

MARCH 2021

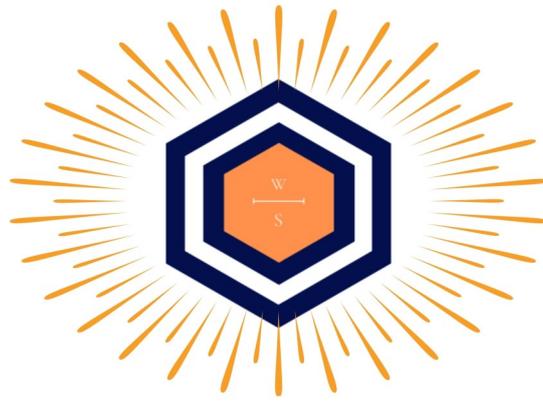
THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



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THE COMPTON CHRONICLE

MARCH 2021

The March 2020 edition of the magazine was the first time that the Coronavirus was mentioned in the editorial. Who would have thought that life would change so much and so many people have died. As I write we are still in lockdown No.3 which seems to be harder this time with the weather being so bad. On a more positive note, many people have now been vaccinated at the Southam Clinic which is very well-run and felt very safe. To be honest it was good to get out of the house and talk to someone different.

Busy Sundays in March: Mother's Day on 14th; Census 2021 on 21st & clocks go forward on 28th which means Spring is well on the way.

Once again the magazine is being produced as a PDF but, also, it will be sent to Clintplan for printing. Our volunteer distributors will deliver the magazine to you when they feel it is safe to do so.

Keep safe and sane.

The closing date for news & articles
for the April 2021 edition is

Friday 12th March 2021

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.

The cover photograph was taken by Colin Cowperthwaite

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AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Trevor Gill www.avondassettparishcouncil.com

Clerk: Helen Hide-Wright avondassett.clerk@googlemail.com

The last meeting took place by videoconference on 1st February.

Parish Plan: Sarah Richardson has volunteered to lead the preparation of a Parish Plan and reported that she had spoken to Stratford District Council about the need for a Neighbourhood Plan. As Avon Dasset is not a Service Village and categorised as 'Any Other Settlement' it had been agreed that putting in place a Parish Plan was the most appropriate way forward for the village. The existing Plan was produced in 2007 and will require review and updating using resident surveys to gather data. It is hoped that a cross section of the community will assist with conducting the survey, particularly to gain the input from younger members of the community.

Annual Assembly/Parish Meeting: Following the last Parish Assembly it was agreed that the 2021 meeting should be held early in the Parish Council's year and with more publicity aimed at getting more public participation. Sarah Richardson offered to take a lead role in supporting the organisation of the meeting.

Fox Hunting: It was agreed that, following complaints from residents and discussions with Hornton Parish Council, it was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to the Masters of the Hunt seeking the same arrangements as are in place with Hornton.

Playground: A contract has been placed with Wicksteed for the repairs to playground equipment. The gates have been repaired but it was noted that the ground under both gates is muddy and slippery.

St John's Churchyard: Work to clear the brambles has been completed. Stratford District Council has transferred responsibility for maintaining the churchyard to the Parish Council together with the relevant budget to cover the additional costs. The work to repoint the wall has been delayed.

Roads and Drains: The Highways Authority closed Church Hill to undertake repairs on 15th February. However, the closure notice allows further closures to take place over the next year if further work becomes necessary. Highways have been asked to survey the damage to the verge at the end of Park Close and propose a permanent solution, possibly widening the entrance. The damage to the verges on the Farnborough road has been reported to Highways.

Reading Room: The Reading Room remains closed until Government restrictions are lifted. Tidying up work has been completed and surplus books have been donated to charity.

2021 Census: Census Day is Sunday 21st March and it will go ahead despite Covid-19 restrictions. Although the Census will be conducted on-line, there will be paper copies available for those without internet access.

Coronavirus Volunteer Group: The helpline is still available and residents can make requests for help with items such as the collection of prescriptions. Cakes are being produced by volunteers and delivered to NHS sites. *Continued Overleaf*

Continued

Volunteers are also collecting and delivering pizzas from The Yew Tree to those self-isolating in the village. Volunteers are also being sought to help with the vaccination drive and anyone interested in being involved should contact Liz Hirst, Trevor or Michele Gill. The phone contract will be renewed to keep the line available as required.

Footpaths: The footpath on Church Hill is slippery due to wet leaves and overgrown vegetation. Volunteers will be sought to help to clear the footpath, subject to a risk assessment and compliance with Covid-19 restrictions. Following reports of stiles requiring repair or replacement, it was agreed to undertake a survey of all stiles and bridges and identify the landowners or their agents. It was also noted the Fenny Compton Footpaths Group is very active and successful in maintain footpaths and it was agreed to contact them and learn from their experience. It was also noted that landowners need to give permission before any repairs can be undertaken on their private land.

Superfast Broadband: Residents have reported poor performance issues with Broadband in the village. Anyone experiencing problems with the quality or speed of the service should report this to Trevor Gill, who will liaise on behalf of the village with the BT Broadband team. *See also separate article on improving Broadband connectivity.*

Projects and Grants: Nature Reserve: No news following our grant application. **St John's Church:** Project ongoing, A business case was approved by the Parish Council as was a draft letter to the Churches Conservation Trust seeking permission for the works to go ahead. **War Memorial:** A business case was approved by the Parish Council and a quotation for the work has been received. A grant application will be submitted to fund relaying the slabs around the War Memorial and repointing the exterior wall.

Elections: Councillor Feilding reported that the elections on Thursday 6th May would go ahead but that The Reading Room had been deemed to be an unsuitable venue for a Polling Station as it had only a single entrance and exit door. An alternative venue was being considered in Warmington. Following a suggestion that The Yew Tree may be a suitable local venue contact was made with Stratford District Council to explore the possibility.

Next Meeting

Monday 1st March 2021

at 7:30pm

via videoconference

If restrictions are lifted the meeting will be held in The Reading Room.

FARNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Peter Johnston www.farnboroughparishcouncil.co.uk

Clerk: Kirsty Buttle 01295 275 372 farnboroughpc@outlook.com

The last meeting took place on Monday 25th January 2021.

Street Lighting: The renewal of street lighting programme continues.

Play Area: The refurbishment continues; new swing equipment is due to arrive.

Social Housing: Social Housing initiative for Farnborough - no further developments.

2021 Census: The 2021 Census will take place on Sunday March 21st.

Combating Global Warming: Proposals for a programme of tree planting and wildflowers to be developed.

Parish Councillor Vacancy: Concern was raised that a vacancy for a Parish Councillor still exists. Contact the Clerk if you would like further information.

Minutes: Minutes are available via the village website and on village notice boards.

Next Meeting

Monday 22nd March 2021

at 7pm via Zoom

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 last meeting took place on Monday 15th February 2021.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: The steering group have reviewed all 382 comments that were received on the draft plan and have agreed which will be implemented into the revised plan. It is intended that this will be submitted to Stratford District Council in the next few weeks.

Traffic: Many of the comments that were received related to traffic and so it is disappointing that we have had very few responses to our request for volunteers to support the Speedwatch initiative in the village. If you would like to help play a positive role in reducing speeding in the village, please contact the Clerk.

Fenny Compton WI: The WI will be celebrating their centenary this year and have approached the Parish Council to discuss an appropriate location to establish a small garden to mark this significant anniversary.

Meeting: Residents are entitled to observe our meetings, which continue to be held virtually due to the current lockdown restrictions. Please contact the Clerk to obtain joining details.

Next Meeting

Monday 15th March 2021

at 7:45pm via Zoom



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IMPROVING INTERNET CONNECTIONS

With so many people working from home, some households are noticing poor internet speeds. These are a few things that you could do that might help to improve connectivity:

First thing; check your router is plugged in with an ADSL filter (the white box that comes out of your phone socket – see picture) and that all other phone sockets in the house also have filters on them.



Make sure that you do not have a DECT (cordless) phone right next to your router as this can cause interference with the Wi-Fi signal.

The next step is to test the internet speed. The best way to do this is to plug in a computer directly into your router (an ethernet cable is best but if not, you can use a USB port) and run a speed test (eg speedtest.net). Run the test with all other devices switched off including Wi-Fi on mobile phones. This will then give you an accurate internet speed. The speed that you are receiving will be affected by your area, the type of internet you have and the distance of your property from the BT cabinet. Remember plug your device into the router directly to get the best performance reading.

If you are in the range of the speed you should be getting, the issue is not broadband, but it is something local to your property. If the speed is lower than your contract, then contact your broadband provider

With residential lines, the internet speed is restricted by the number of concurrent users. Service providers offer speeds using a calculation of a ratio of 50:1, but you are likely to experience slowness of internet at peak times of the day or when there are large numbers of users of the same broadband line.

A frequent problem is that the Wi-Fi signal will not reach all areas in a property or, despite showing that there is a full signal, pages take time to open. This can be caused by the device that you are using or how many devices you have connected to your router. On all connected devices, check that all your background apps and pages not being used are closed down as they all use some internet and processor time which, when added up, can make the internet performance look slow when, in fact, it is the user not closing unused apps and pages on their device.

If you are finding areas where the Wi-Fi cannot reach, you can buy extenders, access points and better routers. But in this case, it is best to get expert advice, otherwise, you may spend time and money on buying equipment that will not resolve your issue.

Article provided by Avon Dassett Parish Council

NAPTON AND FENNY COMPTON WARD STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Covid-19: Infection rates here (as of mid-February), and more widely in Stratford district, have fallen to levels last seen before Christmas. Warwickshire reflects the UK average and Stratford District below average at 113 per 100,000 population. With the exception of Rugby, nearby local districts are below average as well.

As at Friday 12th February 183,328 doses of vaccine have been administered in Coventry and Warwickshire, with: 92.6% of over 80s vaccinated; 98.6% of 75-79 vaccinated & 81.6% of 70-74 vaccinated. As well as the Southam clinic, a mass vaccination centre is now operating at the NAC at Stoneleigh.

HS2: In response to my representations, I have received a number of apologies from HS2 about the disruption to roads around Harbury, Deppers and Bascote. Road closure dates have been overrun and the continuing theme is one of putting right defects from previous works. Unfortunately, this has coincided with repetitive flooding problems on the A425 at Shuckburgh. Although many of us are not travelling during lockdown, for those that have been making essential journeys through and around Southam, it may have felt impossible to get anywhere. I am pressing for a long-term solution to the Shuckburgh flooding problem. In coming weeks and months there are two bridges to be constructed where HS2 crosses the Banbury and Kineton Roads to the south of Southam. The intention is a combination of traffic lights, reconfigured roadways, and short night time closures with the bridges being constructed next to the highway and then put in place.

Elections: The Government has said that County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections will go ahead on Thursday 6th May. There is considerable concern about the ability to hold the poll in a safe way while Covid-19 infections are at significant level. Some of us thought that a short delay until the summer would allow the virus levels to fall, and July has been spoken of. Stratford District Council has found that 15 polling stations are unsafe in terms of social distancing so some electors will have to vote elsewhere. Locally, Wormleighton residents are to be asked to travel to Fenny Compton or to vote by post. There are other effects too – a Ministerial ruling says leaflets can now only be delivered by ‘paid for’ delivery which favours candidates with strong financial backing. Many temporary polling staff have said they are unhappy with the risk and will not make themselves available. The Government response is to provide an extra £31m across all Councils to compensate for difficulties in running the elections during the pandemic, and although they recognise polling staff vulnerability is a key issue they will not prioritise them for vaccination.

District Council Merger: Stratford and Warwick Districts are planning to merge. This is forecast to save £4.5m a year across both Councils and the Government has signalled a desire for bigger Councils. There is already some joint working going on, particularly in planning policy, but a merger is a big step, and we need to make sure that local Government does not ‘move further away’ from the residents they serve.

The ambition is that that the merger is achieved by 2024. Between then and now there is much investigation to be done, and after all that the Government could refuse the merger as proposed by the Councils.

Dog Fouling: There has been a marked increase in dog fouling across the district, as well as locally. I have worked with Council officers and the Parish Council on signage, but ultimately this is irresponsible behaviour of a few dog owners, against whom the council will take legal action if there is a case. Reports can be made to environmental health at Stratford 01789 267 575.

Nigel Rock

Councillor for Napton and Fenny Compton Ward nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

MEMORIAL SERVICES/CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

Over the past year, the bereaved have had to hold limited funerals with no wake for their relatives who have died. Some may want to hold a Memorial Service or Celebration of Life when able to do so. The Mid-England Barrow is offering use of its meadow, and large heated safari tent to those wishing to plan an event for later this year. What they can offer:



What they can offer:

- For a limited period, free use of the safari tent and/or meadow
- No time restrictions, families can book a morning, afternoon, or all-day event
- Free cancellation if more than 1 week from the event, and due to Government restriction
- Varied menu or personalised options available
- Covid-19 safe environment with mains toilets, ample parking, and registered kitchen
- Seating for over 50 people in the tent, many more in meadow
- Formal ceremonies or informal family gatherings, with as much or as little religion as the family wish

For further information see www.mid-englandbarrow.co.uk or call 07791 807 970.

LOCAL ROADWORKS

Two routes out of the village will have traffic lights during some of March!

Tuesday 2nd – Tuesday 30th March: Church Hill, Avon Dassett - Church Wall Repair - Traffic control - two-way signals.

Monday 8th March – Friday 30th April: Leisure Drive/Banbury Road junction, Wormleighton - HS2 - Traffic control - three-way traffic lights.

Monday 15th – Thursday 18th March: Northend Road, Fenny Compton - Severn Trent Water Pipe Renewal - Traffic control - two-way signals.

Sunday 7th – Wednesday 24th March: Southam Road nr Mollington - Road Closed Monday-Friday 8pm-6am

Monday 29th – Tuesday 30th March: Wormleighton Road, Wormleighton – installation of Gabion baskets to retain roadside edge - Traffic control two-way signals.



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LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

There are times in our lives when we look around and wonder, "*Is this all there is?*" Sometimes it is a passing question, at other times it lingers. We look at our life, our circumstances, and we want more. Is that how it feels right now? A restlessness, a desire for something more, something different. We often look at our circumstances as a picture. If it is pretty, pleasing, and shows us what we want to see then God is good, and life is as it should be. When we do not see what we want we look for a new picture. The restless searching, the longing for more, the desire for meaning, are not, however, usually answered by changed circumstances. Although they may help. It is not about the circumstances of life. It is about us. The answer is found within.

We do not need to see new things. We need to see the same old things with new eyes. We do not need to hear a different voice. We need to hear the same old voice with different ears. We do not need to escape the circumstances of our life. We need to be more fully present to those circumstances. These are the transfiguring moments when the picture of our life becomes a window into a new world, new opportunities.

Most of us, I think, seek God in the circumstances of life. We want God to show up, be present, change something, make it better. But then there is the God beyond the circumstances. Jesus - God with us - who walks beside us and at times often carries us. Here the pictures of life's circumstances become windows, by which we move into the depths of God's life, light, and love. Windows through which we step into a new world, a new way of seeing, hearing, and being. Read Mark 9:2-9. Peter, James, and John suddenly see Jesus as he had always been. Not just a man they followed who did miracles, told powerful stories and about whom people talked, but Jesus the divine Son of God. God who is beyond the man and the circumstances. Jesus - God incarnate - God with us. But this change, or transfiguration, is as much about them as it is Jesus.

Whenever our picture of life's circumstances becomes a window into new life we are transfigured. The view carries us, it is spectacular - it lifts us. We do not have to climb mountains to get that. Circumstances have not changed; we have and that seems to change everything. We all have times when we see life with new eyes, hear with different ears, and discover a window into another world and another way of being. Faith is one of those moments. Faith is a mystery we seem to spend all our time trying to explain, but there is part of all that, that should and must remain a mystery. Part of faith is believing in the inexplicable, in marvelling at the mystery. Faith is not just believing it is knowing. Transfiguring moments change, sustain, prepare, encourage and guide us into the future regardless of the circumstances we face. Every picture of life is an open window that says, "*No, this is not all there is.*" Open that window and be transfigured!

Rev'd Nicki

MARCH 2021 DIARY

MONDAY	1	7:30pm	ST. DAVID'S DAY Avon Dasset PC Meeting - Videoconference
TUESDAY	2		
WEDNESDAY	3		RECYCLING COLLECTION
THURSDAY	4		
FRIDAY	5		
SATURDAY	6		
SUNDAY	7	6:00pm	Songs of Praise via Zoom
MONDAY	8		
TUESDAY	9		
WEDNESDAY	10		
THURSDAY	11		
FRIDAY	12		
SATURDAY	13		
SUNDAY	14	9:00am-12:00pm	MOTHERING SUNDAY Fenny Compton Footpath Group - <i>see article</i>
MONDAY	15	7:45pm	Fenny Compton PC Meeting - Videoconference
TUESDAY	16		
WEDNESDAY	17		ST. PATRICK'S DAY RECYCLING COLLECTION
THURSDAY	18		
FRIDAY	19		Red Nose Day -- <i>see article</i>
SATURDAY	20		MARCH EQUINOX
SUNDAY	21	6:00pm	Songs of Praise via Zoom
MONDAY	22	7:00pm	Farnborough PC Meeting - Videoconference
TUESDAY	23		
WEDNESDAY	24		
THURSDAY	25		
FRIDAY	26		
SATURDAY	27		
SUNDAY	28	11:00am-2:00pm	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS PALM SUNDAY Sunday Market – Merrie Lion
MONDAY	29		
TUESDAY	30		
WEDNESDAY	31		RECYCLING COLLECTION

KINETON CATHOLIC CHURCH MASS

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**** Please note all items are provisional based on future Covid-19 announcements. ****



THE YEW TREE, AVON DASSETT TAKEAWAY MENU



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Pizza Elegante prosciutto, fried eggs, spinach **£9.95**
Vegetaliano BBQ jackfruit, red chillies, crispy onions, vegan mozzarella (va) **£10.95**
Tre Formaggio goat's cheese, mozzarella, burrata, caramelised red onions, rocket (v) **£10.95**

Add toppings: £1 – pepperoni, pulled pork, prosciutto, pork sausages, chorizo.
 50p – cheddar, peppers, chillies, spring onions, fried egg.



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Yew Tree fried chicken burger avocado, harissa mayo, fries **£11.95**
Beer battered haddock hand cut chips, mushy peas, homemade tartare sauce **£12.95**
Chickpea, sweet potato & spinach curry basmati rice, garlic & coriander naan (va)(ga) **£10.95**

SIDES



- Loaded fries** cheddar, bacon, spring onions, chopped chillies (g) **£4.95**
Mozzarella sticks sweet chilli dip (v) **£4.25**
Cheesy garlic flatbread (v) **£4.25**

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Children's

2nd March
Dr Zeuss' Birthday

- Which is your favourite Dr Zeus book?

What's on in
March?

15th-21st March
Shakespeare Week

4th March
World Book Day

- Who will you dress up as this year?

20th March
Spring Equinox

'Books I've Read



Life of Bear – 'Spring-ing Forwards'
By Emma Wilkinson of ArtDecaDance

Pages

What is an astronaut's favourite keyboard key?

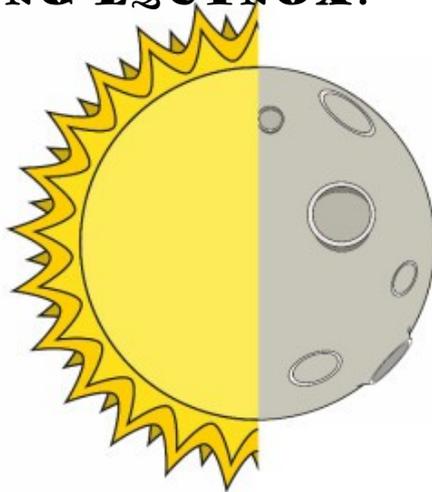
The Space key of course!

How to Aliens get their baby to sleep?

They Rocket!

I KNOW ALL ABOUT...

THE SPRING EQUINOX!



The spring or vernal equinox falls on or around the 20th March in the Northern hemisphere.

The word equinox comes from two Latin words, equus and nox and means 'equal night'; the day when the day and night are of equal length.

It marks the point where the sun passes over the celestial equator from the Southern to the Northern hemisphere and the hours of daylight become longer than the night.

For many, the vernal equinox marks the arrival of spring.

In the UK various celebrations are held, some of the biggest of which take place at Stonehenge.



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FENNY COMPTON	AVON DASSETT	FARNBOROUGH
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1 st March	Not available	1 st March
10:50-11:05am; 11:10-11:20am		11:35-11:50am

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FENNY COMPTON WATER COMPANY

Under the roads of Fenny Compton is a secret that many residents will not be aware of – the pipes of the Fenny Compton Water Company. They run from a covered spring up in the hills, down Avon Dassett Road then extend as far as Northend Road and just beyond the Co-op.

The Water Company was formed in 1866 by the local Rector, Charles Abel Heurtley, after the connection between water supply and sewerage was understood and, today, we deliver pure, clean water to about 40 houses and 6 businesses. Up until about 6 years ago the water was untreated, straight from the spring but we have had to modernise to meet current legislation; we filter the water twice then use ultraviolet treatment to destroy any contamination. The water is tested by an independent laboratory at least twice a year. We pass with flying colours and we are legally obliged to share the test results with Environmental Health. When Covid-19 is just a bad memory we will be having an open day to show off what we do.



The Water Company is one of the oldest companies in the country and possibly the oldest public water company in the world and yet few people have heard of us or know what we do. To fix this we are going to launch a website. This is a plea - if you can supply any stories, anecdotes, photos, or memories of the Water Company please send them to me and we will consider using them. We have the Company's records such as meeting minutes, correspondence, and accounts but if you can supply anything else it would be much appreciated.

You can send it by email to brianpeers24@gmail.com or post it to Close Cottage, Church Street. It need not be typed, a handwritten note will do. Any photos or original documents will, of course, be returned. We look forward to hearing from you.

Brian Peers

AQUEOUS

After a year of little progress, we have managed to re-engage with the Warwickshire County Council flood team. Last year was more than a little frustrating but probably not unexpected as the pandemic evolved and changed ways of working and priorities. Looking forward, we hope to have news on options over the next couple of months. Aqueous have put forward some principles that we would like the options to be based on eg affordable; in keeping with natural landscape; ease of maintenance and sustainable.

Until a solution is agreed, and funding guaranteed, it is important to maintain the drainage ditches and watercourses through the village to ensure storm water passes and reduces the risk of flooding. We have experienced some heavy rainfall over the winter and the system has performed well so thank you to everyone who has assisted with the maintenance work.

Alan Payne

AVON DASSETT COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY

www.avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk

The Yew Tree remains closed with the exception of opening on Fridays for pizza and other takeaways from the menu. Other activities, such as the pub Quiz, the Walking Group and the Bridge Club have had to be suspended but will restart as soon as local lockdown restrictions are eased.

As we approach our year end, we will review our overall financial position and consider which repairs and maintenance we can afford to undertake.

We continue to sell shares to new investors and shares continue to be available. Details together with further information about the Benefit Society is available on the website address above.

FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Warwickshire Police Rural Crime Team: This was formed in October 2019 and has since increased in size and are effective in their field. Their latest newsletter bit.ly/WRCTnews features successes with fly-tipping and quad-bike thefts. You can also see the work they are doing and their contact details on their Facebook page.

Warwickshire Rural Watch: This is a very useful resource for prevention advice. They have published over 50 advice sheets on topics from Allotment Theft to Van Security which briefly summarise effective strategies to deter or defeat the criminal. See www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk/newsite/advice-sheets/

Cyber Scam Update: covers COVID Fraud, Romance Fraud, NI Scam, Bitcoin Investment Scams. For more just follow the link bit.ly/SIWnews0221 See also safeinwarwickshire.com

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/>

FENNY COMPTON VILLAGE HALL / RURAL CINEMA

The Village Hall remains closed but thanks to the Moving Pictures team at Live & Local we are proposing to offer films on DVD that people will be able to view in their own homes. We are presently waiting for the next films to be confirmed and just as soon as we know they will be revealed to those on the email list and on our Events Blog fcvhevents.blogspot.co.uk. To join the email list, send your request to cinema@fcvh.org.uk. There will be no charge for the DVDs but once viewed they will need to be posted to the next person on the list. There will also be a forum so that viewers can discuss the films. Priority will be given to those on the email list.

While waiting for the release of the next batch of films we have a taster DVD with some film from the Warwickshire archives as well as some experimental and animated short films, details at <http://bit.ly/3qeUVVp>.

If you would like to view this DVD, please email cinema@fcvh.org.uk with your name, address and contact number. Alternatively, call 01295 236 448 and leave your details.

FENNY COMPTON FOOTPATH GROUP

Covid-19 lockdown has stopped us doing any work. You can legally do ‘voluntary’ work, but we do not think it would be in the spirit of the rules, nor would it be worth the risk. Thankfully, there is nothing that urgently needs any attention at the moment. We did put a few more bags of rubble on the path at the Allotments last month but our organised work parties are on-hold for now.

The issue about the recent very wet weather and the extra use due to lockdown causing footpaths to become excessively wide is indeed a national problem. It even featured on BBC Radio 4’s *Farming Today* programme a couple of weeks ago. I do not know if the signs I put up to try to encourage walkers to find an alternate route are working but there does seem to be fewer walkers out there. I have not walked the footpaths across arable fields for weeks, it would just be a horrible slog through the mud. I used to have The Slade to myself but it is pretty busy nowadays due to the state of the fields. One of the few other walks I can suggest at this time is to pick up the bridleway at the barn with the cattle in on The Slade, walk to the end then take the canal towpath to the reservoir. It is a bit muddy on the towpath in places but there is an alternative route along the top of the embankment that runs alongside.

We are on Facebook so you can follow us there for regular updates on what we have been doing. Look for ‘fennycomptonfootpathgroup’

Brian Peers

EASTER TREASURE HUNT

Farnborough Village Hall Committee members are organising another Treasure Hunt around the village this Easter. Some of you may remember the last one although it was many years ago, it was great fun and hopefully everyone will join in.

Dependent on restrictions we will finish in the Village Hall for afternoon tea, however it may be a Takeaway Tea in the car park and garden, we will have to wait until nearer the time.

Easter will be 2nd–5th April this year and the date of the Treasure Hunt has not yet been decided. Please contact either Anna on 690 723 or Pam on 690 170 to register and for further details.

RED NOSE DAY 2021—SHARE A SMILE

This year Red Nose Day is Friday 19th March. Share A Smile. Help get the UK smiling, one household at a time. Help to kick-start a wave of smiles from your house to the next, and onwards all around the country. You can download a special poster from the website, www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/, then add your favourite joke and put it in your window to share with the world. If you cannot print out the poster, just write your joke on a piece of paper and pop it in your window. Take a photo and tag it @comicrelief and post it on social media #rednoseday.



The Merrie Lion

01295 771 134/Text 07887 555 331

MARCH TAKEAWAY MENU

SERVED

MONDAY – THURSDAY 5.30-8PM

FRIDAY/SATURDAY 5.30-9PM (SPECIALS AVAILABLE)

SUNDAY 12-3PM (Roast Beef/Chicken available)

Collection slots every 10 minutes

COVID Secure

Wholetail Scampi (C) (G) (D)

Fries, Salad, Homemade Tartare Sauce 10.95

Crispy Halloumi Parcel (D) (G)

Saute Potatoes, Salad 10.25

Beer-Battered Fresh Haddock (F) (G) (D) (E) (SD)

Garden Peas, Hand Cut Chips, Homemade Tartare Sauce 11.00

Chef's Hand-Made 8oz Gourmet Beef Burger or

Moving Mountain Vegan Burger with Vegan Cheese and Vegan Slaw (G) (D) (SD) (E)

Skinny Fries, Onion Rings, Spiced Mayo 10.95 *Cheddar or Stilton 50p, Bacon 50p*

Piri Piri Chicken (D) (E)

Fries, Salad, Coleslaw 12.00

Pie of the Week (D) (G)

Chips or Mash, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy 11.50

SIDES

Skinny/Chunky Chips 2.50

Mixed Salad 2.50

Onion Rings 2.50

HOMEMADE STONE-BAKED THIN PIZZAS 8"/12" (G) (D)

BBQ OR TOMATO BASE

Margarita 5.50/7.95

Cherry Tomatoes, Buffalo Mozzarella, Basil

Meat Feast 7.50/10.50

Pepperoni, Chorizo, Pancetta, Spiced Chicken

All Pizzas are served with Dips – Garlic Mayo, Spiced Mayo or Sweet Chilli

Extra Toppings:

Cheese, Chorizo, Pepperoni, Seasoned Chicken, Pancetta 1.00

Peppers, Fresh Chilli, Mushrooms, Onions, Olives, Pineapple, Sweetcorn 50p

PLAIN OR SPICED CHICKEN GOUJONS 3.00 FRIES & SALAD 2.50 GARLIC BREAD 2.00/4.00 CHEESE 1.00

PUDDINGS (G) (D)

Biscoff Cheesecake 4.50 Sticky Toffee Pudding 4.50

ALLERGEN KEY

(C) CRUSTACEANS
(CE) CELERY
(D) DAIRY
(E) EGGS
(F) FISH
(P) PEANUTS

(G) GLUTEN
(L) LUPIN
(N) NUTS
(MO) MOLLUSCS
(MU) MUSTARD
(S) SOYA

(SD) SULPHUR DIOXIDE
(SE) SESAME SEEDS

FENNY COMPTON BEER COMPANY

I am proud to spout on about I am a product of a northern working class heritage. A Yorkshire lad with a lorry driving Dad and nurse Mum. It bores the kids silly. Another part of my life was far too much time spent in working men's clubs and pubs. So much so, my dad took up the job of running the local working men's club where we lived for a while. Even from an early age, keeping, serving and (ahem) drinking good beer was part of my DNA. One thing was taught to me by my dad was good beer needs good water.



Steve and I have been brewing beer as a hobby with a bunch of friends for over 2 years now and the first thing you learn is.... 'start with good water'.

I am sure I do not have to remind you, dear reader, Fenny Compton has its own water supply literally on tap. In existence since 1866 and serving 40 households in the older part of the village... and Steve now happens to live in one of them.

It is now 2020 and 1000+ litres of beer later we are still learning. What we do know is the water is particularly good for making tea and brewing beer!

Some of you have tried some of our beer and we are really encouraged by the feedback we have received. So much so, we are taking a nervous, experimental step into the highly competitive world of commercial brewing.

Making great beer is one thing. You also need customers to buy it and drink it. At the end of this article, you will see some key information. For those tuned into Facebook and Twitter; you can access the web site from the code below. You will also be able to subscribe to a mailing list where we can keep you updated on our journey to build a successful brewery from a rather shabby 1970's 'Compton Buildings' garage.

In 2021, look out for our cask conditioned Real Ales in the pub and look out for events where you can buy and taste our beer. The initial plan is to brew for the pub and brew to order for specific events so...if you have an event where you would like to sell locally produced beer, let's have a chat.

If all that works, we grow a bit. Then who knows....what is certain for me is this is and will remain a community start-up that will use locally sourced and only natural ingredients. Hops, Barley and Fenny Compton Spring Water.

Until then. If you like the idea (cos..really, that is all we have to offer right now!), sign up to the mailing list or get a cool FCBC item by snapping the QR Code below with your smartphone or type in www.fennycomptonbeer.co.uk/blank-page, like us on Facebook - fb.me/fennybeer, and join us on our journey. We are coming!



SUNDAY MARKET AT THE MERRIE LION

The Merrie Lion is holding another Sunday Market from 11am-2pm on Sunday 28th March. Come along to support local businesses.

ELECTRONIC COMPUTING MACHINE AT THE WHARF

In 1947 at Birkbeck College, London, it was decided to construct an electronic computing machine. Versions of such machines had been built during the 1939-1945 war, but these were either of such a size as to be unavailable to anyone other than a large government department, or alternatively, were of the comparatively simple type required to aim and fire an anti-aircraft gun, or of the sort in a radar installation to track enemy planes which were approaching our coasts.

The new type of computing machine which emerged at the conclusion of hostilities was one which, to quote the popular press, was capable of exercising a certain amount of independent judgement. Actually, the independent judgement exerted by any computing machine is extremely small and is, in fact, limited to the ability to determine whether a number which it has calculated is positive or negative. It can be shown that a machine which can do this, and which can follow one of two courses of action, according to the results of such a discrimination, can, in fact, perform any of the operations of logic which can be conceived. It is also possible to make such a machine perform such apparently complicated operations as the playing of a game of chess or draughts, or of translating from one language into another.

Although the University of London, as personified by Birkbeck College, was willing for such a machine to be constructed, in 1947 it was extremely difficult to obtain a suitable building in London. The University had provided funds for such a building to be constructed but with the usual hold-ups associated with builders, it appeared unlikely that any accommodation would be forthcoming until about 1950.

The then Master of Birkbeck College, Professor Gordon Jackson, in a conversation with Professor Bernal and Dr Booth, came to the conclusion that it might be feasible to make a start on the project in some of the rather extensive outbuildings which were available at the Wharf, Fenny Compton, where Dr Booth was living. And in this manner, it came about that the College provided an adequate laboratory and workshop in which the construction of a computing machine could be started.

A number of assistants had a part in the building of this machine, most of whom will be quite unknown in Fenny Compton. One of the earliest, however, and one who is, we are pleased to say, still with us was Mr Charles Newman, who is employed as a mechanical engineer and who was responsible, with a succession of laboratory assistants, for the construction, not only of the electronic chassis, which we eventually wired into the machine, but, also of the intricate drum storage device, which forms the basis of the machine memory.

The machine was completed in 1950. It was operated for a few weeks in Fenny Compton and then moved to the Computational Laboratory in Torrington Square, London, which by that time had been completed. The machine has not been operated for a number of years and has performed a large number of calculations which range from the location of the positions of atoms in crystalline materials to the tracing of the paths of electrons through a magnetic lens system, or in popular parlance, the way in which an electronic beam moves in order to produce a television picture.

Recent work has included the translation of French sentences into English, and also the transcription of Standard English into Braille for the Blind.

A further machine has since been constructed in the laboratories at Fenny Compton; this is known as NAC or magnetic automatic calculator. It is a much smaller machine than the earlier one but is equally fast and equally flexible. It shows the progress that has been made in machine design over the years which followed the production of our original model. Larger versions of the original model have been produced on a commercial basis by the British Tabulating Machine Company, Letchworth, and a number of these are now in operation in various parts of the country.

This undated article was written by Dr Andrew Booth (1918-2009)

Bless This House

Maggie Campbell

May it shelter me but not imprison me,
May it be a delight but not an obsession,
May it wait safely when I leave
And welcome me when I return
With comfortable chairs
And piles of books,
With shelves of preserves
And pots for cooking,
With a shady tree nearby
And a bench beneath.
May the door open to friends
To give pleasure but not envy.
May its old walls echo with laughter
And exude hints of spices used
And herbs drying on beams;
And when I am gone
May it not decay
But extend its welcome to others.

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We are a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton, surrounding villages and rural areas. Membership is free and we offer a monthly newsletter and friendly telephone support. Our virtual coffee morning is now accessible to those without internet access. You can dial in on a landline or mobile and join a video call with voice only. New and existing members are always welcome. Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below. Do take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or call Gillian on 07947 893 504.

CARE COMPANION

Care Companion is a website that has been developed to support unpaid family carers. It is part of the support package offered to Warwickshire carers. The site has been created by a team of researchers at Warwick Medical School guided a panel of people with many years of hands-on caring experience.

Imagine a family member or close friend has just received a life-changing diagnosis.



At the consultation it is difficult to take in everything and it is likely you will not remember half of what was said. You may be given very little information. This happened to me when my husband was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

Where do you start? If you go to a search engine, such as Google, you can just go round in circles. How do you know what to look for or whether the information is trustworthy?

Care Companion is a secure site offering a unique, personalised experience for carers looking for additional help, advice, and support. Carers are invited to register with the site and complete a questionnaire asking for information about the condition/s of the person they care for. When they then search for information, the search returns resources unique to them. It is possible to use the site without registering but this is not recommended as the user will not gain the most benefit from the personalisation.

The site has four main modules. There are over 1000 entries in the carefully curated resources library and more are continually being added. The diary is for appointments and follow-up information or can be used as a journal. The address book keeps details of useful contacts in one place. Finally, a mood monitor helps the user be aware of their moods and will offer suggestions for actions, especially if low moods are continually recorded.

Take a look at Care Companion, by going to www.carecompanion.org.uk. To ensure Care Companion is serving the needs of carers effectively, a research study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research, is being carried out. It is an opportunity for users to pass on their thoughts about the effectiveness of the site. It does not matter how much carers have used the site; their views are important. The team are looking for carers willing to take part in a 20–30-minute interview, by phone or video link, at a time convenient to themselves. To find out more, please contact Veronica Nanton at V.Nanton@warwick.ac.uk.

Gillian Grason Smith

THE SURGERY

The clinic at Southam continues at pace to offer vaccinations to patients within the East Primary Care Network. We have recently been advised that patients in group 5 are being starting to be invited ie those aged 65-69 years and vaccinations for those patients who are housebound are being arranged. We have received very positive feedback from patients about the excellent service the team they are providing, and we do feed this back to them – for which they are very grateful!

Just a reminder that if you are in one of the top 4 groups and still have not been invited for a vaccination, please contact the practice. You have not missed your chance and we can ensure the service is aware of you and arrange for you to be offered an appointment. Please bear in mind that we cannot make direct appointments for you as we do not have access. For more information and the latest updates, please see our website.

There have been no major changes to the way we operate since the last edition of *The Chronicle*. If you have an appointment with a clinician, you will be asked to wear a face covering and have your temperature taken before being shown to the consulting room. Please come alone if you can and be mindful that you may need to wait a little longer than normal to be seen as the rooms are cleaned between patients to keep you safe.

As ever, we remain appreciative of your support during these difficult times. We know it cannot be easy queuing outside, particularly in the recent chilly weather. Let us hope some much needed spring sunshine is around the corner!

Dr Sharples & Dr Marshall

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

There is help out there. Here are some useful links regarding Mental Health services.

Dear Life: The website www.dearlife.org.uk/ is supported by the NHS, Warwickshire County Council & Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care Partnership amongst other organisations. It also has links to wider Mental Health services & support.

Samaritans: The Samaritans have a free 24/7 helpline call 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org who will reply within 24 hours. See the website samaritans.org for further information.

Five Ways to Wellbeing: Warwickshire County Council have produced useful guidance on how to preserve your wellbeing:

- Keep learning
- Connect
- Be active
- Give
- Take notice

See www.warwickshire.gov.uk/5ways for lots of good ideas.



Gay Mathie formerly Turner 1945-2021

As many of you will know by now Gay Mathie sadly lost her fight with cancer on January 14th 2021.

Over the 40 years or so Gay lived in Fenny Compton she was involved in many things but probably the one she will be remembered for the most is her fundraising for Cancer Research UK.

After losing her Mother Dorothy to cancer, a year later in 1988, Gay started the Fenny Compton Committee for Cancer Research UK in her memory.

The Christmas Fayre has become an annual event in the village that so many of us look forward to but it was a Ploughman's lunch at Ducketts Cottage that started what became 30 years of fundraising for Gay.

There were several Coffee Mornings and Valuation Evenings along the way, even making the local radio station Coventry and Warwickshire with a 12-hour Hairdressing Marathon!

Along with several helpers, Gay had the privilege of being invited to Cancer Research Institute Laboratories at Birmingham University to see just what the money being raised was being used for.

After reaching 20 years of fundraising, Gay arranged a cheese and wine evening to thank the many people who had helped and supported her over the years to raise approximately £35,000 at that point in time. This in turn was recognised with a talk from Professor Paul Moss from the Cancer Research Institute for Cancer Studies at Birmingham University to round off the evening.

To celebrate 25 years of fundraising, with the kind permission of Nigel and Daphne Leck at The Merrie Lion we introduced The Tree for Life.

The record amount raised at any one event was in excess of £3,000 namely a Christmas Fayre and although it is an exceptional amount for one afternoon in our Village Hall, for Gay it involved weeks and months of detailed planning and hard work.

Unfortunately, only days before the last Christmas Fayre organised by Gay, she started investigations into what was diagnosed as breast cancer just one week later.

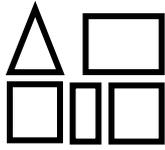
After 30 years the total amount raised exceeded £58,000, in fact we believe it is possibly nearer to £60,000 but sadly would need our dear friend Gay to confirm this!

What an amazing achievement and legacy to leave behind.

Gay's only wish would have been to meet her new grandson, due on 9th February; sadly it was not to be.

However, I am pleased to announce baby Dominic arrived safely, only a little late, on 14th February 2021 and Grandma Gay very much approved of Dominic's name.

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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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David Finch 770 026

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

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Chair of Governors: Hester Stevens

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FIRE STATION

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FOOTBALL CLUB

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FOOTPATHS GROUP

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GARDENING CLUB AD

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fennycomptonnw.blogspot.co.uk

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PLAYING FIELDS GROUP - FARNBOROUGH

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VILLAGE HALLS

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fcvh.org.uk/hiring

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farnboroughwarwickshire.co.uk/bookings

Bookings: Anna Massen 690 723

AVON DASSETT READING ROOM

Bookings: Jenny Sherriff 690 416

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