

THE FARTHINGHOE CHRONICLE

Village news, notices and events....



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Pastoral Letter January 2022. Revd Sue Cooper writes:

Dear Friends, I hope your Christmas and New Year's celebrations went well. It's strange how quickly things change isn't it? At the beginning of December Omicron had hardly been heard about, and now it is dominating the news and to a large extent the way we are living, even as I write this (on 21st Dec) I am aware that by the time you read this, everything could have changed again!!

I wonder what your hopes and dreams are for this coming year. I think most folk I have spoken to have given up on New Year's resolutions, and are just trying to get through these days of uncertainty, the trouble is, we can waste our lives worrying and waiting for things to be different, but this attitude will not serve us well. Alternatively we can decide to put aside the constant stream of bad news, and live. This is not burying our heads in the sand and pretending that COVID is not an issue, because it is an issue, and many folk have lost loved ones to it, or, because of restrictions have been denied the opportunity of being at their loved ones bedside when it was most important for them to be there.

However, if we decide to put aside the constant stream of bad news, it is an act of defiance, and a refusal to allow COVID to spoil everything we love and hold dear. So much has been lost to it already; times we should have been with family and friends but could not be, times we should have been on special days out, or on holidays, but had to postpone (again!!) But creativity has blossomed throughout these last two years as folk have invented new ways of doing things and new ways of being together, especially "on line". It's not ideal I know, but as I said, we can worry and wait for things to be different or we can find ways to live again as fully as possible. It's true that we will need to exercise caution, but that shouldn't stop us from finding joy in our days, and more importantly spreading joy to others where ever and whenever we come across them.

I have spent a lot of time looking forward to "things getting back to normal"! and I know I am not alone with this. But I am beginning to accept the idea that things will not be going back to how they were before COVID. I have also spent time looking back to "the good old days", when all we talked about was Brexit, (only joking☺), but the good old days before we needed to keep using lateral flow tests all the time, and we never had to think about face coverings or self-isolating, the time before every cough and sneeze was considered suspect!

As I said, we can waste a lot of valuable time out of our lives wishing things were different by living in the past or imagining what the future will be like, but that will not serve us well. Instead, let's enjoy the days, one at a time, trying to be people who lift others' spirits while keeping our own Spirit's high. No day is a given, it is a gift from God, and we should treat every day as the gift it is to us.

So this New Year, don't live in the past, and don't live in the future, live in the present, enjoying the blessing of every new day. It's called the present because it's a gift. Have a very blessed and joyful New Year, with love Rev Sue.

**Isaiah 46:3-4 (NLT) “Listen to me, descendants of Jacob, all you who remain in Israel. I have cared for you since you were born. Yes, I carried you before you were born. I will be your God throughout your lifetime— until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.”
Amen**



To All Farthinghoe Residents,

We have just learned that the Applicant has withdrawn the Planning Application for the proposed enormous & unwanted solar Farm at Greatworth & Halse.

A good start to the Christmas season.

**Regards, Mick Morris
Chairman, Farthinghoe Parish Council**



CALLING ALL PARISHONERS!

As a monthly publication, *The Chronicle* is not an effective means of rapid communication between the Parish Council and parishioners. Changes to Planning Laws have resulted in more planning applications being received and hence the number of times when there is a need for rapid communication with the whole village.

The council has an email database used for this purpose and it has proved invaluable recently. However, as yet, only about 25% of the Parish have registered. If you wish to be added to the database please either email the clerk on clerk6102@outlook.com or visit the website to register:

<https://www.farthinghoeparishcouncil.org/contact>



UPDATE - FARTHINGHOE BYPASS

Parish Councillors attended meetings before Christmas with West Northants Council to discuss progress on the Farthinghoe Bypass.

Unfortunately, we have to report that our order of priority has been usurped by Northampton Inner Ring Road and Northampton Bus Lanes and that work on Farthinghoe Bypass has been “paused” whilst work on these other projects are pursued. This is quite a blow and undermines years of hard work we have put in and numerous promises which we have received.

Reasons given are (1) Lack of Engineering capacity (2) Current inability to meet Government requirements for funding.

It has seemed to us that anything Northampton Town may require will take priority over any rural project. We suspected that our bypass was lacking progress because the topic of the Farthinghoe bypass seemed to have dropped off of the minutes of WNC meetings, hence our request for a meeting in December.

Following the December meetings and the lack of positive action from WNC we will continue to discuss the matter with our MP, Dame Andrea Leadsom, in order to determine how she can again identify and secure funding for the Farthinghoe Bypass. During her “Village Action Days” visit to Farthinghoe on February 12th 2019 Dame Andrea indicated the possibility that we would have a Bypass by 2024.

These additional searches are likely to take some time, but we can assure everyone that we will continue to fight for a Farthinghoe Bypass.

As a result of the meetings a promise has been given by WNC that they will focus instead on developing a robust interim solution to alleviate the issues on the A422, and that we can expect a brief outline of their proposals by end January 2022.

We understand that these proposals might include:

- (a) Traffic lights at the Junction of Baker Street/Main Road including the Pinchpoint.
- (b) Introduction of a one-way system in Queens Street.
- (c) Parking Bays at Dashwood Playpark.

- (d) To again investigate with National Highways the possibility of a “weight limit” being introduced on the A422 through Farthinghoe

Before making any comment on these proposals we feel it wise to wait until we see more details.

No action will be taken until the whole village has seen and had chance to express their thoughts on these details.

However, we must point out that the Parish Council does not agree with the WNC statement that focus be targeted on these interim measures at the expense of Bypass progress.

There are 2 main reasons for the need for interim measures

- (a) The length of time it is taking to prepare for a Bypass & the continual slippage of promises.
- (b) No attempt at an agreement has been made between HS2 & NCC to protect Farthinghoe from additional traffic diverting from the B4525 to the A422 during HS2 construction.

Interim measures should not take the focus away from nor delay Bypass preparation.

In the meantime the Parish Council will quietly go about its business and be in continual dialogue with both our Unitary Councillors and our Member of Parliament to monitor what actions are being taken to identify funding to get the Farthinghoe Bypass seriously back on the table without further delays.

Again, Farthinghoe is not being treated fairly by those who represent us, something we have come to expect over the last few decades, but rest assured your Parish Council will not take this lying down and you may well see Television and Newspaper articles on this subject should we deem it necessary.

WINNERS!

200 Club Winners – December 2021

1st prize £25 - no 74 - Joan Mildren

2nd prize £15 - no 59 - John Grant

3rd prize £10 - no 37 - Neil Gunn

VILLAGE NOTICES

COFFEE, CAKE AND CHAT

Will be on **Friday January 14th** from 10 – 11 a.m. in the Church Vestry. There will be a Bring & Buy, and a Raffle. Why not start the New Year by joining us, you will be most welcome!

CHURCH CLEANING

On **Tuesday, January 18th**, from 8.30 am. onwards! Bring your polish and duster!

THANKS:

To everyone who decorated the Church, and all those who attended or helped with our Christmas services, although we had to wear masks!

Wishing you all a Happy and safe New Year

FARTHINGHOE VILLAGE HALL

THE HALL:

The new kitchen is installed and working. A new floor has been chosen and tiling/decoration still needs to be completed, but it is good progress. The Hall is looking very festive and the schoolchildren decorated it to their own taste (they love tinsel!).

The main floor has been repaired to the satisfaction of the Dance classes which are back again.

NEXT STEPS:

January will see a return of regular Committee meetings (subject to COVID restrictions of course!). We will be looking forward to chasing the funding required for Solar Panels and Battery to take the Hall off-grid. This will be an expensive exercise, but will complete the long term plan for the Hall upgrade, and the current works which have been self-funded will help the bid.

We will also look at the suggestions made by villagers to hold events in the hall - but we will need volunteers to make this happen.

Geoff Wenmouth:

As many of you will know, Geoff Wenmouth recently passed away. He was a Committee member with responsibility for the 200 Club, as well as being the husband of our Treasurer Lisa. Our thoughts are with Lisa this Christmas.

Books and Bakes

We look forward to welcoming you all to our first Books and Bakes in 2022 - Friday, 28th January.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS AND BAKES

A Christmas special with Mulled Wine and carols on the piano thanks to Chris. The schoolchildren sang carols to a very appreciative audience and we said goodbye to Wendy Whitehouse who is leaving the school for pastures new. Daisy Sneath, Daisy Booker and Darcy, helped make tea and serve cake, as part of their learning experience as Charity Ambassadors.

It was an enjoyable afternoon for all who attended and the profit was split between the school and the Hall. It is a shame that no pictures are allowed because the Christmas decorated Hall with Children singing on stage would have made a memorable memento.

Thanks to Marjorie Morris for her help with Books and Bakes and her wonderful homemade cakes - which she does not charge for - and particular thanks to Joan Mildren and Lynne Lee, who, although not Committee members, also make cakes at their own expense and help to make Books and Bakes a success. They are a good team and will be there to welcome you in 2022.

WENDY WHITEHOUSE

We said goodbye to our school Headteacher who was also a Village Hall Committee member. The relationship with the school is extremely important

as the Hall is used for the PE curriculum and is an important drop-off and pick-up point for parents. It is anticipated the new Headteacher, Sharon Turner, will serve on the Committee to continue the relationship.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

Christmas Eve was a very wet evening, but an intrepid bunch of singers toured the Village singing carols under umbrellas.

The tour finished at the Fox pub where everyone dried out whilst eating mince pies and drinking mulled wine kindly provided by Scott.

Over £190.00 will be going to the chosen Charity - Katherine House Hospice. Many thanks to all the singers and givers.

BOOKS IN THE CHURCH VESTRY

This month, in addition to the other books in Church, I will be adding my choice of book -

THREE THINGS ABOUT ELSIE by Joanna Cannon

This is a funny and melancholy book which I loved. Florence has fallen in her flat in the Home for the Elderly. As she waits to be rescued she considers the charming new resident who looks exactly like a man she once knew - a man who died sixty years ago. Lying prone in the front room, Elsie wonders if a terrible secret from her past is about to come to light...

I'm sure you will really enjoy this book.

The Church is open every day for you to help yourself to any of the books there. Some money in the box by the door to help fund a toilet and running water in the Church will be much appreciated.

Wendy Hancock

MEMORIES OF MARY

Mary Sharman died peacefully, at Cherwell House Nursing Home, Bicester, on November 18th 2021.

Mary was born in Farthinghoe although she spent most of her childhood in Charlton, making the daily trek to her school in Evenley. Like many country children of the time, Mary was taken out of school to pick potatoes during the war.

She married Wilf in 1960 at St. James' Church, Newbottle. The couple eventually moved into their home in Bowling Green. Wilf and Mary loved hunting and walking and together they helped tend the churchyard.

After Wilf's passing, Mary continued this public-spirited work into her eighties and she will be remembered for her dedication to mowing and upkeep of the churchyard. Mary was a regular at Church coffee mornings and her passion for walking the local area, preferably with a friend, was undiminished - ten miles each day was not unusual.

Mary had a gift for getting to know people. One of her regular walks was to and around Hinton Airfield where she would chat to anyone she met. When the manager offered her a joy ride around the area in one of their light aircraft Mary was quick to accept and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. At the time I was trying to assemble interesting prizes for the Village Hall Show Draw and asked her for the manager's name and number with a view to getting a discount for such a flight as a raffle prize. However, later that day Mary reappeared having secured the promise of the flight donated by the airfield duly confirmed by the manager, won and enjoyed by a lucky Farthinghoe resident.

Mary was proudly independent and very rarely asked for help herself but was always the first to offer it to others. She had a wonderful sense of humour and made for excellent company whether during Sunday lunch at The Fox or over a glass of her favourite wine.

As new arrivals, Mary was one of the first to welcome us and we quickly became very fond of her. She was a fount of local knowledge with a deep love of the countryside and a caring neighbour.

Mary was an ordinary person who loved her village and cared – that is what made her special. She was the eyes and ears of the village and when something needed to be said she did not back down.

Mary, you will never be forgotten.

Farthinghoe

FARTHINGHOE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2021

On 3rd of December the Village Hall played host to the Farthinghoe School Ties Christmas Fayre.

Not only was Santa there in person (although he did look *vaguely* familiar!) but we had games like Feed The Snowman and Tin-Can Alley as well as Adopt-a-Teddy, Secret Santa presents (with gift-wrapping service), raffle, tombola (very popular with the adults!) and the stall that I helped with – Guess the Number of Lego Blocks in the Jar.

A special mention for the amazing caterers who kept us fed and hydrated. All the food was great but I particularly liked the cheeseburger pasties made by Lincoln's mother, Kira.

After two fun-filled hours, we raised the incredibly amazing sum of **£685.60** for the School – a very big thank-you for your generosity.

Maximilian (age 9)

GOODBYE MRS WHITEHOUSE

Wendy Whitehouse was an exceptional Head Teacher at Farthinghoe Primary School for some eight years and, following her departure to pastures new, one who will be missed not only as a teacher but also as an integral part of our village community. The following comments have been submitted by pupils past and present:

Mrs Whitehouse made my primary school experience at Farthinghoe School absolutely amazing. I cannot thank her enough for her encouraging words and fabulous lessons. **Sophia Sneath (Age 12)**

Mrs Whitehouse is such a loving, kind teacher and cares deeply about all the students. Mrs Whitehouse doesn't see students as students, but as part of her family. She is like a second mother to me and it has been really hard to see her go. **Daisy Sneath (Age 10)**

I will miss Mrs Whitehouse and I'm sad she's not my teacher anymore but I hope she has a lovely time at her new school. My favourite memory of Mrs Whitehouse was during lockdown. Even though it was hard for everybody, she helped us all and still made sure we learnt and had fun. **Ellie Boyd (age 9)**

Mrs Whitehouse was kind and caring. I enjoyed her teaching us and I'll miss her a lot. **Monty Biddlestone-Hunt (Age 7)**

Wendy, we thank you for your dedicated service and offer our very best wishes for the future.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE TART?

Being of the generation that grew up celebrating New Year with Aunties, Uncles and Andy Stewart's whirling kilt on the Telly, I had no idea what to expect when we were invited by French friends to their

New Year's Eve party during our first year in Normandy. We would be the 'token English' and we looked forward eagerly to the evening, though we knew nothing of the French customs.

On December 31st we set off through the dark countryside; appropriately dressed we thought in sequins (John) and Black Tie (me). Our arrival was greeted with howls of laughter "Heula! (blimey!) c'est La Reine" (it's The Queen). They were all dressed casually, in jeans and sweaters. Whoops!

The proceedings began with games. A quiz - I managed - John gave his impression of Katherine Tate's Nan: 'wass ee say?' "Oh just nod and smile". We shall gloss over the game with balloons - just don't ever wear a long dress to a French New Year party. Champagne was served and the food arrived. It was superb. Salads, Raclette (a form of cheese fondue), Charcuterie, breads, chips (there are always 'frites') and Tartiflette (see below). Wonderful Tarte Tatin (apple) and mouth watering Mousse au Chocolat - and more Champagne. Utter bliss.

Loud music followed. Were we going to boogie? No, we sat at the table and waved our arms and sang along. Then came traditional French songs - all accompanied by raised glasses, some actions, and lots of cheering. The toast at midnight - much kissing, four if you were close friends, two if you were not - amidst cries of Bonne Annee! It was at this stage that we had decided to introduce a little of our British traditions. John as a dark haired (well, he was once) person; went to our car and got a log (no coal out there) and a loaf of bread and came back into the house. "First Footing" I explained. Bemused looks... Then we made them form a circle and join hands as we regaled them with our rendering of 'Auld Lang Syne.' Roars of laughter. "Oh, Les Rosbifs! You do *this* for New Year?" "Well, yes."

If nothing else we repaid the warmest of welcomes and delicious food with our 'entertainment'. They never forgot it and at subsequent gatherings, whatever the occasion and much to our chagrin, we would be asked to sing 'Le Awld Leng Sin'. Vive la France!

TARTIFLETTE

(Serves 4-6 as a side dish - but is delicious eaten alone or with a green salad).

800g Small New Potatoes

1-2 tbsp Olive Oil

1 large Onion, chopped

250g Smoked lardons

250g Chestnut mushrooms, sliced

150g Reblochon Cheese - rind removed and coarsely grated (Camembert or Brie will also work).

150ml Double Cream, seasoned

A little Paprika

2 tbsp Parsley, chopped

A little Butter

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C fan.

Butter an oven-proof dish (approx. 25 x 18cm).

Boil potatoes until tender and when cool enough, slice thickly and arrange in the buttered dish.

Heat the oil in a pan and fry the onions for a few minutes over a high heat. Add the lardons and fry for a few minutes. Then lower the heat and cook for about 15 minutes stirring occasionally.

Add the mushrooms and cook for a few minutes over a high heat.

Scatter over the potatoes and stir in before topping with the cheese, pouring in the seasoned cream and sprinkling on the paprika.

Bake for 15-20 minutes till crisp on top and piping hot.

Sprinkle with the Parsley, serve and enjoy!

BON APPETIT!

By Lynne Lee

ROAD SAFETY: THE PEDESTRIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

If I may, please, be allowed to respond to the letter in the Chronicle from the driver so distressed at finding pedestrians on our country roads.

I was one of those heartless creatures in my bright running jacket, half-buried in the hedge as the car came around the bend at such a speed that its driver would not have been able to stop and instead reacted very late and overly swerved to avoid us.

Pedestrians, walking, running or otherwise, have right of way and deserve to be treated with respect when we are forced to share the same tarmac - there being a distinct lack of pavements / footpaths on these rural roads. Around every corner, cyclists, dog walkers, runners, children, pushchairs, sheep, cows... all these I see every day, and every one of them has a right to be safe.

My ask of the driver, and any others speeding around our roads, is to drive with consideration and with due care and attention as demanded in law. Please drive safely.

There are always two sides to any such incident. Having afforded both parties the opportunity to make their observations in respect of road safety, I now consider the matter closed. Ed.



FROM KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE, ADDERBURY
For inclusion in your January newsletter
(By email)

Heading into 2022

The New Year is usually a time of reflection on the past 12 months as well as making plans for the future. So, as well as some hospice news and updates, we've also got details on some exciting events coming up in 2022 and a few different ways you can help us. Thank you!

Royal visit

We were thrilled to welcome HRH The Duke of Gloucester to Katharine House on 19 November as part of our 30th birthday celebrations.

As well as meeting patients, volunteers and staff, His Royal Highness also officially launched our Celebration Tree. Our specially commissioned rose tree is a wonderful way to celebrate the lives of loved ones and you can find out more about making a dedication on our website.

Goodbye James

December 16 will be a sad day for everyone at Katharine House when we say goodbye to our much-loved chaplain James Grote.

For the past six years, James has not only played an essential part in the care of our patients and their families, but he has been a crucial support for staff guiding us through tough times, particularly during the pandemic. We wish James all the very best for the future – he will not be forgotten!

New year, new you?

Looking for a challenge in 2022? Well, look no further! We've got some fantastic events coming up this year to suit everyone from adrenaline junkies to those who just want to get out in the fresh air – and all of them will help to raise money for our hospice. From wingwalks to our rebranded Moonlight Walk, abseiling to cycling – there are lots of ways to get involved. Take a look at our Challenge events on our website to find out more.

Could you spare a few hours?

We couldn't continue to care for local people without the support of our amazing volunteers. So, if you have some time to spare, why not think about volunteering? We have one-off opportunities as well as more regular roles, which are all listed on our website. We'd love to hear from you.

Charity shops treasures

If you're having a post-Christmas clear out, don't forget about our six charity shops across the area. Rather than throwing out your good quality unwanted items, donating to a charity shop is more sustainable and helps raise money for our hospice. You can find the details for all our charity shops on our website.

Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice.

Find out more

Head to our website to find out more about all these events and news: www.khh.org.uk.

Astwick Vale Benefice January 2022

DATE Altar Colour	TIME/ SERVICE	CHURCH/LEADER	READINGS
2nd January White 2 nd Sunday of Christmas Epiphany	9:30 Said Com 11.00 Holy Com 11:00 Morning Worship	Farthinghoe SC Aynho SC Hinton CO	Isa 60. 1-6 Eph3. 1-12 Matt 2. 1-12
9th January Epiphany 1 White Baptism of Christ	9.30am Holy Com 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00 Morning Worship 11.00 Holy Com	Croughton SC Farthinghoe ML Aynho Lay Led Evenley SC	Isa 43. 1-7 Acts 8. 14-17 Luke 3. 15-17, 21- 22
16th January White Epiphany 2	10.30am Benefice Service Holy Com	Croughton TR/SC	Isa 62. 1-5 1 cor 12. 1-11 John 2. 1-11
23rd January White Epiphany 3 (Sue off)	9.30am Holy Com 9.30am Morning Worship 11:00 Morning Worship 11.00 Holy Com 4.pm Evening/P	Aynho Morning Worship ML Evenley CO Croughton CO Hinton TR Farthinghoe Lay Led	Neh 8. 1-3, 5-6, 8- 10 1 cor 12. 12-31a Luke 4;14-21
30th January White Epiphany 4 Candlemas	10.30am Benefice	Evenley SC "SOCK SUNDAY"	Mal 3. 1-5 Heb 2. 14-end Luke 2.22-40

PLEASE NOTE THAT AYNHO AND CROUGHTON HAVE SWAPPED THEIR SERVICE TIMES ON THE 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH. THIS IS ON A TRIAL BASIS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS:

SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY

AYNHO 9.30AM

CROUGHTON 11.00AM



FARTHINGHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

‘Where all children are valued and given the opportunity to thrive’



The Governors of Farthinghoe Primary School would welcome interest from any potential new Governors committed to raising educational outcomes of all children at our popular village school.

Potential new governors should have a willingness to:

- Work positively with others as part of a team to provide strategic leadership and challenge to the head of school
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of their role and of the key issues and priorities facing primary schools by; attending training, reading papers, attending evening meetings (6 per year), and visiting the school.

***If you would like to find out more about becoming a Governor and how to apply for one of our vacancies, please contact Lauren Hayes, senior governance professional to the Warriner Multi Academy Trust
l.hayes@warrinermat.org***

HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

- From the archaeological record we know that there were settlements within our Parish during the Stone-, Bronze-, and Iron-Ages as well as the Roman era.
- The Domesday Book records that in 1086 Farthinghoe (*Ferningho*) had 34 households (including 10 slaves) and its annual value to the Lord (Earl Aubrey of Coucy) was 7 pounds.
- The entry for Steane records 19 households (including 6 slaves) with an annual value to the Lord (Giles, brother of Ansculf (de Picquigny)) of 3 pounds.
- The name Ferningho is believed to be of Old English origin (from the words *fearn + inga + hōb*) and has been translated as *Hill-spur of the dwellers among the ferns*.