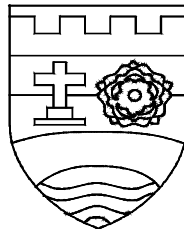


Croston Parish Council Newsletter



December 2018

Gold Awards

At the Awards Ceremony for the North West in Bloom 2018 Competition Croston in Bloom received a Gold Award in the Best Large Village Category (see centre pages for more details).

The Black Horse, also received a Gold Medal in the Best Small Accommodation Category

As always, the Parish Council would like to thank the members of Croston in Bloom for their efforts tidying and planting around the village and residents and businesses

who provided floral displays and kept the village clean and tidy.



Award winners Croston in Bloom (l) and The Black Horse (r)

Railway Bridge

Residents are up in arms over alterations to the Meadow Lane railway bridge parapets carried out by Network Rail.

Details of the campaign to try to get this eyesore changed to something more suited to the rural setting are on page 5.



**Croston Parish Council would like to wish everyone
a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Chairman's Message

Another year is coming to an end and a quick glance through the last twelve months shows that our village and its community have once again shone! February saw another successful Croston Music Fest which raised funds for Derian House.

In March and April Croston featured on both Channel 4 (Village of the year) and the BBC (Britain in Bloom) with both programmes showcasing the work of the many volunteers who work so hard in the village. June saw the arrival of the new floral display troughs on the river wall and another fabulous 'Music in the Woods' event in aid of church funds.

In July the Open Gardens event saw visitors flocking to see the 19 gardens and raised much needed funds for Croston Together. The sun shone on Coffee Day and the river got a clean-up as residents joined Parish Councillors to remove years of rubbish from the river bed.

August began with a visit from the RHS Northwest in Bloom judges - it was Gold again - and some much needed rain fell to turn the parched grass to green again. Croston Village Festivities held a successful public meeting in September to gauge support for the Christmas Market and to appeal for volunteers so that the event could go ahead.

October saw the re-opening of Meadow Lane following the completion of works to replace the Railway Bridge. Sadly the new bridge has been a huge disappointment as the design is totally out of keeping with its surroundings. A campaign is now underway to have the design improved so that it blends in better with our village.

This year's Remembrance Day marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. The service at the War Memorial and Church was very well attended by both young and old. The work of Croston Knit-wits creating hundreds of poppies to mark the route of the procession was much appreciated.

We will have much to enjoy throughout December as the Christmas lights are switched at the close of the Christmas Tree Festival, to be followed by The Christmas Market.

The Parish Council thanks everyone who has helped in any way to make Croston the village it is and sends best wishes to all.

Anne Peet

Tots Group

Are you looking for somewhere to go on a Thursday morning with your toddler, baby? Like-minded mums/grandparents/childminders meet on Thursday morning from 9:00 - 11:30am in the Community Centre, Castle Walks. It's a great way to make new friends -we provide toys for the children to play with in a safe environment, snacks and that essential 'brew' for adults!

Computer Problems? Slow Broadband?

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* speed increase depends on home phone line set up and router configuration





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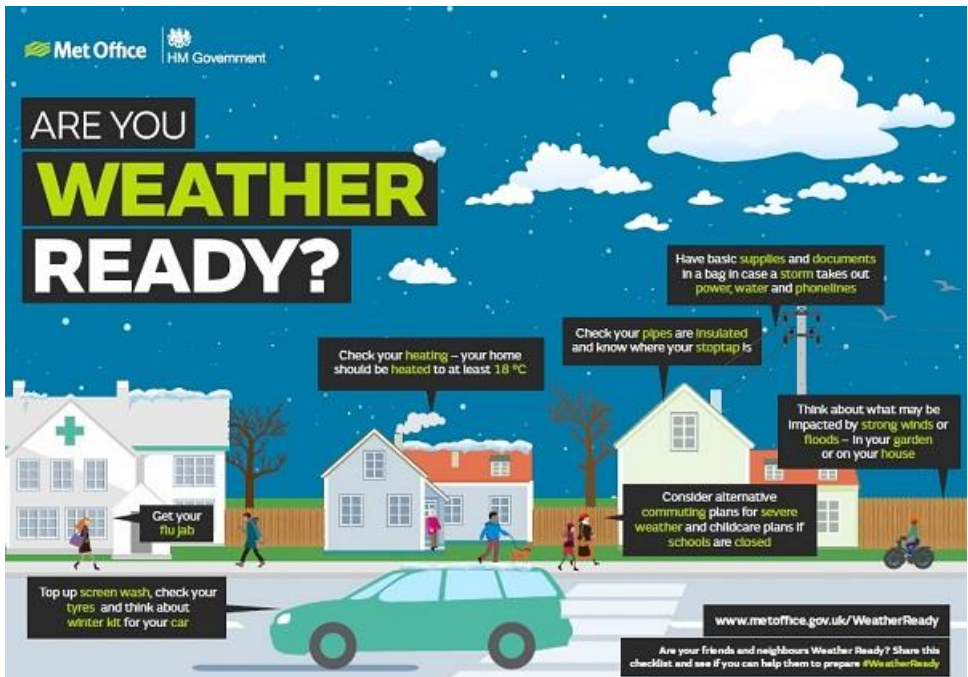
Ansaphone: 01704 822874 Mobile: 07777 631689

Email: neil@technohow.co.uk

Website: www.technohow.co.uk

ARE YOU WEATHER READY?



Get your flu jab

Check your heating – your home should be heated to at least 18 °C

Check your pipes are insulated and know where your stop tap is

Have basic supplies and documents in a bag in case a storm takes out power, water and phonelines

Think about what may be impacted by strong winds or floods – in your garden or on your house

Consider alternative commuting plans for severe weather and childcare plans if schools are closed

Top up screen wash, check your tyres and think about winter kit for your car

www.metoffice.gov.uk/WeatherReady

Are your friends and neighbours Weather Ready? Share this checklist and see if you can help them to prepare #WeatherReady

Town Bridge

The public consultation on the closure of Town Bridge found that there was a small majority in favour of keeping the bridge open.



A traffic survey was also conducted to investigate local concerns that the bridge was used as a 'rat run'. The survey showed that virtually all the traffic using the bridge was doing so to access local properties and there was no evidence of it being used as a through route or of the weight limit being ignored.

Consequently, LCC has concluded that there is insufficient community support to close the bridge to vehicular traffic and there is no compelling reason to do so; therefore closure will not be progressed at this stage.

Physically restricting the width was an option frequently mentioned in the comments from the public. The bridge is currently subject to a width restriction of 6'6" under a Traffic Regulation Order. The use of bollards would make legitimate vehicle manoeuvres difficult and could result in damage, and therefore this will not be progressed.

The volume of traffic shown to be using the bridge is unlikely to lead to any further movement of the structure. The County Council will continue to monitor the bridge and ensure it is appropriately maintained.

War Memorial

This year, to acknowledge the centenary of the end of the First World War, the Parish Council applied for a listing for the War Memorial.

Historic England approved the application and, on 6 September, the War Memorial was officially designated as a Grade II Listed Building, with a List Entry Number of 1458957.

The Memorial was unveiled on Saturday 30 October 1920 by Capt. Douglas H. Hacking, MP, latterly the Right Honourable Lord Hacking OBE (MP for Chorley 1918-1945).



A Bridge Too Far

A campaign to try to get Network Rail to alter the new Meadow Lane railway bridge to make it more in keeping with its setting is under way.

Local resident, Pat Tack, is leading a pressure group, 'Croston Against New Transport Bridge' and has set up a change.org petition - to sign go to:

<https://www.change.org/p/andrew-haines-ce-demand-networkrail-makes-the-new-bridge-into-croston-more-historically-sympathetic>



Croston Against New Transport Bridge

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www.croston-old-school.org
email: crostonoldschool@tiscali.co.uk

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Joseph Pilates

**Contact: Deb Hoyle 07757 417664 or
email debhoylepilates@hotmail.co.uk**



Croston in Bloom

News Update



We were absolutely delighted to receive a *GOLD* award at the RHS Northwest in Bloom award ceremony in Southport on 1 November.

Congratulations also go to Andrew and Tracy of The Black Horse who also received a *GOLD* award.



The summer had been a particularly difficult time due to the lack of rain but once again residents did us proud and the village looked amazing.

Other local 'bloom' groups have asked to come and speak to us about what we do and how we do it and we are only too pleased to help.



If you would like to join us why not visit our Facebook page and leave a message or email us at: crostoninbloom@gmail.com



Project Updates

A river of red tulips and specialist wild flower seeds have been planted opposite the War Memorial. We will have to wait now until spring to see if the seeds have taken.

Once necessary tree works are completed on the village green we will be creating a permanent garden for the Croston Charter.

We are working with the Parish Council to enhance the village car park on Out Lane. Subject to grant funding we are hoping to create a small orchard around the parking area and an edible hedge.



Christmas Fair

Our Bloom 'Pop-up shop' will once again be making an appearance at the Christmas Market where we will have lots of goodies on sale including our famous Snowmen! You'll find us outside The Old School.

A Merry Christmas to all!

We'll see you in the New Year!



Help Us Help You this winter



Winter is a challenging time for the NHS, with more people feeling unwell with seasonal illnesses and a rise in the number of people admitted to hospital.

NHS and social care organisations across Chorley, South Ribble and Greater Preston are working together to prepare for this busy period, but there are things you can do to Help Us Help You stay well this winter.

Protect your health in the cold

- Have the free flu jab if you are over 65, have a long term condition or are pregnant. Children aged 2, 3 and those in up to year 5 in school can also have a free flu nasal spray.
- If you start to feel unwell, even if it's a cough or cold, don't wait until it gets worse. Seek advice from a pharmacist.
- Make sure you have stocked up on your repeat prescriptions or medication during weekends and over the bank holidays.
- Keep warm by heating your home to at least 18C (65F).
Avoid visiting any loved ones who are in hospital if you are feeling unwell, particularly from suspected flu or the winter vomiting bug. Doing so will put your loved ones and other patients at risk.

Know which service to use

If you need urgent medical advice or treatment, call NHS 111 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The trained operators can offer advice on the correct service to use.

Visit your local pharmacy for advice on how best to treat minor ailments and injuries.

Remember, GP practices across Chorley, South Ribble and Greater Preston are working together to offer additional weekday evening and weekend appointments. Phone your surgery to book an appointment, or call 111 out of hours.

Urgent care centres are available 24/7 at Royal Preston Hospital and Chorley and South Ribble Hospital if you need urgent treatment but it is not a life-threatening emergency.

Be prepared for bad weather

- Keep an eye on severe weather warnings issued by the Met Office.
- Avoid slips trips and falls by wearing suitable footwear.
Look in on vulnerable relatives and neighbours during periods of bad weather.

For more information please visit www.nhs.uk/staywell



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- 'Stay & Play' session - Wednesday 9:30-11:30 in The Old School Hall



Croston Old School, Church St, Croston

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Email: admin@crostonpreschool.org

www.crostonpreschool.org

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lancashire.police.uk/reportonline takes you through to our online form which is staffed by a team of police control room operators 24 hours a day. This means you can report online at any time of day or night.

The online form is quick and easy and takes 10 minutes or less to complete. It is also mobile friendly and allows you to upload any images or CCTV relevant to your incident.

The reporting form is for non emergencies only. Always remember to call 999 in an emergency.

As Christmas approaches it's time for our annual reminder to not leave presents on show, both in cars when you're shopping and at home when you're out.

Also, please keep all doors and windows locked.

On behalf of Lancashire Constabulary, we would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

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Contact Details

Councillors	Tel
Anne Peet (Chairman)	600012
Kath Almond	600368
Mark Cowley	07545 976151
Peter Fenemore	600572
Keith Iddon	07787 005663
Bruno Paillusson	603427
Gill Stubbs	07905 452160
Kevin Ward	07415 410037

Alan Platt (Clerk to the Council)
can be contacted at:

**9 Ambleside Avenue
Euxton
Chorley
PR7 6NX**

Tel: 01257 234003

**e-mail:
crostonpc@btinternet.com**

**website:
www.crostonparishcouncil.org.uk**

Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August), commencing at 7:30pm, in The Old School, Church Street, Croston. Details of the meetings are placed in the notice boards prior to the meetings.

Residents are always welcome to attend and part of each meeting is set aside specifically for residents to air their views on local issues.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Police (non-emergency): 101

Coppull Police Station
01257 246103

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

British Transport Police (Station and car park): 0800 405040

Chorley Borough Council
01257 515151

Lancashire County Council
(roads and pavements, including street lighting): 0300 123 6780

National Grid (gas leaks)
0800 111999

United Utilities (Water)
Leakline 0800 330033

Flood Action Group
Kath Almond: 01772 600368,
Richard Guinness 01772 600957
Dave Massam 01772 601077,

Environment Agency Floodline
0845 988 1188

Notice boards

Keep up to date with Parish Council activities and details of meetings etc. The notice boards are located on the Village Green, outside the Co-op, in front of the former Police Station on Westhead Road and by the Surgery on Brookfield.

Local non-for-profit organisations wishing to include A4 sized posters to publicise events etc should contact the Clerk.