

NOVEMBER 2020

THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



REMEMBRANCE

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

FENNY COMPTON • AVON DASSETT • FARNBOROUGH



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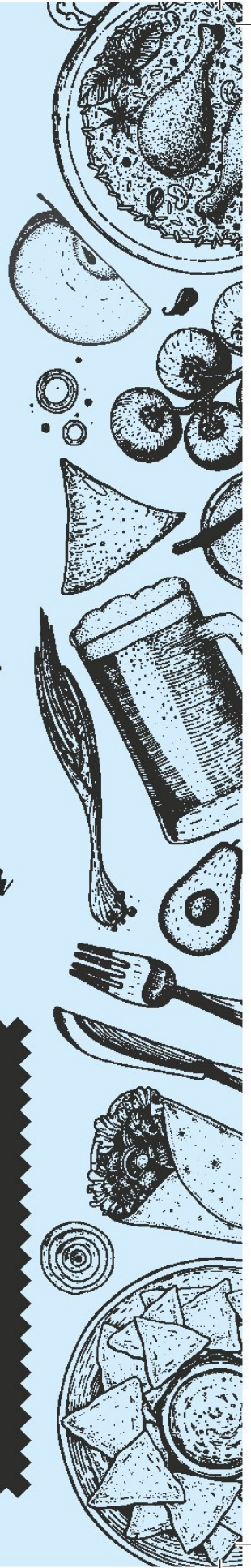
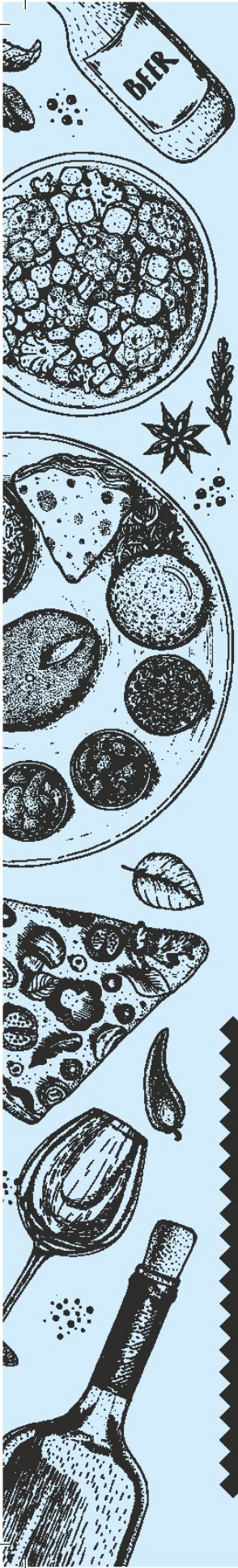
PRE BOOK A TABLE NOW

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The Plough, Warmington



THE COMPTON CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER 2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have missed so many events this year that define our country - The Boat Race, Royal Ascot, Wimbledon etc. I find it sad that we cannot commemorate Remembrance Sunday in the usual way though details of what the villages have planned is in the magazine. Peter Hughes has kindly written an interesting article for *The Chronicle* about his War-time memories.

Pet owners are concerned that with community bonfires unable to be held on 5th November this year, families may hold firework displays in their gardens. If you intend to have a display, please advise your neighbours who have pets so that they are prepared.

Our next edition will cover both December 2020 and January 2021.
Keep safe and sane.

The closing date for news & articles
for the joint December 2020/January 2021 edition is

Thursday 12th November 2020

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 Andrew Salter at St Botolph Farnborough.

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LOVE TO DANCE?
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Monday	Saturday
Adult Ballet Fitness (no exp req) 10.45am - 11.45am	Primary Modern & Street (6-9 yrs) 1.00pm - 1.30pm
Dance Fitness (Over 50's) 11.45am - 12.30pm	Gymnastics 3 (8 yrs+) 1.30pm - 2.00pm
Saturday	Grade 1 Ballet (10-11 yrs) 2.00pm - 2.45pm
Prima Ballerinas (3-5 yrs) 9.00am - 9.45am	Grade 1 Modern (10-12 yrs) 2.45pm - 3.15pm
Gymnastics (3-6 yrs) 9.45am - 10.15am	Grade 2 Ballet (11-12 yrs) 3.15pm - 4.00pm
Intro to Ballet (5-7 yrs) 10.15am - 11.15am	Grade 2 Modern (13 yrs+) 4.00pm - 4.30pm
Gymnastics 2 (6-8 yrs) 11.00am - 11.30am	Grade 3 Modern (14 yrs+) 4.30pm - 5.00pm
Pre Primary Ballet (7-9 yrs) 11.30am - 12.15pm	Grade 3 Ballet (12-13 yrs) 5.00pm - 5.45pm
Primary Ballet (9-10 yrs) 12.15pm - 1.00pm	Grade 4 Ballet (14 yrs+) 5.45pm - 6.30pm

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AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Trevor Gill www.avondassettparishcouncil.com

Clerk: Helen Hide-Wright avondassettparishcouncil.com

The last meeting took place by videoconference on 5th October. Chris Williams and John Feilding, our County and District Councillors were in attendance.

Playground: The RoSPA annual inspection took place in September and resulted in several recommendations for repairs and improvements. The Council agreed to obtain an estimate from Wicksteed to inform the cost of repairs before going ahead.

Green Areas: A further cut of the churchyard will be undertaken when the bees nesting in the church can be contained. When safe, the swarm will be rehomed.

Highways: The road repairs have not yet been carried out. The overgrown verges on Church Hill have now been cut back and the Parish Council expressed thanks to the landowner.

Coronavirus Volunteer Group: The helpline is still available.

Post Office: The Post Office continues to open on reduced opening hours. However, some technical difficulties with connecting equipment resulted in occasional closure. The Parish Council is in contact with the Post Office to try to arrange to be given notice of closures so that assistance can be provided to residents who rely on the Post Office.

Reading Room: The Reading Room remains closed until Government restrictions are lifted. However, a QR Code reader has been installed so that when the premises can open there is a track and trace service available to users of the NHS Application.

Policing and Crime: There have been a number of vehicle and caravan thefts in the area together with a spate of garden sheds and outbuildings being broken into in the Gaydon area. Residents are reminded to be vigilant, check security arrangements and to call the Police and report any suspicious activity.

Projects and Grants: A sub-group has been established to develop a prioritised list of projects, related costs and priorities for consideration by the Council.

Next Meeting

Monday 2nd November 2020

at 7:30pm

via videoconference

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

Parking on Pavements: We have been contacted by residents who are concerned at the number of vehicles obstructing pedestrian access by parking on the pavement. Please could residents consider others when parking and avoid parking on the pavement whenever possible.

Planning Application Compton Buildings Site: We discussed the planning application from Orbit Homes for 100 affordable houses on the former Compton Buildings site

Continued overleaf

Continued

Disappointingly, Orbit have not engaged with us prior to the application being submitted, and there is insufficient information in the application to make a proper judgement about whether this would be a good proposal for the village. In particular, we would like to understand the proportion of 'help to buy' properties, which could help local residents get a foot on the housing ladder locally, as opposed to rental. The default policy position appears to favour rental properties. We plan to object to the proposal, on the basis that this information has not been provided, unless we can get satisfactory answers from the planning team at Stratford in the next few days.

UBUS: A new improved UBUS service launches on 26th October. *See article.*

Road Closure: Coincidentally, this date also marks the HS2 closure of the A425 between Southam and Leamington (east of the Fosse Way) for 9 months. Please find a different route! and expect some congestion on nearby roads.

Planning: 17/03277/REM and 20/02701/REM; Station Works Fenny Compton; Reserved matters application for a development of 100 affordable dwellings: Object as above, subject to further discussion with SDC Planning. 20/02596/FUL 02/11/2020; Magnolia, High Street; Proposed single storey side/rear extension: No representation

Next Meeting
Monday 16th November 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

Parish Councillor Vacancy: The Council still has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor - residents are encouraged to apply. Contact details above.

Street Lighting Replacements: Two new streetlights have been installed in Haypool. A programme of further replacement streetlights is in progress.

Social Housing Proposal: A draft proposal was presented by WRCC - Rural Housing Enablers which provided basic detail of a small-scale development within Farnborough. Further details are to be provided.

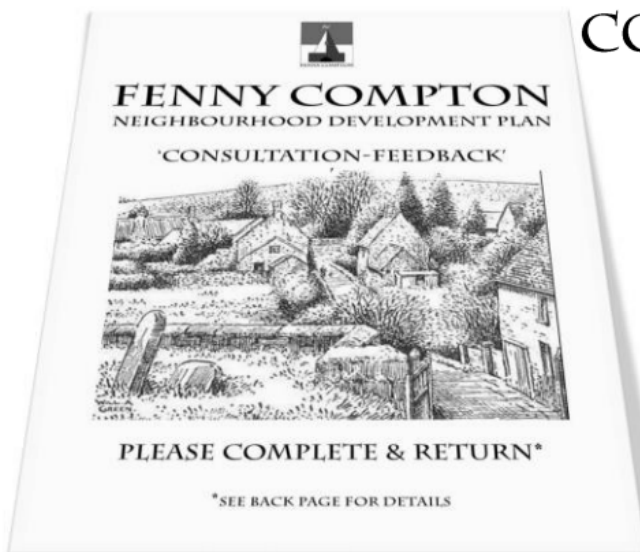
Village Playground: Some repair work on equipment has commenced and replacement and maintenance of equipment is to continue.

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

Next Meeting
Monday 23rd November 2020
at 7:30pm
via Zoom



FENNY COMPTON
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
EXHIBITION
(WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING)
AT
FENNY COMPTON VILLAGE HALL
ON
7TH NOVEMBER 10AM-12PM
14TH NOVEMBER 2PM-4PM



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NAPTON AND FENNY COMPTON WARD STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Covid-19: The national news is dominated by the increasing number of Covid-19 cases, with data changing from day to day. Over recent weeks that increasing trend is reflected in Stratford district, although by the time you read this no doubt the total numbers will have changed. I thought it was useful to have some indication of local patterns.

Although the most serious problems are in the north of England and the West Midlands conurbation, we must not be complacent here. The number of positive cases has risen by 3.7 times in a week but some of this is because of the Government's under reporting errors in mid October. The figure for Stratford District on 10th October was 71 per 100,000 population which is equivalent to about 5 cases for each electoral division, on average. The rates here, and nearby were:

11 cases in Southam, Stockton, Napton; 6 cases in Feldon (Harbury, Long & Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton, Priors, Ladbroke) ; 5 cases in Kineton, Tysoe; 11 cases in Dunchurch; 5 cases in Daventry; 4 cases in Byfield, Staverton & 3 cases in Braunston

Whilst not too much should be read into the accuracy of the numbers, about 1 in 700 people are infected around Southam. The nearest major hotspot is Warwick University with 117, or 1 in 56.

Many say the Government messaging is confusing. Covid-19 is transmitted person to person, so keeping your distance from anyone and everyone, regardless whether or not they are in a group of six, is essential. Wearing masks when you cannot keep a long way apart and washing hands frequently, especially when anything outside the home has been touched, are the other requirements. Please keep us all safe.

HS2: In May, I reported HS2 work has been proceeding to divert the A425 through the polo ground – you may have seen the fencing delineating the diverted route. This temporary realignment would keep the A425 open while a tunnel portal is constructed beneath the line of the existing Leamington to Southam road. This sequence of construction was in the approved and published plan which has been in place since before 2013. Last month, at 3 weeks' notice, HS2 decided they would close the A425 for 9 months without the 1000m long temporary diversion of the road. This has taken everyone by surprise and to say that all the local Councillors in the area are upset would be an understatement. As well a substantial inconvenience for car and goods vehicle users, there is a big risk of 'rat running' through villages. School and scheduled buses will be disrupted.

Because of my personal health and bereavement situation, I have not been able to attend the meetings, but representations continue in attempt to fight this decision by HS2.

Nigel Rock

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

Until further notice, please contact Cllr Louis Adam for any District Council issues.

louis.adam@stratford-dc.gov.uk

LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

We walked towards each other, and in the instant before we touched, we paused, our minds running quick, last-minute calculations on the risk of physical contact. We live 131 miles apart but there is rarely more than 6 to 8 weeks between seeing each other - it had been 36 weeks. The hesitance felt alien – we are a tactile family who always hug. But, after turning our faces away from each other, we finally connected. Wrapped in my sisters bear hug, I momentarily forgot we are in the midst of the worst global crisis we have experienced in living memory.

We are living in a world respecting social distancing rules to avoid being infected with or potentially spreading Covid-19. For many staying connected with friends and family has been through Zoom and Skype, but those virtual interactions are no replacement for being with each other, being able to give them that hug. With the closure of so many community social events due to COVID restrictions - teas/coffees/lunches, hobby groups, children's activities etc. - many of us feel we are losing touch with not only loved ones but also others in our communities.

Ahh, yes... touch. When did you last touch someone outside your family bubble or intimate relationship? I do not mean a brush of the fingers when you took your parcel from the delivery guy. I mean a handshake or hug. I have touched no-one outside my bubble in months, but in a usual week there would have been numerous instances of acceptable touch before distancing rules. The most recent being the blessing of a wedding couple - we were 2 metres apart instead of my hand on their head.

Humans love touch - we crave it. Touch is the first sense we develop in the womb, possessed even of 1.5cm embryos. We love it so much that the word has the power to sell a heap of products from soft-touch pillows to velvet touch tights. But somewhere in adulthood what was instinctive to us as children comes to feel awkward, and in an age of pervasive and historical sexual abuse and harassment and with the added COVID restrictions touching no longer feels safe and is out of bounds.

Is this what a crisis of touch looks like? And if so, what do humans risk losing, when we lose touch? Touch is commonly thought of as a single sense, but it is much more complex than that. Some nerve endings recognise itch, others vibration, pain, pressure, and texture. And one exists solely to recognise a gentle stroking touch.

- * Touch and hugs “slow down heart rate, blood pressure and the release of cortisol”, which gives people better control over their stress hormones.
- * Being touched increases the number of natural killer cells, the frontline of the immune system.
- * Serotonin increases. That is the body's natural antidepressant.
- * It enables deeper sleep.

We instinctively understand the power of touch and Princess Diana knew this when she held the hand of an Aids patient in 1987. In the UK over half a million older

people go weeks without touching a soul.

A fact highlighted to me, when as an acupuncturist, I visited a housebound gentleman. He looked forward to my weekly visits which consisted of a social chat with a neck and shoulder massage - the only touch he had from anyone other than his GP. The bible encourages us to 'greet one another with a holy embrace' (2Cor13:12) When all this is over let us remember this and return to greeting one another with a handshake, pat on the back, a hug - it may be the only touch that person gets!

Rev'd Nicki

FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Stolen Vehicle Checks: The website isitnicked.com is a search service where you can check if a vehicle is stolen. Check by registration number or chassis number, Logbook Verification Check, Live Tax Status Check, Live MOT Status Check, Report to DVLA for no Tax or SORN where vehicle is on the road, Link to askMID to see if you are insured today Vehicle Information, MOT History, Submit a stolen vehicle report to the database. Works for cars, vans, lorries, HGVs, and motorbikes

Telephone Scam: Typically, this is a recorded or synthetic voice purporting to be from Amazon or HMRC that conveys a high degree of urgency. The common factor is that the messages all end by asking you to press 1. This is the time to hang up and block the number.

Cold Callers: Do not let them in or buy from them. I have just received a report of a middle-aged male trying to view a house for sale without an appointment. Please always report to 101 asap. I have deterrent stickers if required. Contact details in *The Directory*.

Bikesafe: Warwickshire Police is delighted to announce that the Bikesafe initiative will restart in Warwickshire and officers are encouraging motorcyclists to sign up to attend the one-day workshop at Leek Wootton. Courses are now full until the end of the year, but you can list for the next available courses at bikesafe.co.uk/warwickshire.

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

COVID-19 IN WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire is currently set at the "medium" alert level. This means that the county remains on the same level of alert with minimal restrictions in place. However, this includes the Rule of Six, which means apart from a set of limited exemptions including work and education – any social gatherings of more than six people will be against the law.

All hospitality venues are also required to close at 10pm.

As the Government seems to constantly change the rules & regulations, full details & up-to-date advice can be found on the Warwickshire County Council website or you can call the Hotline on 0800 408 1447.

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

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ANNEXES AND OUTBUILDINGS THAT ARE LET OUT SEPARATELY TO THE MAIN PROPERTY NEED THEIR OWN EPC.

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

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NOVEMBER 2020 DIARY

SUNDAY	1	9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	ALL SAINTS' DAY Morning Prayer - Gaydon Holy Communion - Farnborough Morning Prayer - FC St Peter & St Clare Communion (BCP) - Northend with Live Zoom Songs Of Praise - Online via Zoom
MONDAY	2	7:30pm	ALL SOULS' DAY Avon Dassett PC Meeting - Videoconference
TUESDAY	3		
WEDNESDAY	4		
THURSDAY	5		GUY FAWKES DAY
FRIDAY	6		
SATURDAY	7	10:00am-12:00pm	Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition - FC Village Hall
SUNDAY	8	9:30am 10:30am 11:15am 11:15am 1:00pm	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Gaydon Farnborough – Church Fenny Compton with Live Zoom Northend Avon Dassett - War Memorial
MONDAY	9	7:00pm	AD Community Benefits Soc. AGM - Online
TUESDAY	10		
WEDNESDAY	11	6:00pm	Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, AD
THURSDAY	12	6:30pm	Dassett Show AGM Online via Zoom <i>See article</i>
FRIDAY	13		
SATURDAY	14	2:00pm-4:00pm	Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition - FC Village Hall
SUNDAY	15	9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer - Gaydon Communion (BCP) - Farnborough Morning Prayer - FC St Peter & St Clare Holy Communion – Northend with Live Zoom Songs Of Praise - Online via Zoom
MONDAY	16	7:45pm	Fenny Compton PC Meeting - Online via Zoom
TUESDAY	17		
WEDNESDAY	18		
THURSDAY	19	11:00am	AD Walking Group - The Yew Tree, AD
FRIDAY	20		
SATURDAY	21		

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.

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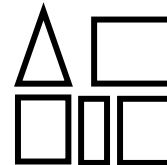
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25th
November
- National
Tree Week

CHILDREN'S



Knock Knock!
Whose there?
Police
Police who?
Police stop telling
these awful Knock
Knock jokes!
By Harry Hill

*What's up in
November?*

8th November
Remembrance Sunday
[11th November
Remembrance Day]

5th November
Bonfire Night!

Which is the largest mouse in the animal kingdom?
The hippopotamouse!

2nd November
Day of the Dead!



Life of Bear
By Emma Wilkinson of
ArtDecadance
'Art is Pain!'

PAGES!



Little Makes!
Bake your own
gingerbread
house!



INGREDIENTS

- 350g (3 cups) plain flour
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 100g (1/2 cup) butter
- 175g (1 cup) light muscovado sugar
- 4 tbsp golden syrup
- 1 large egg

How to: Place the flour into a bowl then add the bicarbonate of soda and ginger. Weigh the butter then chop it up into a few pieces.

Using your fingertips, rub in the butter until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Measure the sugar then stir it into the flour mixture. Add the golden syrup.

Crack the egg into a separate bowl then add it to the flour (or if you're feeling brave, do it straight into your mixture). Mix everything together until you have a smooth dough.

The recipe makes quite a lot so divide the dough in half then roll out one half on to a lightly floured work surface until its about 5mm thick.

Cut out your ginger bread houses using a cutter – you can make ginger bread men or ladies, or any shapes you have to hand. Place them on your baking tray.

Gather up any scraps and roll out again. Repeat with the remaining dough. Bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes until they become a slightly darker shade. Cool slightly then lift on to a wire rack to cool.

Then when they are cool, have more fun decorating them with coloured icing, chocolate drops or anything you fancy!



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..... **NOVEMBER 2020 DIARY**

SUNDAY	22	9:00am-12:00pm 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am	Fenny Compton Footpath Group - <i>see article</i> Holy Communion - Gaydon Morning Prayer - Farnborough Communion (BCP) - FC St Peter & St Clare Morning Prayer - Northend with Live Zoom
MONDAY	23	7:00pm	Farnborough Parish Council Meeting – Zoom
TUESDAY	24		
WEDNESDAY	25	6:00pm	Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, AD
THURSDAY	26		
FRIDAY	27	10:00am	Carers4Carers Virtual Coffee Morning
SATURDAY	28	10:00am-1:00pm	Christmas Bazaar - FC Village Hall
SUNDAY	29	6:00pm	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Advent Carol Service – Online via Zoom
MONDAY	30		ST. ANDREW'S DAY

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EVENING PRAYER: 6:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

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FENNY COMPTON
THE VILLAGE HALL

NORTHEND
THE VILLAGE HALL

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9:30am-10am

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
9am-10am

Monday & Wednesday
9am-1pm

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FENNY COMPTON FOOTPATH GROUP

Another great turnout for our work session meant that we could split into two groups; one went strimming and the rest of us had little jobs to do that we had put off for a while.

We had a request to put a spring on the gate off Dog Lane into Hall Yard to make it self-closing. It had been left open and at the time there was livestock in the field. The 'correct' way to fit a spring is that it should be on the field-side, you fit it and wind some tension into it and then as the spring tries to unwind it pushes the gate shut. All the springs I have ever seen have been fitted wrongly – on the other side and such that they pull the gate closed. I found an old spring to re-use and we Googled it for some fitting instructions. Well, 4 of us tried every way we could to try to make it work properly but after a couple of hours we gave up and fitted it the wrong way. It sort of works and it is better than nothing but it is still not right. We need to replace it one day with a new one, hopefully supplied with instructions. Also, the gate did not latch properly due to the church wall moving and pushing against the gate post. We have since been back to make some adjustments and pack the latch out with washers and, for now, it latches. You would not have thought you could get so much entertainment out of a single gate.

The strimming gang were more successful, job done and an early finish.

The Guests on The Slade are sadly moving on and they have very generously donated some gardening equipment to the Footpath Group. A big thanks to them and we wish them all the best in their new home.

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

Brian Peers

THE DASSETT COUNTRY SHOW

The Avon Dasset Fete Committee AGM will take place by Zoom at 6:30pm on Thursday 12th November. All welcome. Please contact the Chair by email at dassettcountryshow@gmail.com for joining details.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

On Saturday 28th November we will be holding a Christmas Bazaar in Fenny Compton Village Hall 10am-1pm. There will be many Christmas goodies with presents created by the Sewing Club, Fenny Compton Apple Juice, cakes of various types, mincemeat, and jams, and possibly some books. As on previous occasions, all appropriate shop precautions will be followed so do not forget your mask and we may have to temporarily restrict entry to prevent any overcrowding but please do come. All proceeds are in aid of Fenny Compton Church funds.



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FENNY COMPTON SCOUT GROUP SANTA SLEIGH

Christmas is not cancelled.



Following the inaugural tour last year Fenny Compton Scout Group are very much hoping that we will still be able to bring Santa and his sleigh around the villages in December. All our plans are subject to approval by the necessary authorities

and will of course be subject to the national Covid-19 guidelines nearer the time, but we are working towards the following schedule:

- * Thursday 3rd December - Fenny Compton
- * Monday 7th December - Farnborough / Avon Dassett
- * Thursday 10th December - Gaydon, Northend, Knightcote

The sleigh will be out between 6pm and 8pm on these evenings, routes will be published nearer the time, along with specific details we will be operating to in order to keep everyone Covid-19 safe.

In addition to plans for the mobile tour we are also looking at the opportunity for Santa to be resident in Fenny Compton Village Hall outside gated area on Saturday 12th December from 5pm to details to follow.

Like our Facebook page: "Fenny Compton Scout Group Santa Sleigh" to keep up with our latest news.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

Avon Dassett: Revd Nikki Chapman will lead a limited Service at the War Memorial at 1pm. Wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Community and the Army Camp.

Farnborough: There will be the usual Remembrance Service this year inside the church commencing at 10:30am, unfortunately, without music or hymns though. Everybody is requested to wear a mask, sanitise their hands on entering and in order to comply with the self-distancing rule, sit in pews where there is blue carpeting. We look forward to seeing you then.

Fenny Compton: Fenny Remembers. A brief Service of Remembrance will be held at the War Memorial at 10:50am. There will be no parade, no refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall and this is not an invitation to an organised event. Those who choose to be present are reminded to wear a face covering, maintain social distancing or keep within their bubbles. This is not the programme we would like to put on, but it will, at least, honour those from the village who gave their lives. It will be followed by a service of Holy Communion in the Church.

Would drivers please avoid passing the War Memorials at the time of the services.



MEMORIES OF THE WAR YEARS

As my birthday is 26th October, I was nearly 7 when War was declared on 3rd September 1939.

On Grange Farm in those days we had no corn harvest so the family was preparing to go to Weston-Super-Mare for a short holiday in the Rover 12 UD7090. I had to sit in the front as I was always car-sick in the rear. The holiday trunk was strapped on the grid which folded down to accept the trunk. My brother Timothy who was 2¾ had the child's seat attached to the adult's seat in the front. Any way we could not go.

We had identity cards my number was QFIF 81/3. In May/June 1939 gas masks were supplied; Tim's was a Micky Mouse. My sister was born in March 1940 and she was put in a complete mask with the mother or the father pumping by hand. When I first went to school at Miss Brown's at Melrose on Avon Dassett Road. The message every day was 'Don't forget your gas mask'.

All the signposts disappeared. Tree trunks were slung along Northend Rd, Station Rd etc with waggon wheels in the end to hold up the German advance.

There were stacks of barbed wire on the A423 by the old Victoria Arms and a Pill Box was built in the field by the canal. The bridge joining two parts of Grange Farm had gigantic concrete barriers either end some 10ft in length, 6ft width & 8ft in height. This allowed a single person to squeeze through what was left. All headlights on vehicles were hooded over with 1-inch wide slits on the offside and blanked out on the nearside. Petrol was severely rationed and only business trips allowed. My father was an ARP Warden which involved checking people's Black-Out precautions with an Observer Post at the top of Mill Hill.

We had manoeuvres in the early War days. My mother spoke to a despatch rider after his 6th/7th circuit of the village green with the reply that he was looking for a 'pocket of resistance'.

In 1935 the MoD took over 3 farms & established Marlborough Army Camp which they still occupy. At the outbreak of war, the Warwickshire War Agricultural Executive Committee was formed. Their job was to force farmers to produce more from their land which meant a lot more land being ploughed up. Farmers who would not participate for any reason would have the management taken over. A large area of land some 2-3 thousand acres namely Upper & Lower Radbourne, situated off the Southam road, was requisitioned. Because of this new policy, new equipment had to be introduced. The WAEC established depots where men and equipment could be hired to do the work. Our nearest one was Gaydon. An example of the equipment used mostly was purchased from Canada & America under lease lend. Ford tractors in quantity from Dagenham, Essex were built from 1940 onwards.

A Women's Land Army Hostel was set up at The Lodge on the Green and the land girls cycled to work at local farms. Some married local men. Prisoners of War were held in camps at Ladbroke, Byfield and Birdingbury and my father employed some Italian & German POWs who he collected in his car from our local POW camp at Ladbroke. The Germans being the best manual workers.

We were given extra rations for Harvest time & double Summer Time was introduced; it remained light until 11pm.

In autumn 1941, I went away to school at Oxford and was introduced to city life.

The Squander Bug was a grotesque animal completely covered with Swastikas. [*The Squander Bug was a World War II propaganda character created by the British National Savings Committee to discourage wasteful spending.*]

A gigantic 500lb bomb at the Bus Station completely smothered the area with 2s/6d Blue Saving Stamps. The Oxford buses ran on a type of gas having a trailer behind with a fine line. Sandbags were all over the place and all the windows at the school had tape diagonally placed to stop shattering in case of a bomb.

The Americans took over the main hotel in Cornmarket Street and handed out gum, 'Got any gum, chum?'; left it all over the pavements & windowsills. The southern by-pass A34 by Botley was completely closed as it was full of military vehicles. Likewise, the field opposite Hopcrofts Holt has spotter planes hidden all round in between the trees. The College had timber fire ladders all over the place and at Xmas time we enjoyed scampering over the roofs.

Sweets were severely rationed – 2oz per month. Oranges, bananas completely non-existent. But people managed & dug & produced their own vegetables & fed their fattening pigs from the scraps. Cattle & pig food was also rationed. A Jam Centre was set up at Manor Farm. [*See article below*]

So what about VE Day. I remember a huge bonfire on the school playing field with Philip Knight, 6ft 6 inches, a Grenadier Guardsman, leading the singing.

Peter Hughes

JAM CENTRE AT FENNY COMPTON

The Leamington Spa Courier of 19th September 1941 reported thus:

'Tackling a Big Task

The Jam Centre which was formed at Fenny Compton is now in full swing. Through the kindness of Mr R Hughes, the helpers are able to work under very pleasant conditions in his large and airy dairy. Every jam-jar is sterilised on the premises before being used. Already quite a large quantity of jam has been made, some of which has been inspected by the Government Inspector and sold to the local shops. The helpers are all very enthusiastic and feel justifiably proud of their handiwork when they see rows and rows of jams, the jars being neatly tied and labelled.

The lack of summer fruits in the district was disappointing but Autumn wild fruits are very plentiful. Blackberries, apples and crab apples are being made into jam and jelly at present, and if the children will rally round and gather as many of these fruits that they can,, Fenny Compton's contribution towards the National Jam Effort will be worthwhile, and the goal that the Centre set itself - a 1,000 lbs. of jam - should be reached.'

The Jam Centre operated throughout the war. In 1943, Fenny Compton took first place in Warwickshire, making over 2,000 lbs. of jam and chutney.



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ADVENT WINDOWS TRAIL

This year the church will be coordinating an Advent Windows Trail around Fenny Compton. Each day in Advent a new window will be lighting up, and a Trail Map available for download.

If you would like to create a window for the Trail, or have any questions, then please contact Hester Stevens on hesterstevens@hotmail.co.uk or call 07980 856 808.

Households will need to

- * Have a window that is either on the pavement, or able to be seen easily from the pavement.
- * Be willing to light that window up from the day in advent that they are allocated, until the end of December, between 6pm and 8pm every evening.
- * Be willing to have their house marked on the Trail Map, which will be distributed from the beginning of December.



Households will be allocated a date towards the end of November so please contact Hester Stevens as soon as possible if you wish to take part.

CARERS4CARERS

Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kinton and the surrounding villages and rural area. Our next virtual coffee morning will take place on Friday 27th November at 10am. Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below. New and existing members are welcome.

To find out more about our work, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk, or call 07947 893 504.

ONE CALL OR LETTER AT A TIME

Everyone should have someone to talk to. At Omega, we do not want anyone to be lonely or isolated. If you are a caregiver, a former caregiver, bereaved or dealing with a life-limiting illness, we can help.

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To find out more about our free telephone befriending programme, Chatterbox Action Against Loneliness, and our free pen pal service, A Letter from Louise, or if you would like to find out more about volunteering opportunities with us please contact us on 01743 245 088 or info@omega.uk.net.

Omega, the National Association for End of Life Care is a registered charity based in Shropshire but delivers support across the UK. We have been tackling loneliness and isolation since 2012.



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LOCAL ROADWORKS

- Thursday 12th November: Church Hill, Avon Dassett. Road closed; 100mm double course CW patch required.
- Monday 16th-Friday 27th November: Wormleighton Road, Wormleighton. Traffic control via multi-way signals for footway reconstruction.
- Thursday 26th November: Ladbroke Road, Ladbroke. Road closed for BT works.
Friday 6th November: Gaydon Road, Gaydon. Lane closure for grass cutting, hedge cutting, sign maintenance, VRS repairs & carriageway repairs where identified.

AVON DASSETT COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY

www.avondassettcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk

We are pleased to see the pub doing so well since Jack took over. He has now staffed up to offer food every day and has introduced a Sunday lunch menu.

Both the Bridge Club and Walking Groups have restarted but in changed formats due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Bridge Club meets at The Yew Tree at 6pm on alternate Wednesdays starting on 14th October. Players then stay on for a meal at approx. 8pm. The Walking Group meets on the third Thursday of each month, at 11am outside The Yew Tree. Walkers together with other villagers then meet for lunch at The Yew Tree around 1pm.

The ice cream shack is now operating shorter opening times in response to the cooler weather. However, ice cream and snacks are still available on weekends and inside during pub opening hours. A marquee has been erected to offer some shelter to those who want to drink, or eat, outdoors.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 9th November at 7pm. As Covid-19 restrictions prevent us from holding a meeting with more than six people, the AGM will be a remote meeting, details of which will be circulated to members, together with an agenda.

We continue to sell shares to new investors and shares continue to be available. Details together with further information is available at the website, address above.

UBUS TRANSPORT

UBUS is for anyone who is stuck for transport to travel locally on Mondays to Fridays. The service is for you if you: • Cannot access public transport because of mobility problems or other health issues; or • Live in an isolated location with limited public transport or no bus service at all.

UBUS can be used for any prebooked journey between the hours of 9:30am and 7pm, except between 2:30pm and 4:30pm on school days. Our villages are in the eastern zone of the District Council and journeys can be booked to travel anywhere within the zone or to Leamington Spa.

People who wish to use the UBUS service must register but there is no registration fee and when you register you will be sent further details of the service. Call 01789 264 491 to register and book.

THE SURGERY

COVID 19 continues to impact on all our lives and society. The practice is continuing to adapt and change our ways of working to provide the most efficient and safe delivery of health care. We continue to thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time. The staff are busier than 'normal' working times with all the added demands, pressures, and new working practices in place. Please also refer to the practice website and recent newsletter also online for further updates. We strive to keep this as up-to-date as possible but as you can imagine this is a challenge with the rate of changes taking place and Government advice.

You may remember earlier in the year I wrote about the need to have a structure and routine in place to help cope with the mental stresses the pandemic has placed upon us. During the summer we have been fortunate to be able to meet outdoors and socially distance however, as the nights draw in, this will become increasingly difficult. It is important to try and maintain contact with friends and family and to look after your mental and physical health. Routine, healthy eating and sleep, exercise - up and down the stairs will get your heart going - and mental stimulation are all essential to your wellbeing. The use of technology – video calling or just a good old- fashioned telephone will help you to maintain contact with others. Look out for your neighbours and those elderly and isolated. A wave and a chat from the end of the garden path can really brighten someone's day. If you are struggling with your mental health do call the surgery to discuss with the Doctors, we know winter can be difficult at the best of times for some.

We have been limited in administering Flu vaccinations due to supply of the vaccines and concerns around being able to give in a safe manner. Our Nurse Jo has led the team on the vaccination plans and a number of successful sessions have been completed at Shenington Surgery allowing a 'one way' system entering the back of the building and being vaccinated on the way through and exiting out the front door! Jo has also been setting up outside Fenny Compton and those that have attended have been brilliant in keeping socially distanced from others, dressing appropriately with easy access to the upper arm and maintaining a good humour in being vaccinated in the carpark!

Please be aware clinics can change depending on the weather, but a member of staff will be present to explain and direct further if this is the case. Flu Clinics continue to be added on a regular basis when vaccinations become available. Please call the surgery to book an appointment. Please bear in mind those at high risk and over 65 years old or who will be 65 by 31st March 2021 are being invited initially. The vaccinations for the 50-64-year-olds and how they will be delivered has not yet been made available by NHS England. We will continue to update you as we know.

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