

May 2026



In this issue

Booking Secretary Retirement
May Thoughts
Art Group Startup

Editor's Notes

New Articles – If anyone would like to draft an article about the village or their experiences then just contact the Editor.

The village website is hosted by the Parish Council and is regularly updated from several sources. Anything for the village website can be sent directly using the email address listed below. Many thanks.

The email address for the village website and Parish Council is:

clerk@cropwellbutler-pc.gov.uk

Please mark it as contribution to the website.

Our email address for the magazine is

c-butlermagazine@outlook.com

The mobile phone number is **07972 013 614**

Please send items by 20th of the month for inclusion in the next edition.

The contact for hiring the village hall is **Gavin Orr**, Booking Secretary
email address is gavin.orr955@btinternet.com

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Please e-mail all items for the next newsletter by 20th May 2026
to c-butlermagazine@outlook.com



Provisional Bookings for May 2026



Provisional Weekly Booking

Other Bookings

Day	Activity	Time	Date	Activity
Sun.			Tue.5 th	Village Hall Committee AGM and Meeting 1900-2100
Mon.			Mon.11 th	Parish Council 1900-2200 Young Farmers 1930-2030
Tue.	Fitness Class* AA (2)	1100-1200 1230-1330	Sun.17 th	Private Booking Morning
Wed.	Fitness Class* Singing Classes**	1000-1100 1800-2000	Mon.18 th	Young Farmers 1930-2030
Thu.	AA	1945-2100	Tue.19 th	Pilates 1930-2030
Fri.	Needles & Pins Dancing Classes**	0930-1330 1600-1900	Sat.30 th	Brownie Sleepover Afternoon onwards
Sat.	Dancing Classes**	0900-1600	Sun.31 st	Brownies Morning & Afternoon

*No Fitness Class on 19th or 20th **No Singing or Dancing Classes in w/b 25th

Village Hall News

April 50/50 Draw: 1st £25 Rose Haynes; 2nd £20 Mcevoy- Robinson;
3rd £15 Lynsey Carter; 4th £10 Dorothy Selby .

Electricity to the Defibrillator telephone kiosk has been restored, the cause was a blown fuse caused by work tools of high power amperage being connected. Dishwasher and Air Conditioning serviced. Electrical certificate to be issued.

A key box at the front door will be used to allow one-off hirers to gain access to the hall without having to be accompanied by a committee member.
A locksmith will attend to the difficult lock on the French window doors at the front.

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 5th May at 7.00pm.

May

Village Events

At a Glance

1st Saturday @ 10.00am	Community Garden	The Plough
Monthly		
Wednesday 6th @ 10.00am weekly	Community Garden	The Plough
Sunday 3rd @ 10.30am	Fellowship	Methodist Chapel
Sunday 3rd @ 9.00am	Field Maintenance	Sheldon Field
Tuesday 5th @ 7.00pm	Village Hall AGM	Village Hall
Tuesday 5th @ 7.30pm	Village Hall Committee	Village Hall
Sunday 10th @ 9.30am	Village Hall Gardeners	Village Hall
Sunday 10th @ 10.30am	All-Parish Holy Communion	Holy Trinity, Tythby
Monday 11th @ 6.45pm	Parish Council AGM	Village Hall
Monday 11th @ 7.00pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Sunday 17th @ 10.30am	Family Service	Methodist Chapel
Tuesday 19th @ 7.30pm	Pilates	Village Hall
Sunday 24th @ 10.30am	Family Service	Methodist Chapel
Sunday 31st TBC	See Notice Board or Facebook	Methodist Chapel

Clarification

Information in last month's newsletter stated that ... " usage of the hall remains low due to limited marketing but a new person has been identified to manage bookings ". This inadvertently implied that the issue was connected to the retiring Bookings Secretary and the action to correct the situation was to replace her with a new person . This is not actually the case. Bookings are at a record level largely down to the management efforts of the existing Bookings Secretary who will retire after serving more than 20 years on the committee .

End of an Era

At the coming AGM, Anne Woodcock will retire from her role as Village Hall Bookings Secretary, after performing the role for 20 years, through thick and thin.

What was done by Anne is now being done by three people – greeting inquirers and showing them the hall; sorting out the (necessary) paperwork; updating the newsletter with the booking schedule; managing the invoicing and updating the Treasurer. All with a positive and friendly attitude.

The Committee wish her all the best in her retirement.

Going forward, **Gavin Orr** will be the customer-facing contact and Gavin can be contacted on gavin.orr955@btinternet.com. Others on the Committee will be backup for Gavin, if absent. Invoicing will be managed by Mike Jones on mikejones0811@gmail.com.

Spotlight on the Village Hall Activities - Jane Lewis Fitness

Jane offers two exercise classes; Standing / Chair Pilates and 50+ Fitness.

Standing /Chair Pilates is a gentle exercise for strength, balance & flexibility and is perfect for beginners, older adults, or anyone wanting a low-impact way to keep active. Exercises can be done standing or seated in a chair in a friendly and welcoming class atmosphere to improve posture, core strength, mobility and confidence.

Sessions are Tuesday 10am to 11am in the Village Hall.

The 50+ Fit Class is fun in a friendly, welcoming class designed for the over 50s to help you stay active and feel stronger. It Improve fitness and builds strength & balance, boosts energy and is suitable for all abilities.

A stability ball and dumbbells are used in class and I can provide these for you in your free trial class.

Sessions are Wednesdays 10am to 11am in the Village Hall.

To book or find out more, contact Jane Lewis.

 07870771262.

 Email: janelewisfitness@gmail.com

New faces always welcome!



Church Services in May

Sunday 3rd May

10.30am All Age, All-Parish Holy Communion,
St Andrew's, Langar followed by bring
and share lunch and AMP and APCM

Sunday 10th May

10.30am All-Parish Holy Communion,
Holy Trinity, Tythby

Thursday 14th May – Ascension Day

7.00pm All-Parish Holy Communion with choir,
St Giles', Cropwell Bishop

Sunday 17th May

10.30am All-Parish Holy Communion,
St John the Divine, Colston Bassett

10.30am Morning Worship,
St Giles', Cropwell Bishop

Tuesday 19th May

7.15pm Prayer and Worship Night,
St Giles', Cropwell Bishop

Sunday 24th May

10.30am All-Parish Holy Communion,
St Michael and All Angels, Elton

4.00pm Family Praise with tea,
St Giles', Cropwell Bishop

Sunday 31st May

10.30am All-Parish Holy Communion,
All Saints, Granby

4.00pm Hymns and Pimms, united service with choir
St Giles', Cropwell Bishop



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Cropwell Butler Village Golf Trophy

In 2023 I organised a competition for the trophy that I had acquired from a past winner .

Sadly the weather on the day of the competition caused us to cancel the event . I did not intend that a 3 year gap would follow but it has!

So if any village golfer would like to enter the competition to win this prestige trophy this year please contact me:

Peter Evans theoldforge1999@hotmail.com 07885674652

CROPWELL BUTLER AND TYTHBY

**Notice of Annual General
Meetings 2026**

**The annual General Meeting of
these committees will take place
at Cropwell Butler Village Hall:**

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

5th May at 7:00pm

PARISH COUNCIL

11th May at 6:45pm

All Parishioners Invited

MAY

May is special because the world around us is experiencing growth in all the hedges, fields and gardens. There are still bluebells in wooded areas or gardens. The mud we paddled through in the Winter is drying and it's easier to get out into the wider area without risking getting too wet. The occasional shower will assist in this period of confident growth. The birds wake us early by the dawn chorus while their chicks are growing in the nests, nests which have begun to be hidden by the growing leaves. Perhaps we'll hear a cuckoo because this is the time they arrive and start to look for small nesting birds where they can deposit their own eggs for the owners of the nest to look after.

We'll certainly start to hear and see swallows, house martins and swifts who will come to our area from Africa and beyond. Swallows and house martins make our Summer, they feel right and their nests are in evidence. It starts to feel like proper Summer. Swifts we also see and hear, screeching above us. But who has seen a Swift's nest?

Sheldon Field is displaying cowslips next to the cricket scoreboard and leading out from Sheldon Field towards Tithby, the hedges and fields are all different shades of green with nettles growing next to the hedges. If we are lucky we'll see a secretive Roe or Muntjac deer as they are more likely to be seen - the longer days seem to make them bolder. Perhaps we'll also see our local hares which somehow make us smile as they pop up out of the growing crops. What we'll definitely see are skylarks whose lyrical song fades slightly as they vanish to greater heights, still keeping singing. Canada geese fly over every evening honking as they go between their feeding grounds and their roosts somewhere towards Langar.

We are usually blessed in May with greater sightings of butterflies and dragonflies. My special joy is to see banded demoiselles enjoying the streams and ditches.

This is a time when you are more likely to see hedgehogs as this is their mating time. They often circle around each other, often making huffing noises. They have their babies in late June as they only gestate for about a month.

Those of you who go out in early dusk will see bats about as the number of insects increases or perhaps badgers as their cubs brave a little distance from the sett.

May's a lovely month with lots to see and much to enjoy – it's over too soon.

Anon

Cropwell Butler Summer Party 20th June Village Hall 7.00pm

Rock out live with Contraband, a six-piece band playing your favourite music.

Get ready for an awesome night. Enjoy some great tunes and good vibes.

Don't miss out on seeing this fantastic band bring their energy and musicianship up close and personal. Join your friends for a memorable evening.

We will be serving a fabulous supper prepared by chef James Crossman , comprising gastronomic grazing boards, filled with delicious antipasto, assorted cheeses, artisan breads, vegetarian quiche, ham hock terrine, prawn cocktail, salad bar and much, much, more . Please bring your own drinks.

Approximate timings are doors open at 7.00pm with the band's first session starting at c.7.30pm, interval will be at c.8.15pm for 45 mins when the buffet will be served, and the second band session will start at c.9.00pm and finish at c.10.00pm, leaving time for a chat and socialising until c.11.00pm.

This is an event for villagers and their friends and family. It has all the ingredients of being a great night to remember , don't miss out.

Tickets are £25 available from Andy , Lucie, Joyce or Mike. Order early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited.

P.S. We are hopeful we can add to the numbers and the atmosphere by utilising a marquee in conjunction with the village hall .



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CROPWELL BUTLER PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE May 2026

Our monthly meeting on Monday 13th April again had a full attendance, no residents present although two did intercept me on the way in to complain that the buses weren't playing ball with the Rookery Corner road closure. Interestingly they had contacted Simon Roberts at Nottinghamshire County Council (on LinkedIn he lists his title as "Assistant Transport Manager") and he pulled some levers and delivered a next-day improvement. Worth knowing.

This month we have got the Minutes published in full, rather than in summarised form. I think last month the summary threw shade at Anne Woodcock who is retiring from long long service at the Village Hall. The Parish Council would, I am sure, join me in thanking Anne for her service. As a small village we are so reliant on a core of volunteers and grateful for the time and energy they dedicate to support the village amenities.

Pleased to confirm that the defib in the telephone kiosk outside the Village Hall is now powered up and our Clerk is arranging to have it registered available with the relevant authorities. We continue to explore a more cost effective way to provide power to the kiosk, hoping to preserve the location of the defib rather than to bring it in to sit on a Village Hall wall.

Flooding defence works will continue in the fields above Back Lane and Hoe Lane this Summer, with an additional £25,000 allocated to the project by NCC. The ambition is to slow the run-off when we have a torrential downpour. Works the other side of the A46 are completed, and Rookery Corner pipework is now being connected.

There were winners and losers from the closure of Rookery Corner during those works. While some basked in the absence of through traffic, others struggled with long narrow diversions and uncertain bus services. Hopefully that is behind us now although there will be traffic lights as the contractors attend to the inside corner of the road.

Several contributions have been received on The Village Hall garden planting scheme which I hope can be agreed between the Parish Council and the VH committee. We will organise a volunteer day in May to do some heavy lifting in

preparation for planting. Please watch the Facebook groups and our website for details.

- Facebook : Cropwell Butler & Tithby Villagers, moderated by Belinda Chettle
- Facebook : Cropwell Butler & Tythby Village News, moderated by Paul Goodwin
- Website : <https://cropwellbutler-pc.gov.uk>

David Wells Chair, Cropwell Butler Parish Council

david.wells@cropwellbutler-pc.gov.uk

SHELDON FIELD NEWS

For anyone new to the village, The Sheldon Field is our local sports and recreation area. Situated behind the Village Hall, it covers around 10 acres and is managed by a dedicated group of volunteers for the benefit of the whole community. As well as being home to cricket and football teams, it's also a lovely place for a walk, with several public footpaths crossing the site.

50/50 Draw

1st Marian Henstock; 2nd Joyce Ulyett; 3rd David Wells;
4th Peter & Catherine Evans

Latest News

Amongst many sources of funding, the Sheldon Field receives grants from the Football Foundation. These help with the costs of keeping the pitches in good condition, including feeding the grass and re-seeding where necessary.

Helping to improve the field in a different way, Yellow Rattle plug plants have been introduced in areas where wildflower development is being encouraged. This annual plant helps to weaken aggressive grasses and allows more wildflowers to flourish. It is hoped the seeds from this year's plants will spread across the field into wider areas for next year and beyond, accelerating a species-rich environment and generally improving biodiversity.

Field Maintenance

On the first Sunday of each month at 9am, all are welcome to help out with whatever maintenance jobs are needed on the field, or more widely around the village. In April, the volunteers cleared the remains of a fallen tree from the cemetery before cutting back some Blackthorn and Cherry that was beginning to

take over an area of the field. Sessions are typically a maximum of a couple of hours, if you can spare some time why not come down next time and join in. On Sunday 3 May, the aim is to try to clear out the dyke along the south side of the field. This carries most of the rainfall that enters drains throughout the village, and incoming water from surrounding areas including the A46. Following completion of the drainage improvements at Rookery Corner, water entering the dyke is expected to increase so it is even more important that it can flow away freely rather than backing up into the village. If you would like to help with this important work, please come along on 3 May from 9am.

Cricket

The Sheldon Field is the home of Cropwell Cricket Club, and the new season is upon us. The first home match is 17 May, starting at 2pm. Come along and enjoy the cricket – or just enjoy the field.



Cropwell Butler Parish Council 13th April Minutes (Extract)

Minutes Available on all Parish Council Notice Boards

- **Key Updates and Decisions:**
- **Casual Vacancy:** Two candidates have applied.
- **Planning Applications:** 26/00524/LBC - The Grange, Hardigate Road, Cropwell Butler, NG12 3AH - Installation of underfloor heating to ground floor and minor alterations to layouts. [Deadline: 18/04/2026]
The Council does not have any objection and is guided by the planners.
- **Flooding Update:** including the natural flood management plan.
- - *Natural Flood Management:* Flood Manager is finalising the pre-visit details for Phase 1. Phase 2 – additional £25,000 available, so additional attenuation being made on the dyke to stop the torrent hitting Back Lane through creating more storage.
- - *Severn Trent Water:* Louise Blackwell is on secondment. Another member is on long-term illness and when he returns, he will come back to a different role – his second in command is desperately trying to come up to speed. The CEO has left. Representatives are planning to come to the July meeting and feedback on the mainstream works.

- - *Rookery Corner*: The road closure should have finished at the end of this week (Ed: It has) . Rookery Close is being resurfaced. Design still to be agreed for the retaining wall for the bank. The original design seemed to be excessive so the intention is to reduce the upstand but to reinforce the kerb.
- - *Footbridge*: No feedback from the NCC Flood Manager. Cllr David Wells is to chase progress.
- - Flood training course has been attended by Cllr David Wells.
- **Village Hall Wall and Trees**: Village Hall Garden Committee have put together a proposal that suggests investment in Arbours and a planting regime – this is a work in progress.
- **Road and Traffic Issues**: - Hardigate/Radcliffe Road junction: Operational dates are not confirmed but expect to be early autumn (September).
- - The pothole issue is still significant. The petition (situated in the Village Hall) is struggling for signatures – door-knocking is required.
- - Buses now managed by EMCCA – when they were contacted they appeared to have actioned a change quickly, resolving the bus link in Cropwell Bishop.
- **General**: - Responsible Dog Ownership has been contracted through WISE by the Borough Council – PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) are being issued but they are difficult to uphold.
- **Next Meeting**: The next PC meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2026 at 7:00 pm, with AGM at 6:45 pm.



Cropwell Community Garden

The garden is open again for a spring clear-up on Wednesdays weekly. Also open weekly on first Saturday of the month except for June which will be on the 2nd Saturday. Drop in to enjoy the garden, help with gardening or get local plants and produce. Everyone is welcome.

Most people who enjoy reading have probably heard of Robert Harris. He is the best-selling author of 13 novels, a number of which have been made into successful films, most recently the highly acclaimed 'Conclave' which imagines the world of the Vatican and the process of choosing a new Pope. But who knew that he hails from Nottingham and spent some of his childhood in this neck of the woods in Bottesford? A local lad made good, he began his writing career as a journalist and wrote a number of non-fiction books. Then in 1992 he published *Fatherland*, his first novel. It's huge success enabled him to become a full-time novelist and the rest, as they say, is history - with history forming the bedrock of his works.

Harris' books, however, are not simply historical novels. He uses 'alternate' or 'counter factual' history - a process of cleverly weaving real events with imagined characters, plots and scenes to create detective stories and political thrillers. 'Fatherland', for instance, imagines a world in which the Axis Powers have triumphed in the Second World War and 'Munich' focuses in on four days in 1938 with imagined characters potentially changing the course of history. Both have been made into gripping films, along with 'An Officer and A Spy' about the Dreyfuss Affair of the late 19th Century, for which Harris wrote the screenplay. Harris doesn't just stick to relatively recent history however, so if a more ancient setting is more up your street, you could try 'Pompeii' or the Cicero Trilogy set in Ancient Rome.

I had always known of Robert Harris, but had never tried one of his books myself. The partner of the reviewer's daughter's partner had always sung his praises though, so when a book club member said he was enjoying 'Precipice', I thought I'd give it a go too. I love a 20th Century historical novel, so this would definitely tick that box. 'Precipice' begins in the hot summer of 1914 as Europe does indeed teeter on the edge...

Prime Minister H. H. Asquith's affair with the very much younger socialite Venetia Stanley is in full swing and he is writing multiple letters to her each day. Using her as a sounding board for the seemingly impossible decisions he has to make, Asquith puts national security at risk as personal obsession tangles with political responsibility. Within these real historical events are placed imagined scenes and conversations, with a whole section of the plot fully imagined, in the form of Paul Deemer, a young intelligence officer who attempts to avert a political and national crisis.

I enjoyed 'Precipice' although I found the use of actual letters perhaps a little too heavy (Asquith's letters to Venetia still exist but he had, unsurprisingly, destroyed Venetia's. Harris, however, does a fine job of imagining them). I very much enjoyed the depictions of real-life characters, the descriptions of 1914 London and the intrigues of the political life of the time. The clever working of the real and the imagined made for a page turner as events unfolded, with enough characterisation to make you want to know more about the real people enmeshed in this tumultuous period.



If you are interested in playing or would like to sponsor the club (We have various different areas of sponsorship) please feel free to contact us on either Facebook or on 07702213841.

Neil King CCC Club Captain

CCC Fixtures May 2026

1st May

Tour Weekend

10th May

Upton (A)

17th May

WB Legion (H)

24th May

31st May

Egerton Park (A)

Home fixtures to be played on The Sheldon Field, Cropwell Butler. Start time 2.00pm unless stated. Please visit our website www.cropwellcricketclub.co.uk or our Facebook page for further information.

Annual Village Day-Trip on Thursday 9th July Burghley House, Stamford

Everyone welcome . We leave the village hall promptly at 9.30am and arrive home at 5.00pm.

£20 to include a 2-hour garden tour with the head gardener.

£15 to include access to the gardens without the garden tour.

Cheques payable to Cropwell Butler Gardening Society.

Please post cheques/ cash for either £20 or £15 through my letterbox box - Norwood, Main Street, Cropwell Butler.

For further information please contact Patricia on 07917 712449

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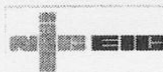
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Art Group



Hello, my name is Janet Cook and I have just moved into the village from Somerset. I am interested in setting up an art group in the village hall for 3 hours a week on a day yet to be decided. I am thinking that, like my old art group, it would be a self-supporting group, where participants of all abilities help and guide each other, rather than having a regular tutor. It is

something I am hoping to start in the autumn, and would like to gauge interest in this venture. If it is something you would be interested in starting with me, as I say regardless of ability, then please give me a ring for a chat on **07432 074783**. I look forward to hearing from you. **Janet**

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