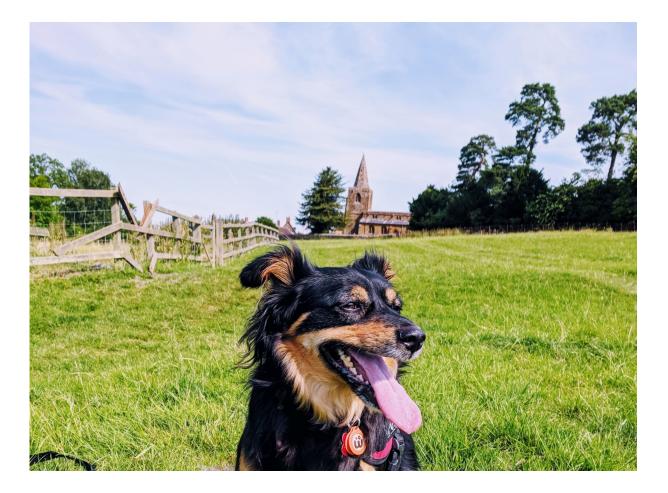
MAY 2020

# THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



MOLLY IN HALL YARD

### VILLAGE MAGAZINE

FENNY COMPTON • AVON DASSETT • FARNBOROUGH



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#### THE COMPTON CHRONICLE May 2020

Producing the magazine this month has been quite challenging with no news from the clubs & societies and whilst we have been able to offer adverts free of charge for the next three months, some of our advertisers have decided to pause their inclusion.

Calling for articles to fill our pages has proved to be fruitful so we bring you an extra special edition with a wide range of interesting articles which we hope you enjoy. Please keep them coming as I suspect this lockdown will go on and on.

Clintplan, our wonderful printers, are unable to work at the moment so this is our first magazine produced as a PDF. If you know someone who is not on-line who would like to read the magazine, it would be kind of you to offer to print off a copy for them.

The Team hope all our readers keep safe and sane. I think we are all so lucky to live in the countryside.

The closing date for news & articles for the June 2020 edition is

#### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Articles/News to comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk

Advertisers contact Amy Aylward 01295 770 749

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

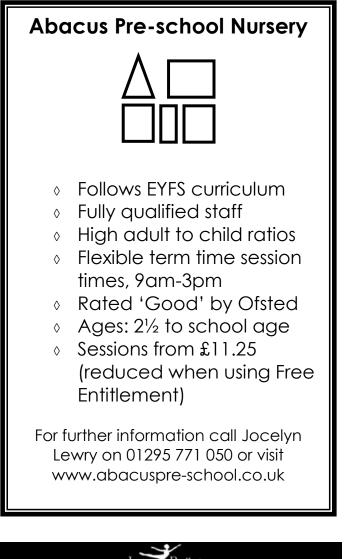
EDITORIAL TEAM Amy Aylward 770 749 Jennif Emily Kilshaw Emma Jason Wise

Jennifer Cranfield 770 285 Emma Wilkinson

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 Jason Wise. We thought we needed a cheerful front cover this month.

© 2020 Fenny Compton Parish Magazine Rose Cottage Church Street Fenny Compton CV47 2YE



# LOVE TO DANCE? BODDINGTON CLASSES

#### 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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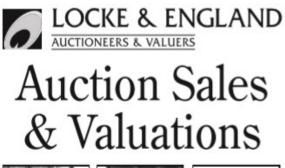
# DRIVING LESSONS

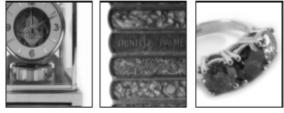
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#### Avon Dassett Parish Council

Chairman: Trevor Gillwww.avondassettparishcouncil.comClerk: Helen Hide-Wrightavondassett.clerk@googlemail.com

**Parish Council Meetings:** The meeting arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> April was cancelled due to the Coronavirus lockdown and online meeting arrangements not being approved by Government in time for the meeting. The intention is to rearrange the meeting and possibly hold it together with a rearranged May meeting. However, the meeting will be online rather than face to face but will be open to the public to join in. The following report is from the March meeting.

**Policing and Crime:** A public liaison meeting was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March in The Reading Room. A future event is planned for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm; this, however, is dependent on the lockdown situation. In addition, a representative of the Police will try to be present at each of the monthly coffee mornings when they resume.

**Burial Ground & Cemetery Car Park:** New locks have now been fitted and the fencing replaced in the car park. Contact details for the Cemetery Warden will be included on the back of *The Compton Chronicle*.

Burial enquiries: Parish Clerk 07713 892 835

Sheep in cemetery car park: Cemetery Warden 07860 472 271

**Playground:** The gatepost has now been replaced and discussions are ongoing as to who should repair the area around the access gate.

**Roads Traffic & Drains:** Issues reported to the Highways Authority can be viewed online at warwickshire.fixmystreet.com

**St John's Church:** Stratford District Council will be requested to return the gate for repair.

**Reading Room:** The notice board has been erected outside The Reading Room.

**Parish Plan:** The results of the Housing Needs Survey have been validated in discussion with the coordinators, Warwickshire Rural Community Council, and will be discussed at the next meeting prior to publication.

#### Next Meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 at 7:30pm in the Reading Room

#### **CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION**

The Avon Dassett village website has a mini Coronavirus site: www.avondassett.com/covid-19/. This is continually being updated and has lots of useful information including a directory of businesses who deliver to the villages.

#### Regularly check the websites & Facebook pages of the Parish Councils & the Villages for up-to-date news and information Keep washing your hands

#### FENNY COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Jon Dutton771 174fcpc.chair@gmail.comwww. fennycompton-pc.gov.ukClerk: Ian Wilson0772 507 1616fcpc.clerk@gmail.com

**Network of Volunteers:** Our network of volunteers has been established and you should all know who your contact is. The list is also on the website under 'News'. If you need any support, please reach out to them. We are aware that not everything is working as it should and we can act as a point of escalation to other agencies to resolve any issues.

**Parish Council Meetings:** The Government has now passed legislation to allow Parish Council meetings to be held remotely. This should still allow members of the public to observe or at least hear the meeting. We are going to test how this works and if successful we will publish further details.

**Annual Parish Meeting:** The Annual Parish Meeting is usually held in April, when we receive reports from a range of local groups. This is normally the most well-attended meeting of the year. This year's Annual Parish Meeting is postponed via legislation until May 2021. The Parish Council are planning to collate reports from as many groups as possible to publish online.

#### Next Meeting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7:30pm Via Zoom

#### Farnborough Parish Council

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

**Street Lighting:** It was proposed and agreed that a quotation provided by Warwickshire County Council Lighting for a 'Standard' style of lighting pole with LED lantern be accepted and replacement programme on a priority base be undertaken. It was agreed that individual residents will be allowed, at their own expense in excess of the Standard light, to upgrade the specification to the alternative 'Heritage' lighting column with Victorian lamp head as per WCC specification.

**Play Area Repairs:** The contractor had been unable to access the area as it had been waterlogged. Repair work to commence with change in weather. Please note that the Play Area is currently closed as per Government Directive.

**Assistance:** We were grateful for the information provided to the PC by Trevor Gill, Avon Dassett PC Chairman, who outlined his village's assistance facilities at this time of National Crisis.

> Next Meeting Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7:30pm Via Zoom

#### FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**Calling Tree Campaign Pack:** Neighbourhood Watch has produced a Calling Tree Campaign Pack to support people in England and Wales to be connected. Here is how it works. You call 3 people. Those 3 people call 3 people each making 9. Those 9 each call 3 people reaching 27 people and so on. Why not call 3 people today to ask how they are doing. If you would like to receive a call please email watch@fcvh.org.uk or call 01295 236448. Note: for security purposes numbers will be verified. More information at www.ourwatch.org.uk/calling-tree

**101:** The police non-emergency number 101 is now free to use. Alternatively, go to www.warwickshire.police.uk and hit the 'Report' button.

Coronavirus Scams: Be very wary of any messages you receive, even if they appear to come from an organisation you know and trust. Be particularly careful if personal data is being requested. Independently verify telephone numbers and URLs to avoid becoming a victim. More bit.ly/3cozCcX

**Share:** Please share your scam/crime experiences with your neighbours – email watch@fcvh.org.uk or post on NextDoor nextdoor.co.uk.

#### AVON DASSETT COMMUNITY BENEFITS SOCIETY

www.avondassettcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk

The Yew Tree is currently closed due to the Coronavirus lockdown. However, the Management Committee is still meeting, using conference calling, to ensure that when the current restrictions are lifted, the pub can reopen as soon as possible. All events and bookings have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.

The report below relates to March as no report was published last month

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February The Yew Tree hosted the newly married Mike and Liz Blakeman and their guests for their wedding reception. The pub was transformed by Liz's brother and celebrity florist Simon Lycett and the huge flower arch around the doorway became a major discussion point. Thanks go to our tenants Colin Payne and Steve Jones for their commitment to making the event happen and to their enthusiastic staff who helped the celebrations to be so successful. It is hoped that the success of this event will encourage others to consider using The Yew Tree as a venue for their events. Photographs showing the transformation are available on The Yew Tree website and on Facebook.

Before the lockdown, menus had been changed in response to customer feedback and happy hour had been reinstated.

For the last quiz we had a stand in Quizmaster who introduced some new themed rounds into proceedings. The jackpot was not won and is expected to continue to build once we can start the quiz again. The Bridge Club and Walking Groups have been popular but have had to be suspended. They will be reinstated as soon as possible.

Adverts will now be included in *The Compton Chronicle* to publicise future events 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, contact details above.

#### NAPTON AND FENNY COMPTON WARD STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Coronavirus.** It seems amazing that the last report I wrote for *The Chronicle* made no mention of Covid19, but since then I have done little else. Both the Council and I have been very busy, and this report is all about Coronavirus activity. The Council has had a key role to play in emergency responses and I will try to summarise a few of the things that have been going on.

The Council has set priorities during the coronavirus crisis:

- Protecting residents, staff, and Councillors from coronavirus
- Maintaining business critical services
- Maintaining the decision-making capability of the Council
- Support to businesses through the rapid processing of the reliefs and grants to business
- Support to the vulnerable, and the "shielded" within our communities

**Council Tax Bills and Leaflet:** The Coronavirus emergency actions came into being just after the Council Tax bills were sent out. This timing was unfortunate especially for those that have lost income as a result of the emergency. If anyone has difficulty in paying the bill, please note that the Council is not taking enforcement action against failure to pay at the moment, but if you can afford to pay, please do – the Council is under severe financial pressure. Accompanying the bill was a leaflet explaining the proposed green waste charges. For those of us that campaigned against the introduction of the charge, we now find that a virus less than a micron in diameter has achieved what we did not - and the charge has been deferred for at least a year.

Who knows what the future holds, as Government finances – including local Government - will be an area of difficulty for years to come? To date the Government has provided £43,508 of financial support. However, the estimated cost through increased expenditure and reduced revenue is estimated to be in the region of £4-5m. In relation to additional emergency related expenditure the Council has incurred costs of around £100,000.

**Operation of the Council:** I am pleased to report that that the Council – staff, management and Councillors of all parties are working together in a collaborative and effective manner for the community. Legislation and Council rules are in the process of being revised to allow some decisions to be taken by remote working - such as video conferencing when technological facilities can be established. This is not easy, and we want to ensure that democratic control and oversight is not lost. Planning committees are a good example where it is important that there is scope for such oversight.

The Council is very much open for business by phone and email and continues to receive above average call volumes, but the Council offices are closed for personal visits.

Key services being maintained include:

• Environmental Protection; Food Safety

- Benefits Housing and Council Tax with significant increase in demand
- Homelessness/Rough Sleepers/Housing Officers
- Legal services; Licensing
- Refuse and Recycling
- Planning

Due to the need to comply with social distancing arrangements, some services have been temporarily suspended such as UBUS, public toilets, & Land Charge searches.

**Refuse, Recycling & Green Waste:** Currently the Council can maintain all of the refuse and recycling collections. However residents may have heard Warwick have had to suspend their garden waste service. Whilst this is being maintained by BIFFA, if staffing levels drop in the future then this service may need to be suspended by Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

**Elections:** In line with the instruction from central Government, the election for the Police and Crime Commissioner on  $6^{th}$  May 2020 has been cancelled.

**Support to the Vulnerable:** This has been an area of partnership working across County, District and Parishes. The establishment of so many local volunteers to support individuals within communities has been important for many of our residents.

In addition, there has been the implementation of the Shielded Hubs in partnership with the County Council. Those who have been identified as the "extremely vulnerable" – those who have been/are being contacted by the NHS and must not leave their homes for a 12-week period. Nationally, there were 900,000 individuals, and the District Council has been undertaking food deliveries for individuals with no current arrangements in place from a newly established distribution hub which has been set up at Stratford. To date the Council has made nearly 300 food deliveries. There is a helpline 0800 408 1447 which is open 24/7 for individuals to call if they need support. What has not been working well is the national coordination with supermarkets and I have struggled to resolve a number of cases with home deliveries for the vulnerable.

**Enforcing the Regulations:** The Council's Environmental Health department is leading the compliance of regulations at businesses. The Police lead on enforcing Government guidance on individuals and groups. In the first week, the Food Safety team contacted over 400 food businesses by telephone, email and leaflet drop, to advise them of the new business closure rules. The Council has issued posters for display on practical measures on social distancing to smaller food retailers on customer social distancing. Additionally, area surveys have been carried out in daytime and evening by officers to identify any business that were open illegally. The Council has investigated 31 reports of complaints about businesses not complying with the law and served two Prohibition Notices on businesses that had remained open in contravention of the regulations.

Continued overleaf

#### Continued from previous page

Support to Businesses: There are two schemes currently proposed:

Scheme 1 – Business Support Grants Fund: Properties in receipt of rural rate relief or small business rates relief on  $11^{\text{th}}$  March, will be eligible for a grant payment of £10,000. There are some exceptions.

Scheme 2 – Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund: Properties which would have qualified for retail discount on  $11^{\text{th}}$  March, will be entitled to between £10,000 and £25,000 depending on rateable value. An online form can be found at: www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/business-rates-grant-form.cfm.

This has been an extremely busy period and I express my thanks to all involved. As well as the applause at the 8pm events for all the support services and workers - the sense of community spirit has been heart-warming in many ways.

Call Centre: The Council call centre is open during office hours 01789 267 575.

Cllr Nigel Rock Contact details in The Directory nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

#### WARWICKSHIRE SAFE HAVEN

Coventry and Warwickshire MIND are pleased to announce the opening of a new service which launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

The Warwickshire Safe Haven will offer mental health support from 6pm-11pm every Thursday to Sunday evening. Currently support is provided by telephone 02477 714



554 or text 07970 042 270 or email safehaven@cwmind.org.uk with a view to being provided face to face once government guidance allows. Warwickshire Safe Haven aims to help those who might be finding it difficult to cope and need support when other services are closed. Wellbeing practitioners can provide a reassuring chat, signposting, and guidance on building coping strategies to manage both mental and emotional wellbeing.



#### FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

fennycomptonnp.co.uk/consultations/formal-consultation-2020/

The past year has been spent drafting and revising the plan. It has successfully passed the environmental assessment and is now ready to go out for formal consultation, a process that takes about six weeks. Unfortunately, this has had to be postponed because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Printed copies must be on display at certain key locations. As soon as we can resume, we will let you know through *The Compton Chronicle*, and various websites.

Our thanks go to all those who have contributed to the preparation of the draft plan, from those who helped to distribute the questionnaire, to those who have organised surveys, and particularly to the members of the steering committee. Cherie Southgate, Hilary Birkbeck and John Wickenden. Michael Guest

#### 50 Activities to do in your Back Garden

The National Trust have produced an on-line resource of suggestions for activities to do whilst on lockdown but could be useful at any time. There is so much for you to do on your doorstep: look for shooting stars, make a wild crown, get to know colourful birds or watch furry caterpillars. See www.nationaltrust.org.uk/things-to-do and scroll down to find the link.

#### **THE PESTILENCE 1596**

Around the time it became clear that the Covid-19 epidemic had reached England I happened to read Thomas Nashe's poem and from there was lead to some recent research on the Castilian plague of 1596 which was typical of the plagues that he had in mind and which had swept Europe, including this country, since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. There are major differences between these plagues and the Covid-19 epidemic; in particular they caused a much higher death rate because they spread unchecked in towns and there was no realistic treatment let alone palliative care. On the other hand, they spread much less outside towns and seaports and Fenny Compton, as a small inland village, may hardly have felt their impact. Monarchs and governments dreaded their arrival in their capitals with good reason and during the Castilian plague the Spanish king and his court basically kept on the move until they thought it was safe to stop. Then as now there were acts of courage and unselfish sacrifice by some people which were applauded while others panicked or were blindly self-centred. And the plague cost the government huge amounts of revenue, which it had effectively already spent, so there were serious economic consequences that lasted for years. In short, what we are experiencing now is another serious bit of history that, like the Castilian plague, will make its way into the history books of the future.

My poem may seem a bit depressed but Nashe was in complete despair; the other verses of his poem all emphasize the haphazard and sadistic cruelty of the plague. In a way our feelings are a measure of the difference that 400 years has made.

J R Peers whose poem is overleaf

Adieu, farewell earth's bliss! This world uncertain is: Fond are life's lustful joys, Death proves them all but toys, None from his darts can fly; I am sick, I must die – Lord, have mercy on us! Thomas Nashe 1593

#### THE PESTILENCE J R Peers

This pushy and unwelcome visitor creates a fever Of excitement like a fox appearing in a chicken run, Or when a recognised seducer smirks their way Into a teenage party; pulses and expectations race. The old identify a time that they dislike; The springtime flowers prematurely fade, The opera goes on too long and trips to India And Italy promising warmth, indulgence and escape From time's slow march, must be delayed. Our only champions - actively unglamorous Scientists in suits, and wooden ministers and mayors With earnest clipboard frowns and stilted diction. The club we've joined advises we expect a lengthy stay With shrinking funds, distress and possible extinction.

So far it's been a phoney war whose real cruelties Have been inflicted somewhere else; and so, like soldiers Marching to the front, we're talking sense and balancing The odds. Do we succeed in packaging the swift irrelevance Of beauty, wit, possessions, past success, courage And even love? Or does the fox untie our brains Before he does the business? Is it remotely sane To buy those crates of bogroll, beans and soup? 70 years back our fear of nuclear war could just Be soothed by tinned sardines and powdered milk, Secreted In the roof; much later found and binned By mocking children and bemused executors. A nervous whine greets each defensive stratagem, Pointing its quivering finger at the obvious Mistakes and all the horrors sure to follow. Kipling would sigh at manliness so hollow.

The town is greatly changed, the streets perversely quiet Except where 'supermarket' stores, last month so firmly Calm and deeply stocked, must gasp for breath While from their doors, with all the vigour of a plague Of angry ants, their wild-eyed shoppers drag huge Bulging bags away. The little shops now look as if Their former confidence will soon be turned to dust

And spread across their bare abandoned counters. A 16<sup>th</sup> century plague could only kill and leave; This modern plague may well be cheated of your life And take your livelihood instead. A brightly coloured blanket Of apparent cash descends to shield our shivering world And we are asked to trust that such a contrast to the usual Miserly restraint is just a sign of strength. We hesitate To guess what we will find when finally the blanket floats away And we can see what little has survived to face the day.

But when our visitor departs his grand destructive Triumph will be compromised by pleasures which He accidentally sired. For children, school at home Restores to them the proper custody of their education. Plenty of 'art', insane dislike of screens abandoned, And teachers grateful – finally – for their pupils' generous Participation. Outside the birds and bees observe That garden productivity is being usefully improved; The sheep observe that footpath walkers have a strange Good humour and, from a certain distance, smile incessantly At lambs and other humans, as if in sudden love With every living thing. Are they unwell? Or is the lack Of traffic in the sky above making them all so debonair? We'll never understand; last night they stood outside Their homes and clapped and clapped the chilly evening air.

FRIDAY 1 SATURDAY 2 SUNDAY 3 Monday 4 TUESDAY 5 WEDNESDAY 6 THURSDAY 7 FRIDAY 8 EARLY BANK HOLIDAY / VE DAY SATURDAY Avon Dassett Virtual VE Day 9 SUNDAY 10 Monday 11 TUESDAY 12 WEDNESDAY 13 **RECYCLING COLLECTION** THURSDAY 14 Friday 15 SATURDAY 16 SUNDAY 17 Fenny Compton Virtual PC Meeting - TBC Monday 18 7:45pm TUESDAY 19 Farnborough Virtual PC Meeting WEDNESDAY 20 7:30pm THURSDAY 21 ASCENSION DAY FRIDAY 22 23 SATURDAY SUNDAY 24 Spring Bank Holiday Monday 25 SCHOOL HALF TERM STARTS TUESDAY 26 WEDNESDAY 27 **RECYCLING COLLECTION** THURSDAY 28 FRIDAY SCHOOL HALF TERM ENDS 29 SATURDAY 30 SUNDAY 31 Pentecost

#### MAY 2020 DIARY .....

#### DIGITAL PARISH CHURCH

DAILY : 10:30AM AND 6:00PM Accessed via www.burtondassettchurch.org

METHODIST CHURCH FENNY COMPTON

Service & Coffee Mornings : Cancelled until further notice

#### Cornwall Holiday Cottage – Carpenters Cottage, Langore!

We used to live in Fenny Compton and came down to Cornwall in 2018. We have a

holiday let, Carpenters Cottage which is a beautiful Grade II listed cottage, full of character with slate floors, low beams and even lower doorways! The cottage is approximately 3 miles from Launceston, the historic original capital of Cornwall. Carpenters is ideally situated for exploring North Cornwall's beaches & coastal villages. The nearest beach is 12 miles away and we have Dartmoor and Bodmin moor on our doorstep. We cater for two adults and welcome two well behaved pets. For further details,



please contact Carol or Rolf on 07506 413 489. Thank you for your interest. 🕹

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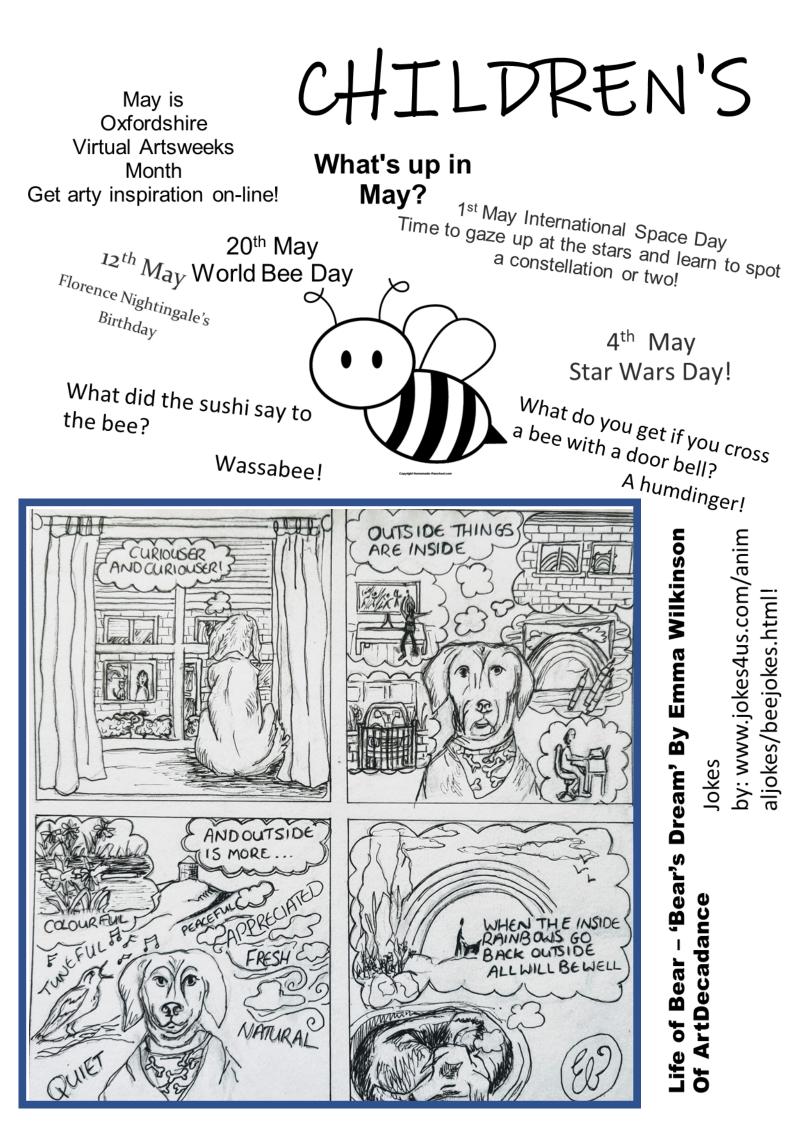


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#### Tel: 01295 253 936



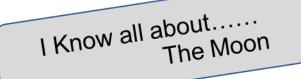
banbury@ironandwood.co.uk www.ironandwood.co.uk



PAGES!

The Moon, located 238,000 miles from Earth, has a temperature of 225° F during the day and drops down to –243° at night.





Copernicus is a complex, young crater on the northern hemisphere of the moon – See if you can spot it when the night sky is clear!

We may have to stay at home a lot at the moment, but have you ever really looked up at the night sky? All we have to do is look up to see hundreds and thousands of new places right above our own houses! The moon is the closest thing to us in space and on a clear night, especially when the moon is full there's lots to explore, even if you don't have a telescope! Some people say there's a man on the moon but actually his face is made of craters, basins, mountains, rilles, and rays. They are all different [and worth looking up for more info], but all are related to impacts in some way. Check out www.astronomy.com for loads of fascination stellar facts!



# BANBURY BOARDING KENNELS AND CATTERY

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#### KINETON CATHOLIC CHURCH MASS

#### CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Mobile Library			
Fenny Compton	Avon Dassett	Farnborough	
Cancelled until further notice			

Post Office Opening Times				
Avon Dassett	Fenny Compton	Northend		
THE READING ROOM	THE VILLAGE HALL	THE VILLAGE HALL		
Closed until	Mondays only until	Monday & Wednesday		
further notice	further notice	9am-1pm		
	9am-10am	_		

Fenny Compton Bowls Club Nights	
Cancelled until further notice	

#### FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

#### VILLAGE TEAS & COFFEE MORNINGS: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Did you know you that the Diary is designed for easy removal from the Chronicle to be put somewhere it can be seen? Not that there is much to see this month!

# THE NOT-VERY MERRIE LION

BROOK STREET FENNY COMPTON 01295 771134

### HOPEFULLY WE WILL BE OPEN SOON WHEN IT IS SAFE ENOUGH TO DO SO DETAILS WILL APPEAR ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

# IN THE MEANTIME, TAKE CARE #STAYSAFE #STAYHOME #SAVELIVES THANK YOU!

www.merrielion.co.uk

#### How to Give your Feet a Pamper

by Liz at Skin and Tonic

Milk & Honey Foot Bath 🖱 🚭; this is a softening foot soak that's very relaxing...

You will need:

- \* One big plastic bow/ tub/ bucket
- \* Warm water to fill tub halfway
- \* 1 tablespoon of honey
- \* 2 tablespoons of plain yogurt; lactic acid in yoghurt helps to soften the skin
- \* 1 tablespoon of coconut oil
- \* A few drops of essential oil like Lavender
- \* Rose petals are a nice touch if you have them 3

Instructions:

∠ Place a large towel on the floor

→ Put all the ingredients into the tub

∠ Sit comfortably and place your feet into the foot bath

∠ Relax back and enjoy 4

Add more warm water to extend your bath if you like

∠ If you have a foot file, buff off your excess skin

**∠** Dry your feet

∠ Apply cream and pop on your socks

Enjoy

#### **CARERS4CARERS**

**Carers4Carers** is a peer-led group for unpaid family carers who meet to support each other. We also support carers whose loved ones are in residential care and continue to offer support when caring concludes.

Taking place on the fourth Friday of each month, we meet at Kineton Village Hall Mill Street Kineton CV35 0LB, 10:30am-12 noon. We always start with time for coffee and chat and then, if a speaker or workshop is scheduled, this will usually begin at about 11am. Come when you can and stay for as long as you are able. With advanced notice, we are also able to look after your loved one in our Companionship Group.

In line with Government guidelines with regard to the outbreak of Coronavirus, it is with regret that we have had to **cancel** our monthly meetings until further notice In the meantime, please take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk, email carers4carers@gmail.com or call 07947 893 504 for more information about our work and to request a copy of our newsletter. For online support you might also like to take a look at the Carers UK forum at www.carersuk.org/forum and the local Carers Trust forum at www.facebook.com/groups/870251836784890/.

#### LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

We are living in unprecedented times. None of us have experienced anything like this before. There are some who said that the closing down of so much of our daily life was unnecessary and simply scaremongering and causing panic. Others that we did not do this early enough. We stay at home to safeguard and protect the elderly and vulnerable groups in our society - those most liable to catch the Coronavirus - to reduce the pressure on our NHS.

I have been overwhelmed by the care and concern there has been for those having to totally self-isolate whilst the rest of us can go out for a daily walk or weekly shop. Jesus said, 'Love thy neighbour' and 'Care for those in need.' That is exactly what we have seen. People helping those in our communities, not just their friends but people that previously they did not know by sight or name. A new strong feeling of community has emerged. The support groups and networks that have been set up are amazing.

But whilst the majority of us have been 'locked down' others with essential jobs have continued to go out to work to provide what we need to stay at home.

Those in food shops, factories, farmers, delivery drivers who ensure that food and our essentials are available for us. Those who keep our utilities going so that we may comfortably and safely live in our homes. Providing all the amenities and things we are used to including our IT, broadband and media which has kept us in touch and entertained and allowed so many to work from home. Each Thursday evening millions of us up and down the country take to our doorsteps to say 'Thank you' to frontline staff - doctors, nurses, care workers, supermarket staff, the emergency services and teachers.

As I write this we have just been told we have yet another 3 weeks of 'lockdown' ahead of us and even then it may not be over! Whilst ironically the sun keeps shining, it all seems quite bleak as we adjust to our new realities; of being confined at home together 24/7, home-schooling children, working from home, being laid off from work, living alone in isolation, feel financial strain during the uncertainty. As all this goes on people are becoming critically ill and dying as a result of the virus - even the young, fit and healthy.

I would like to share the closing words from a recent *Call the Midwife.* "*The seasons will always turn. It rains and we ford across the floods, the drought comes, and we manage that too. We survive them, we grow regardless of the weather. This too will pass. We will know wonder where there has been despair. There will be happiness in this time, and we will remember it. There will be friendships which we won't forget. Love is the constant whereby we endure all - all winters and all storms. It's the time in which all things can thrive. The darkness is like a canopy from which the stars can hang. For there are always stars, we just need to look for them."* 

I have come to realise that everyone of us is a star that can shine in the darkness to lighten the path of others and even ourselves if we choose to.

Each with our place each with our purpose as fixed as the familiar constellations. The stars are shinning throughout our communities, their "light shines in the darkness". May these feelings and action to be community... to help one another continue when this time has passed. Keep yourselves, your families and your neighbours safe. God bless you all.

#### **CHURCH SERVICES - NEW DIGITAL CHURCH**

As we face a time of challenge, where prayer, worship and fellowship with others feels increasingly important, we find any plans to gather together as a worshipping community are on hold, due to social distancing and self-isolation. It started with all public worship in groups being cancelled and then the church buildings were locked. Many people were asking.... 'How do we keep our faith strong in this time and how, if we find ourselves in isolation, do we maintain a rhythm of prayer and worship?'

Whilst we are '*locked in*' to our homes we are '*locked out*' of our churches, but church is not closed it has changed. Many churches chose to record services or livestream using YouTube, Facebook, and other media. But many of these do not allow live interaction between the participants. I wanted to hold services that would allow us to talk to and see one another in the same way we do when face to face in church. I therefore set up our new Digital Church using the ZOOM conferencing service. This has allowed the church community to gather together for worship and a much need chance to chat and socialise in the safety of our own homes.

We have a fully interactive service in the same way we would in a service held in the church. The words for the service and hymns are projected on the screen and people switch their microphones on and off as they join in to read the bible, say prayers and lead us as we sing to live music. The music for singing was initially very distorted until we discovered the 'original sound' button now our piano and vocal accompaniment makes singing so good that we are having a very uplifting twice weekly 'Songs of Praise' every Wednesday and Sunday evening - email me your hymn requests.

Our first Digital Church service was on Mothering Sunday and we have had 2 services a day ever since. The service 'attendance' has been 50 to 60 on Sunday morning and 12 to 16 at each of the two daily services and it has allowed families from all over the country to meet and worship together. We have had family members from Birmingham, Yorkshire, Wales, London, Surrey and elsewhere – it is amazing. The worship is sandwiched between a pre and post chat often with a coffee or glass of wine in hand! It seems to be bringing a routine to people's day giving a spiritual and much needed social connection. If you have not already done so, join us at Digital Church. Services are daily at 10:30am and at 6pm. They can be accessed via the Burton Dassett Church website. www.burtondassettchurch.org.

#### Advice on Coronavirus Issues

**NHS Mental Health Advice:** Their top 10 tips are: Stay connected with people; Talk about your worries; Support and help others; Feel prepared; Look after your body; Stick to the facts; Stay on top of difficult feelings; Do things you enjoy; Focus on the present; Look after your sleep. For more details and advice on these tips see the website www.nhs.uk

**MIND Mental Health Advice:** MIND, the mental health charity has some excellent advice for adults and children on how to cope with the strange times that we live in. See their website www.mind.org.uk and follow the links to coronavirus.

**Stratford District Council:** Website www.stratford.gov.uk including advice on: Community Support and Advice; Financial Support; Council Service Updates; Updates on Business Rates; Updates on Waste Disposal; Housing Advice Services.

**Warwickshire County Council:** Help and support for vulnerable residents. Call 01926 410 410 for advice on services. Phone lines are open: Monday to Thursday – 9am to 5pm; Friday – 9am to 4:30pm. Also see www.warwickshire.gov.uk/

# Keep washing your hands and take care when making essential trips out of your home



#### FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

**Teas & Coffee Mornings:** We do regret that due to the current situation it is impossible for us to open for our popular summer teas on Wednesdays and Saturday afternoons and our coffee mornings on Tuesdays. As soon as restrictions are lifted, we will of course be open for business as usual and very much look forward to seeing everyone again. We do though have a very popular selection of books for all tastes, both fiction and non-fiction, so if boredom has now set in and you are short of reading material do contact any Village Hall committee member and they will be pleased to open up for you. There is no charge.

**VE Day Celebration:** Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. We do not know at this time of writing, what the situation will be with regard to this national celebration. We do hope that we will still be able to celebrate this by inviting all residents of Farnborough to afternoon tea in The Village Hall; invitations or emails will be sent to everyone nearer the time.

**Tidy Up:** The Village Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who assisted with tidying the garden around the Hall and to send their very best wishes to all the village and hope they remain safe and well.

#### **BOWLS CLUB**

Unfortunately, but not surprising under the circumstances, the Kineton and District League has been cancelled this year. Depending on when the Covid19 restrictions



are lifted, we hope to hold an Open Day and play some friendly matches and hold our Club competitions. Looking on the positive side this will enable everyone who is interested to come along and play. Look out for future updates.

#### ABACUS

We would like to thank all our parents for their understanding in these uncertain and unprecedented times. We have remained open, at limited times, so that we can support our keyworker parents some of the time. We hope that we will be back to normal as soon as possible and will do so as soon as it is safe for both children and staff.

Please do not forget to register for a place in September, leave a message on our answer phone or contact us through our website page. We look forward to seeing you all soon

#### AVON DASSETT VIRTUAL VE DAY

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Most events planned to commemorate VE day have been postponed but the 1940s sing along will go ahead and there will be a commemorative newspaper published for each household in the village. The popup market planned for the same day is cancelled but many stallholders are online and offer local deliveries. For more details go to: www.avondassett.com/events/event/avon-dasssett-virtual-ve-day/

#### **Oxfordshire Artweeks**

www.artweeks.org/festival

Oxfordshire Artweeks is the UK's oldest and biggest open studios and pop-up exhibition event: in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, the  $38^{th}$  Festival — taking place from  $2^{nd}-25^{th}$  May — is moving on-line and will present themed virtual art trails daily throughout May.

In our artist galleries on the website, there will be thousands of pictures of the pieces created by painters, potters, silversmiths, textile and glass artists, furniture-makers and more. Visitors will also be able to enjoy video footage of artists at work, to explore 'walk-through' exhibitions on-line and delve deeper with through-the-keyhole-interviews with some artists in different media. Join us for a social media celebration, using the hashtag #oxfordshireartweeks to brighten up long days in self-isolation or lonely evenings social distancing.

#### THE MID-ENGLAND BARROW

www.mid-englandbarrow.co.uk

Comments made by funeral industry groups, indicate that we may soon be instructed by the Government that attendance at funerals will have to cease to stop the spread of Coronavirus. Afterall, it is a step that has been taken in other countries. I cannot imagine, loosing someone close to me, let alone to this horrible virus, and then being denied the privilege of being able to pay my respects in the way in which we are all used to doing. We recognise the psychological impact this is going to have on people, both close family, and friends. Whilst we do not pretend that we can wave the proverbial magic wand and make everything better, we would like to be able to support families to change their mindset about how to have a fitting send off, pay respects, celebrate a life, or whatever label most appropriately suits the occasion. Slowly, without the rules the virus has beset on us, we have gradually been moving away from traditional funerals, by having the option of a direct type cremation, followed by an event at a later date. In the past this has meant that people travelling some distance for the funeral have been able to comfortably make arrangements, and choices of the most fitting venue and food selected. The current situation has thrust this alternative into the forefront as an acceptable option, and hopefully a way in which family and friends can hold a memorial, pay respects or celebrate a life, whilst feeling that they have suitably and correctly dealt with the loss of a loved one. They will feel they have said their farewells and goodbyes in a fitting manner. At Mid-England Barrow we are now taking booking for funerals or celebrations of life from June onwards. We have a 5\* registered kitchen, and all the necessary food hygiene certification. Anyone is welcome to hold a funeral here, and if in June we are still governed by restrictions, we will gladly allow you to rearrange your event without any costs incurred. The safari tent can be used free of charge as long as catering is required, and examples of costs are available on our website. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone well and look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Barrow soon. **Richard Beeby** 

#### **CHURCH NEWS**

**Postponed Events:** The Fundraising Committee for St. Peter and St. Clare, Fenny Compton regrets that it must postpone until later in the year the previously publicised Dulcimer Concert on 15<sup>th</sup> May and the Church Fete on 6<sup>th</sup> June. When it is safe and can be planned, further announcements will be made.

Just a Bite: The Just a Bite Lunch is cancelled until further notice.

**On-line Services:** Coventry Cathedral is holding regular virtual services on their Facebook page. Worcester Cathedral is streaming Morning Prayer at 8:30am & Music at 6:30pm every day on their Facebook page.

#### AVON DASSETT SOAPBOX DERBY

The Avon Dassett Soapbox Derby has been postponed until Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

#### FENNY COMPTON FOOTPATH GROUP

We went into April under very unusual circumstances due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Our Group work sessions are on hold for a while, but we still have lots of jobs to do and the people to do them. Major projects are on hold for now but some of the volunteers will be out doing the tasks that only need one person to do them. The working as a team approach has worked very well; we will just have to see how the next weeks or months develop.

We are now into our 23<sup>rd</sup> year and stronger than ever; we had 3 more people join us last year and we are pretty much on top of things. I have been thinking about what impact the Footpath Group has had. Obviously, the paths and bridleways are in much better shape and, especially in the current circumstances, there are far more people using them. There are worse places to be in lockdown or working from home. Despite the success of the Footpath Group we have had no problems with litter, vandalism or thefts from farms due to the footpaths. There are still people straying from the footpaths and wandering around where they shouldn't but all we can do is to mark the official routes as clearly as we can. One downside of our work though is that there may appear to have been an impact on wildlife. There used to be active badger setts in Fenny Compton, Farnborough and Avon Dassett and now all of the badgers have gone. The setts were on the routes of footpaths so perhaps they have moved to more secluded places. Deer and hares are also not so common as are rabbits but that may be more to do with the RVHD disease which is wiping out the rabbit population everywhere.

Nobody knows how or when Covid-19 will end so we carry on individually and wait and see.

If you see any tasks that needs the attention of the Footpath Group or if you want to get involved give me a call. We are also on Facebook so you can follow us there for regular updates and photographs on what we have been doing. Look for 'fennycomptonfootpathgroup'. Brian Peers *Contact details in The Directory* 

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#### A LOAD OF OLD RUBBISH

On Easter Monday me and my daughter Hannah walked three quarters of a mile along Northend Road and collected approximately 20kg of rubbish from the hedgerows and ditches. The picture shows four bulging bags of the litter and rubbish we collected. Where does all this come from? Well, sadly some of it seems to be deliberately dumped - McDonald's bags, cans of drinks with drinks still in them,



cigarette packets and new, shiny cans that once contained Red Bull and the like. But mostly we picked up old crisp and sweet packets, old bottles and cans, plastic containers all the sorts of things that would normally be put into our rubbish or recycling bins. So - does this rubbish get blown out of the bin lorries as they travel from village to village? We were staggered by just how much we collected in such a short distance. Yet only yesterday I saw an empty cake box on top of a grit bin about 15 metres away from the litter bin by the Fenny bus stop - why would anyone just leave it there?

So much of this stuff can cause damage to wildlife. Television reports from earlier in the year raised our awareness of the terrible damage plastic is doing to the world, but we have it here on our doorstep too - we just cannot see it as we drive past in our cars. So a plea: if you see rubbish on the ground and are near a bin, please pick up the rubbish and put it in that bin. If you see rubbish on the ground but are not near a bin - pick it up and take it home to bin. Fenny is a lovely village with many community groups working hard to keep it a great place to live - we can all do a little bit to keep our environment clean by simply being more aware of how we dispose of our rubbish. If, at the time of reading, lockdown is continuing, I hope we shall have walked to Northend village and back and cleared the ditches and hedgerows either side of the road completely of litter. But, hey – it is not an exclusive activity - anyone can do it!!

#### VIRTUAL SCOUTING

In this era of Covid-19 scouting in Fenny Compton continues. Unfortunately, all of our sections had lots of fun, outdoor, adventurous activity planned over the spring and summer term and now that is all on hold. However, the leaders are trying as hard as they can to run activities online. The Scout and Explorer sections have met virtually - running quizzes and home-based scavenger hunts – these have been great fun and have involved the whole family. Our Cubs enjoyed online Easter crafts and teamed up with a neighbouring Scout group to make the most of 'the great indoors.' Young people need organisations like scouting more than ever during these tough times.

We wish you all the best – keep safe.

#### VIRTUAL WHAT'S ON

In this era of Covid-19 I have prepared a Virtual What's On to keep you informed and, hopefully, entertained.

**Gardening Inspiration:** The Royal Horticultural Society have a 'Grow at Home' page on their website www.rhs.org.uk/. Full of gardening advice and inspiration to help everyone get growing and feel better.

**Art UK:** The Charity Art UK features almost 250,000 artworks on their website see artuk.org/. The website allows a search for artworks or artists, or to explore art by theme through topics. There are also stories highlighting artists, movements, collections, exhibitions, and themes.

**Cranach: Artist & Innovator:** Compton Verney have created a virtual walk-through of their current Cranach exhibition and made the video tour available on their website at www.comptonverney.org.uk/cranach-artist-innovator/

**Show and Tell:** Tune in to the Heritage and Culture Warwickshire YouTube channel every Friday to hear a new bizarre, intriguing, or downright gory story from their favourite documents and objects in 'Tales from the Collections'. Each one will be brought to you by a member of staff.

**Old Photographs:** See the website www.windowsonwarwickshire.org.uk for some wonderful old photographs of Warwickshire.

**Children's Activity Sheets:** Compton Verney have created lots of activity sheets to download for free from their websites with lots of ideas to keep our little ones busy. See www.comptonverney.org.uk/family-activities/

**On-Line Jigsaw Puzzles:** The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford have turned some of their treasures into online jigsaw puzzles of varying degrees of difficulty. See www.jigsawplanet.com/AshmoleanMuseum. Explore the Jigsaw Planet website for hundreds of virtual jigsaws.

**Open Cabinet**: Open Cabinet is used to enrich University and lifelong learning through virtual handling of 3D artefacts in the museums. The Oxford University Cabinet website www.cabinet.ox.ac.uk has a wide range of photographs of art and artifacts with accompanying text. Explore and learn.

**On-line Museum Video Tours:** The Art Fund are continuing to do all they can to help museums and galleries across the UK at this difficult time. Take a look at the website www.artfund.org/ and on the home page click on '*connect with art in the digital space*'. Scroll down to see what virtual tours there are. To select just a few: Andy Warhol at Tate Modern, Frida Kahlo: Making Herself Up exhibition & Judy Chicago at the Baltic Centre Gateshead.

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission:** The CWGC are delivering video talks on their work on Thursday afternoons. See their Facebook page.

**Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew:** The world-renowned Gardens at Kew on www.kew.org have produced a wide range of videos to watch. They include such topics as: From bean to bar: How to make chocolate; Best vegetables to grow on your windowsill; Mindfulness in your home.

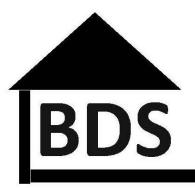
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