points. Some of the issues identified by the Parish Council with respect to conditions when M40 traffic uses the A422 as a diversion would be very difficult to quantify to include in a business case and aid meaningful comparison to rival transport schemes/investment choices. This is due to their irregular nature and variable impact and duration. The consultants have worked within the established TAG framework to make a positive case for the scheme.

The Benefit Cost Ratio Cllr Larratt referred to in his interview is derived from the SOC assessment, and reflects whether a major transport investment such as a bypass for Farthinghoe represents good value. Whilst congestion generally may be viewed as not good for business, not all congestion justifies a multimillion pound investment to remedy it. The SOC concludes that a proposed bypass would have a BCR of between 1.10 and 1.07, which the report explains (section 3.8) represents low value for money.

The impact on journey times caused by the pinchpoint in the village, particularly where two HGV's meet, is reflected in the journey time data the SOC is based upon. This data is taken from ANPR survey data and has been cross checked with Google map data for assurance. There is no significant difference in the time to travel on A422 via Farthinghoe between both sets of data. There is no reason to believe that more granular data on the frequency and impact of localised delays generated by HGVs at the pinch-point would

significantly influence the average journey time derived from the two data sources, and have any bearing on the overall low value for money assessment of the bypass.

With respect to the work the Council is undertaking to investigate a weight restriction on the A422 through Farthinghoe, using the B4525 as a signed replacement route to the A43, we are finalising the scope for this but expect it to include ANPR data collection to better understand freight movements in the area.

The Parish Council makes reference to air quality monitoring. Appendix C to the SOC is an Air Quality Assessment Note, and explains how the impacts of the scheme proposals has been appraised in line with TAG. The assessment was based on the application of emission factors to the traffic data produced in the traffic model. To reduce the uncertainty associated with predicted concentrations, model verification was carried out using the Farthinghoe air quality monitoring (location F1) carried out in 2019. The report can be found here and includes the monthly data taken from the roadside diffusion tube.

The Parish Council has raised some concerns over the traffic count data used in the SOC. The LMVR report section 4.3 explains data was collected in December using Automatic Traffic Counters either side of the village on the A422. We have attached the survey results to this response from count sites 7 (west of the village) and 8 (east of the village) on the A422 for information.

The SOC report estimates daily traffic flow will reach 13,000 vehicles by 2027. Forecast traffic growth was derived using the Temprow 8 (a national traffic model) Growth factor for Cars and National Road Traffic Projections 2022 growth factors for Goods vehicles. These growth factors have been applied to base model demand across the Northamptonshire Strategic Transport Model (NSTM) and forecast demand has been calculated.

With respect to how logistics activity in the area is increasing HGV flows this is acknowledged in the evidence of need for the intervention outlined in chapter 2 of the SOC. The forecast year of the NSTM takes account of build out rates for committed developments, and as per the previous paragraph increases in HGV levels have been derived from the National Road Traffic Projections 2022.

The Parish Council has asked what plans the Council has for implementation of a 20mph zone in the village. Our current policy on this is detailed in section 12.5 of the Northamptonshire County Council Network Management Plan (2021). Based on this policy we have no plans for implementing a scheme in Farthinghoe.

Yours sincerely

Nick Henstock Assistant Director Highways and Transport



The response from our Parish Council reads as follows:

## **FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Dear Nick,**

**On behalf of Farthinghoe Parish Council, we acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12th January, 2024.**

**However, we did not appreciate the extended delay of more than 3 months taken to receive this important information.**

**Farthinghoe Parish Council would like to put on record that we challenge the protocol of Councillor Larratt in going public with an announcement before we had even received this delayed reply and therefore not given the courtesy of an opportunity to study and respond to it.**

**Please find our following response to matters raised in your mail and we believe that our findings fully justify the above comment.**

**In the SOC it is stated that the average weekday traffic flow on the A422 through Farthinghoe is 9,500 vehicles, “Of these 13% are light goods vehicles and 7% are HGV’s”. The raw data you have provided to us on 12th January shows this actually ranges between 11,459 and 12,446 vehicles per day. This is a significant difference to the SOC report and must make a considerable uplift contribution to the calculated BCR figure — Please verify this**

**Based on the figure of 9,500 vehicles per day you show an extrapolation to a forecast of 13,000 vehicles per day in 2027. Using the raw data figures of 11,549 and 12,446 vehicles per day the pro-rata projection figure would then increase to the range of 16,500 and 17,050 vehicles per day in 2027 — Please verify this**

**It is expected that this correction must lead to a substantial increase in the BCR calculation—Please verify this**

**We believe that your decision to omit the specific data for the effects of events at the Farthinghoe bottleneck in the BCR calculation is a gross oversight, especially as this is one of the prime reasons for a Bypass is needed. We can only assume that you have chosen to omit this because no readily available data is available, despite the fact that**

**you have had 2 years to prepare such data we see no evidence that any attempt has ever been made or considered. We believe that this is fundamental oversight.**

**See the following quotation recently received from the Transport Ministry in relation to events like this**

**“The decision to consider the impact of incidents should be based on their frequency and severity and may also depend on the scheme objectives. If the decision is made to include them and monetise them, then their impact can be reflected in the benefit/cost analysis”.**

**With modern electronic devices how difficult would it have been? – Comments please.**

**We look forward to receiving your promised feasibility study into an Interim Weight Restriction for the A422 in Farthinghoe in Spring 2024 as promised. In the 2 years since your mail dated 28th February 2022 we have not seen any additional explanation or data to add to the scant detail and dubious information given to us for a Traffic Light/Road Closure/One Way Street scheme.**

**Farthinghoe Parish Council still maintains its position to wholeheartedly reject such a scheme because in that 2 years we have had a number of practical experiences which substantiate our viewpoint. The majority of local opinion of residents is also that it is an absolute folly.**

**Would you please forward a copy of the Farthinghoe Modelling Report which you mention in your letter?**

**We feel it beneficial to establish the average daily/ hourly/15 minute data for vehicles travelling both north and south between J10 and J11 of the M40 Motorway-Please make this available as soon as possible using your counterparts at National Highways.**

**You stated that it is difficult to incorporate M40 diversions into the BCR calculations. Just because something is difficult it does not mean it could not have been attempted. It is clear to us that no attempt has been made or even contemplated.**

**Farthinghoe residents will tell you that it is also difficult to live through Motorway traffic stop starting through the village overnight from 4.30 pm to 11.00 am, but they were given no choice and this was just one of many instances.**

**With respect to your paragraph concerning Logistics activity. Would you confirm that this assessment takes into account activity or forecast activity in Banbury, Buckingham, Bicester and Milton Keynes. We have concerns that your projections might be understated because this affects us greatly. We would also remind you that**

**Furtho Pits is effectively on the A422/A421 Corridor with the same developer already owning 3 huge empty warehouses at Frontier Park in Banbury located at J11 of the M40.**

**At the time the traffic flow data was being collected at AT7 and AT8 we were also aware of traffic monitoring equipment being installed at the A422 Traffic Light system and staggered junction adjacent to Farthinghoe School. As you probably know there is a cross traffic route for traffic travelling between Greatworth and Charlton and this disrupts the A422 traffic flow particularly during morning and evening rush hours. We see no data included for this cross traffic—Please enlighten us with these details.**

**A very important issue for Farthinghoe is the way usage of the A422 has changed since the bypass was made part of the South Northants Local Plan in the late 1990s when the route was described as The A422/A421 Corridor linking the M40 (J11) with the M1(J13)**

**These changes include:**

- 2013 when Northants Highways designated it as part of an important Strategic Freight Network**
- 2018 it was made part of the MRN by the Dft**

**It was made an automatic Diversion Route for M40 closures, but we are unaware when this change occurred.**

**In 2023 Extra Length trailers were made legal. We are totally unaware of any risk assessments made prior to any of these changes in relation to the Farthinghoe bottleneck.**

**We would welcome sight of any documentary involvement of Northants County Council or West Northants Council in any of the above changes.**

**The Banbury Guardian newspaper was recently advised by the Dft that operators of Extra Length Trailers should only operate to suitable route plans and that risk assessments should be prepared, but no mention was made about policing this--Our question is how do these owners know whether or not the Farthinghoe bottleneck is unsuitable?**

**We firmly believe that it is unsuitable. We look forward to receiving your timely reply and explanations.**

**Yours Sincerely**

**Mick Morris Chair Farthinghoe Parish Council.**



## VILLAGE NOTICES

### Coffee, Cake and Chat

On Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10 – 11am in the Church Vestry.  
Bring & Buy and a Raffle. Hope to see you there!

### Church Cleaning

Will be on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, from 8.30am Many hands make light work!

### The Children's Society

Following donations from the Christmas trees in Church, carol singing and donation from the Crib Service, £199. 07 was sent to The Children's Society. Many thanks to all who helped!

## WINNERS!

1st Prize - No 25 - Graham Atkins  
2nd Prize - no 149 - Alistair Wenmouth  
3rd Prize - No 17 - Christine Hunt

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

### FUTURE EVENTS

#### BOOKS & BAKES - FRIDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

Join us for tea/coffee and cake, and use of the library.

#### SOCIAL EVENT - 2nd MARCH - 7.30 to 11.30

Come and enjoy an informal social evening at the Village Hall. Tickets are £7.50 for village residents and £10 for non-residents which includes a delicious buffet provided by Rachael & Becky at Limes Farm, music and a cash bar.

#### FASHION SHOW - 23rd MARCH

Jackie Allen is returning with another fashion show in March which hopefully we will be able to make as successful as the previous one.

She will of course be needing models again so if you want to have a go at strutting down the catwalk please let me know.

### **GARDEN FURNITURE SALE - 6th APRIL**

Joe Douglas has booked the hall again on the above date to hold another Teak furniture sale.

### **CONCERT - 11th MAY**

Brackley Chamber Music Group have booked the hall for another concert to be held in May. Further details and ticket information will follow.

### **REGULAR SESSIONS :**

**Art** - Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00 & Friday 10.45am - 1.15pm

**Ballet** - Monday 5.00pm - 7.00pm & Saturday 9.00am - 1.00pm

**Ballroom** - Thursday - 7.00pm - 9.00pm

**Martial Arts (Adult)** - Sunday 11.30am - 1.30pm

**Martial Arts (Children)** - Friday - 5.30 - 7.30

**MiniMayhem** - Wednesday 9.30am - 11.00am

**Pilates** - Tuesday 6.30pm - 7.30pm & Friday 9.30am - 10.30am

**Table Tennis** - Monday 7.30pm - 8.30pm

**U3A** - Spanish 1st & 3rd Thursdays 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Victorian Literature 2nd Thursday 2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Yoga** - Sunday 10.00am - 11.00am

If you are interested in any of the above and want further information please contact me.

**Marjorie Morris**

**Email - [bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org](mailto:bookings@farthinghoevillagehall.org)**

**Tel. - 07900 590808**

## **The Isle of Dogs**

You may think this is a strange title for a tale that is set in London's East End especially in a beautiful village like ours. In case no one knows where this is situated, and is even interested, for those who watch East Enders it is in the opening credits shown as a loop in the Thames. It is in the Borough of Poplar and quite famous for Call the Midwife, which gives a very different view of the area.

Apparently the island got its name because Henry VIII kept his hunting dogs there and they rowed around from Hampton Court to hunt, obviously he didn't row as he would have been a lot slimmer. The other theory is it was called The Isle of Dykes because of flooding issues and this, over the years was changed to Dogs.

It was where I was born just prior to the start of World War II. My earliest recollections are of doodlebugs, bombs and shelters. It was an area where our food etc. came in and of course Hitler was keen to bomb the ships and the infrastructure to prevent this. The East End humour always prevailed, but like the rest of the Country, life was tough, what with the men being at war zones. Women had to be tough, and worked in the factories and did many of the jobs men would normally do.

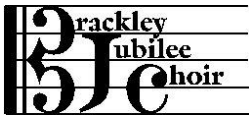
I always had the dream about living in a village and amongst a farming and country community, I think due to many Enid Blyton books that I read.

As I grew up and was lucky to pass the 11-Plus, I went to secondary school in Greenwich, taking the under-the-Thames subway to school. This could take hours, due to the fact that the boats coming in and going out from the Port of London had to pass through bridges which opened and no traffic could pass until the boats had passed through. This was known as - *catching a bridger*, if this happened, of course buses would be stopped either side of the bridges. Then eventually maybe twenty buses would suddenly arrive. This was horrible in bad weather.

At the end of the war, we were promised a brighter future, where we would have yachts by the side of the river instead of barges. After many years this all came to fruition with the opening of Canary Wharf, and indeed it is a transformed area, as promised. There is now the DLR – Dockland Light Railway - which would have meant, **NO MORE BRIDGERS!!!**

However I have achieved my dream of living in a lovely village, so after a rather difficult start, I did fulfil my dream.

**By Mary Tucker**



## *EASTER CONCERT*

### **Faure's Requiem & Cantique de Jean Racine**

**Organist: Jonathan Clinch - Royal Academy of Music**

**Soprano Soloist: Lydia Bruton**

**Baritone Soloist: Michael Ferguson**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 @ 7.30pm, St Peter's Church, Brackley.**

Last performed by The Brackley Jubilee Choir in 2015, Faure's Requiem & The Cantique de Jean Racine are amongst the most widely performed choral works, with Fauré's Requiem generally considered the composer's greatest achievement. Written in memory of his father and first performed in Paris in 1888, this magnificent work is admired for its clarity, balance, serenity, and ethereal beauty, and enjoys tremendous popularity with concert goers and lovers of sacred music everywhere. Chair of Brackley Jubilee Choir, Auriel Warwick said: "Our Easter concert is a tribute to Faure and Bruckner, whose anniversaries take place this year. The music we're singing is beautiful and so accessible to those on the threshold of 'classical' music."

Jonathan Clinch is an organist and academic specialising in British Music and culture of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He holds the post of Lecturer in Academic Studies at Royal Academy of Music, having previously been Frank Bridge Research Fellow at the Royal College of Music and OCV Research Associate at Cambridge University. He teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in British music and culture. Lydia Bruton is a young soprano from Coventry, who recently graduated from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, studying under the guidance of local Brackley musician and Associate Head of Vocal and Operatic Studies Jonathan Gunthorpe and outside of conservatoire, Stephanie Windsor-Lewis.

Scottish baritone, Michael Ferguson, studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under the tutelage of Scott Johnson. He continued his education at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama studying the Artists Masters degree first under Robert Dean and then jointly under Robert Dean and Marcus Van den Akker.

In acknowledgment of the 150th anniversary of the birth of **Austrian composer and organist Anton Bruckner**, this concert programme will also include a selection of choral pieces from Bruckner's expansive catalogue of sacred music, to complete an evening of engaging and varied music – sure to please both regular and new audience members from the growing Brackley and District community.

**Diary note: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 @ 7.30pm, Easter Concert at St Peter's Church, Church Road, Brackley. NN13 7BB. Tickets: £12.00. Available in advance via a Choir member or at the door.**



# FASHION SHOW

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH  
at  
THE VILLAGE HALL - 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00  
(Including a glass of Prosecco/Beer)

Available from:  
[marjoriemorris@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marjoriemorris@hotmail.co.uk)



# **VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL EVENING**

**SATURDAY 2nd MARCH**

**7.30pm - 11.30pm**

**Buffet/Music/Cash Bar**

**£7.50 Village Residents**

**£10.00 non-village**

Tickets available from:

**marjoriemorris@hotmail.co.uk**

# **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: THE GLOBAL CAPITAL OF CORDWAINERS**

Our county has a richly resplendent history of leatherworking in general, and shoemaking in particular, which can be traced back to late Anglo-Saxon times and is still viewed as one of the major global centres of excellence for traditional handmade footwear and, arguably, the world capital thereof.

From the trendsetters like Dr Martens and Jeffrey West to the more traditional brands such as Loake, Trickers, Church's and John Lobb, Northamptonshire is home to a heritage industry allowing it to hold its head high on the world stage.

But it's not all about fashion and the Rushden firm of John White Footwear Ltd. alone made 8 million pairs of army boots during WW2 and it is estimated that Northamptonshire cordwainers in total provided over two thirds of the 70 million pairs of footwear used during WW1.

Northamptonshire's footwear not only found favour with our late Queen, but also such luminaries as Ernest Shackleton, James Bond, Sid Vicious and Darth Vader.

So what is this Cordwainer business about?

Well, in simple terms, a cordwainer makes shoes and it is a cobbler who repairs them. Each possessing unique skill-sets.

The term cordwainer is believed to have originated from a particular type of leather from Cordoba in Spain – Cordovan.

Why Northamptonshire?

The received wisdom is that we were blessed with an abundance of oak and water to tan the leather, abundant cattle and a relatively central location from which to distribute locally made goods. Towns also specialised such as Long Buckby, renowned for the high quality of its long boots and Woolaston for its working boots.

The county is still home to nationally and internationally respected leather merchants such as Metropolitan Leather in Thrapston and A&A Crack in Northampton.

**Astwick Vale Benefice**  
**February 2024 (Revised)**

<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b></p> <p><b>Green</b></p> <p><b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b></p>	<p>10.30 Benefice Holy Communion</p>	<p>Hinton (TR/CO)</p>	<p>Proverbs 8.1,22-31</p> <p>Colossians 1.15-20</p> <p>John 1.1-14</p> <p>Psalm 104.26-</p>
<p><b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b></p> <p><b>Green</b></p> <p><b>Sunday before Lent</b></p>	<p>9.30 Holy Communion</p> <p>11am Morning Worship</p>	<p>Evenley (JD)</p> <p>Croughton (LL)</p>	<p>2 Kings 2.1-12</p> <p>2 Corinthians 4.3-6</p> <p>Mark 9.2-9</p> <p>Psalm 50.1-6</p>
<p><b>14<sup>th</sup> February</b></p> <p><b>Purple</b></p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b></p>	<p>7pm Benefice Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>Farthinghoe (CO by Ext)</b></p>	<p>Joel 2.1-2,12-17 or Isaiah 58.1-12</p> <p>2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10</p> <p>Matthew 6.1-6,16-21 or John 8.1-11</p> <p>Psalm 51.1-18</p>
<p><b>18<sup>th</sup> February</b></p> <p><b>Purple</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b></p>	<p>10.30 Benefice Holy Communion</p>	<p>Croughton (TR/ML)</p>	<p>Genesis 9.8-17</p> <p>1 Peter 3.18-22</p> <p>Mark 1.9-15</p> <p>Psalm 25.1-9</p>
<p><b>25<sup>th</sup> February</b></p> <p><b>Purple</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b></p>	<p>11am Morning Worship</p> <p>1030am Holy Communion</p>	<p>Hinton (CO)</p> <p><b>Farthinghoe (CP)</b></p>	<p>Genesis 17.1-7,15,16</p> <p>Romans 4.13-25</p> <p>Mark 8.31-38</p> <p>Psalm 22.23-31</p>



