



CROSTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Chair's Letter

Autumn Greetings Everyone,
What a wonderful time of year in Croston, stunning colours around the Moss and the Croft, the bonus of an extra hour's sleep on 27th October 2024 and the start of the exciting build up to Christmas 2024, wonderful!

To keep you informed of events in Croston, we have the website www.crostonpc.org for Agendas, Minutes, Meeting Schedule, Croston Events and Parish News Sections etc.... and we also have a new Facebook page: **Croston Parish Council**. You can email the Clerk on clerk@crostonpc.org with any issues and or attend the monthly P.C. meeting (second Wednesday of the month except August, 7.30pm , Old School) and raise points with your Council in the Public Participation section. Just turn up to have your say.

In July, we were very pleased to elect a new Councillor, Anne Double who now serves alongside other volunteer Councillors on the Parish Council. Our term of office runs until May 2027.

There is so much to look forward to in Croston over the coming months and details of some of the events are in this newsletter e.g. the Annual Croston Show, Christmas Village Fair, Croston Singers' Concert, Eccleston Brass Band Concert. You can find details of all events on the P.C. Website and Facebook.

Everyone is welcome to our parish **Service of Remembrance on Sunday 10th November 2024** which commemorates all those lost in conflict. We gather at St. Michael's and All Angels Church at **1.00pm**, then process to the War Memorial where poppy wreaths are laid before we return to church for the Service of Remembrance. Fifty-two young members of our parish, who lost their lives in World War I and II are named on our War Memorial.

Financial Efficiency, Accountability:

In July, the P.C. voted to support many parish community groups with Precept funded awards under the Donation and Grant Policy 2024/2025 (details of Recipients on following pages)

In addition, an L.C.C. Biodiversity Grant was awarded to The Croft Volunteers for their work on wilding and bird boxes in conjunction with Croston Shed.

For financial efficiency, this Newsletter is now bi-annual: delivered from 1st September and the Spring/ Summer edition delivered from 1st March each year. The increase in Precept 2024 has also allowed us to start to build up Reserves for contingency and sound financial accounting moving forward. We now have approx. 33% of the recommended P.C. Reserve figure.

Project Renovation 2024 / 2025:

The increase to your Precept 2024, has allowed funding of three new Notice Boards in the village, the metalwork at The Green to be renovated (flagpole, bollards, chains, signpost, weathervane and safety barrier), the flags at the War Memorial to be re-laid, the chains renovated, plus we have bought two new benches and renovated a third in conjunction with Croston Together and L.C.C.

We now have Planning Permission in our Conservation Area, for the removal of the dead tree on The Green and the professional pollarding (for safety reasons) of the 'top-heavy' Lime there. We ask that you are patient for a couple of years, whilst the pollarded Lime on The Green, which will look sparse initially, should go on to have regrowth similar to the tree in the photo on the right.



Precept also funded a detailed Risk Assessment of the Electrics on The Green which revealed they needed completely replacing to meet British Safety Standards. The contract went to tender, and we are extremely grateful to John McDougall Electrical Services Ltd. for the most professional advice, guidance and plans he designed to meet this electrical compliance. Following planning permission from Chorley Council, work begins on the new Electrics on The Green this autumn. In line with legislation, there will, herein be an annual inspection of the Electrics to maintain required compliance.

The Recreation Park: This is a beautiful £200K village amenity which is mowed and tended to by Countrywide Ltd. funded from Precept. They do a great job and have been successful in winning the contract for groundwork at various sites around the village, for the next three years. The Recreation Park is also lovingly cared for, six hours a week, by volunteers Neville and Andrew from Croston Together who we are deeply indebted to for all their hard work.

Following recent anti-social behaviour, our local Neighbourhood Policing Team advised us that as a safety measure, we should apply thick, sticky, non-drying anti-climb paint to the roof of the metal container at the Park. Signs now on the container state, 'Anti- Climb Paint' and ' Do Not Climb'. The Parish Council will always take action to keep the Recreation Park a pleasant and safe place for everyone to use.

Many thanks to Alistair Wade Landscapes for completing this latest work and many other tasks around the parish including removal of the prison donated bench on Highfield Rd. which had rotted.

Liaising with Authorities: The Crown site has now been passed by Chorley Council Planning Committee for the development of a Co-Op and retail units including a café. We were most disappointed that our P.C. request for restrictions on the size and timings of HGVs use on Station Rd was not made a condition of the approval.

We also now know that Northern Rail has postponed indefinitely the proposal to introduce parking charges at Croston Station due to unresolved issues with the car park there.

The Parish Council regularly receives complaints about parked vehicles around the village that the complainants clearly consider are irresponsibly left. Issues relating to Highways are the responsibility of L.C.C. The Police may decide to speak to owners when their vehicles are completely blocking a pavement and or creating a severely restricted view for other motorists. Please think carefully about where you are parking and if pedestrians, prams and wheelchair users can still pass easily. The P.C. can only do as you can also, which is report any Highways matter to L.C.C. and by far the easiest way to report issues in Croston is to download and use the App 'Love Clean Streets'.

Finally, many thanks again to all the volunteers in Croston, especially Croston in Bloom who work enthusiastically on behalf of everyone in the parish, to keep the planters, tubs, Out Lane Community Garden and the beds of the Village Green looking so wonderful. It really is a joy to behold these lovely areas.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you a very pleasant autumn, a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2025.

Pauline Strachan, Chair,
Croston Parish Council



heritage open days

CROSTON OLD SCHOOL

Sat 7th & Sun. 8th Sept. 2024 1 - 5pm

A Croston Alphabet



Free entry. Refreshments Tombola Raffle
Organised by Croston Village Archive

Croston Village Archive's 2024 Exhibition will be an
Alphabet of Croston

26 known and unknown parts of
Croston. Will you be able to recognise them?

Produce classes : Flower classes : Food classes : Home Brew : Craft classes : Children's classes

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*****Save the Date*****

13th Annual Croston Flower, Produce & Craft Show

Saturday 7th September 2024

Croston Community Centre, Castle Walks

Entries between 9:00am and 10:30am

Public viewing from 2:00pm

Trophies awarded at 2:30pm followed by Auction

Schedules to follow with classes for 2024

For more information contact Ian Coggin / Rachel Nightingale

e: crostonvillageshow@gmail.com t: 07966 487886



CROSTON VILLAGE SHOW

FLOWER | PRODUCE | CRAFT

Produce classes : Flower classes : Food classes : Home Brew : Craft classes : Children's classes

ECCLESTON BRASS BAND CONCERT

Methodist Church, Westhead Road, Croston

Friday 22nd November 2024 7.45pm

A wonderful concert of expertly performed songs by our fantastic local Brass Band . A great evening of live music is ensured. Raffle too!

Tickets cash only on the door: £8 including refreshments served during the interval.

'it'll be a reet gud neet owt'



Service of Remembrance

Sunday 10th November 2024 at 1.00 pm

Gather at St. Michael's and All Angels Parish Church from 12.30pm for 1.00pm to process to War Memorial where wreaths will be laid at the Cenotaph. Return to church for the Service of Remembrance. All welcome.

Save The Date

Thursday 8th May 2025

Croston Parish Council will be celebrating the 80th V.E. Day Anniversary. There will be more details in the Spring Summer P.C. Newsletter out on 1/3/24 and on P.C. Website & FB. Victory in Europe Day was the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday, May 8th 1945; it marked the official end of World War II in Europe in the Eastern Front, with the last known shots fired on 11th May 1945.

L.C.C. Cllr Alan Whittaker lays a wreath at our War Memorial



A Christmas Celebration

Performed by The Croston Singers

...an evening of popular and Traditional Christmas Songs
Venue: St. Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Croston

Date : Saturday 7th December 2024

Time: 6.00pm

Raffle and Refreshments

The Croston Singers are always looking for more members whatever your singing voice is! Our rehearsal nights are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7.30pm at the Croston Sports Club.

Just turn up , there will be a warm welcome.

Contact Rachel on 07753494361 for more details.



Croston Village
FESTIVITIES GROUP

CROSTON CHRISTMAS FAIR



Sunday
1st
December

Starts at 12:30



This year, Croston Christmas Fair takes place on Sunday, the 1st of December, and we are acutely aware that the event impacts heavily on our residents, particularly those who live on Town Road, Out Lane and Church Street.

We appreciate the support you have given in the past, and hope you will feel able to be as accommodating this year. The event will start with the closure of Town Road at 12:15pm, with Santa arriving by a horse-drawn vehicle at the Village Green at 12:30pm for photographs, followed by a procession transporting Santa to his Grotto in the Sports Club, via Town Road and Westhead Road.

During the afternoon, our festive tractor and trailer will be providing rides from the Village Green to the Sports Club, and many pedestrians will be walking around the village. The Christmas Lights switch on will take place on the Village Green at 5pm, followed by a candlelit procession to Trinity and St Michael's Church for a short Carol Service, subject to agreement with the church.

Please be aware that we are approaching Chorley Borough Council to seek approval for the closure of Town Road, from the junction of Westhead Road/Station Road to Croston Park, including the closure of Town Road Bridge, from 12:15pm until 5:45pm. Should you wish to comment on, or object to the proposal, please contact us via our email, website or to the address below.

We realise this can be inconvenient for some residents, but it would greatly assist arrangements if you could help by ensuring that any parked vehicles are removed from Town Road, Church Street and the areas around the Village Green before the road closure in order to avoid any accidental damage to them, and also to assist us in providing a safe event for those attending. Legal compliance with the terms of the road closure means that we will not be able to facilitate any vehicle movements within the closure area during the times stated. We will be asking Bishop Rawstorne Academy for approval to use their facilities for parking, so there should be plenty of parking spaces available. We hope you will join with us to enjoy the event, and if you have any concerns, or need more information, please get in touch via our email address below.

Crostonvillagefestivities.com
crostonfestivities@hotmail.com
Facebook: @crostonfestivities

CVFG Ltd. A not for profit community company limited by guarantee.
Company No. 12787523
Registered office address, 8 De Trafford Place, Croston, P R269 R2

CROSTON IN BLOOM

Having taken the decision to take a year out from the RHS Northwest in Bloom competition we have still been hard at work on our various projects around the village.

Community Garden and Orchard on Out Lane



Our first task in the new year was to cut back and hard prune the shrubs and roses in the main border and we were very grateful to the street scene team from Chorley Council who came along and removed the very large pile of brush this created for re-cycling. We would also like to thank the Parish Council for agreeing to take over the grass cutting of this area. We are pleased to report that we have a good crop of Bramley's showing and the shrub roses are looking spectacular.

The Village Green



The wet winter/spring has allowed the shrubs to put on plenty of lush new growth. We carefully prune these after they have flowered to keep them vigorous and healthy. We also held a very successful plant sale here in May raising over £580!

The River Wall Display



Our colour scheme this year is 'Loud and Bright'!

Thanks to the PC for paying for all the quality plants .

The War Memorial



We have been very pleased to see that the shrubs we planted last summer and Autumn are now well established and are provided some beautiful flowers alongside the Salvias and Heucheras.

The Church Grounds

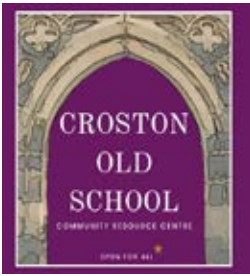


Our work in the church grounds as part of a 4 year project across the grounds of the church. To date this has included the renovation of long border up to the Old School, a new white border adjacent to the footpath entrance to Croston Park, a garden in memory of our much missed colleague Richard, the renovation of the rose beds and the formation of a new woodland themed bed alongside the river walk (in conjunction with Tim Blythe and his team).

Support

We are as always very grateful for all the support we receive, be it from purchasers at our plant sale, visitors to our Open Garden event or the simple 'Thank you' we receive from passers-by when we working.

However we are few in number and we're not getting any younger! If you can spare an hour and like getting you hands dirty please get in touch via email to: crostoninbloom@gmail.com or messenger from our Facebook page. Thank you!



We have had some wonderful celebrations here at The Old School recently including 3 weddings receptions and lots of children's parties. The feedback from these events has been outstanding and we thank you for choosing our venue. It means the world to us to have your continued support.

Have you seen the latest installation from Croston Knitwits? We think it makes a great summer addition to our archway. Thank you Ladies!



Dates for you diaries:

Quiz Night - Friday
20 September.



A Night at the
musicals
Saturday 12
October



Chris Bannister -
tribute to Bruce
Springsteen
Friday 25 October



Tim Chu & Ian Bailey
- A Celebration of
Simon & Garfunkel
Friday 22nd
November



Further information
can be found on our

website: www.crostonoldschool.org.uk Or on our Facebook page

Croston Parish Council

Donation and Grant Awards 2024/ 2025

Applications submitted from community organisations were discussed at the July Council Meeting. Approx. 8% of our Precept is allocated to supporting Croston community groups.

Did you know , there are approx. 17 community groups in our parish for you to get involved with? Most have websites and/or Facebook pages.

We are pleased to announce the following local groups were successful:

Coffee Day Committee	7/7/24	To support our Walk of Witness, a 175 year old Croston tradition.
Croston Scouts	14/7/24	Towards Picnic in the Croft for 90 people: scouts and their families.
Croston Village Festivities Group	1/12/24	To support our Christmas Fair.
Community Centre	8/12/24	Towards a hot Christmas lunch for the elderly who can't easily get out.
The Croft Volunteers	All year	Towards maintenance of The Croft .
Croston Shed	All year	Purchase of a Turning Lathe and Lathe Tool Set
Keep Croston Tidy	All year	Insurance for litter pickers out around the parish & helping with village Tidy Ups
Croston P.T.	Event TBC	Proposed Parish Wellness Day at the Community Centre. See PC Website/ FB / Notice Boards for details
Goodwill Visit for the Elderly	December delivery	Towards funding a friendly visit, chat and gift for Christmas cheer for the elderly.

See Parish Council Website for details of our Donation and Grant Policy, Eligibility, Application Form etc... (search Documents/ other documents/ Donation and Grant Policy 2024)

Awards are now closed for this financial year but applications are open again 1st April 2025.



Report Issues to L.C.C.

You can go online at www.lancashire.gov.uk or the easiest way is to download Love Clean Streets App. Here are some of the items you can report to L.C.C.

Bollard	Damaged illuminated/ unlit bollard
Damaged bus stop/ shelter	Bus shelter, bus stop pole or sign, surface defect, timetable case
Flooding/blocked drain	Blocked drain and flooding the road , blocked but dry
Flooding property	Property flooding internal only, internal and external, external only
Footway - Report a problem with a footway	Missing manhole cover, broken flag, obstruction on the footway, tripping hazard less than 20mm, 20mm-75mm, greater than 75mm
Footway Pothole Report a pothole on the footway	Footway pothole - less than 25mm depth, 25mm - 75mm , greater than 75mm depth Request a refill, repair, new grit bin
Gritting obstruction	General obstruction , parking obstruction
Public right of way	Broken or unusable stile, ditch-crossing on path, gate on path, obstruction, overgrowth on/over a path, ploughed/cropped path, surface issue on path, signpost, steps , way-mark for path

Road	Collapsed road, missing manhole cover, carriageway tripping hazard, road marking faded, missing, roadworks enquiry
Road debris and spillages	Diesel / oil spillage , debris/ glass on carriageway
Road pothole - Report a pothole or problem with a road surface	Rod pothole less than 40mm, 40mm - 99mm , 100mm - greater , multiple potholes - same location
Sign	Signpost door open/off, damaged illuminated sign
Streetlight	Column door open / off , flashing, lamp out, on all day
Traffic light	Croston does not have any but details are on the App / online
Vegetation and trees	Grass verge cutting, hedge pruning, tree maintenance, tree removal

For your information:

Hedges

Croston Parish Council has reported several overgrown hedges around the parish either directly to the owners or to L.C.C. via the App. L.C.C. has enforcement powers to either make landowners cut their hedges or for L.C.C. to carry out the work themselves and recharge the landowner.

Parking

Please see www.gov.uk for The Highway Code Waiting and Parking Rules 238 - 252. Of note in Croston: Rule 241 you must not park in the Blue Badge reserved space at The Green unless you are entitled to do so, Rule 243 Do not stop or park: near the school entrances, anywhere you would prevent access for Emergency Services, blocking a dropped kerb lowered for wheelchair users. Do not park on a bend.



Tots on Tuesday at The Community Centre, Castle Walks

Hello, Are you new to the village? or maybe you just haven't heard about us?
We are a group of mums, dads, grandparents and carers
who meet on Tuesdays from 9 - 11am in term time and 9:30 -11:30 am
during the school holidays.

We meet in the Community Centre, Castle Walks, Croston
where we've been meeting for over 20 years!

You could be one of our original 'tots' with your own tot now,
looking for somewhere to go, to meet up with new and or old friends.
We provide toys and activities in a safe, friendly environment for babies and
children up to school age. Children can play while adults enjoy
a good catch with a brew. Snacks and drinks are provided.

All this for only £2:50 per family.

Looking forward to seeing you and extending a warm welcome
to you at Croston Tots.



Have you ever wanted to learn how to knit or crochet?
Then we are the group for you!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at
7.00pm in the church vestry for a brew and chat whilst
we knit or crochet.

Experienced knitters are also very welcome - we're a
friendly bunch!

We also work on Yarn bombing projects from time to
time but there is no obligation to join in.

Please send us an email if you want further information.

Our email address is: crostonknitwits@gmail.com



Domestic Cleaning Service

(Save £15* with code: CPC724)

- *Weekly cleaning*
- *Fortnightly cleaning*
- *One-off cleaning*
- *Vacuuming*
- *In-home ironing*
- *Local company*



07931 732528
dhl@onelessting.co.uk
onelessting.co.uk

Visit onelessting.co.uk to see prices & book online



Kryisia Cogollos

Stivie, our current cleaner, has been an absolute gem so far and we couldn't be happier.



Raymond McDaid

Very pleased with the service, very responsive and flexible.



Claire Powell

Absolutely fantastic service, professional yet very friendly. The clean was very thorough and of a really high standard.



Zandra Taylor

Very happy with our experience to date. We have been paired with someone very local to us and things are working well.



JP

Very happy with the level of service and communication, Dawnn was helpful arranging for us to get a reliable cleaner.



Rebecca Procter

Great first clean from Suzanne. I look forward to many more!



Bethany King

Jaine was fabulous she's really lovely and did a great job all around the house.



Julie McLaughlan

Fantastic service, delighted with results!



John Bennet

Have used twice and both cleaners have been excellent.



Ruth Poar

Really pleased with the high quality of service.



Brett McDonald

Dawnn got us set up quickly and efficiently and introduced us to Jaq.



Family Kenyon

Our one off clean performed by Pearl was done well. Will be coming back in the future!

*Quote code "CPC724" to get £15 off your first quarter's fees when taking a two hour weekly or three hour fortnightly regular cleaning service. Valid until 30/11/24. Terms apply. E&OE.

Would you like to be a Croston Campanologist?



Article by Robert Hough, Tower Captain Bell Ringer

Hearing the wonderful bells of St. Michael and All Angels pealing for commemorative events like the 80th Anniversary of D Day, King Charles III Coronation, Christmas and weddings, have you ever thought 'I wonder if I could do that?' Well yes you can! If you are 11 years or older, you can definitely have a go. It's a great way to exercise both the body and mind. Croston has eight bells, located in the belfry, weights varying from approx. 16 hundred weight for the tenor (lowest note), to the treble at approx. 2 hundred weight (highest note). The bells were cast between 1787 and 1898 and carry inscriptions on them, with dedications to past rectors at the parish.

Each bell is individually located in the wooden bell frame, via an axle on which it rotates. There is a wheel attached to the side of the bell with a rope around it, the rope comes down to the floor and it is this we pull to ring the bell. No two bells are the same, each bell in every tower is individual due to size, mounting and rope lengths. These all make the ringing of the bells different and so it is definitely an art. 50 years ago, my great uncle, who was the then Croston Tower Captain (as I am now), persuaded me to try my hand at bell ringing. I had an uncle who was also a ringer at Croston, so I was following in a family tradition.

There were several weeks of practice, learning to master the weight of the bell as it rotates through 180 degrees and pulls on the rope, just enough, but not too hard as to lift your feet off the ground! Once this was mastered, I was allowed to join the band to ring rounds. Rounds is the basic order you hear as the bells ring going from the highest notes progressing to the lowest. There are many differing orders, Queens, Titums and many more that change the order of the bells.



We also ring methods. This is a progressive sequence where all the bells change places at every pull of the rope, based on a set of rules for that method. These methods are numerous, such that I am still learning them today, as you probably could also. The inscriptions on the 8 bells are as follows: 1, 2 and 4, 'John Rudhall, Gloucester, 1816.' 3. 'Come away make no delay, 1787.' 5. 'This peal was cast at Gloucester by J. Rudhall, 1787.' 6. In memory 'The Rev. Streysham Master, rector; R. Farrington, churchwarden, 1822.' 7. 'Ring clearer than before God's praises evermore; cast by J. Rudhall, 1787. Renewed, remainder of peal rehung by J. Taylor, 1898. The Rev. A. G. Rawstorne, rector; M. Hackforth, T. Whittle, churchwardens.' 8. 'I to the church the living call and to the grave do summon all.'

We currently have six ringers at Croston who are all members of the Preston Branch of the Lancs Association of Change Ringers. There are different associations, dependent upon your location or University you attend. As we have insufficient members to ring all the bells at Croston, local towers help us out for Sunday Services and Weddings, and we them. Interested?

Then contact brobthough@aol.com. We meet at church Mondays 7pm - 8pm
The art of bell ringing is known as campanology and those who ring bells are called campanologists. The word campanology comes from the Latin word campana, which means bell and the Greek word logia, which means study.



Newsletter Deadline

There are two Newsletters per year, delivered to 1400 properties, approx. 3000 people. The Spring Summer issue deadline for articles to the at clerkcrostonpc.org is noon, Thursday 2nd January 2025.

If you wish to place an advert in the next newsletter, please forward PDF or JPEG to the clerk@crostonpc.org. Please note, space is limited and there is no guarantee of inclusion. Full page advert £65; half page £45; quarter page £25

Disclaimers:

Croston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for items provided by third party contributors and does not endorse or recommend any of the advertisers contained in the publication.

For all Parish Council business, see website: www.crostonpc.org

Facebook: Croston Parish Council

Croston Parish Council Contacts:

Chair: Cllr Pauline Strachan pstrachancrostonparishcouncil@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Cllr Caroline Turner 07850534319

Cllr Kath Almond 01772 600368

Cllr Anne Double anne_double@hotmail.com

Cllr Peter Fenemore 01772 600572

Cllr Paul Sloan 07434498899

Cllr Catherine Titherington-Teale 07888373246

Paul Cafferkey - Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer 07966267186

clerk@crostonpc.org



Croston Together is all about making the most of the wonderful village we live in, by bringing people together and supporting the local community.



Grant to Croston Knit Wits



Support in developing our village park



Start up grant for Lego Club

We are able to provide grants for appropriate projects that enhance village life. Visit our website to download a grant application form.

Engage – Encourage – Enrich

www.crostontogether.co.uk