



## Caring For Croston

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# Croston Parish Council

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

'An optimist is the *human* personification  
of spring'

Susan J. Bissonette



'Croston in Spring' Photograph courtesy of local resident **Karl Mayor**  
Karl's photographs are available from 'Feather & Twigs', Town Rd., Croston

Please visit our new website  
**[www.crostonpc.org](http://www.crostonpc.org)**  
for  
Croston Parish Council News  
&  
Calendar of Village Events.

# A message from our Chair

## **Spring Greetings Everyone,**

Spring has arrived in Croston and it's wonderful to be enjoying longer daylight and warmer weather as we head towards Easter 2024.

**Tributes:** The Parish Council (P.C.) was most saddened to hear that a previous P.C. Clerk, Margaret Duff & a Chair & Councillor Margaret Iddon, as well as a much valued parish volunteer Richard Foulger had all passed. You can read tributes to these lovely parishioners on the dedicated pages. Our condolences go out to all their families.

**Financial Efficiency, Accountability :** The P.C. is focused on spending the precept as efficiently as possible. In line with the National Association of Local Councils' guidance for a parish our size, the P.C. adopted the recommended number of contracted hours when appointing the new clerk, Paul Cafferkey. His wealth of accounting and local government experience is proving invaluable in guiding Cllrs with financial planning, expenditure and saving efficiencies. In addition, he has set up a new online banking system which has increased transparency, requiring oversight by three nominated Cllrs to ensure full accountability of transactions. Our Lengthsman (L.M.) of 35 years, who litter picks and now carries out additional tasks around the village, recently requested a significant reduction in hours, which the Council unanimously agreed. He now carries out 6 hours per week. There is ongoing collaboration between the L.M., Chair and Clerk to ensure a rolling programme of litter picking throughout the main areas of the village. We encourage residents to contact the Clerk if they notice any areas that we may have overlooked. As a result of these changes, we have increased efficiency and **considerably reduced our staffing costs** which are now in line with those of other similar local parish councils

**Precept to Help Fund Renovations:** The P.C. owns and is responsible for the upkeep of The Green, The Recreation Park and The War Memorial, as well as maintaining Out Lane Car Park which we lease. This all comes at considerable cost from the Precept and other funding. We are extremely grateful for the voluntary work done by Croston in Bloom, Croston Together and other community groups in helping look after these areas which certainly helps reduce costs. However, the P.C. still has to find a significant % from the Precept for ongoing upkeep eg grass cutting, of these much loved village amenities. In addition to day to day costs, we have recognised that some parts of P.C. areas are in a such a poor state of repair that they now require additional funding for comprehensive renovation e.g. repainting rusting chains and bollards, regrouting flags, power washing paths , etc... Some items such as the Council Noticeboards require complete replacement. A recent Inspection Report on the Recreation Ground has identified historic damage that must be addressed and funded from Precept . The P.C. will apply for some external funding for **'Project Renovation 2024'** but will have to find some of the cost of the renovations from increases to the precept.

## Continued....

The P.C. voted unanimously to implement a reasonable increase in the Parish Precept 2024 -2025 to help cover the renovations needed and, on advice, to build up a safety net of Financial Reserves for any contingency measures required in the future e.g. repairs to playground equipment. The exact amount of precept payable will vary dependent on the Council Tax Band of your individual property e.g. a Band **D** property will pay an additional £8.51 for the year compared with last year's precept. We sincerely hope you share our decision that a modest increase in the Parish Precept as outlined, is worthwhile to invest in much needed renovation work. The P.C. is committed to improvements to parish infrastructure.  
**Thank you in anticipation of your support for improvements.**

**Liaising with Chorley Council (C.C.) :** We are trying to establish how C.C. owned garages by the side of Peartree Rd., Croston which were sold without P.C. knowledge. Also we are having ongoing dialogue about the poor condition of the remaining four garages that C.C. still own and rent out. We are trying to get these renovated and available to parishioners. We are also liaising with C.C. about possible replacement of plastic bollards around some verges with more substantial metal ones, to better protect pedestrians and reduce damage to the grass verges in those areas.

**Primary School Pre-Nursery Passed:** The P.C. supported the recent application by the primary school to build a preschool nursery, which we are delighted to see has been passed by Chorley Council.

**PROW and Funding Received :** We have received some funds ringfenced for improvements to Public Rights of Way in Croston. FYI, the P.C. is aware of the damage to the L.C.C. owned footbridge behind the Old School and is liaising with LCC on this PROW. We are also applying for funds from Lancs Environmental Fund to assist with improvements to benches along PROW.

**Grants and Donations :** The P.C. has supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, CVFG towards the cost of the Christmas Fair 2023 and Ulnes Walton Third Prison Action Group into looking at the effects of this on traffic in the local area including Croston. In addition, we bought new P.C. owned lights for the trees on The Green last December.



Last but certainly not least, Cllrs were delighted to be invited into **Trinity St. Michael's School** to do a workshop "**All About The Parish Council**" with these wonderful School Cllrs who will hopefully be our Parish Councillors of the future! Croston P.C. would be in good hands with them in charge.  
Best wishes for an eggcellent Easter everyone!

# Tributes to... **Richard Foulger 1949 - 2023**

## **Croston Parish Council**

Soon after Richard moved into Croston, he made a significant contribution to many community groups, which had a long lasting, positive impact on the lives of many. Richard's involvement in many Croston groups reflected his sincere dedication to community service. Richard was also a Trustee of the Almshouses Charity. It's heartening to hear the acknowledgment of his caring and thoughtful nature in so many tributes here. Richard was a true gentleman in every respect and played a vital role in fostering community cohesion in Croston by actively engaging in activities that brought people together, addressed local needs, and promoted a sense of unity and support. He leaves a tremendous legacy and will be much missed by all.



**Pauline Strachan**

## **Croston Village Festivities Group**

Sadly, we lost one of the stalwarts of our group with Richard Foulger passing away. He led our group from 2018 and guided us to establish the **Christmas Fair** that we've all come to love & enjoy, setting a high standard for us to continue moving forward. In his gentle way, Richard put a positive spin on all we did, drove many changes and always had a listening ear. Rest in peace Richard.

**David Blackburn**



## **Friends of Croston Station**

Richard joined Friends of Croston Station in 2016, and was a great member of the team. He attended awards with the group, helped when we needed an extra pair of hands to put up hanging baskets, fill the skips and any other jobs. He will be missed by us all.

**Kath Almond**

## **Croston Almshouses Charity**

Richard was involved with the Almshouses Charity around 2021, particularly in performing maintenance work on the houses, which showcased the valuable contribution he made to helping preserve and enhance these historic Croston buildings. The fact that Richard was well-liked by the residents and known for his voluntary work, speaks volumes for the positive impact he had. Not only was Richard skilled at DIY, he also had the ability to connect with others on a personal level. We will always be grateful for the time Richard spent helping with this village charity. Rest in peace, Richard.

**Andrew Marston**

## **Covid Support Group in conjunction with Croston Together**

In comparative terms, Richard was a newcomer, having lived here for just 8 years. The fact that Richard knew and was known by so many people, speaks volumes about his love for this village and his love for its people. Richard's popularity was, in part, due to his involvement in so many village organisations. One very good example of this emerged during the covid pandemic. He was at the heart of the village response to the challenges of covid. He helped to set up the Covid Support Group which, among other things, sought to ensure that all elderly and vulnerable residents were cared for and supported. Working alongside Croston Together he helped to raise funds that could be used to meet a range of needs and, using his banking expertise, he ensured that the accounts were properly administered and audited. Most importantly, it wasn't just the things that Richard did which led others to value him, but it was the way in which he went about doing those things. Always calm, always pleasant and always willing to put the needs of others first. He was a wonderful example of a servant heart. **Neville Norcross**



### **Croston in Bloom**

With great sadness, we learned of the death of our friend & fellow 'Bloomer' Richard Foulger just after Christmas. Richard joined our group in 2017 & proved to be very useful with his secateurs. He loved clipping & trimming & liked to see a nice tidy border! He also brought great merriment to us, particularly after a glass of two of his favourite wine! He was so very proud of our achievements & we will greatly miss his contribution to Croston in Bloom. **Anne Peet**

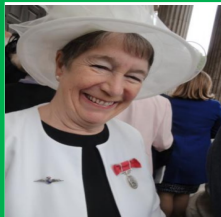


### **Croston Singers**

Richard joined our village community choir, The Croston Singers, approx. 4 years ago. He came along with his wife Heather, and soon became an integral part of our choir family. Richard sang in our 'bottoms' section, as we all fondly call it! His deep, rich and tuneful voice could always be heard, somewhere down in the depths. Richard's warm smile, quiet chuckling, and sense of fun during rehearsals, would keep us all going. He sang in a few of our concerts and did try to learn all the words...although 'not always in the right order', as they say! He even turned up mid Christmas Festivities afternoon, apologising for not being able to sing with us! Always wanting to be a support, always so caring and understanding. Always with a red wine under his seat...for vocal lubrication! Always wanting to make a difference. Richard, you definitely did make a difference to our choir. We all miss you so much already and will continue to miss you. We will never hear that velvet voice again this side of Heaven but thank you for sharing it with us. Thank you for being a part of The Croston Singers. May you now rest in perfect peace.

**Rachel Dixon**

# Tributes also to ...



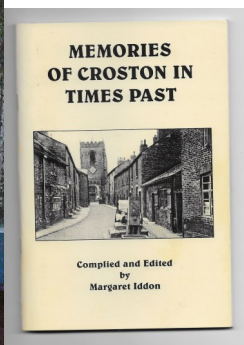
**Margaret Duff** was Clerk to the Parish Council for 25 years from 1977 and her involvement in our community showcased a life well-lived and committed to the betterment of the lives of others. Margaret and her husband David moved into the village from Keswick in 1976 and quickly endeared themselves to Crostoners through their active involvement in the community. David

was Chair to the Parish Council 1981-83 & also Chair of the Sub-Committee formed to oversee the purchase of land on the corner of Out Lane which was to become our Village Green. According to her son Chris, his mum "was good at getting the best out of people using a carrot not the stick approach!"

It's evident that Margaret's positive influence extended well beyond her professional life in Croston, as seen by her significant contribution to voluntary work for The Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA). As recognition for this, in 2014 she received 'the British Empire Medal,' conferred by HRH Queen Elizabeth II, testament to Margaret's outstanding input to RAFA. Following this award, Margaret attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace later that year, reflecting the esteem in which she was held.



**Margaret Iddon** (Left photo, front right; right photo, middle right) was Chair of the Parish Council in the 1990's. Current Cllr **Kath Almond** writes: Margaret Iddon and I were in the same class at school. She went on to work at Lloyds Bank in Preston, a job which she loved. She took an interest in the village, and in the 1980's was elected to stand for the Parish Council, subsequently becoming Chair. I think she may have decided to step down from the Parish Council when she began writing her book on the village called '**Memories of Croston in Times Past**'. Now out of print, we have a copy in The Archive should anyone wish to borrow it?





# CROSTON IN BLOOM

2023  
Gold Award  
Best Small Town

## RHS Northwest in Bloom - Judges' Report

In December '23 we finally received the judges report of their visit in August '23 and were delighted to see that we scored an amazing 94%, our highest yet, gaining full marks in several sections.

Here are just some of their comments:

- Croston Sports Club had some fantastic Planters..”
- “..the area around the church is a credit to the Bloom group”
- “.. The group maintains excellent standards of horticulture”
- “One of the hidden gems is The Arboretum and Croft Field Nature Reserve”
- “Throughout the visit, one thing was very clear, the strong sense of community”

....

and so another year begins.

We really do need more volunteers so if you have an hour or two to spare, please get in touch on 01772 600012 or find us on Facebook - Croston in Bloom.



## Tots Group at The Community Centre, Castle Walks, Croston

Are you new to the village and looking for somewhere to go with your baby and/or toddler?

We are a group of mums, dads, grandparents and carers who meet in the Community Centre each Tuesday morning **9am to 11am** in term time, and **9-30am to 11-30am** in school holidays.



It's a safe, friendly environment, where your little one/s can play and make new friends. Toys are provided along with a snack eg toast and hot drinks etc...

**Only £2.50 per session.**

Looking forwards to seeing you at Tots !

# Croston Village FESTIVITIES GROUP

Here's a roundup of the fantastic CVFG Christmas Fair and  
Lights Switch On, December 2023!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all the volunteers on the day, doing all those much needed little jobs, and to our sponsors and donators who contributed to make this event work so well for Croston.

We had a bit of a juddery start to planning the Christmas Fair 2023, wondering if we could indeed host a fair as some members were unable to continue helping after many years of dedicated service. However, with renewed goodwill, steely determination and with a few tears for Richard, the remaining volunteers made the bold decision to carry on with this annual festive event and what a great day it turned out to be !



## *Left: Some of The 2023 Christmas Fair Team*

We are always looking for new members to join our **Organising Group** to help put on this spectacular family event.

We are a progressive group and constantly looking for new ideas to improve the Christmas Fair.

Why not join us ? Contact details next page.



This year's event saw some changes which hopefully you all enjoyed ! Santa and those naughty elves really shouldn't have eaten all the Ferrero Rocher chocolates and substituted them with sprouts!

Hopefully, you got to visit Santa and made those all important requests for the big day!





Unfortunately, we couldn't secure the inflatable "meringue" for Santa's Grotto at the Methodist Church this year. Instead, we relied on a trusty gazebo, adorned in festive Christmas fashion by the wonderful Alice and Patricia. The Croston Singers treated the Santa queue to renditions of our favourite carols. For the first time, we embraced the digital realm for the lights switch-on, extending the festive glow to all locations where CVFG adorned with lights, all switched on at once. Croston Park, the riverside houses and gardens, and the rear of Farmhouse Court garages all lit up. A touch of magic helped synchronise the timings.



A heartfelt **Thank You** goes out to this year's lighting team, who braved the persistent rain to install all the lights in just one day.

This year's Fair saw the return of Christmas Stalls in the Sports Club, with one of our ever popular Face Painters creating smiles on both the children's and adult's faces.

St. Michael's Church was a lovely calm venue, presenting a revised music programme by the Red Admirals Music Academy and the impressive Magic Voices Choir. Their performances were truly brilliant, and we look forward to having them back for our 2024 Fair, hopefully alongside the 'Mobile Farm' where animals could be stroked.

Unfavourable weather conditions impacted on some mobile food vendors, with two of them snowbound and unable to attend. However, those who braved the elements treated us to delightful winter warmers, complemented by support from the village's own food establishments to ensure everyone was well-fed and watered.

As we work on finalising this year's financial position, the actual accounts will undergo verification by our new accountants, R&L Accountants. We anticipate presenting and hopefully gaining acceptance of the financial details at our **next AGM on the 7th of May 2024**. All welcome .

By popular request, 2024 will see the return of the Yard Sale. Save the date in your diary of **Sunday the 14th April**. More info later on our Web Page.

[crostonvillagefestivities.com](http://crostonvillagefestivities.com)  
[crostonfestivities@hotmail.com](mailto: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, Lancashire PR26 9RZ.

# The Highway Code: re you aware of the latest updates?

Modern vehicles travelling too quickly on the narrow roads of Croston village, can create quite dangerous issues at times. The following amendments to The Highway Code came into effect only a couple of years ago. They including a hierarchy of road users designed to create **'clearer and stronger priorities' for pedestrians, and updated rules for overtaking.** The Department of Transport claims that the modifications, largely categorised under three rules, aim to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

## Rule H1: New hierarchy of road users

**Drivers of vehicles that can cause the greatest harm** in the event of a collision eg large farm vehicles, bear the **greatest responsibility** to take care and reduce the danger to others. This principle applies most strongly to drivers of HGVs, LGVs, cars/taxis and motorcycles. Cyclists and horse riders likewise have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians.

## Rule H2: New priority for pedestrians at junctions

At a junction, drivers, motorcyclists, horse riders and cyclists should **give way to pedestrians** crossing or waiting to cross a road into which or from which you are turning. You should give way to pedestrians waiting to cross a zebra crossing (currently you only have to give way if they're already on the crossing), and to pedestrians and cyclists waiting to cross a parallel crossing.

## Rule H3: New priority for cyclists when cars are turning

You should not cut across cyclists, horse riders or horse drawn vehicles going ahead when you are turning into or out of a junction or changing direction or lane. This applies whether they are using a cycle lane, a cycle track or riding ahead on the road and you should give way to them. Do not turn at a junction if to do so would cause the cyclist, horse rider or horse drawn vehicle going straight ahead to stop or swerve. You should stop and wait for a safe gap in the flow of cyclists if necessary.

Other key amendments include clearer guidance for drivers to leave **a distance of at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists.** Drivers are also encouraged to reduce the risk of an accident by opening their door by using the hand on the opposite side, as it is more likely to lead to them looking over their shoulder. For more detailed rules **The Highway Code: 8 changes you need to know from 29.1.22 GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**

Hitting a pedestrian at 40mph there is a 90 % chance they will be killed.

At 35 mph there is a 50 % chance they will be killed.

At 30 mph there is a 20 % chance they will be killed.

At 20 mph there is a 2.5 % chance they will be killed.

**The speed limit through the village is 20 mph.**

Driving 0.5 miles at 20 mph will take 1 minute 30 seconds

Driving 0.5 miles at 30 mph will take 1 minute ...

**Drivers : Surely a person's life is worth 30 seconds of your time?**



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**Please see C.P.C. Website for Information on :**

- **Methodist Chapel**  
29/3/24 9.30am  
Good Friday Reflections
- **Easter Sunday 31/3/24**  
9.30am A Service of  
Celebration with Holy  
Communion
- **80th D Day Thursday 6th**  
June '24 Commemorations

**Enjoy the Recreation Park  
 but please respect the  
 following:**

**Welcome to  
 Croston Parish Council  
 Working with Croston Together**

**Croston Recreation Park  
 Station Road  
 PR26 9RP**

The council will not accept liability for any claim, loss or damage whatsoever which may arise from the use of this facility, except as so far provided by statute.

All personal property brought into this facility at the owner's personal risk.

Opening Hours 08:00am - dusk

1. Accidents must be reported to the Council. In an emergency dial 999.
2. Anyone causing nuisance or likely to cause danger will be asked to leave.
3. Please keep the facility safe and tidy. Use the litter bins provided.
4. Report any problems to the Council
5. No vehicles (unless with the Council's consent)

Contact number for the Council: 01257 234003

If you witness this facility being abused contact the Police on: 101



KEEP DOGS ON LEADS NO LITTERING NO VEHICLES NO E-BIKES OR E-SCOOTERS NO ALCOHOL NO DRUGS NO BARBECUES ALLOWED

Pauline Strachan (Chair)  
[pstrachancrostonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:pstrachancrostonparishcouncil@gmail.com)

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Peter Fenemore 01772 600572

Sarah Moulton 07854628834

Paul Sloan 07434498899

Catherine Titherington-Teale  
 07888373246

Caroline Turner 07850534319

Chris Worthington via clerk

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 TEL~ 07966267186  
 Email ~ [clerk@crostonpc.org](mailto:clerk@crostonpc.org)

## Parish Council Meetings

second Wednesday of each month  
 (except August) at 7.30pm,  
 Old School, Church St. Croston,  
 PR26 9HA

**Website - [www.crostonpc.org](http://www.crostonpc.org)**

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## Newsletter Info

**Croston Parish Newsletter** is delivered along with The Coupon Booklet .  
 Look out for your Newsletter delivered during the periods shown below.

If you wish to place an advert in the next newsletter, please contact our  
 Clerk well in advance of the deadline. Please note that space in the booklet  
 is limited and we may not be able to guarantee inclusion. Full page is £65 ,  
 half page is £45 and quarter page is £25

<b>Croston Parish Council Newsletter</b>	<b>Deadline Info to reach CPC</b>	Date Newsletter Delivered Throughout Parish over a three week period
Summer 2024	<b>Mon 15/4/24</b>	Over 3 wks/commencing Sat 1/6/23
Autumn 2024	<b>Mon 15/7/24</b>	Over 3 wks/commencing Sun 1/9/23
Winter 2024	<b>Thur 10/10/24</b>	Over 3 wks/commencing Sun 1/12/24