

APRIL 2022

THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



SPRING HAS ARRIVED!

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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THE COMPTON CHRONICLE

APRIL 2022



What a difference a month makes! First there was pestilence now there is war. Constant news reports of the progress of the Covid-19 virus and stories about Downing Street parties were swiftly replaced when Putin sent his troops into Ukraine. A totally illegal invasion. Seeing the heart-breaking images of women, children and the elderly leaving their country reminded me of the refugees fleeing here from Belgium when the Germans invaded their country in 1914. Please read the article on how we responded with kindness and sanctuary. No visas required then.

Recently, we heard the sad news that Lorna Aldrich had died. She & her husband contributed to Fenny Compton life for many years. We hope to include an obituary in the next edition the magazine.

Happy Easter. Hope you enjoy the school holidays.

Keep safe and well.

The closing date for news & articles
for the May 2022 edition is

Tuesday 12th April 2022

Articles/News to comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk

Advertisers contact Amy Aylward 01295 770 749

Club News & Diary Dates comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk

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Please note that the views expressed in this magazine are those of the contributor and not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team. The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit any copy received.

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SELLING OR RENTING A PROPERTY? DID YOU KNOW YOU THAT YOU ARE LEGALLY REQUIRED TO HAVE AN ENERGY PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE?

AN EPC IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR ALL RENTED PROPERTY (BOTH DOMESTIC AND NON-DOMESTIC).
PROPERTIES MUST HAVE A MINIMUM EPC RATING OF 'E' OR FACE FINES.

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AN EPC MUST BE IN PLACE BEFORE A PROPERTY IS MARKETED FOR SALE. NEW REGULATIONS MEAN THAT A LOW ENERGY RATING (BELOW 'E') MIGHT EFFECT A MORTGAGE APPLICATION, ESPECIALLY FOR A 'BUY TO LET' MORTGAGE.

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AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Trevor Gill www.avondassettparishcouncil.com

Clerk: Vacant avondassett.clerk@googlemail.com

Clerk Vacancy: Applications have been received for the position of Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer and, following an interview and assessment process, it is hoped that a candidate will be appointed. Until a suitable candidate is found, the duties will continue to be covered by existing Councillors.

Land South of Bitham Hall: A number of residents attended the Parish Council meeting to express interest in the community purchasing a substantial piece of agricultural land near the centre of the village. It was noted that if the land could be secured, it could be used to accommodate a number of the needs identified in the draft Parish Plan including allotments, a dog walking field and the preservation of natural beauty. A questionnaire was designed and issued to every household to seek levels of interest in participating in a community purchase and it was agreed to form an independent Steering Committee to be chaired by Cllr Phil Baxter.

The Playground: The area around the entry gate to the Playground will be reinstated as soon as possible.

Reading Room: Two air purifiers were provided by Warwickshire County Council, to help to encourage the safe use of the Reading Room. In addition, a smart meter has been installed.

Green Areas: The contract for mowing green areas, the Cemetery and Playground has been awarded to Frank Mann Farmers.

St John's Church: A meeting on 15th March considered how toilets could be provided, lighting improved, and CCTV installed. A progress report is expected.

Community Speedwatch: This will commence once a risk assessment has been received from the Police.

War Memorial: Quotations for repairs to the War Memorial are being sought.

Roads and Drains: Following reports of blocked drains, a request has been made to the Highways Authority to have the drains jetted to clear the obstructions.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: *See article.*

Refuse Collection: Refuse collection arrangements are scheduled to change in August with the general waste in grey bins being collected every three weeks and the provision of food caddies which will be collected weekly. There are no planned changes to the green bin service.

Parish Plan: A copy of the Plan has been sent to Stratford District Council for consideration and approval at a meeting on 23rd May following which it will be printed and distributed.

Next Meetings

Monday 4th April 2022 & Monday 9th May 2022

at 7:30pm

in The Reading Room

FENNY COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Jon Dutton 771 174 fcpc.chair@gmail.com www.fennycompton-pc.gov.uk
Clerk: Lydia Cox 07789 822 180 fcpc.clerk@gmail.com

The March meeting had not taken place when the magazine went to press. Below are items from the February meeting.

Flood Prevention: Flood prevention works are being offered to individual properties by Wardell Armstrong. The County Council and the Environment Agency are backing this and it is a one-off opportunity to have this work funded. If you have not been contacted but believe your home is at risk, please contact the Clerk who will see whether you can be included in the scheme. *See Aqueous article.*

Playground: See the electronic survey that we will shortly be sending out to ask for suggestions of what you would like to see on the sports field.

Street Lighting: The electricity provider has been changed to reduce costs and the Council are evaluating quotes to convert all the lights to LED.

Next Meeting
Monday 25th April 2022
at 7:45pm
in The Village Hall
All residents welcome

FARNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Peter Johnston www.farnboroughparishcouncil.co.uk
Clerk: Kirsty Buttle 01295 275 372 farnboroughpc@outlook.com

The March meeting had not taken place when the magazine went to press.

Minutes: Full Minutes are available via the Parish Council website and the village notice boards.

The next meeting will be held in May.

ROADWORKS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA

Wednesday 30th March - Friday 1st April:

Wormleighton – 24-hour Road Closure at junction with road leading to Priors Hardwick - HS2

Friday 1st April - Saturday 30th April:

Wormleighton Road - 2-way Traffic Control - HS2

Monday 4th April – Wednesday 6th April:

Banbury Road near Shotteswell - Traffic Control (multi-way signals) - Warwickshire County Council

Monday 2nd May – Friday 6th May:

Dog Lane Fenny Compton - Road closure from for sewer repair.

Monday 11th April - Monday 6th June:

Mollington March Road, Traffic Control (2-way) - Thames Water

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WhatsApp jopayne15@gmail.com for further details, prices and availability. Competitive prices as we only want to cover our ground rent, expenses etc.

The "Merrie Men" Gentlemen's Lunches

*** £15 per head for a 3-course lunch ***

Held on the 1st Friday of every month at the Merrie Lion, Fenny Compton.

We meet at 12:30pm in the pub, with the meal being served at 1:00pm.

Our Gentlemen's Lunches are run as light-hearted and informal events.

We also hold a charity pot (with no obligation to donate!) to raise funds for local causes, events, and other charitable organisations.

If you would like to join us, either contact us directly (merriemenlunch@gmail.com or Mark Magor 07939-633947) or pop in / call the Merrie Lion the day before the lunch at the latest and ask for your name to be added to the Merrie Men Lunch in the Diary.



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Monday

Adult Ballet Fitness (no exp req)
10.45am - 11.45am
Dance Fitness (Over 50's)
11.45am - 12.30pm

Saturday

Prima Ballerinas (3-5 yrs)
9.00am - 9.45am
Gymnastics (3-6 yrs)
9.45am - 10.15am
Intro to Ballet (5-7 yrs)
10.15am - 11.15am
Gymnastics 2 (6-8 yrs)
11.00am - 11.30am
Pre Primary Ballet (7-9 yrs)
11.30am - 12.15pm
Primary Ballet (9-10 yrs)
12.15pm - 1.00pm

Saturday

Primary Modern & Street (6-9 yrs)
1.00pm - 1.30pm
Gymnastics 3 (8 yrs+)
1.30pm - 2.00pm
Grade 1 Ballet (10-11 yrs)
2.00pm - 2.45pm
Grade 1 Modern (10-12 yrs)
2.45pm - 3.15pm
Grade 2 Ballet (11-12 yrs)
3.15pm - 4.00pm
Grade 2 Modern (13 yrs+)
4.00pm - 4.30pm
Grade 3 Modern (14 yrs+)
4.30pm - 5.00pm
Grade 3 Ballet (12-13 yrs)
5.00pm - 5.45pm
Grade 4 Ballet (14 yrs+)
5.45pm - 6.30pm

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NAPTON AND FENNY COMPTON WARD STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Waste Collections: Those residents who wish to have, or continue to have, green waste collections will need to pay the new fee of £42 per year per bin. There is no discount for paying early as there was last year. If you ticked a box last year you, should get a reminder, but you can subscribe for the service online at www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/subscribe-for-garden-waste-service.cfm or call 01789 267 575. The new waste collection system is to operate from August. An outline of the scheme's operation can be found at www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/123-waste-collections.cfm but more information for residents should be coming out in coming months.

Boundary Review: I am very disappointed with the outcome of the Boundary Review that will come into effect if the Council's request to merge with Warwick District Council is denied by the Government. Despite the contrary views of nearly all representation locally, some very strange District Ward areas have been decided upon. For us it creates a very large Ward covering our villages, with added areas - to include across to Bishops Itchington and down to Shotteswell. The new ward will be shared between two councillors. The review also divides up Southam parish in a most unsatisfactory way, combining parts with Stockton and Long Itchington. See:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/west-midlands/warwickshire/stratford-on-avon

The emphasis is on arithmetic numbers of electors rather than community representation and connections. Even the Commission themselves say, 'We acknowledge that there was strong local opposition to these proposals'.

The re-introduction of two councillor wards for just two very rural areas gives an inconsistent level of representation. These split wards are only here and in Kineton across the whole District. It is a backwards move and means that residents will be less clear about who their representative is and discriminates against the rural areas with some wards having many parish councils to liaise across - an almost impossible task.

Covid-19: Covid-19 infection rates are now back to be about same rates during the months before peak at the New Year. Local hot spots still flare up and there has been a slight upsurge generally and in the over 60s at the time of writing.

Ambulance waiting times continue to be a concern. At Coventry University Hospital, Walsgrave just under half of patients have been waiting more than 30 minutes to get into A&E. I repeat the many thanks to our health and care workers, and, personally, I shall continue to be cautious to protect them and others as much as I can in my behaviour despite the lifting of government restrictions.

Ukraine: The dreadful situation in Ukraine is of deep concern. The Home Office is working on visa and entry schemes for Ukrainian refugees although at the time of writing the response has been slow and unsatisfactory. Communities in Warwickshire have responded with customary generosity and offers to help. From experience with recent refugee arrivals, local Council officials know that there could be a sudden

acceleration in numbers of refugees at short notice. Depending on numbers, there may be pressures in terms of housing supply and additional educational needs such as English as an additional language.

Councils continue to monitor cyber security controls given the increased risk of attack from Russia. Private citizens and businesses should bear this in mind and keep their computer security measures up to date. The National Cyber Security Centre www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home shares messages and reminders about good cyber security practices.

The WCC Pension Fund has 0.18% (£5m) of its assets invested in Russia. The fund is committed to ceasing further investments in Russia and is looking at a divestment strategy.

Council Tax: The expected Council Tax levels reported last month were confirmed at meetings in February. The resulting tax figures - Band D property examples are:

	2021/22	2022/23	Increase
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£149.12	£154.12	3.35%
Warwickshire County Council	£1,533.51	£1,590.93	3.74%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£252.96	£262.71	3.85%
Sub-total	£1,935.59	£2,007.76	3.73%
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£65.17	£66.08	1.40%
TOTAL	£2,000.76	£2,073.84	3.65%

Cllr Nigel Rock

Contact details in The Directory

VILLAGE TEXTILE HANGING FOR CHURCH

The community groups in Fenny Compton met in St Peter and St Clare Church on 12th February to discuss a textile collage hanging for the south door. The design and materials were decided, with a backing to which panels representing the various groups that make up village life are included. The So Sew group will contribute advice and some help.

Any group in Fenny Compton and Avon Dassett, which is also in the parish, is invited to be a part of this curtain, even if you were not at the planning meeting. Please contact Lesley Bosman 07813 299 194 or lesleybosman@hotmail.com to express your interest.

CABARET FOR UKRAINE

Save the Date. 'Come to the Cabaret' with award-winning actress and singer Janie Dee and pianist Stephen Higgins. 7pm on Saturday 7th May at Gredenton, Dog Lane, Fenny Compton. Songs by Sondheim, Gershwin, Cabaret and much more. Tickets £40 pp from jim@jimpeers.co.uk to include fizz and nibbles. All proceeds for the benefit of Ukrainian refugees.

LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

The Power of Sharing a Meal and talking together

Over the past few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about what it means to share a meal with someone. Over the years, I have shared many meals at *Just-a-Bite* in Fenny Compton and *Pensioners Lunch* in Northend, not to mention the numerous, Harvest meals, Burns Night and Passover meals. As I sit down to these meals both with people I know quite well and with others I barely know at all, it has been wonderful to see how the food on the table brings us together - it lightens the mood, it shifts the dynamic, develops rapport and it strengthens the bonds that we are building.

The food can become a topic of conversation and leads to discovering shared experiences and interests. At one of these meals, someone humorously recounted his childhood when he was the slowest eater in his family, and everyone would have to sit and wait for him to be finished before they could move on to dessert. At a community Christmas dinner, a number of us discussed a shared love of Brussels sprouts, whilst others groaned. Both of these moments were full of joy and deepened friendships.

The connections that are built when sharing a meal, whether it is with your family or with others, are powerful. Food is not only meant to sustain and nourish us, but it's also meant to fulfil us. It's intended to be pleasurable and enjoyable and to offer social connection. Church services are meant to be like this - to refresh us, feed us spiritually, to build community and communion together. But all too often that is not the case. People feel the services we hold are old fashioned, too formal and quite alien. *Most people I know aren't looking for a church that answers all of their questions, but rather a space in which they feel safe to ask them.* I have often been asked if we could hold a more informal, easy-going, family friendly *gathering* where they can ask questions, explore what Faith is and where parents can relax if the children are children. I call it a *gathering* because *service* speaks of formality.

Well, we have done just that. We have started "Breakfast - *food for thought*" to be held on the 4th Sunday of every month in Fenny Compton Village Hall (because it has a kitchen to prepare

breakfast). We start at 10am with a breakfast of tea, coffee, fruit-juice, croissants and brioche and at around 10.30am, as we continue breakfast, we go into a very informal, easy-going family friendly, all-age faith gathering. There will be quizzes and simple colouring or a craft to ponder on if you wish over breakfast and each month we will choose a different topic to discuss which is relevant to us all. In February being the month with Valentine's Day we talked about love, in March it

Breakfast †
...food for thought

...family friendly faith
...easy-going
...very informal

...Tea, Coffee
...Fruit juice
...Croissants
...Brioche

10am, 4th Sunday each month
Fenny Compton Village Hall

was Mothering Sunday and we talked about Mothers and those who have cared for and nurtured us. Come along and find out what topic we choose this month.

Sharing meals is a fundamental component to our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Over meals we can talk, be silent and listen, ask questions, eat, drink and be merry. So as we sit down for breakfast, whether with family, friends, or neighbours, I hope that we are able to savour not only the flavours on our palates, but also the connections that we build.

Rev'd Nicki

AVON DASSETT COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY

www.avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk

The Yew Tree has been trading very well during the early months of the year, which are traditionally quiet for the pub trade. Weekends, Sunday lunches and special events such as live music nights and St Patrick's Day proving very popular. It is good to see so many new faces using the pub and testimony to Jack and his team together they are achieving their aim of making the Yew Tree a 'destination pub' once more.

Quiz nights have also been well supported on alternate Sunday evenings and the inclusion of music bingo and 'Play your Cards Right' with drinks and cash prizes have introduced more lively aspects to the evenings.

Despite the interruption to business caused by Covid the Society has had a successful trading year. After paying interest on shareholdings for the first time we have finished the year in profit and have submitted our accounts to our accountants to finalise. Once we have received the final accounts, we will schedule the AGM.

Bridge Club: The Bridge Club continues to be well attended All are welcome to join. Bridge Nights are held at The Yew Tree on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Walking Group: The Walking Group has introduced a second group aimed at those who want to participate but do not want to complete the usual 4-5-mile walk. Both groups aim to meet around 10:50am for an 11am start on the third Thursday of each month, outside The Yew Tree. Following the walks, lunch is available at the pub and non-walkers can join us for lunch at approx. 1pm.



Shares are still available to new investors and application details together with further information about the Benefit Society address above.

AVON DASSETT GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th April at 7:30pm in Farnborough Village Hall. Our speaker will be Sue Bedwell talking about 'Making more of your Plants'. Those of you who have heard Sue talk before, will know that she is always a very entertaining and informative speaker.

As always, non-members are most welcome at a cost of £2.





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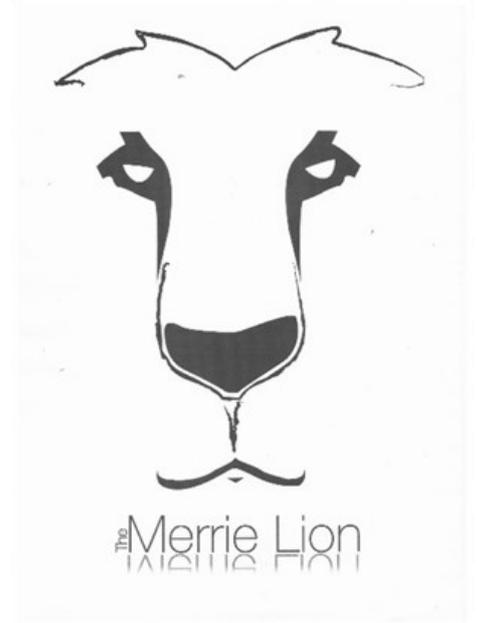
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Wednesday Quiz Nights

6th and 20th April

7.30pm start £2 per person. Chilli & chips for all players

Fizz for the winning team

Come along and support your local

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APRIL 2022 DIARY

FRIDAY	1		
SATURDAY	2	9:30am-11:30am 7:30pm	Craft & Produce Market – Yew Tree, AD Quiz Evening - Farnborough Village Hall
SUNDAY	3	11:00am 11:00am	Holy Communion - FC St Peter & St Clare BCP Communion – Burton Dasset Church
MONDAY	4	7:30pm	Avon Dasset PC Meeting - AD Reading Room
TUESDAY	5		
WEDNESDAY	6	9:45am-11:45am 11:00am-12:30pm	Tots & Toddlers Group - FC Village Hall Coffee Morning - Avon Dasset Reading Room
THURSDAY	7		
FRIDAY	8		SCHOOL SPRING TERM ENDS
SATURDAY	9	2:00pm-4:00pm	So Sew And Make Group - FC Village Hall
SUNDAY	10	9:00am-12:00pm 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	PALM SUNDAY Fenny Compton Footpath Group - <i>see article</i> Holy Communion - FC St Peter & St Clare BCP Communion - Northend Chapel Of Ease Evensong - Farnborough
MONDAY	11		
TUESDAY	12	1:00pm	Over 60s Lunch - Merrie Lion, Fenny Compton
WEDNESDAY	13	7:30pm 7:30pm	RECYCLING COLLECTION Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, Avon Dasset WI Meeting - Fenny Compton Village Hall
THURSDAY	14		
FRIDAY	15		GOOD FRIDAY
SATURDAY	16	2:00pm-4:00pm	So Sew And Make Group - FC Village Hall
SUNDAY	17	10:00am 11:00am 11:00am	EASTER SUNDAY BCP Communion – Farnborough Morning Prayer - FC St Peter & St Clare Holy Communion - Northend Chapel Of Ease
MONDAY	18	12:00pm-1:30pm	EASTER MONDAY Just A Bite Lunch - FC Village Hall
TUESDAY	19	7:30pm	AD Gardening Club - AD Reading Room
WEDNESDAY	20		
THURSDAY	21	11:00am	Avon Dasset Walking Group - Yew Tree, AD
FRIDAY	22	10:30am-12:00pm 7:30pm	Carers4Carers - Kineton Village Hall Dulcimer Concert - FC Church

FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

COFFEE MORNINGS: WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS FROM 10:30AM UNTIL MIDDAY

DIGITAL CHURCH VIA ZOOM EVERY WEEK

MORNING PRAYER: 9:30AM MON TO FRI / EVENING PRAYER: 6:00PM MON TO FRI
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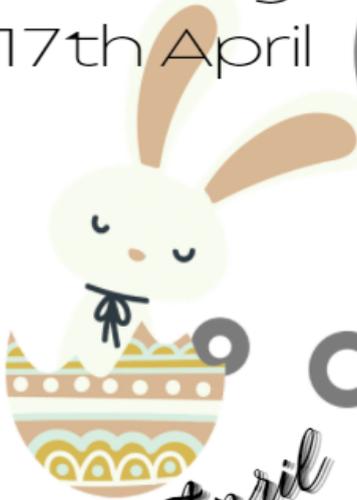


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*It's national
pet month!*

kids

Easter
Sunday
17th April



*25th April
World
Penguin
Day*

What's
on in
April?

22nd April
World Earth Day

What will you do
for Earth Day?



Plant a tree!

Pick up litter!

Recycle!

*Why don't you see penguins in Britain?
Because they're afraid of Wales.*

*Why did the penguin cross the road?
It was the chicken's day off.*

*What do penguins have for lunch?
Icebergers.*

*What do you get when a penguin lays an
egg on a hill?
An eggroll.*



pages



I see a bird with a black bib
and grey crown,
the feathers on it's back
are streaky brown
-It's a house sparrow!



I see a bird that's covered
in blue, with yellow on it's
chest and a green back too
-It's a blue tit!

Little Makes: Wild bird feeder



Simply mix all your edible
ingredients together
squish the mix into balls
with your hands.

Put the balls into the fruit
netting, attach the string,
and tie to a tree away
from cats

Ingredients:
Good quality bird seed
Raisins
Peanuts
Grated cheese
Suet or lard
mesh fruit bags
String
Mixing bowl
Scissors

Find more great ideas here:

www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/games-and-activities

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.....APRIL 2022 DIARY

SATURDAY	23	2:00pm-4:00pm	ST GEORGE'S DAY So Sew And Make Group - FC Village Hall
SUNDAY	24	10:00am 10:00am 10:30am 11:00am 2:00pm	Morning Prayer – Farnborough Breakfast - Food For Thought - FC VH Methodist Service - FC St Peter & St Clare Morning Prayer - Northend Chapel of Ease Bowls Open Day - Fenny Compton
MONDAY	25	7:45pm	SCHOOL SUMMER TERM STARTS Fenny Compton PC Meeting - FC Village Hall
TUESDAY	26		
WEDNESDAY	27	9:45am-11:45am 6:00pm	RECYCLING COLLECTION Tots & Toddlers Group - FC Village Hall Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, Avon Dassett
THURSDAY	28		
FRIDAY	29		
SATURDAY	30		

KINETON CATHOLIC CHURCH MASS

**WEEKLY ON MONDAYS AT 10:00AM AND SUNDAYS AT 11:00AM
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MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

FENNY COMPTON	NORTHEND	FARNBOROUGH
Station Road; Grants Close	Memorial; The Prebend	Village Hall Car Park
No visit in April	No visit in April	19 th April
		10:00-10:45am

POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES

AVON DASSETT	FENNY COMPTON	NORTHEND
Monday & Wednesday 9:15am-10:00am	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9:00am-10:00am	Monday & Wednesday 10:20am-1:00pm

MID ENGLAND BARROW

COFFEE MORNINGS: EVERY THURSDAY 10:00AM-11:00AM

FENNY COMPTON METHODISTS

COFFEE AFTERNOONS: WEEKLY ON FRIDAYS AT 4:00PM - FC VILLAGE HALL



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Sunday 12-10pm

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OVER 60S

The Over 60s organised a lunch at The Merrie Lion on Tuesday 8th March which was much enjoyed. In future a lunch will be held on the second Tuesday **Over 60s** of the month at The Merrie Lion instead of meetings at the Village Hall. The next lunch date will be Tuesday 12th April at 12:30pm for 1pm.

Anyone wishing to join us will be made most welcome. Please ring Carol Walker 770 410 or Mollie Hill 271 570 for further details.



The Just a Bite Lunch will be on Monday 18th April, a light lunch of homemade soup, a roll and cheese will be served from 12 noon to 1:30 pm in Fenny Compton Village Hall. The cost will be £5 with tea, coffee, and homemade cake is also available.

JUST A BITE

AQUEOUS

Our flood protection scheme progresses with the initial consultation period closed and now moving to property surveys. The County Council will then appoint contractors to undertake the flood resilience measures.

There are still other areas around the Surgery and in Memorial Road where additional action is required to prevent the highway flooding. Look out for further updates over the forthcoming few months.

Finally, we will be surveying the watercourse to see what work needs doing this year. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact us.

See The Directory for contact details

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE LITERARY FESTIVAL

24th September sees Fenny hosting the first South Warwickshire Literary Festival. We will have a day of authors, speakers, and workshops plus a Q&A session to round off the event.

For more information, please visit us on Twitter @SouthWarksLF & Instagram @swlitfest or contact us at southwarwickshirelitfest@gmail.com.



More details to follow in the coming weeks.

CARERS4CARERS

The next meeting is on Friday 22nd April 10:30am-12noon at Kineton Village Hall. You are welcome to join us for coffee, biscuits, and friendly chat. This month, come along and get creative with a local potter. Relax, explore and have fun! Your loved ones will also be able to attend our Companionship Group while you are with us.

Pre-booking for both the meeting and Companionship Group are essential.

For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport, please phone Gillian on 01926 640 203 or 07947 893 504 or email kcarers4carers@gmail.com. Take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.



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FENNY COMPTON FOOTPATH GROUP

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Footpath Group. Three of us are founding members and my 25-year-old Footpath Group T-shirt still fits. The Footpath Group was initiated by Warwickshire County Council and was originally only meant to run for 3 years as a county-wide project to get the footpaths and bridleways in good order.



The reality is that it is never ending, last March we replaced a rotten stile in Farnborough that we originally installed over 15 years ago. The way forward may be to start using plastic ‘wood’, made from recycled plastic for stiles and marker posts. It would look good and in theory lasts forever. We also built a sleeper bridge off The Slade and the end of the path from Farnborough. We had more volunteers turn out than I had anticipated so we soon had the two jobs finished then we rounded the morning off with our annual winter breakfast on the edge of a field. Quite a successful morning.

Warwickshire County Council and Radway Parish Council have asked us for help, read all about it next month. The last thing we did in Fenny Compton is to add an additional step to the stile at the field behind the doctors’ surgery where the horses live. They had been escaping over the stile so somebody added a higher top rail, the new step should enable you to get over it.

I am very pleased with how effective the drain we put in at the path alongside the allotments. It keeps the path dry and solid with negligible effect on the adjacent ditch. We only did the worst half of the path but may return to do the rest. Rainfall this winter has been very low, so we have avoided most of the problems of walkers choosing to walk in the crops rather on the muddy paths.

There are about 10 of us in the Group and we meet up every 4th Sunday from 9am to 12noon. The work is not hard or difficult, but it is very rewarding and helps to keep the paths in good order. If you like the sound of it and want to try it out call me on 770 644. Equipment and on the job training is provided and there is no obligation to be available for every session. We are also on Facebook so you can follow us there for regular updates on what we have been doing.

Brian Peers

SOUTHAM INDOOR MARKET

The Southam Indoor Market is held on the third Saturday of the month from 10am to 12:30pm at the Grange Hall Southam CV47 1QA . It has a good range of stalls featuring local producers and crafters: food, drink, homewares, gifts, pet products, plants, baking, chocolate, honey, and other tasty treats. Free entry, car parking and refreshments available. The next market, on Saturday 16th April, is an Easter special

SOUTHAM FRENCH STREET MARKET

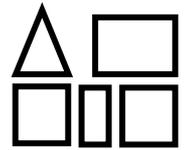
To be held in the main street of Southam Sunday 24th April, 10am-4pm., this is a traditional French market with lots of fresh tasty produce, including bread, croissants, patisserie, saucisson, olives, street food, plus local crafts, and artisan producers.

ABACUS

The children have been busy, making things for Mother's Day, and practicing songs for our Easter Bonnet parade and talking about our favourite books.

We are looking forward to the warmer weather so we can spend more time outside.

Do not forget to register your child if you wish them to start in September, it is never too early and helps us to plan staffing levels. Please contact us for an informal chat and a registration form. *Contact details in The Directory.*



RURAL CINEMA

We are delighted to be able to resume cinema in Fenny Compton Village Hall this month albeit with some slight changes. The film is *West Side Story 2021*, which will be shown on Sunday 24th April. Doors open at 3:30pm for a 4pm start.



Please email cinema@fcvh.org.uk or text 07850 630 401 if you would like to reserve seats. The normal ticket price is now £3.50. By joining our email list, you have an opportunity to suggest and vote for your preferred films. Latest information on our Events Blog, fcvhevents.blogspot.co.uk and to those on the email list.

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FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

Skittle Evening: The end of restrictions to combat Covid-19 came at just the right time for the planned Skittle Evening on Saturday 26th February. The Village Hall was packed with all ages (33 adults and 8 children) enjoying an evening of bowling accompanied by BYO drinks plus hot dogs and burgers.

An added bonus was that the person providing the equipment was retiring and the Village Hall Committee was able to purchase it. So now we have a Skittle Alley that can be hired out to residents for their own parties, and it also ensures that The Skittle Evening can remain an annual feature, possibly even biannual, as it seemed so popular.

Quiz Evening: Saturday 2nd April. This has already been advertised in the March issue, so you may be too late to book a table. However, it is worth a message to Kathy Middleton if you still want to come, there just may be a free table. Doors open at 7pm for a prompt 7:30pm start with teams of up to six people at £10 per head.

In the past a hot supper has been served, but after much consideration the Committee has decided that this not only adds to the expense of the evening but makes it a very late finish. It has therefore been decided that quizzers should bring their own drinks, glasses, and snacks.

Tabletop Sale: A Tabletop Sale will be held at 10:30pm-2pm on Sunday 15th May. Rent a table for £15 to sell items of your choice. Contact Kathy Middleton to book a table.

FARNBOROUGH COFFEE MORNINGS

The regular Tuesday Coffee Morning 10:30am-12 noon at Farnborough Village Hall was a little different on March 1st as visitors were greeted with pancakes with a variety of toppings to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

Do call in - though it will be just coffee and biscuits most weeks. We have a lively group of people and coffee is accompanied by much conversation and some laughter. Also do not forget, every three weeks the County Mobile Library stops in the carpark from 10am until 10:45am, so you can kill two birds with one stone, or even join the library free of charge if you are not already a member.



DULCIMER CONCERT

Come along to the unique experience of Damian Clarke performing Dulcimer Folk Music on Friday 22nd April in St. Peter and St. Clare Church in Fenny Compton. Damian, a leading player of this unusual instrument, will also be displaying his art for sale in the church from 4pm that day.

The performance will start at 7.30pm and tickets including a glass of wine and nibbles will cost £10. To book a ticket, please contact either Lesley Bosman 07813 299 194 or Cherie Southgate 770 101 or come and pay at the door. All proceeds of the concert are for the Fenny Church Fabric Fund.

WI

What a lovely evening we all enjoyed at our last meeting on 9th March! One of our members had painstakingly cut out different sized felt flowers and provided each of us with a wire hoop already padded in order to make our Easter wreaths. There was a choice of materials to cover the hoops and then to stitch on the flowers which we each assembled in our own way. We were all delighted with the results and what a colourful collection was assembled at the end of the evening, each very different from each other.



The planting of our Centenary Garden is now complete, and we look forward to a colourful display later in the year.

Next month, on 13th April at 7:30pm in Fenny Compton Village Hall we will be having a talk by Angela Cloke entitled 'Meningitis- a Life Changing Experience'. As always guests are very welcome to attend.

Guests are welcome to any of our meetings, anyone wanting further information can contact our Secretary Deborah Lea, details in *The Directory*.

BOWLS CLUB

A new season approaches, and Fenny will be competing in the Kineton & District League again this year. For a small club we continue to outperform much larger clubs.

This year we will opening the green on Sunday 24th April. The afternoon will be open for newcomers either players who have moved to area or those who would like to come and try. New members in recent years are hooked and wish they have started playing earlier. So come and give it ago you may be our next star player. Look out for more details on the village social media pages.

FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mature Driver Review: Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership supports Warwickshire residents to carry on driving safely for as long as possible. If you are a driver aged 70+ with over twenty years of driving experience, you are invited to take the free Mature Driver Review. More information at <https://bit.ly/3I4vTAt>

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Share: Please share your scam/crime experiences with your neighbours – email watch@fcvh.org.uk or post on NextDoor nextdoor.co.uk and have a look at the local NW app for information and support <https://app.sdnw.org.uk/>

THE SURGERY

If you have called the surgery recently, you will no doubt have been surprised at the wait for a routine appointment, whether that is on the phone or face to face. We are experiencing unprecedented demand for our services at a time when a number of our team have tested positive for Covid-19. Both these factors are affecting our ability to help – although if your issue is urgent, we will always try to offer an appointment on the day. This is particularly true for children and vulnerable patients.

We recently performed an audit on the number of consultations we are completing daily. When we compared the number in February 2019 pre the Covid-19 pandemic, to February 2022, there had been a 30% increase in the number of patients we are helping/number of consults being performed/workload relating just to patient contacts.

You may be offered an appointment with the extended access service, which has evening & weekend appointments across the area. We know some patients cannot travel to these sites, but telephone calls are available. Alternatively, a pharmacist can often give advice on minor ailments.

Please remember that it is not the fault of the receptionist that you cannot be given an appointment sooner. The levels of abuse towards staff are again increasing and we have a duty of care to ensure our staff work in an environment that is free of abuse and aggression. We are doing all we can to improve the number of appointments available and we thank you for your understanding at this time.

Drs Marshall & Sharples

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Queen ascended the throne last month becoming our longest serving monarch. What is being planned to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in our villages? There will be a four-day celebration from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June.

Avon Dassett: The organising Committee has planned four days of fun activities in the Village from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The programme of activities has something for everyone and includes a sing-along of songs over the decades; decorating the village; a treasure hunt; vintage teas; a summer ball; a sports day; planting a tree; a pottery installation; and a memento for every household. Anyone interested in joining the volunteers organising events should contact Cllr Liz Hirst.

Farnborough: The Queen's Jubilee will be celebrated in Farnborough on Saturday 4th June with the opportunity for residents to gather with a picnic in or around the Village Hall. Fizz provided for a Royal Toast, competitions for the children and possibly a children's Fancy Dress Parade.

Fenny Compton: Is anyone planning anything to commemorate this occasion?

AVON DASSETT POP-UP CRAFT & PRODUCE MARKET

Next market is the Easter event on Saturday 2nd April 9:30m-11:30am! Lots of great stalls, breakfasts at The Yew Tree and raises money for charity as well!

Belgian Refugees

On the outbreak of war in August 1914, local and national newspapers began detailing the tremendous difficulties the Belgian people experienced as the German Army invaded their country. The Times on 24th August 1914 stated:

'Not only has the best Belgian blood been freely shed, not only has the capital of Belgium been sullied by foreign occupation, her flag trodden under foot, and extortionate blackmail levied on her wealth, but her fields and homesteads, towns and hamlets, factories and furnaces, the very bases of her prosperity, have been devastated.'

Belgians had fled their homes in advance of the German army and were stranded as refugees in the parts of Belgium not yet occupied. The Times supported and encouraged the Government to send practical aid. Within a few weeks, as Germany overran the whole of Belgium, thousands of Belgian refugees crossed the English Channel causing immense logistical problems for the Local Authorities in the South Coast ports. It was clear that such numbers could not be dealt with properly by their limited resources. The call went out requesting assistance for the Belgian refugees and people throughout the country responded.

Many charities advertised in The Times appealing for money and clothing but two, in particular, were set up to aid the Belgians. The Belgian Relief Fund assisted Belgians who, though displaced from their homes, had remained in their own country. The War Refugees Committee, with the Hon. Mrs Alfred Lyttleton and Lady Lugard as Honorary Secretaries, aimed to support those who had fled to England. Throughout the Autumn of 1914, the Leamington Courier reported regularly on the activities of the various local support organisations that had been established in Leamington. The Belgian Relief Fund provided clothing and the Belgian Refugees Hospitality Fund, presided over by the Mayoress, was set up to house and board Belgian refugees.

Many villages in South Warwickshire responded to the national requests for assistance and Fenny Compton responded quicker than most. On 16th September 1914, a public meeting chaired by the Rector, Rev Brown, was held in the Schoolroom *'to consider the question of showing hospitality to a Belgium Refugee family'*. Rev E Gordon Savile, General Secretary Church of England Men's Society who regularly commuted to London from the village, explained the position of the Belgium Refugees and it was agreed to form a committee to make the arrangements to lodge and board a family. The meeting was well-attended and nearly all present took away cards on which offers of help could be made. At the meeting, local farmer, George Cotterill offered the use of a four-roomed house rent-free for twelve months or longer if needed. This home was part of The Woad House on Bridge Street.

Whilst women did not usually sit on village committees, for this particular cause,

women were included, albeit the wives of the most prominent men in the village. The Committee members were Mrs Margaret Savile, Mrs Annie Elkington, Mrs Sybil Dickins, Mrs Elizabeth Guest Brown, Mr John Thomason, Mr John Pollard and the Rev E Gordon Savile. The War Refugee Committee in London was contacted with details of the support the village were willing to offer.

By the first meeting of the Committee, twenty-two people had promised donations in money towards furnishing the house and fifty-four had offered to give regular weekly subscriptions in money. In addition, there were thirty-five offers of gifts of furniture and a further ten offered the loan of useful articles. The Parish Magazine reported '*as most of these promises were made on behalf of husband and wife, it shows that ... the great majority of the people of Fenny Compton have joined in this scheme of co-operative kindness.*'

There were only a few weeks to prepare The Woad House as, on October 8th, the Scheers family arrived at the Station to be met by Mrs Guest Brown and Mr Pollard on behalf of the village. Mr Scheers, who spoke no English, was introduced to the village as 'small peasant proprietor' whose home was situated between Louvian and Malines to the south east of Brussels. Mr Scheers had been widowed in November 1913. He had nine children but only six arrived at Fenny Compton with him. Two sons were serving with the Belgian Army and his 14-year-old daughter, Marie, had become separated from the family in the confusion of their hurried departure. There were obvious language difficulties at first. It was only after about a month that Mr Scheers managed to advise the Committee of his anxiety about his lost daughter and sought their help in finding her. Contact was made with the Registrar for Refugees in London who eventually was able to trace the girl. The Parish Magazine for February 1915 reported that she had been discovered safe in Brussels, working for friends of her family.

On October 19th, the five younger children started at the school, the Headmaster having consulted the Director of Education but their names do not appear in the School Roll Book. The eldest daughter of the family moved to Oxford where she had been found work. Mr Scheers began work in the village as a labourer.

Throughout the autumn of 1914, the newspapers continued to report on the exodus of refugees from Belgium and it was estimated that about 100,000 Belgians had fled to England. Folkestone in Kent was described as a town of refugees. The Times special correspondent reported on 16th October 1914 of the arrival in Folkestone of the last refugees from Ostend. He described the docking of ships of all shapes and sizes crowded with refugees who '*cheered wildly as they entered the harbour*'. The captain of the tramp steamer, Kenilworth, had taken on board everyone he could find in Ostend. Her decks were so closely packed with refugees that they had been scarcely able to move during the 17-hour journey. Others had had to make the crossing in the lifeboats and the hold. When the passengers were counted, it was found that 2,263 had been on board. *To be continued next month*

Jennifer Cranfield

FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE TEAS

Village Teas have been a large part of Farnborough Summers, not only for residents but for visitors and especially visitors to Farnborough Hall. However, the team running the Wednesday sessions, with funds going to St. Botolph's Church, can sadly no longer operate due to insufficient numbers of helpers.

We are eager to keep this tradition going, but even the Saturday sessions will be difficult to maintain with the few people we have available to make up teams. Such a small number of volunteers cannot be expected to give up every Saturday throughout the summer. We are therefore only opening on Saturday 9th April and Saturday 16th April 2:30pm-5:30pm, and if we are to continue will hope to get more volunteers. So please help! If you want Village Teas to continue, both as an asset to the village and a fund raiser, we need volunteers to make up teams to serve in The Village Hall and to make cakes.

FENNY COMPTON CHURCH FETE

By kind permission of Mrs Bino Polk, the Church Fete will take place in the beautiful gardens of The Lodge on 17th September at 1pm-4pm.



Please mark the date and, as ever, we would be so grateful for volunteers and contributions to make this a truly memorable and successful event, having been thwarted by Covid-19 back in 2020.

More details of stalls and events to follow, but the Fun Dog Show, Children's Corner and traditional games will be returning and there will be the usual BBQ, Pimms, and delicious teas. If you can help by providing your time, cakes, produce or donations for the raffle or white elephant stall, then please contact either Fiona Meyrick on 07739 827 448 or Hester Stevens on 07980 856 808. Everyone of all ages is welcome to this traditional community event for an afternoon full of fun and games!

EXHIBITION

'Looking Back at the Sisters' School'. Exhibition at Tithe Place High Street Southam which is open 10am-12noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays. The book was first written in 1998 by Mary Rock, who was the school secretary for St Mary's Catholic Primary School. It has now been reprinted and follows the story from the beginning in 1876 of Southam Convent and St Mary's School by the German nuns from the congregation of the Poor Child Jesus, until the new school is built in the late 20th Century.

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The celebrations return after the past 2 years of the pandemic saw the cancellation of planned events. There is a packed programme of activities taking place in Stratford-upon-Avon on the mornings of Saturday 23rd April and Sunday 24th April. See the website www.shakespearescelebrations.com and follow the links to What's On for the full programme.



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PARISH CHURCH

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chat2rev.nicki@gmail.com

Keith Distin AD/FC 770 118

Lesley Bosman AD/FC 771 177

Fiona Russell-Perry Farn 690 039

COLTS FOOTBALL CLUB

fennycoltssec@gmail.com

COUNCILLORS COUNTY

Christopher Kettle FC/Farn

christopherkettle@warwickshire.gov.uk

Chris Mills AD

chrismills@warwickshire.gov.uk

COUNCILLORS DISTRICT

John Feilding AD/Farn 07718 037 142

Nigel Rock 07971 343 065

nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

DASSETT MEN'S CLUB

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Keith Hicks FC 236 448

Andrew Campbell Farnbro' 690 776

OVER 60s

Carol Walker 770 410

POTTERY CLUB FC 770 215

PLAYING FIELDS GROUP - FARNBOROUGH

Keith Binding 690 390

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SCOUT GROUP

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Crevitt@gmail.com

TOTS & TODDLERS

Nicki Chatterton 07769 871 237

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