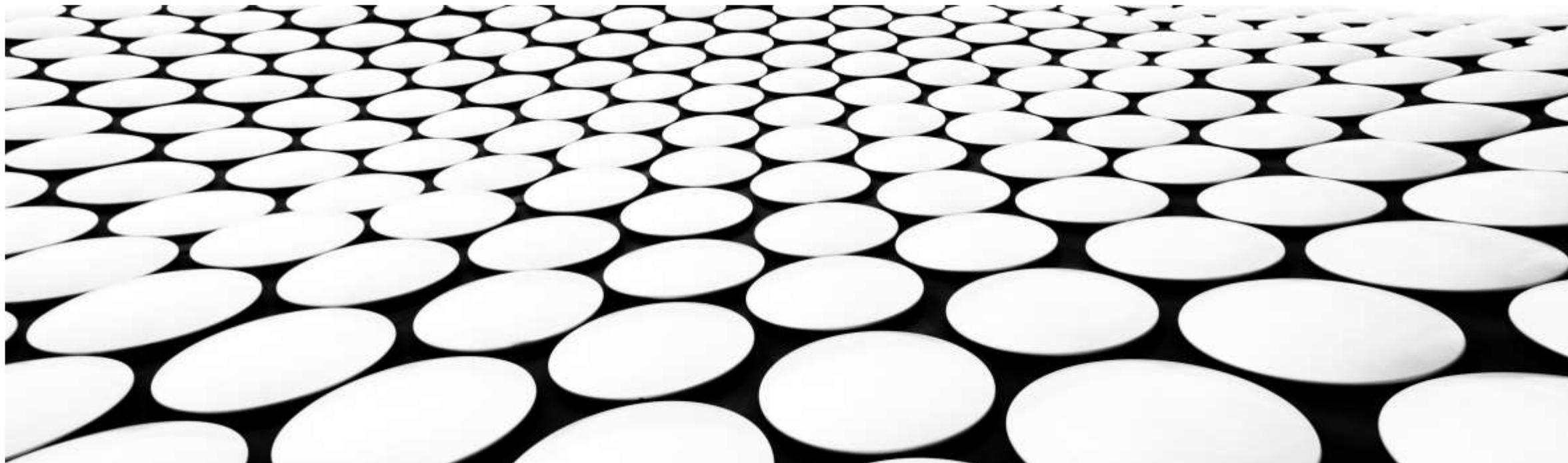
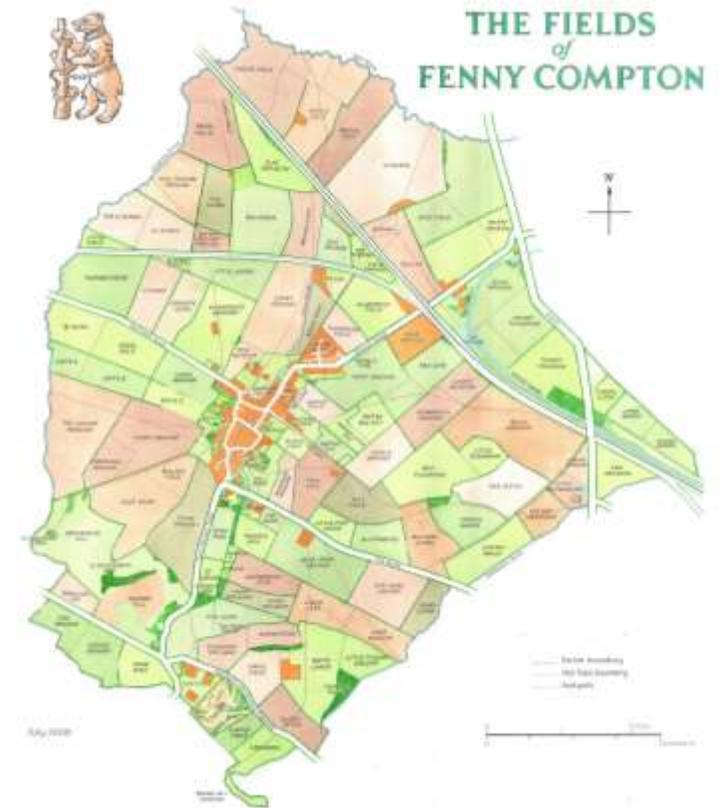

FENNY COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REVIEW 2019/20

MAY 2020



INTRODUCTION

- Usually around this time of year the Parish Council holds its Annual Parish Meeting, at which local groups will provide reports summarising what's happened in the previous year and their plans for the future. This wasn't possible this year, so instead we have gathered reports from a wider range of organisations, and our district and county councillors, to publish online. We hope you find it useful.
- If you would like to know more about any of the groups featured, please contact them directly for more information.



FENNY COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

FENNY COMPTON
PARISH COUNCIL

- The Parish Council consists of seven volunteers supported by a paid Clerk. We are responsible for a range of activities including responding to planning applications and managing risks. We own and maintain a range of land and assets in the Parish including green spaces, the sports field and playground, most of the streetlights, bus shelters, the war memorial and the bowls pavilion.
- **Planning**
 - One of our most important activities is to respond to planning applications on behalf of the Parish. Over the past twelve months we have considered approximately 27 applications, mostly for tree works or minor modifications to residential properties. Our objective is to consider the wider impact on the character of the village, and in this light the most significant planning issue we had to consider was the Site Allocation Plan, which proposed additional reserve sites for development of residential properties in Stratford District and which identified a potential 144 further homes across twelve sites in Fenny Compton. We submitted a comprehensive objection to these proposals identifying several areas in which they were in contravention of the District Council's own Core Strategy, which lays down the rules for development in the District.
 - There has been little progress on the development of the former Compton Buildings site. Although the site has been fully cleared this has resulted in additional run-off onto the road and under the railway bridge. There are plans to address this which have been delayed by the current restrictions on social distancing. We understand that Homes England, the government agency which bought the site and obtained outline planning permission, are in discussions to sell the site on to a developer, who would bring forward detailed proposals; however this seems to have been the status of the project for some time and it is unclear if or when the sale might be completed. We hope that any developer will engage with the Parish to ensure that any proposals are appropriate.
- **Streetlights**
 - The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the 70 or so streetlights in the Parish. Many of these are obsolete and when they need repairing they often need to be replaced. We have now moved to system of proactive replacement in order to keep costs manageable and to reduce risk. Three streetlights were replaced this year, two in Bridge Street and one in Dog Lane. The latter was not on the original plan, but due to other works the pole to which our lamp was fixed was being removed, and hence we needed to install a new column. Several of our lights are fixed to other utilities' columns (mainly BT) so this may continue to happen into the future.

Jon Dutton
Chair

www.fennycompton-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 01295 771174

E-mail: fcpc.chair@gmail.com

FENNY COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

FENNY COMPTON
PARISH COUNCIL

- **Allotments**

- A year ago we finally established allotments in the village after many years of trying. A fuller report from the Fenny Compton Allotments Association is included in this pack.

- **Trees**

- Another area of risk that we need to manage is the trees which stand on the various parcels of land we own. We have now instigated a programme of tree surveys to ensure that the risk of injury or damage to persons and property is managed. The works identified through the surveys are being delivered on a prioritised basis.

- **Grass cutting**

- The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining a number of green spaces in the Parish. We are currently in discussions with Orbit Homes to assess whether we can take over responsibility for their areas, following issues with the quality of their service.

- **Clerk**

- Sadly our current clerk, Ian Wilson, has tendered his resignation. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new clerk. Our thanks go to Ian for his support during his tenure.

- **Covid-19**

- The current restrictions on social distancing have naturally had an impact on our ability to hold face-to-face meetings. The government has now passed legislation to permit us to meet virtually and this we have now started to do, and may have to do for some time to come. Our meeting dates remain the same. Members of the public are still entitled to observe our meetings; to obtain log-in details, please contact the clerk.
- My thanks go to everyone who is supporting their neighbours during the pandemic, whether by shopping, fetching medical supplies, maintaining contact or simply observing the rules on social distancing; and to the wider group of people who have helped to keep things running, at the shop, the doctors surgery, the school and hospitals; the delivery workers and the refuse collectors. In some ways, despite an inability to meet in large numbers, this crisis seems to have strengthened the community spirit in our village, hopefully something we can maintain as we start to come out the other side.

Jon Dutton
Chair

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ABACUS

- Abacus Pre-School Nursery continues to thrive with support from parents and the community. We thank everybody who gets involved with fundraising. Also to the parents who support us voluntarily as Trustees to keep us running and support an important part of every child's learning journey.
- Our aim at abacus is to provide a safe, friendly and stimulating environment for children to learn and develop. We feel we are a vital stepping stone on the children's journey in Education.
- We started this term with 13 children and now have 23, 12 of those transferring on to school this September. We wish them lots of luck.
- We fundraise to improve the children's learning environment and to develop our outdoor area. We also have to maintain our new building to keep it safe and inviting.
- The money we have raised through fundraising is always achieved through fun events which have included: Family fun day, Duck race, unfortunately we have had to cancel our Egg hunt and postpone our raffle this year. But we will look forward to having more fundraising events in the future.
- If anyone has any new ideas to fundraise then we would be more than happy to hear them.
- We look forward to another year, continuing to welcome new children and wishing those going on to school luck.



FENNY COMPTON ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

- What seems like an age ago now, back in May 2019 we finally had the go-ahead to start marking out and fencing the piece of land that was to become Fenny Allotments. Look at the change in just eleven months and that's including one of the wettest winters on record!
- A lot has happened and there has been steady progress in the first year. Starting with marking out the perimeter, after very many long conversations and emails with the land agents, to fencing, marking and digging out plots allotmenters finally got access to their plots for the first time in June 2019. It was already late in the season but many persisted and were rewarded with a decent first harvest of their own grown produce.
- August came, the summer was in full swing and we were finally able to connect and dig in the water feed so allotmenters could finally water their produce.
- Then came the autumn to be followed by the wettest winter. Time to harvest the potatoes and watch what the winter brought to the site and how it would behave. Some people were able to keep things going and growing but in the end with the extreme levels of rain received, the bottom path and entrance did become rather bogged down. Thankfully the footpath group became involved and two drainage areas were created to remove the pressure from the bottom path and the public footpath which really helped the situation.
- Things have moved around a little in the first year, some people swapped plots, some were disheartened with the long wet winter but the spring of 2020 has arrived and it great to see that all plots are taken and many people have begun tending and planting their plots for the new season. With everything going on in the world this year the allotments for many have become a great source of daily exercise, keeping in touch with friends whilst being able to follow government guidelines and maintain strict social distances.
- At the time of writing, mid-April, there is already an abundance of produce growing and what was simply just the corner of a field really has turned into a productive and quite social area for Fenny to be proud of. It took several years to finally get the project off the ground but look at the achievement in just the first year. Now as the allotments become more established it will be very interesting and exciting to see them continue to work and produce through the next seasons.
- We look forward to playing a bigger part and a more active role in next year's Fenny in Flower and Open Gardens.



May 2019: the first fencepost goes in



April 2020: allotments in full swing!

For more information contact: fennyallotments@gmail.com

AQUEOUS (FLOOD PREVENTION)

■ Summary

- It has been an eventful year and despite the extensive rainfall in the last quarter of 2019 the damage from flooding in the village has been kept to a minimum. There is clearly still much work to be done and we have continued our discussions with WCC for funding to reduce the risk into the future.

■ Riparian owners:

- Many owners with riparian responsibilities have taken their obligations seriously and kept the watercourse clear which has ensured during the heavy rainfall the system operated to near capacity. The events of late 2019 have identified some areas where more needs to be done in 2020.

■ Annual inspection and maintenance plan

- Aqueous carried out an inspection of the main watercourses over the summer which identified areas of work to be done. These items have been included in a annual maintenance plan and carried out by the Aqueous team.

■ Flood events

- Rainfall in the last quarter of 2019 was the wettest period of the decade with 345mm of rain, a 60% increase over the long term average. This identified a number of problem areas: flooding in Bridge Street and Memorial Road, caused by water overtopping the watercourse and discharge from the surface water drain cover adjacent to the school.
- The existing retention pond in Hall Yard operated well protecting the village from more severe flooding. However the volume of water exceeded the storage capacity of the attenuation pond.
- Run off from Ridge Way was a particular problem caused by drainage from the hillside to open ditch at rear of Cotters Croft which appears to have no outlet so overtops and runs through gardens at Cotters Croft into Ridge Way and then High Street.



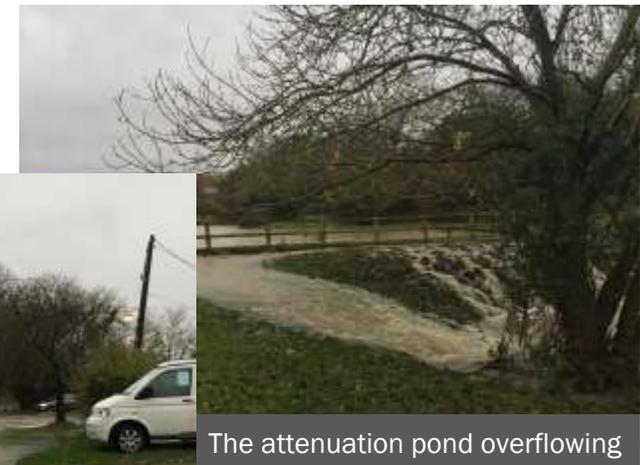
Bridge Street



Memorial Road



Run off from Ridge Way



The attenuation pond overflowing

AQUEOUS (FLOOD PREVENTION)

- As a consequence there was flooding of the highway outside the surgery which put the surgery at risk. In conjunction with Councillor Rock, we have investigated further to understand the root cause. It appears that the surface water system designed for the new development itself is operating correctly and the problem seems to be the integration of the existing field drainage with the new development. Discussions are ongoing to determine liability and any potential solution.
- There have also been problems with run-off adjacent to the allotments to the rear of the new estate. This would appear to be lack of maintenance of the existing ditch in the rear of the gardens.
- Run off from the hill south of Station Road. There is insufficient capacity to transfer water across the highway and no flood routing. Existing ditches not maintained causing flooding in Station Road and flooding of garages in Berry Meadow.
- The final area of concern was the run-off from the Compton building site to the highway which floods under the railway bridge which became impassable for days. A long term solution will be needed to address this issue when the development takes place. All these issues have been raised with WCC Flood Management Team.
- A joint survey was undertaken with WCC in October which identified opportunities for some Natural Flood Management (NFM) along the watercourses upstream of the village. These are basically small dams across the drainage channels which hold back water at times of high rainfall. Aqueous have met with Shipston Flood Action Group who have undertaken large areas of NFM which seemed to worked well during 2019.



Doctors Surgery



Garages in Berry Meadow



Railway Bridge

AQUEOUS (FLOOD PREVENTION)

- **Future investment**
- Things seemed to be progressing well with a number of opportunities with potential to reduce the long term issues. Unfortunately during the wet autumn we were not alone with flooding in the county so the team has been overwhelmed with requirements.
- There appeared to be some good news that investment for the village had been prioritised but due to the wider problems across the country all investment has been put on hold. We are very disappointed with this and will continue to lobby both WCC officers and our elected representatives.
- This combined with the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 have brought progress to a stop and it will remain to understand the long consequences on funding when things return to 'normal'
- In the meantime we need to continue with the cleaning and maintenance of the watercourses to ensure they operate to their optimum capacity.

FENNY COMPTON WATER

- This time last year we were celebrating the initial success of the new filter system in mitigating the residual bentazone contamination whilst looking ahead to see how long it would remain effective. Another concern was whether we would have sufficient water in the autumn after the driest winter for some time when the aquifer should have refilled in the cooler months.
- The filter's effectiveness has just been assessed with its twelve-month test and we are pleased to confirm it is still going strong. This means we only require biennial replacement of the filter media, in line with good industry practice, to ensure the ongoing purity of our supply.
- Last year's weather is still fresh in everyone's minds and water supply has not been an issue. If anything, we have had too much of a good thing with ground movements in waterlogged soil causing a brief interruption to the feed to the tanks due to a kinked pipe. Fortunately, we have a backup Severn Trent connection so there was no risk to customer supply.
- We continue to improve both the infrastructure and quality of service we offer. This year has seen the re-organization of the treatment plant with the ability to run two sterilisation units in series for added security in general use or parallel enabling all maintenance operations to be undertaken without interruption of service to our customers.
- Looking ahead The Company is sound position and the directors appreciate the support of our customers, the wider community and the government bodies we deal with who continue to provide guidance on a wide range of matters concerning the regulation of water supplies ensuring the water we provide is of the highest quality.

Fenny Compton Water Co. Ltd.

Incorporated 1866

'Pure Spring Water'



A view over the Tighthead Spring towards Fenny Compton which has supplied a constant supply of wholesome water for over 150 years

For more information contact: FennyWaterCompany@gmail.com

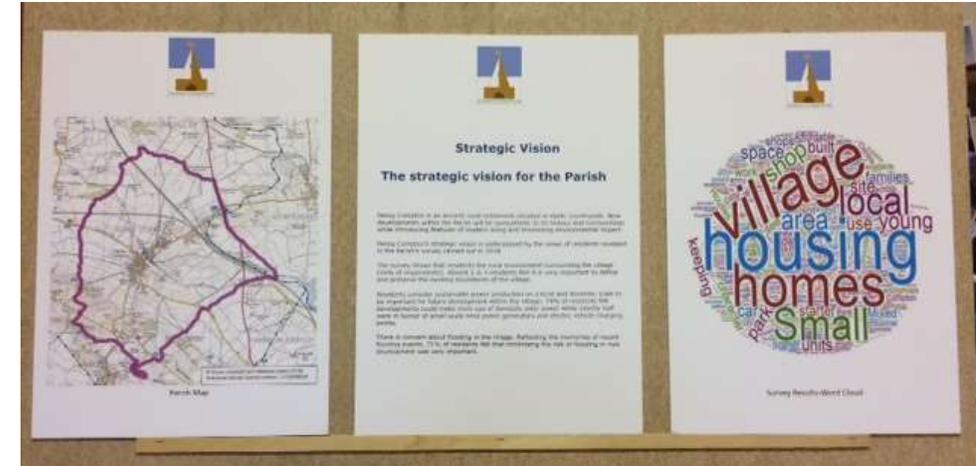
FOOTPATHS GROUP

- The Footpath Group is continuing to thrive. Membership has increased by 3 in the last year to 12 and we have maintained our 3 hour work sessions every 4 weeks over the last year during which time we have replaced and maintained bridges, stiles and marker posts in addition to strimming and other general maintenance to the footpaths and bridleways in Fenny Compton and the surrounding parishes.
- Covid 19 has put our activities as a group on hold but we are in regular contact with each other and will be doing smaller jobs individually. Larger projects will have to wait until safe to do so.
- We continue to maintain a good working relationship with the local landowners.
- We are reimbursed by WCC for our materials and other expenses and will not be asking for additional funding from the PC for 2020.
- We very much intend to continue through the next year and beyond.



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- Fenny Compton is working towards drafting a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. The Neighbourhood Plan builds on the 2008 Parish Plan and provides a vision for how the parish should develop over the period up to 2031.
- Neighbourhood Plans give residents much more power than Parish Plans, and through a robust programme of consultation, residents' views on where, when and what type of development should take place are given statutory status.
- The past year has been spent drafting and revising the plan. It has successfully passed the environmental assessment and is now ready to go out for formal consultation, a process that takes about six weeks. Unfortunately this has had to be postponed because of the virus. (Printed copies have to be on display at certain key locations) As soon as we are able to resume, we will let you know through the Compton Chronicle, and various websites.
- The final stage of consultation would be a parish referendum, and hopefully, adoption. It appears that we may not be able to hold the referendum until May 2021. However District Councils will be required to take account of emerging Neighbourhood Plans, when considering planning applications.
- Our thanks go to all those who have contributed to the preparation of the draft plan, from those who helped to distribute the questionnaire, to those who have organised surveys, and particularly to the members of the steering committee. (Cherie Southgate, Hilary Birkbeck and John Wickenden).
- Further details can be found on the Neighbourhood Plan website: www.fennycomptonnp.co.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- All residents are deemed to be members of Neighbourhood Watch whether or not they have formally signed up. Should anyone have concerns and need to contact us the details are in the Compton Chronicle Directory.
- Neighbourhood Watch continues to produce an entry for every copy of the Compton Chronicle. Since print space is limited, the Stratford District NW Blog (<https://stratfordnw.blogspot.com/>) provides an online digest from several sources that is primarily designed to help residents stay safe and informed of police activity. On a lighter note, the blog also gives information that may make life in South Warwickshire a little more interesting.
- We are most fortunate that reported crime in the area is very low and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) based in Southam is regularly on patrol. You can keep up with the team as they regularly post on Facebook and Twitter. There is also a Rural Crime Team which has had some significant successes since it was formed in October 2019. Please report all crime either online via the Warwickshire Police website or by calling 101 (999 if the crime is in progress or someone is in danger).
- Stratford District Neighbourhood Watch has recently produced an App (app.sdnw.org.uk). Although designed for Neighbourhood Watch it is free for all to use and contains a mine of local information.
- We would encourage all residents to sign up via the National NW Website (ourwatch.org.uk) which enables us to contact them directly. To be informed directly of local police matters via the Community Messaging System (CMS) please go to the Warwickshire police website and search for CMS.



OVER 60'S

- We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in Fenny Compton Village Hall at 2.30pm.
- We have a membership of twenty-two, fifteen from the village and seven from neighbouring villages. We charge a subscription of £10 and a small charge for afternoon tea. We have a raffle which contributes towards the cost of the hall, speakers and any trips.
- Our Annual General Meeting took place on 14th May.
- This year we celebrated the 53rd birthday of the club with an outing was to the Wychwood Golf Club near Chipping Norton for a carvery lunch. Our members contributed to the cost (as coaches are so expensive nowadays).
- We enjoyed a range of activities at our other meetings this year including musical entertainment, a “Harvest Festival” sale of produce, guitar playing, a talk by the Salvation Army and a bring and buy sale in support of the Air Ambulance. We also managed to fit in another trip to the Wychwood Golf Club for our Christmas lunch.



SEWING SATURDAYS

- The community group Sewing Saturdays was formed in Autumn 2019 as a follow on to the weekly sessions held in the village hall making Bunting for Fenny in Flower.
- There is a core group of people who gather regularly on a Saturday in the Village Hall to undertake sewing projects, exchange skills and create their own work. There is no limit and we have several occasional visitors. We charge a small fee to cover room rental and materials for specific workshops.
- The first workshop project was creating Christmas decorations resulting in small Christmas trees and fabric wreaths. Chandima Dutton then got us making Felt cacti, some of which were extremely realist looking. Just before the lockdown we managed to have another workshop at the Chapel of Rest in Northend where we created decorated felt Easter Eggs under the guidance of Hester Stevns.
- After the New Year we moved our base from the Village Hall to the Chapel Room. This proved very successful and it was our intention to continue to use the space until the corona virus situation changed everything. Since Lockdown we have managed to continue the group actively through WhatsApp sharing photos of projects we are working on.



Christmas trees



Felt cacti



Felt Easter Eggs

VILLAGE HALL

- **Regular/One-off Bookings**
- In addition to our regular users (and a special thanks to Fenny Compton Scout Group who are our biggest regular users) the Village Hall continued to provide an additional facility for the Anglicans who held their service in the hall once a month until the church was usable again following the lead theft. We also welcomed two new regular users who offer yoga and pottery classes as well as a pop-up café on Fridays which all seemed to go well. In addition, the new head of the Dasset School confirmed that they were happy to continue with the existing evacuation arrangements using the village hall.
- The Village Hall was used as a polling station for the December General Election which generated some income.
- **Fundraising activities in the Village Hall**
- Our biggest fundraiser was the Open Garden event last year ('Fenny in Flower') which had a much broader appeal than the previous Open Garden and thus attracted more visitors.
- A very successful monthly fundraiser is the cinema raffle. Thank you to all who provide raffle prizes and buy tickets.
- In December the local Violin School gave a concert in the Village Hall in aid of the Church roof fund which was very well attended. A special thank you to Veronique Matarasso and all the young artists who entertained the village community so well.
- Among the other activities which were planned for 2020 was a charity cycle sportive on Saturday 27 June with about 300 riders run by Southam Lions for which the Village Hall was to have been used as a feed and watering station from which the Village Hall was planning to make money by providing tea and coffee and cakes. However, it had to be cancelled due to HS2 issues with the planned route on that day.
- Veronique Matarasso has suggested that she would organise a Ceilidh sometime in November running from 5pm – 7pm with the proceeds being split between the church roof fund and the village hall with beverages and hot dogs offered.



VILLAGE HALL

- **Other fundraising activities**
- The recruitment and renewal initiative for the Village Hall Lottery went well and we would like to thank all who renewed their numbers and those who decided to join this important fundraiser for the Village Hall for the first time. There are still three numbers on offer.
- **Improvements to the Village Hall**
- The kitchen got a new freezer and fridge and new blinds. The 'Bunting Ladies' provided us with new black-out curtains for the cinema and made some Christmas Bunting and suggested that the Village Hall could hire out all bunting made for the Fenny in Flowers event as it is now the property of the Village Hall. In addition, a second wheelchair was donated to the Village Hall which we are happy to lend to anyone living in the village for a small donation.
- The Village Hall has plans to improve the acoustics in the hall to enhance the quality of the sound at the cinema events, but this will have to be postponed given the loss in revenue resulting from the pandemic lockdown.
- **Maintenance**
- The Hall is in pretty good state. In compliance with the Asbestos Regulations 2012, our new insurers, who offer asbestos assessment, have been approached to carry out the assessment as is now required.
- We got some interest when we advertised for a new cleaner, but no decision has been made due to the Village Hall being closed for the present due to the current situation.
- A spring-cleaning session scheduled for 28 March had to be postponed until further notice due to the lockdown.



For more information: <http://www.fennycomptonvillagehall.org.uk/>

VILLAGE VIOLIN SCHOOL

- The Village Violin School, which is currently meeting using the Zoom App on account of the Coronavirus restrictions, rather than in its usual home at Fenny Compton Village Hall, has had a busy 2020 already.
- Everyone is coping well using remote technology, with regular practice going ahead, and great progress is being made. Good contact, competitions and interaction are all happening successfully via WhatsApp and Zoom. Some of the evidence for this excellent progress and resourceful learning can be enjoyed on the website, address given below.
- There was a very well-attended concert on 8th February in Fenny Compton Village Hall, in aid of the Church Roof fund, following a highly successful competition at the Banbury Young Musician of the Year finals on 1st February. Here, Laura won the Junior Young Musician title, and Emily and Chloe were placed third in the duets and the Seniors were Runners- up in the Ensemble competition.
- Three violinists were invited to join Nicola Benedetti at Birmingham Town Hall on 9th February for a workshop day playing with other young string players, forming a huge string orchestra for an informal performance in the afternoon.
- There are 20 young violinists currently involved, plus three amateur adult players (one a violin/viola player and two cellists) and over a five year period, the project has enabled almost 60 young players, mostly from Fenny Compton parish to have an opportunity to learn to play the violin in groups, free of charge, with an instrument, music and tuition provided.
- Many of the current players were in the original group, which started in September 2015. These children have made phenomenal progress and in many cases have now committed to individual violin lessons and are progressing by playing together at local concerts, music festivals and by taking ABRSM and Trinity music exams.
- There are currently two groups, but it may be possible to start a new Beginners Group in September. We welcome new players of any age and any level.
- Details can be found on the Village Violin School website at: <https://villageviolinschool.weebly.com>



Banbury Young Musicians of the Year



Concert in the Village Hall



Birmingham Town Hall

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

- Fenny Compton and District is a thriving WI of around 25 members coming from the villages of Fenny Compton, Northend and Farnborough. We meet monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at Fenny Compton Village Hall. Our meetings are entertaining, educational, informative and a way of learning new skills, but they are always friendly and sociable and we welcome visitors warmly.
- As well as our monthly meetings we have various other outings and social gatherings some of which partners are welcome to attend.
- Being part of a wider organisation our members are able to benefit from workshops, outings and other activities organised by Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes.
- Sadly during the present crisis all this has changed.
- We have had to cancel most of our summer programme some of which we hope to be able to reinstate later in the year.
- During this time of self isolation and social distancing we have been keeping in touch by phone and email. One of our members has been sending daily emails with a photo of places she has visited and inviting us to name them. I hope she has a large collection! Another produced an on-line quiz which was quite tricky .
- All this however is no substitute for our meeting together and we look forward to the end of this terrible time. Especially as next year is our Centenary Year and we are looking forward to making plans to celebrate this occasion.



Garland workshop



Knitted or crafted 'Iced Buns'

STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Since being elected a year ago, I have worked to represent the 2800 electors of the area. This includes Fenny Compton and 6 other villages. I have attended all Fenny Compton Parish Council meetings, (apart from the last one as the Covid19 emergency began). I try to work closely with the Parish Council and our County Councillor, as often matters require much cooperation.
- **Local Issues**
- Residents will be aware of issues in the village of flooding - the village Aqueous team have a number of projects in hand on this, but two sites involve planning history (the Ridgeway and the old Fenny Compton Buildings site). I have been trying to get progress on these, which has proved difficult and complex. Both have now been made more tricky by Covid19 and being unable to meet to sort out action plans on the ground.
- Excess water from Ridge Way puts the Doctor's surgery at risk and the Fenny Compton Buildings site adds to the long standing problems under the railway bridge. Both are a question of persistence and continuing contact with a number of different bodies.
- Grass cutting was a problem last year, in part because the Orbit housing association initially disputed ownership of some the areas, which I managed to resolve. Because I am not convinced the contractual problems with Orbit are fully fixed, I have put the Parish Council in contact with Orbit to look at longer term solutions.
- I have attended meetings with the MP and HS2 which has now been given the formal go ahead. In the foreseeable future the main effects are likely to be traffic and road diversions. I will continue to represent the best interests of residents.
- The particularly pleasurable occasions in the village that I attended were the open gardens and the Scout's events.
- **District Matters**
- I often find that residents are not really sure about the structure of local government, so I would like to take this opportunity to outline this. The District Council is responsible for planning, refuse collection, environment health, housing, revenue collection, benefits and many other services. While most very local issues do not involve political affiliations, both district and county councils do have a controlling political group decided by elections. In many ways this is just like parliament, where the majority group appoints a Cabinet and a Leader. The main minority group forms an opposition.



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STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

- A year ago the election resulted the Conservative Group having control of the Council with 20 seats out of 36 total. The Liberal Democrats, of which I am one, won 11 seats rising to 12 by means of a recent by-election, with the remaining seats held by independents (presently 3) and 1 Green. The Conservatives have appointed a leader (Tony Jefferson) a deputy and six cabinet members (the equivalent of government ministers) who are responsible for sections of service delivery. The paid staff of the Council (the Officers) deliver the policy and priorities of the ruling group. There is a Liberal Democrat leader of the opposition (Dr Susan Juned). The opposition's job is to hold the ruling group's actions to account in a constructive way.
- At Stratford, most activities result in a level of agreement across the political groupings, for instance the approach to climate change and the Covid-19 outbreak, but some are challenged by the opposition, such as the priorities in the budget, and charges for green waste collections. These issues are debated in the council chamber and are voted upon. (Council debates are available as Web casts.) Many of the matters upon which there is general agreement or regulatory responsibility are discussed and decided at committees and working groups with officers. This year these have included investigating the provision of a future waste processing facility, rural crime, behaviour of councillors and routinely for example planning, audit and licensing.
- One subject that has been potentially significant for Fenny Compton has been the Site Allocations Plan. This plan sets out ideas for possible locations for housing development across the District. Although these sites would be held in reserve, as put forward in the report, this could result in an additional 150-177 houses in Fenny Compton. Working with the Parish Council, I made a formal response that more than 25 homes would not be appropriate, basing this on a number of data sources including traffic flows, site investigations and the emerging neighbourhood plan.
- Most recently there has been the Covid-19 emergency which has been somewhat all-consuming. Although formal meetings have been suspended, Councillors and senior Officers have been meeting by video call at least four times a week on a cross party basis and having many more individual interactions. I have been providing updates where I can via the village Facebook page although I recognise this only reaches a section of the community. Like everyone, I pay tribute to those key workers, many of whom we don't see, keeping us going through present difficult times.
- Generally I have given regular reports over the last year to residents through the Compton Chronical, which I believe at the present time will have to be published electronically. I will continue to work through the current lockdown as effectively as I can, with individual resident's case work problems, and routine planning applications.



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WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- As I write this report in lockdown and self-isolation I reflect back on the past 12 months with disbelief. This time last year Theresa May was our Prime minister, Brexit was about to happen and the country was beginning to lose the shackles imposed by Austerity. The effects of climate change were a prominent influence on all decisions. Since then we have a new Prime Minister, a general election and Brexit has finally happened. We now have to face the worst pandemic this country has ever experienced and whose end is nowhere to be seen. How has all this affected life and Fenny Compton in particular?
- **The County Council**
- As a result of the prudent and often (in my opinion) over cautious financial management the County Council has weathered the effects of austerity and this year's budget was based on an optimistic but achievable 4 year plan and an easing of the purse strings particularly with respect to Adult Care, Public Health and Children's Welfare (including early years provision) was proposed. Climate change was the driver in all departmental Budgets as was the intention to strengthen communities and maintain Warwickshire's reputation as being a good area in which to live.
- At the same time the top management of the County Council had a significant reorganisation. Monica Fogerty became the new Chief Executive and three new directors were appointed into a revised management structure. A new chief fire officer together with a new director of public health was also appointed. As each new director reorganised their "new" departments many senior officers in the organisation were allocated a change in their responsibilities. A few took early retirement and redundancies were minimal. Further reorganisation at a lower level is still being implemented.
- **HS2**
- One of my responsibilities as a County Councillor is lead member for coordination of HS2 activities in Warwickshire. I report to the relevant portfolio holder. The County Council has a team of officers who work directly with HS2 and liaise with the sub contractors, in particular over traffic management. Most of the activities associated with the building of the railway are covered by a hybrid act of parliament. Deviations are dealt with by the WCC team except for some planning decisions when deviation is required from the act. At present the work being carried out are the early preparatory works in preparation for the construction of the line for which permission to proceed has now been given. This early work involves clearing forestry, Archaeological exploration, test pits (e.g. at Wormleighton) and cable laying. The A423 is being used as a main access route to some of the sites.



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WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

■ Flooding

- Over the past 2 years I have worked with your Parish Council to come up with a scheme that will alleviate the flooding problems in the village. We have had joint meetings with the County Council Flood management team and the major scheme involving an enlarged/more effective controlling system and lake is in the process of being revised and forwarded to the environment agency for funding. This funding is allocated by them in accordance with a set of criteria including the number of properties affected. The effect of new housing developments is also creating excess pressure on the highway drainage system. Increased jetting has alleviated some of the worst areas and the WCC highways department are working with other utility providers to resolve this.
- Over the years many ditches have been filled in and the banks of the stream through the village have become overgrown. This together with the change in weather pattern (i.e. more frequent and heavier rain storms) has reduced the capability of dealing with excess water and resulted in flash flooding. Additional housing has added to the problem. Work is continually in hand to rectify this. I hope the next 12 months will see further progress towards a long term solution of all the flooding problems in the village.

■ Highways

- Warwickshire roads are rated by the Highways Authority as being in the top quartile in the UK. From day to day maintaining to longer term planning the underfunded department performs above its weight. The increase in housing together with the growth of the county's industrial base (in particular at JLR) has created more traffic and consequently more speeding in all our villages. At the same time the police force are unable to fully enforce speed limits with their reduced numbers. During the Corona lock down only essential highway work is being undertaken.

■ Fire Service

- Earlier this year I visited the fire station in the village with members of the WCC cabinet. We had a good meaningful discussion and concerns have been fed back. The County, who are the fire authority has a new fire chief who is reviewing the organisation of the management structure and re visiting methods of improving cross fire authority working. Your volunteer fire crew carry out sterling work performing above their weight and are a credit to the village.



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- **Education**

- Over the year the move toward academisation has continued especially with our secondary Schools. Kineton have joined the Stowe Valley MAT joining Bilton and Southam in this expanding trust. Southam college's new Sports Hall is progressing but delayed by the present lockdown. A new head is to be appointed shortly. Dasset Primary school had a good OFSTED and a new head teacher and continues to give their pupils a good start in their education.

- **Climate change**

- Fire, Floods and Famine all featured in the worlds headlines during the past year and were accredited to climate change. A young Swedish girl captured the world's imagination, especially school children, with her campaign to reduce carbon emissions. Local governments in England (including Warwickshire County council) declared a climate change emergency. The county council have established a working group to monitor all the council's activities with respect to their possible effect on the climate and have produced a set of proposals as to how the County council can reduce the Counties carbon footprint. All residents can play their part in improving our atmosphere and save the planet.

- **The year ahead**

- Over the last 2 months everything has changed and the future is uncertain. The corona virus has disrupted the lives and ambitions of the whole nation and here in Warwickshire the county Council have reduced activities on all fronts unless they are connected with fighting the pandemic. The majority of staff are working from home and some have been reassigned to help with the increased social care requirements. Shire Hall is closed for usual business. Information sharing and joint working between all levels of local Government (County District and Parish Councils) as well as the tremendous efforts in all our communities to help the most vulnerable has demonstrated that community spirit is alive and well for which we all deserve credit. Web conferences and home working is becoming the norm and may well continue as we return to normality. However the next few months are unpredictable as the lockdown regulations are modified to meet the ever changing situation and the nation returns to a work ethos, trying to catch up on a lost year.

- Emerging from this crisis I hope we will see a more streamlined local Government that is fit for all as we enter the next decade



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