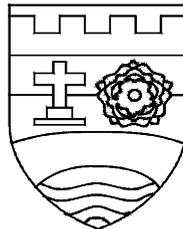


# Croston Parish Council Newsletter



June 2018



## Judgement Day Wednesday 1 August 2018

Judging for this year's North West in Bloom Competition takes place on 1 August.

We are looking to continue our fantastic record in the competition by going for Gold for, what would be, a fifth consecutive year!

As was demonstrated in our latest TV appearance (see p.5 for details), the judges place very high importance on community involvement in their judging process and any help resident's can offer would be gratefully received, whether it is in the form of taking part in the Doorstep Challenge (see centre pages for details of how to enter), displays outside houses or assisting the Croston in Bloom Group.

We can all do our bit by helping keep the area outside your property tidy with a bit of sweeping and possible weedkilling - everything, no matter how small it may seem, helps with the entry.

Let's make it five in a row!!

# Croston Parish Council

## Annual Report 2017-2018

The report for 2017-18 shows a marked increase in both income and expenditure, entirely due to Phase 1 of the Play Area improvements. The total cost of £73515 was offset by £35360 from funds raised by the Friends of Croston Rec and £24630 in developer's contributions received from Chorley Council, with the balance paid from funds the Parish Council had built up for the project over the past few years.

Grants were awarded to Croston Sports Club, Croston Village Festivities Group, the Friends of Croston Station, North West Air Ambulance and the St Michael's PCC Croft Field Fund. Additional Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds were received and have been earmarked to improve the Out Lane car park.

The Council continues to employ the Village Lengthsman, Kevin Greenhalgh, who shows great dedication working in all weathers to help keep our village largely free of litter, and our Clerk, Alan Platt.

The Village won a Gold Medal and the Best Large Village category in the RHS North West in Bloom Competition and Silver Gilt Medal in RHS Britain in Bloom with the Black Horse and the Friends of Croston Station receiving awards.

### Financial Report for the

#### Income

	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£
Parish Precept	21710	21660
Interest	97	209
VAT Reclaimed	817	1268
Adverts	1020	1080
Grants received	61430	2718
Community Infrastructure Levy	11342	4775
<b>Total</b>	<b>96416</b>	<b>31710</b>
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>32137</b>	<b>23776</b>
Income	96416	31710
Sub total	128553	55486
Expenditure	113134	23349
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>15419</b>	<b>32137</b>

# Computer Problems? Slow Broadband?

Call Technohow for local, reliable support with all aspects of your home and small business IT needs. Serving Mawdesley and the surrounding villages.

Services include:

- Free home pickup and return as standard
  - Broadband optimisation (up to 3mbps speed increase\* on your existing service)
  - Web Design and hosting
  - PC tune-ups and repairs at competitive rates
  - Virus and Malware removal
  - Wireless and wired networking
  - Hardware Installation / Upgrades
  - Remote and/or on-site support
  - Patient tuition
  - Video to DVD transfers
- \* speed increase depends on home phone line set up and router configuration



Contact Technohow:

Ansaphone: 01704 822874 Mobile: 07777 631689

Email: [neil@technohow.co.uk](mailto:neil@technohow.co.uk)

Website: [www.technohow.co.uk](http://www.technohow.co.uk)

## Year Ended 31 March 2018

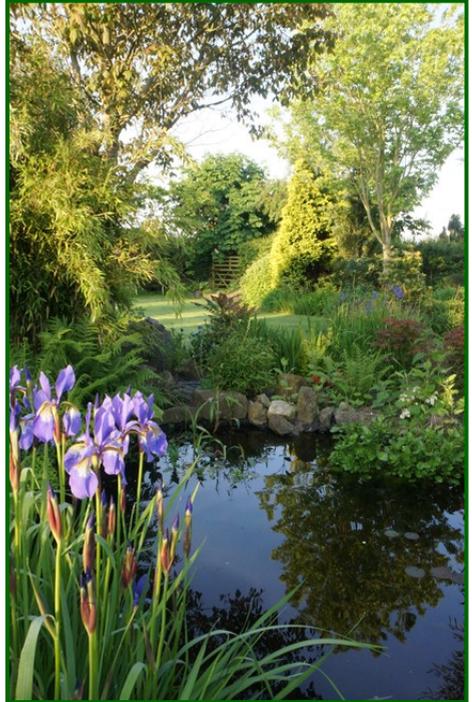
### Expenditure

	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£
Staff Costs	11818	11554
Administration	949	968
Insurance	1249	1203
Audit fees	280	260
Christmas	385	742
Donations	1700	1050
Play Area replacement	73515	0
Grounds Maintenance	3195	2866
Repairs & replacements	1925	1513
Newsletter	2155	2236
Sundries	431	141
VAT	15532	816
<b>Total</b>	<b>113134</b>	<b>23349</b>

# Croston Open Gardens

**Sunday 1st July 2018 11:00am - 4:00pm**

Explore floral cottage gardens, hidden townhouse terraces, bijou Japanese spaces, formal victorian plots and sprawling riverside views as Croston's garden gates are once again opened to visitors on Sunday 1 July. Take a peek behind the gates of Croston's private gardens and discover hidden herbaceous gems as Croston opens 13 of its gardens and other most loved spaces to the public. Share Crostoners' delight in their village after a year in which it was showcased on BBC 2's Britain in Bloom and Channel 4's Britain's Best Village with Penelope Keith.



Once again, tickets will be available in advance from Thyme on the Yarrow, Croston and The Potting Sheds, Cedar Farm, Mawdesley, or on the day at Croston Old School (£5 per adult, children free). You will receive a beautiful hand drawn 'treasure' map of the route around the village, and Croston Old School will sit at the heart of the lovely event, with plant and flower stalls, raffle, WI teas and cakes, signature cocktails, pop up pizza van and more.

Children will be engrossed this year in a competition inspired by #crostonrocks, and will admire their work in an outdoor art installation created by the local primary school.

All proceeds from the event will go to Croston Together, a local charity supporting village initiatives to bring the entire community together.

Thanks go to our generous sponsors, Maria B Evans Estate Agents and The Potting Sheds Garden Design, Build and Maintenance, and of course all the hard working garden owners, without whom the event would not be possible.

For more information contact us at [crostonopengardens@gmail.com](mailto:crostonopengardens@gmail.com)

# Croston on TV (again)



BBC presenter Chris Bavin with Anne Peet, Croston in Bloom Chairman

An entire episode of the 15 part BBC2 Britain in Bloom series was devoted to the village.

The BBC's Chris Bavin presented the episode which covered the hard work involved in Croston in Bloom gaining another Gold medal in the 2017 RHS Britain in Bloom competition.

Featured were Anne Peet and Martin Chaplin of Croston in Bloom, Tracy and Andy from the Black Horse and Students and Teachers from Bishop Rawstone Academy together with the many properties which had joined in with floral displays. If you missed the programme you can watch it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWSYUJy1Q6I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWSYUJy1Q6I)

## Bastille Day

Croston/Azay-le-Rideaux Town Twinning Association is holding the annual Bastille Day celebrations on Saturday 14 July - come along to the fair on the Village Green.



# Croston Knitwits

If you were amazed by the sudden unveiling of the White Wool Mystery Mission when the St. Michael's was yarn bombed as part of its reopening celebrations, then fear not for the culprits have been revealed as the Croston Knitwits - the villages' newest craft group.

As the name suggests, we Knitwits are a knit and natter group dedicated



to crochet, knitting and all things yarn based. We're currently working on another project to be unveiled on Coffee Day, as well as making hats and clothing for the premature baby ward at Ormskirk and Bolton hospitals. The group is also planning to start up a monthly knit and natter workshop with residents of Croston Park.

Our next meetings are at the Grapes on Tuesday 26 June and Tuesday 24 July at 7.30. Please feel free to come along and join us, bring your latest project and enjoy some yarn based natter - and possibly even a cheeky glass or two of wine.

If anyone has leftover wool or is downsizing their stash, we are on the lookout for colourful wools for our next project. We are organising drop off points through the village but if you have any wool you'd like to donate please contact Kay on 07513 819394.



## Tots Group

Hello. 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!



# Croston Pre-School Nursery

## Nurturing The Future

Registered Charity no:1100800 Registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 4805524



Are you looking for high quality, affordable childcare provided by highly experienced, professional and caring staff?

Come and visit us!

We have limited places available and callers are welcome anytime!



- For children aged 2 - 5 years
- Core hours 9.00am - 4.00pm Mon - Fri
- Breakfast and tea-time clubs (subject to sufficient numbers attending)
- Established over 40 years
- Led by specialist Early Years Teacher
- All staff qualified to Level 3 or higher
- Every child valued as an individual
- Tranquil riverside location
- 2 & 3yr funded places available - Terms apply



Croston Old School, Church St, Croston

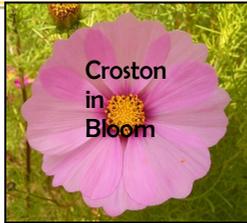
Tel: 01772 601241

Email: [admin@crostonpreschool.org](mailto:admin@crostonpreschool.org)

[www.crostonpreschool.org](http://www.crostonpreschool.org)



**GOLD MEDAL &  
LARGE VILLAGE  
CATEGORY  
WINNER**



## News Update

**This years judging date is Wednesday 1 Aug when RHS judges Malcolm Eubank and John Bilsborough will be here. We will confirm the exact time shortly**

After a late start this year due to the cold wet early spring, we are now underway with this years activities. Volunteers are holding regular fortnightly Monday evening sessions weeding, trimming and planting.

- 30 self-watering troughs have been ordered to replace the boxes on the river wall thanks to grant funding from Croston Together and our local Borough and County Councillors. Delivery is expected in early June. If anyone can make use of the old wooden boxes please let us know.
- The creation of small floral displays at all the entrances to the village has begun and we are hopeful of help from Chorley Council in providing new and additional signage
- The renovation of the car park on Out Lane will a major project which we expect to take 2 years to complete. The Parish Council is currently looking at tarmacking and space marking the parking area and we hope to make a start on clearing the shrubbery and adding some colour to the beds
- The bed opposite the War memorial has been cleared and the ground prepared for hardy annuals/wild flowers

### **BBC2 - Britain in Bloom**

We hope you all enjoyed the Croston episode which was shown in April.

If you missed it you can still see it on Youtube or via the following link <https://spe-dct.cimediacloud.com/r/rpEP7cEOkuuW> (Password: BIB2018)

## Are you up for this year's Door step Challenge?

We may not all have front gardens but we do all have front doors!

What can you do to enhance yours?

- add a planter or two
- Put up a hanging basket

The choice is endless!



If you want to enter just fill in the form below and take it to either Favourites or Croston Old School,

Alternatively send an email to: [crostoninbloom@gmail.com](mailto:crostoninbloom@gmail.com) or look on our Facebook page.

Preliminary judging will take place on 7 July and the final round on 14 July with the winners announced later that day.

Entry forms must be in by 5.00pm on Friday 6 July.

We regret that we cannot consider entries made after this time.

## Croston in Bloom - Door step Challenge 2018 Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

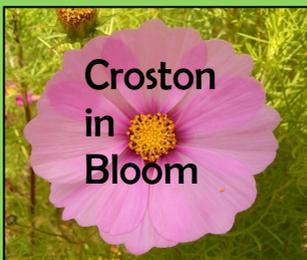
Category (please circle)

Home

Children's

Commercial

For further details contact: Anne & Martin Peet 01772 600012



## Special Offer!

Show your support for Croston In Bloom!

Thanks to a local nursery  
we are able to offer  
High Quality Hanging Baskets  
and tubs at a special price of

**£15 each or 2 for £25!**

To place an order please call  
01772 600012 or email  
[crostoninbloom@gmail.com](mailto:crostoninbloom@gmail.com)

Don't worry if you don't have a  
bracket for a basket We will  
come and put one up for you  
for the price of the bracket!



# Croston Scouts



The last few months have been an exciting time for all of our sections. Our Beavers have been on a visit to MOSI recently which was a brilliant day with all other beavers from across the district. Our Cubs have been learning about Science, teambuilding and flight whilst the Scouts have already been camping!

On the 14<sup>th</sup> May we held our annual AGM and presentation evening where some of Beavers and Cubs were presented with their Chief Scouts awards- well done everyone!

We of course now have our Jungle Explorer unit providing Scouting for 14-18 year olds and a brilliant opportunity for those to continue Scouting or getting involved for the first time, please contact Jonathan [jonathan@silvestersfarm.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@silvestersfarm.co.uk) for more information

As always we love doing as many exciting activities for our young people as we can and this can only be done through our fantastic set of volunteers, supported by our executive committee.

The demand for places in our sections never reduces, however, we cannot exist without a healthy supply of helpers, leaders and committee members and would love to talk to you more about some of the opportunities we have available for you to join us too. Any questions please email [Croston\\_GSL@hotmail.com](mailto:Croston_GSL@hotmail.com) with our fun packed programme at Beavers, we are kept very busy.

## What's on **CROSTON** COMMUNITY CENTRE

***Beavers Cubs Scouts Explorers***

***Lego Masters Over 60's Table Tennis Jujitsu Dance***

Pop Up Café every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month

Family Games and Bingo Night on the last Friday of the month

The Centre is available for hire @ £10 per hour

Ideal for parties, sewing clubs, cake decoration and many more

Find us on Facebook or telephone 601321 or 601216

# Recreation Ground

We are currently working on Phase 2 of the improvement project with members of the Recreation Ground Group.

Initial plans for this phase include improvements to the drainage of the field, tree planting, a path around the field, the creation of a picnic area, outdoor gym equipment, activity equipment for younger children and a useable kick about area. Biodiversity planting is also planned for the area along the line of the ditch.

We are waiting to hear from Chorley Council's Planning Officers whether a full planning application will be required and, in the meantime, the Recreation Ground Group is working hard to investigate possible sources of additional grant funding to cover the costs as well as providing suggestions and drawing up plans for the area.



This year's Ironman UK event will be held on Sunday 15 July 2018.

Between 6:00am and 5:00pm Highfield Road will be closed westbound. Grape Lane/Syd Brook Lane, Bluestone Lane, Mawdesley and Southport Road, Ulnes Walton will be also be closed with vehicular access to properties maintained whenever and wherever it is safe to do so.

A number of other roads in the area will be affected and residents should contact Ironman UK if you are planning to travel on the day.

All road closure information and maps for the race can be found at: <http://eu.ironman.com>

Contact Ironman on 01235 433550 or at [uk@ironmanroadaccess.com](mailto:uk@ironmanroadaccess.com)

## Croston Old School

**Bookings now being taken**

*An ideal venue for any special occasion*



**Licensed bar available**

**For forthcoming events please go our Facebook page**

**Tel: 01772 603600**

Croston Parish Council accepts no responsibility for items provided by third party contributors.



## Croston Old School



open for life

Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, Croston Old School continues to serve the community either as a superb venue for entertainments, parties and receptions etc. or for meetings and classes of all descriptions!

Why not take a look on our website to see what's available: [www.crostonoldschool.org](http://www.crostonoldschool.org). There you will find links and/or contact numbers for all our user groups as well as information on hiring the venue for a party or reception. For bookings for christening parties, to avoid disappointment, we would advise you contact us as soon as you have a date in mind.

Highlights for the coming weeks include: Croston Open Gardens on 1 July, Coffee Day on 7 July, National Heritage Open days on 8/9 September and a quilting Festival on 14-16 September.

Further details on all these events will be posted on our facebook page and on the 'concerts and events' page on our website.



**Christmas Fair Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

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e-mail: [info@clearcareltd.co.uk](mailto:info@clearcareltd.co.uk)

Visit our website

**[www.clearcareltd.co.uk](http://www.clearcareltd.co.uk)**

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**Lancashire Constabulary**

police and communities together

Please keep your doors and windows secure, especially overnight even during the warmer weather we hope is to come. Several burglaries from unsecure properties have occurred recently and don't forget your sheds and garages, so make sure all locks and padlocks are kept secure.

As always the Summer Drink Driving Campaign will be starting soon, and we are advising that if you are going to have a drink, do not drive. We often receive intelligence about drink drivers, and use covert vehicles to target

anyone we receive information about. Don't take the risk....we could be behind you!

To find out what's really happening in your area and receive regular crime updates and information and sign up to In the Know at <https://www.stayintheknow.co.uk>

This is the free messaging service brought to you by Lancashire Police supported by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and Lancashire County Council where you decide when and how you are kept informed about the issues that matter to you.

Emma Burgess

m: 07795 678163  
e: [icare4pets@outlook.com](mailto:icare4pets@outlook.com)



**icare4pets**

walking, sitting, feeding

find us on facebook  
w: [www.icare4pets.co.uk](http://www.icare4pets.co.uk)

# Contact Details

## Councillors

## Tel

<b>Anne Peet (Chairman)</b>	<b>600012</b>
<b>Kath Almond</b>	<b>600368</b>
<b>Mark Cowley</b>	<b>07545 976151</b>
<b>Peter Fenemore</b>	<b>600572</b>
<b>Keith Iddon</b>	<b>07787 005663</b>
<b>Stuart Laverick</b>	<b>07983 578671</b>
<b>Bruno Paillusson</b>	<b>603427</b>
<b>Gill Stubbs</b>	<b>07905 452160</b>
<b>Kevin Ward</b>	<b>07415 410037</b>

**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.