

Croston Parish Council

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

**Caring
For
Croston**

*Merry Christmas To You All
and a very
Happy New Year 2024*

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'Croston in Winter' by the late Leyland artist W.H.Procter



A message from our Chair



Festive Greetings Everyone,

We are fast approaching the end of 2023 and what a busy year it's been in our parish! There can't be many places like Croston with all our community groups and so much goodwill. Charity begins at home, is never truer than in our parish. Rather than missing anyone out, I will just say a huge **THANK YOU** on behalf of Croston Parish Council to everyone who helps around the parish and long may your contributions continue. We all appreciate your efforts a great deal.

In the spring, the new Parish Council took up office. There are 9 places on Croston Parish Council and councillors are all unpaid volunteers. The Council's purpose is to represent you the electorate, provide services and to improve lives and the environment. We aim to provide value for money in allocating your precept contributions well. Precept given to C.P.C. is collected alongside your Council Tax. C.P.C. organised an Open Meeting to listen to parishioners, and as requested, a new website was set up.

Do please visit www.crostonpc.org

This contains all the details of C.P.C. monthly meetings, what C.P.C. is doing, how precept is being allocated, parish news etc... You can get in touch with us too via the website.

Spring also saw the celebrations for the King's Coronation and Croston Nitwits and Croston in Bloom created a lovely backdrop to this with their bunting and floral displays around the village in honour of the royal occasion. Thank you so much! We are deeply indebted to C. I.B. for their tireless dedication to making our environment so attractive all year round. More on Croston in Bloom a few pages on.

Summer is a wonderful time in our rural parish and the annual and historic Coffee Day Procession of Witness took place as always, on the first Saturday in July. The volunteers of the C.D. Committee did us proud and a wonderful day was enjoyed by all.

Later in autumn, the 12th Annual Croston Flower, Produce and Crafts Show was a great success and championed the very best in all things grown and made by contributors to this lovely event. Many thanks to all involved.

Continued....

By the time you read this, we will have held our annual Royal British Legion Remembrance Service in November. This is always a most poignant event for which there is a significant turnout of residents, community groups and government officials, all paying their respects at the War Memorial and afterwards at St. Michael's and All Angels Church.

On Sunday 3rd December, Croston Village Festivities Group will have held our super Christmas Fair and the famous Croston Illuminations will now be switched on. The Over 80's Christmas gifts are always well received and many thanks to all involved in both these community events.

We must also thank the members of Croston Together, who amongst many things, look after the day-to-day maintenance of The Recreation Park. This is looking splendid, so many thanks to you all.

In addition to the Recreation Park, Croston Parish Council is also responsible for the upkeep of the Village Green, the War Memorial and we have a long-term lease with L.C.C. for Out Lane Car Park.

Croston is a most beautiful rural Lancashire parish, with a wonderful Conservation Area, great local schools, businesses, sports and community groups but most importantly, our greatest asset is **you**. Let's continue to work together to see Croston thrive into and beyond 2024.

I hope that you and your families have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for a very Happy New Year 2024. Croston Parish Council hopes you enjoy the very best that goes on in our village at this festive time of year.

Pauline Strachan
Chairman
Croston Parish Council



Want to get in touch with us?

Contact pstrachancrostonparishcouncil@gmail.com or
clerk@crostonpc.org

A big Croston 'Hello' to ..



Police Constable Special Officer Fetherstone, assigned to Croston. Maria knows this area very well , having been brought up in Mawdesley. Contact her on maria.fetherstone@lancashire.police.uk



Chris our Crossing Patrol Operative or a.k.a. Lollipop Man for us old uns! Chris patrols Town Rd. and Out Lane at busy school times. Thanks Chris!

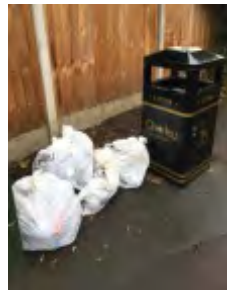
New Clerk for Croston Parish Council—Paul Cafferkey

Paul has been appointed as the new Parish Clerk following the retirement of Alan Platt, a hard act to follow! He joins us after retiring from Lancashire County Council, having spent 38 years in Finance and Audit.

Retirement is busy; married, 3 children and 3 grandchildren...more to follow no doubt!

Please feel free to contact Paul on clerk@crostonpc.org

Croston Parish Council employee Kevin, our Lengthsman (LM) who has been litter picking the main highways around the village for decades. Here bags of litter collected by our LM and Chair when they went out litter picking together recently. Please use bins.



Look out for **Croston Postman Craig** , a qualified First Aider if you ever need help.

A warm Croston farewell and massive thank you to.. ..

Croston Parish Council - Clerk Alan Platt

Alan was appointed C.P.C. clerk in September 2003 and has overseen many parish projects and council business over the last twenty years . A lovely leaving party, attended by many Croston community groups, was held in the autumn to officially bid him farewell. C.P.C. would like to thank Alan again for his long, loyal and dedicated service to the parish.

Alan won't be putting his feet up much though as he is one of the three Chorley Borough Councillors who represent Croston and the local area.



Reverend Michael Woods, Rector St. Michael and All Angels Church, Croston

Revd. Michael's last service as Rector was on Sunday 19th November 2023 at 4pm at St. Michael's. This was eight years to the day since he was first licensed as a Rector on 19th November 2015 .

Revd. Michael has been a much loved and respected figure around the village, parish and wider community and he will be deeply missed by all.

Happy retirement Michael and hopefully you'll have more time to relax and enjoy yourself, as pictured here at The Wheatsheaf in Croston.

www.the3churches.org.uk



Croston in Bloom Volunteers



Young volunteers helping to plant fruit bushes in the Community Orchard, Out Lane



If you see this flag, Croston in Bloom are close at hand, working hard.



Church and Cemetery Volunteers

Below : Croston residents , volunteers Harry and Derek hard at work in the late summer .

Kath A writes: “Visitors often comment on how well-kept the church grounds and cemetery are, and it is all down to a dwindling and ageing group of volunteers. Maybe you could you lend a hand?”

Co-ordinator Derek Alty says: “ Just an hour a week volunteering around the church grounds is all it takes, men and women , and it’s very good exercise which is an added a bonus!”

To find out more, contact Derek on derek_alty@sky.com Thank you





We are absolutely delighted to tell you that we received two awards in this year's RHS Northwest in Bloom competition, achieving not only a **GOLD** Award but also being joint **WINNERS** of the Small Town Category. This is quite an accolade as this category includes many excellent large villages/small towns so we are really pleased.



We would like to thank all the volunteer groups and businesses who have all contributed to our success - we couldn't do it without you!

Winter Bedding

We have now planted out the winter bedding around the village but our work has not stopped. Autumn is the time when we prune shrubs and remove decaying foliage from flower beds and this work will continue into December.



We need more help please !

We have now achieved a Gold award 9 years running but we need more volunteers if we are going to make it 10!

Our small team of only 7 volunteers have to work very hard to keep the village looking so nice but we're not getting any younger!

If you think you could join us please email: crostoninbloom@gmail.com or have a chat when you see us. Thank you

Croston Village Archive



If you have an hour or so to spare on Tuesday mornings, why not call in the Belfry Room at the Old School to see the collection of information held in the village archive?

Kath Almond and Anne Sandwell are the volunteers who run it. It is all available to the public – maps, photos, historical documents. Alternative times can be arranged by appointment. They have dealt with queries from Australia, relocated photos to other villages, and are always on the lookout for new photos or documents. And, more importantly, for new helpers. Got anything to share or interested in helping, then please contact Kath on kathalmond@btinternet.com



Left: Railway House in the distance with Club Street in the foreground. Club Street was demolished in 1967 and is now the site of the football pitch behind the Chippy.

Below: Looking down Station Road. The old Gas Works is on the left which was demolished long ago. Looks like some handy manure being collected up in the foreground!



Friends of Croston Station

Prestigious Britain In Bloom Award

Friends of Croston Station have been awarded the top Level 5 Certificate of OUTSTANDING for their work on the station. Croston Parish Council would like to thank the Team enormously for their continued hard work, keeping our historic station looking so loved and cared for.

"Despite being a depleted group after losing a valued member, and others through ill-health, the remainder of us worked really hard during this year's really hot summer. This award was really the icing on our cake."

Kath Almond

kathalmond@btinternet.com

Friends of Croston Station



Croston St Michael's Scout Group

We are very pleased to say that we have a thriving scout's group in Croston starting in our Beaver section ages 6-8yrs, Cub Scouts 8-10 ½ yrs., Scouts 10 ½ -14 ½ yrs. then it's onto Explorers! All sections are run by our brilliant leaders who are volunteers and give up their spare time, nights, and weekends, to run exciting and varied programmes.

Our youngsters learn new skills and try out different activities through badge work: hiking (moonlight), camping both indoors & district (Bibby's Scout Campsite's Big Blow Out Weekend), international (Red Rose International), getting involved with local events e.g. Coffee Day, Remembrance Sunday, Church parades, visiting different places, events and lots more!!

An item from our Beaver Section: Our Beaver section had a sleep-over on a Saturday in October where we decorated shoe boxes and filled them with items of food, kindly donated by our families (see photo). We then took them to the Harvest Festival Service at church on the Sunday. We are looking forwards to a visit to Eureka! In Liverpool and have completed several badges in our Autumn Term: space, book reader, nights away, cooks to name but a few.

December will see three of our Beaver Scouts gaining their Chief Scout Bronze Award, our top one before 'swimming' up to our Cub Scouts. We are looking forward to making a little gift for the residents of Croston Park and hopefully this year being able to sing some carols for them before finishing the year off with our Christmas party.

Please watch out for our Cub Scouts who are hoping to put an article in the Spring C.P.C. Newsletter. If you need more information on Scouts, please get in touch with our Group Scout Leader Paul Smith

paul.smith@chorleyscouts.org.uk



Croston Methodist Church
Christmas Services

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us on:

Sunday 10th December 2023 at 10.30am
Family Nativity Service

Sunday 24th December 2023 at 10.30am
Christmas Eve Carol Service with Holy Communion

Reverend Sue Guenault :
rev.sue@guenault.co.uk



St. Michael & All Angels Church , Croston

Advent & Christmas Services 2023

10th December 10am Walking Nativity from Parish Church to
Trinity Methodists for 10:30am worship

17th December 11am United Benefice Carol Service
at St Peter's Mawdesley - all welcome

Christmas Eve 5 pm Christingle
8:30 pm Eucharist of the Holy Nativity

Christmas Day 10 am Holy Communion (TBC)

Peace be with you



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Parish Meetings

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

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Newsletter Info.

Croston Parish Newsletter is delivered along with The Coupon Booklet .
 Look out for your Newsletter delivered during the dates listed 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, quarter page £25.

Croston Parish Council Newsletter	Deadline Info to reach CPC	Date Newsletter Delivered Throughout Parish over a three week period
Spring 2024	Fri 19/1/24	Over 3 wks/commencing Fri 1/3/24
Summer 2024	Fri 19/4/24	Over 3 wks/commencing Sat 1/6/23
Autumn 2024	Fri 19/7/24	Over 3 wks/commencing Sun 1/9/23