



THE Farthinghoe Chronicle

Issue 718

December 2014

Farthinghoe Primary School News

Our topic last term was Europe and our "fabulous finish" to the topic was a Food Fair. We invited our parents to join us in school to try the delicious foods from various European countries that we had made during the day.

Our new topic this term is World War 1 and the school has been freshly decorated especially for this topic.

On Remembrance Day, pupils from Key Stage 2 took part in a Children Singing for Children charity concert in St Mary's Church, Banbury to raise money for various children's charities. We sang a selection of songs, including two with Greatworth School that related to the period we have been studying (Pack Up Your Troubles and It's a Long Way to Tipperary) and then there was a grand finale with all schools singing together.

We now have many Christmas focused activities to look forward to and would like to invite you to join us for our Christmas Fair from 6pm until 8pm on Friday 28th November in the Village Hall and our Nativity dress rehearsal on 10th December at 2pm, again in the Village Hall.



Useful Contacts

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101

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Springfield Surgery

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Washington House Surgery

01280 702436

Hospitals

Brackley Cottage

01280 702388

The Horton

01295 275500

Fox Inn

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Limes Farm

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Banbury Guardian news

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01327 322237

[http://](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/PlanningApplications.htm)

[www.southnorthants.gov.uk/](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/PlanningApplications.htm)

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Chronicle Editor

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Deadline for January

Farthinghoe

Chronicle:

Friday 12th

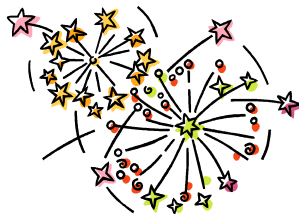
December



Village News and Events

Bonfire Night at Limes Farm

Thanks to Limes Farm for a fantastic Fireworks display on Friday 7th November!! This was a non profit-making event put on for the village and was attended by 300 people—everyone had a wonderful time!



Mothers' Union

There will be a Deanery Advent Service at Helmdon Church at 2pm. on Wednesday, December 3rd.

Church Coffee and Mincepies On Friday, December 5th, from 10am - 12noon in the Church Vestry. Bring & Buy and also a Raffle.

We are pleased that the children from Farthinghoe School will sing for us!

Church cleaning - to be arranged!

Decorating for Christmas We welcome help with flower arrangements. Any help would be much appreciated!

Farthinghoe Friends will meet at the Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd December at 2.30 pm, when they will be entertained with songs and carols by children from Farthinghoe School. Anyone is welcome to come along and listen



Farthinghoe Parish Council

News.....

Following resignations from Neil Downing and Ian Hunt, there were two vacancies on Farthinghoe Parish Council. Mick Morris and Henry Bankes-Jones expressed an interest in joining the PC and each gave a short presentation at November's meeting on their reasons for wishing to join and the qualities they could bring to the table. Both presentations demonstrated their depth of good feeling towards their village and the Council acknowledged that their skills and experience could prove valuable. I am pleased to confirm that they were both co-opted and we look forward to their future input.



South Northamptonshire's Planning Committee sat on 23rd October to consider the solar farm application. I'm sure most of you will be aware, but for those who may not have heard, the vote from the committee was 10 votes to 0 against approving the development. The councillors would like to thank Mick Morris, who attended the committee meeting on their behalf, presenting the statement prepared and approved by the Parish Council.

The councillors are currently working on a strategy document, to set out the aims and objectives for the Parish Council in 2015, one of which will be to improve communication between the PC and the community. We will be looking to use the benefits of the electronic age to share information, but we are also very aware of the need to consider those who may not have access to email. More details will follow early in the New Year, but in the meantime, we would encourage you to use Public Time at the monthly meetings if you wish to discuss any issues.

With that in mind, the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday, 10th December 2014 in the meeting room at the Village Hall. Public Time is from 7.00pm-7.15pm.

Pip Clayton, Parish Clerk

Tel: 01295 712208 Email: clerk@farthinghoeparishcouncil.org



Save The Date!

**Sunday, February 15th
2015, 5.30pm to 8pm**

Fund-raising Bingo Night at The Fox.

Family event with bingo games, prizes, raffle, silent auction and a Fox Supper.

More details to follow.

NATIONAL HISTORIC CHURCHES BIKE RIDE 13th September 2014

Every year a sponsored bicycle ride (or walk) under the “Ride and Stride” banner takes place nationally at this time of year to raise funds for the upkeep of Churches around the UK. Fifty percent of any



funds raised by participants go to the local church nominated by partakers, the other fifty percent goes to the National Churches Trust to promote the repair and revitalization of church buildings to the benefit of local communities.

John Addis and I took part this year taking in 10 local churches on a circular route including some of the more exciting mountain bike off road routes some of you bikers may be familiar with which we are

lucky to benefit from around Farthinghoe!

Various levels of hospitality were available at most churches providing time to have a look at some of the fantastic historical features in these buildings we have on our doorstep. Some of you may be aware and have seen the medieval wall paintings discovered on the walls of Croughton church. From reading information in the church during a pit stop, full details of the paintings are available and it is interesting to note that the paintings were started in the church as long ago as the year 1300!



Many thanks to those who have kindly sponsored us both this year!

We all have packed itineraries at weekends but please keep a note in your diaries for next year on Saturday 12th September 2015! Check out www.rideandstrideuk.org for this worthwhile cause helping to maintain some of these fantastic buildings! Join us next year and perhaps find out about other unmentioned pit stops to local hostelrys en route!

Steve P

Rector's Letter

This month we will hear the words 'Merry Christmas' and 'Happy Christmas' many many times.



We will also be reminded about the Joy of Christmas in the message the angels gave. Now why do I mention this you may wonder, well a while ago the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, talked about the difference between joy and happiness in relation to the economic situation that we are in and many people's fears about Christmas. Would they be able to afford Christmas? Would it be a happy or Merry Christmas?

The thing that struck me about his words was the world of difference there is between Joy and Happiness. Happiness is like a passing emotion, you can be happy one moment and sad the next. Many people strive after happiness in their lives but because of its temporal nature, although people may catch hold of it now and then, they can never keep hold of it for long.

Joy on the other hand is a much deeper feeling and possesses the inner self. You can have a sense of joy even when things look bleak, it is almost like being an eternal optimist. And as I thought of happiness and Joy, I was reminded of the words of the angels when they brought 'joy to the world, the saviour comes, the saviour promised long'. They brought a message of Joy rather than happiness. They also brought the message 'do not fear, do not be afraid'. This message appears 365 times in the Bible one for each day of the year.

And so in this time of an uncertain financial future I would want you to be happy but much more I would want you to be joyful, full of the joy of Christmas, not all the commercial pressure to spend more for the economy, but the joy of knowing that you are loved and valued by the one who we remember at Christmas. Knowing the joy of loving somebody else, and knowing the value of any gift given is not dependant on the price tag.

So may we all this Christmas be thankful for what we have, in friends, family and health, rather than worry about what we have not or may not be able to buy. For surely the current economic situation reminds us all that you cannot buy joy or happiness with money.

So may you all find true joy at this time of year and have a Joyful and Christ filled Christmas. And I look forward to seeing you at the many Christmas and carol services this Christmas time.

God Bless Simon

December at The Fox

We are open throughout December
You may be interested in the following:
LIVE MUSIC WITH CRAIG Thursday 18th
QUIZ NIGHT Sunday 21st
CHRISTMAS DAY DRINKS 11.30 am to 1.30pm
BOXING DAY LUNCH Noon to 2.30pm
NEW YEARS EVE
Light Buffet, Bubbly, Playlist all for £10
Ask for more details!
NEW YEARS DAY LUNCH Noon to 2.30pm

PLUS just for Farthinghoe Villagers . . .

The Fox Loyalty Stamp Card

Get your collectors card from The Fox, and get it stamped when you dine or drink at The Fox in December and we will reward you with gift vouchers to use in January!

See the card for details—limited number available

Back for December some of your favourite seasonal drinks

Youngs Winter Warmer Ale
Crabbies Ginger Mulled Wine
Gingerbread Latte
Baileys Floater Coffee



The Fox at Farthinghoe
01295 713965
www.foxatfarthinghoe.co.uk



Harvey's for Hilda, by Julia Pepler

Hilda wriggled in her chair, lifted her walking stick and gave Burt a prod. Burt ignored her. Hilda had another go, this time right in the stomach. Burt wheezed.

'Burt' she hissed.

'Mmm?' He slowly raised his head. He was mostly clothes and no body.

'You know what time it is?' Her voice was shaky and weak.

'Hang on....' replied Burt, as he fumbled beneath his tartan blanket, pulling out an ancient wristwatch. 'Four thirty'.

A glimmer appeared in Hilda's eye. She glanced at the balding fake Christmas tree in the corner of the day room, then back at Burt. Her Zimmer frame wobbled slightly. 'My bottle of Harvey's Bristol Cream's in the sideboard over there. Do you fancy a drop?' She was almost smiling.

'Mmm, wouldn't mind. But *you* can't walk over there to get it. And I can get can't get it. Jason will have to get it. So just forget it'. Burt rested his cheekbone on his hand and looked glum. 'You ask him, you'll see.'

Hilda and Burt had seats at the edge of the day room, just in front of the under stairs cupboard, where table linen, condiments, cutlery and spare incontinence pads, oddly, were stored. At meal times, the staff would buzz back and forth, picking up armfuls of stuff as they set tables for the residents. Jason was on duty today.

Hilda watched Jason check the clock. 'Look, he's about to start tea. When he comes over to open the cupboard, I'll ask him to fetch the Bristol Cream. It's Christmas, he might be nice'. Burt continued to look pessimistic.

Sure enough, Jason sauntered over, kicked Hilda's Zimmer frame out of the way and groped in his pocket for the cupboard door key. Hilda pulled at the bottom of Jason's hoodie. He scowled at her.

'What's your problem *Doris*?'

'Would you fetch me something please, Jason?'

'Nope, busy'. He pulled himself away from her feeble grasp, turned the key in the lock and disappeared into the cupboard, emerging seconds later with arms full of tablecloths. As he returned to the dining room he left the door half open, with the key swinging in the lock. Burt studied it.

'It's got a heavy door, that cupboard. They used to keep the safe in there, you know. I think it's solid steel.' Burt's eyes were quite wide now, in a baggy kind of way; he'd perked up.

Jason was back for the next batch of table linen. Hilda tried again. 'Jason, would you be a dear. It'd make such a difference. Tonic, that's what it would be. Little something to help free the soul. It's like being locked up you know, when you're this old'.

'I told you Granny, I'm busy'.

Burt shifted from one bony buttock to the other and back again. 'What are you fidgeting for?' Jason was snarling.

'Pad's wet. Sorry. Need changing.'

Burt looked at Hilda and jiggled his eyebrows. Hilda widened her eyes with mischief, and stole a glance inside the cupboard. She could see the incontinence pads right at the back, buried under a stack of clean linen and empty Christmas decoration boxes. They were both thinking the same thing.

'You have to change him Jason, if you don't I shall tell my son, and he'll report you. To the Care Quality Commission. We know our rights, you know.'

Jason tore off his hoodie and threw it on Hilda's lap. 'Freaks you two are, freakin' freaks!' He barged into the cupboard, right to the back, in the gloom, to find the pads.

Hilda's cheeks flushed and Burt sat up in his chair. 'Give me your stick!' he whispered, 'I'll shove your chair right up close to the door; do you think you can do it?'

'I'll try Burt', and she bounced herself ever so slightly as Burt nudged her forward. Edging closer, she reached out as far as she dare; she could see Jason throwing boxes out of the way, getting close to the pile of linen with the pads beneath. 'Bit more Burt, another push!' Hilda stretched as far as she could, fingertips almost on the door. 'Give it one last go Burt!'

Burt mustered a mighty shove, and her chair shifted the last couple of inches, just as Jason grasped the wad of pads. She lunged at the door, and it readily swung to, its great weight carrying it to a satisfying close. 'Now just the lock!' Her shaky fingers struggled to grip the key.

'Come on Hilda!' She fumbled stiffly; any second now she would feel Jason's hand on the door handle. 'Hurry up!' Then click! It was done, the handle secured tightly in position. Burt fell back in his chair and Hilda fell forward out of hers, both hands flat against the cold steel of the door. The day room fell silent. Hilda lifted her head, hands still resting on the door.

'Burt, do you know, you can't hear a thing from in there out here'.

Compost Corner

It's good to be back in the groove. Thanks go to Pythagoras for being my "locum tenens" last month. He is now busy making friends with two new fishy companions—two platys – "Black" and "Blue", the Bruise Brothers.

Back on the allotment, despite the weather, things, surprisingly, are flourishing. I highly recommend late summer sowings and don't mess around buying expensive seed. I bought a packet of mooli seeds from Poundstretcher, sowed them at the beginning of September and now have a great crop—strong, healthy radishes with 8" long, thick, ivory-white roots with smooth, unblemished skin, a fresh pungent smell and delicious juicy flesh, something like a young turnip but more delicate in flavour and texture and a much more versatile shape!

As with many leafy plants sown in Spring, my rocket, as usual, bolted in early summer but I left the plants to seed themselves and now I am overrun with strong, dark green leaves, bursting with iron and vitamins, just begging to be tossed into a salad, pressed into a sandwich, or just eaten as it comes.



Apples don't seem to have had a good year; I have seen quite a lot of scabby specimens. The apples have not been great, either. However, I must not generalise. The word on the street was that this year's stand-out crop were Jo's. Apparently, they were large, spherical, pale green and juicy; an unusual variety, by all accounts. I believe she also does a good line in butternut squash but that is, perhaps, a story for another day...

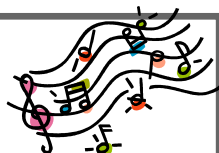
Time to stop now – I can hear the telephone ringing. Who did you say was calling? Jo's solicitor?

Bye for now – must go!

Mrs. Trellis

It's not too late!!!!!!

***To enter the Young Musician of the Year
Competition 2015 organised by the
Rotary Club of Banbury.***



Preliminary rounds at Sibford School

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th January 2015

Finals Saturday 28th February 2015

Closing date for entries 13th December 2014

Further details from Gareth Jeremy

Tel 01295 266404

Email gjeremy09@btinternet.com

***Entry forms from One Man Band, White Lion Walk,
Banbury***

Ages 8-11, 12-15, 16-19

Time flies when you are enjoying yourself so they say!

I can't believe I'm at the end of my second year as Editor of the Chronicle, it has been very enjoyable....

I do get the odd comment as I'm walking Kali around the village regarding the contents of the Chronicle and these are always welcome - I would welcome more feedback though, particularly about what you would like to see in our village newsletter. I'm often sent articles about issues which aren't strictly limited to the village (recent examples – the Northants Police Commissioner item, Katherine House Hospice Events, various Charity notices) and I do try to gauge the level of interest but am happy to hear if I've got it right, or wrong.

Please do contact me with any comments or indeed an article or pic for inclusion in a future edition on 01295 711 148 or sjdowning@btinternet.com

Many thanks and Merry Christmas!



Shirley

Festive Afternoon Tea

Booking now for December



We've put together a wonderfully Festive Afternoon Tea that you can enjoy throughout December. With festive twists on our traditional afternoon tea who could resist a little indulgent treat in the run up to the big day?

Seasons greetings with a glass of Prosecco

A joyful selection of sandwiches

- Christmas Eve Brie & Cranberry Sauce
- Christmas Day Turkey & Stuffing
- Boxing Day Ham & Mustard
- Pigs in Blankets Sausage & Bacon
- Christmas Roasted Vegetables & Goats Cheese

A triumphant selection of sweet treats

- Cinnamon Christmas Tree Biscuits
- Marzipan & Chocolate Drop Brownies
- Mixed Fruit Scone with Cream & Strawberry Jam
- Apple Crumble Mini Muffins
- Mini Mince Pies

And choose a cup of Santa's favourite tea

- Winter Spiced
- Earl Grey
- Traditional Breakfast Tea
- or Mulled Wine



**Only £16
per person**

www.limesfarm.com

Limes Farm, Main Road, Farthinghoe, Brackley, Northamptonshire NN13 5PB