THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



WINTER VIEW

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

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THE COMPTON CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

What a year! There must be few people who regret the passing of 2020. The Christmas and New Year celebrations will be very different but we hope that we are able to see family and friends, if only on Zoom.

As I write there is positive news of a vaccine which gives hope of a better 2021 when we might return to some sort of normal life.

This edition is being produced initially as a PDF but it will be sent to Clintplan to print when they are able to do so. The magazine will then be distributed in the usual way.

We thank all our volunteer distributors who gave their support at this difficult time. We also thank our contributors, advertisers & printers.

Keep safe and sane.

The Team wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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

Tuesday 12th January 2021

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 Emily Kilshaw Jason Wise 770 749

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 Jennifer Cranfield.

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Avon Dassett Parish Council

Chairman: Trevor Gill www.avondassettparishcouncil.com Clerk: Helen Hide-Wright avondassett.clerk@googlemail.com

The last meeting took place by videoconference on 2nd November.

Playground: A quotation has been received and accepted for the repair of the gate from the Playground into the adjacent field. It is hoped that work will be completed during November. The quotation for the repair of the Playground equipment was much higher than expected therefore additional quotations are being sought.

Green Areas: The grass at the churchyard has been cut and Western Power have undertaken work in the area to upgrade power cables.

Roads and Drains: The pavement at the side of Church Hill has been swept. Repair work is still outstanding and proposed road closures have been delayed.

Coronavirus Volunteer Group: The helpline is still available and residents can make requests for help with items such as the collection of prescriptions.

Post Office: The Post Office continues to open on reduced opening hours.

Reading Room: The Reading Room remains closed until Government restrictions are lifted. During the closure, interior painting work will be completed.

War Memorial: Thanks to a volunteer for clearing fallen leaves and cleaning paving slabs and the steps up to the War Memorial in advance of Remembrance Sunday.

Projects and Grants: A grant application has been made to Caring for the Cotswolds for reinstating the Nature Reserve behind the bus stop. If successful, the grant will enable a project aimed at creating a lasting memorial to Pete Wallace to recognise his contribution to the village.

Christmas Gathering: The gathering will only go ahead if Coronavirus restrictions are lifted, but at the time of writing this is looking increasingly unlikely. Please look out for announcements.

Next Meetings Monday 14th December 2020 and Monday 1st February 2021 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

Planning: We have submitted our objection to the proposal to build 100 affordable homes on the former Compton Buildings site. We have now had some contact from Orbit who are developing the site and hope to meet with them soon to get a better understanding of the proposed mix of rented and shared ownership homes on the site.

Trees: It was agreed to replace the felled cherry trees and hawthorn with a total of four new trees across the two locations.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: The consultation is now open. Booklets have been delivered to each home in the parish. *See article*.

Next Meetings

Monday 14th December 2020 & Monday 18th January 2021 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: We were delighted to welcome Ms. Saira Marcher as our newly co-opted Councillor. However, we now have another vacancy and look forward to receiving applications.

Social/Affordable Housing: We are awaiting developments.

Play Area: Our planned refurbishment/replacement of equipment continues to an agreed plan. We were grateful for an £800 grant we were awarded by the County Council towards this necessary programme.

Global Warming: Various initiatives towards local actions to combat global warming were discussed. Suggestions to be provided for the next meeting.

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

Next Meeting
Monday 25th January 2021
at 7:30pm
via Zoom

LOCAL ROADWORKS

- Through to Friday 4th December: 21 Hurst Road, Southam delays likely
- Tuesday 8th-Friday 11th December: Ladbroke Hill Lane Road Closure (Trial hole to locate utilities)
- Tuesday 15th -Saturday 19th December: Daventry Road Jct of Spitfire Road (new development) Southam delays likely (Excavation of HV cable for connection to be completed)
- Monday 21st-Tuesday 22nd December: Hambridge Road, Bishops Itchington Road Closure at Railway Bridge (Brickwork repairs and date tabs to fractures on the abutment walls of bridge)
- Thursday 21st-Monday 25th January: Top Street, Northend Road Closure from Ty Bryn to approx 86m south of junction with Northend Road (1 joint hole in grass verge and 30m trenching in tarmac road and grass verge and 8m road crossing in tarmac road for under grounding cables)
- Through to September 2021: Dassett Road Rurton Dassett

Through to September 2021: Dassett Road, Burton Dassett - Traffic control multi-way signals (The construction of a new roundabout and entrance into the MOD base and the closure of the existing access into the base.)



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Napton and Fenny Compton Ward Stratford District Council

Covid-19: Councillors had a briefing on this shortly before the Government policy shifted from area measures, to national lockdown. Possibly by the time you read this, we may be moving towards the end of that lockdown if the national picture is favourable. Presently, there has been an increasing trend of cases and, although Stratford District has had some of the lowest rates in the County and there was some slight slowing, this has not been maintained and rates are going up again. Both the Southam and Feldon areas have had about three times the number of cases over recent weeks. So, we all must be very cautious with contacts and keep our distance. There is an interactive map on this web site: https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/ This shows the numbers per hundred thousand population:

New cases at 7th Nov	Per 100k popula- tion	Area		
1332	229	Warwickshire County		
226	174	All of Stratford District		
27	275	Southam, Stockton, Napton		
20	193	Feldon (Ladbroke, Harbury, Long & Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton, Priors Marston)		

If you do look at this web site you will find that the adjoining area to ours, around Middleton Cheney in South Northamptonshire has a very high rate of over 600 (48 cases). I have checked up on this to find it is because of local outbreaks in specific institutions.

Site Allocation Plan: You may remember a Site Allocation Plan (SAP) was published 15 months ago. Now the whole exercise is being done again. This plan allocated sites for future housing development across the District. Stratford has to be able to show that they can provide for the building of houses to meet the Government's rolling housing targets for the next 5 years. The plan identifies 'reserve' sites be given permission if that 5-year housing supply is not going to be met. A revised version of the SAP is out for consultation.

The fundamental change overall in this version of the SAP is the removal of the restraint on housing sites around Southam which was there before, because of the difficulties of providing secondary schools places. It is not clear to me how the strain on infrastructure of Southam, including the college, has suddenly been fixed. The new plan proposes the allocation of up to 1,300 additional houses in Southam and the villages around. However in this version, the redistribution reduces the pressure on Fenny Compton, but there are still 57 extra houses suggested: East of Ridgeway (6), North of Northend Road (15), North of Station Road (15),

North of High Street (21).

This would add to the 100 houses that already have outline permission on the old Fenny Compton buildings site. Presently the details of this one are being discussed. The maps of the sites proposed for Fenny Compton can be found in the consultation document via the link below, together with the way to comment.

www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/site-allocations-plan.cfm

Consultation closes on Friday 18th December.

At the moment housing supply is calculated to be more than 7 years, however a Government White Paper proposing much more central direction over planning would remove what local controls there are and require an estimated 1,675 houses a year in Stratford District. If so, there will be much more pressure for large scale housing development in our villages in the District. Personally, I am not happy about this Government idea that is being pushed forward.

Nigel Rock

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

Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society

www.avondassettcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk

Like many similar establishments, The Yew Tree has been closed during November, but plans are to reopen as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

The activities of the Walking Group and the Bridge Club have also been temporarily suspended but will restart as soon as possible.

The Annual General Meeting for the year ended 29th February 2020 was conducted by videoconference on 9th November and was attended by 30 members. It was reported that, within the year, membership had grown to 134 individual members investing a total of £309,000. Thanks were given to Sally Crompton who has stepped down as a member of the Management Committee after three years. Three new Committee members were welcomed, and it was noted that there are still two vacancies to be filled. Members who would like a greater involvement in steering the direction of the Society are encouraged to speak to an existing Committee member.

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 at the website, address above.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

The Services for Remembrance Sunday were not quite the same this year due to the restrictions of the second lockdown. However, many thanks are given to those who made the revised arrangements so that the fallen of the three villages were not forgotten.

The service at the Cenotaph in London was not the same but was still very moving. Likewise the Service at Westminster Abbey for the commemoration of the centenary of the burial of The Unknown Warrior.

LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

When I think of Christmas, I think of special gatherings full of food, loved ones, and laughter, special clothes, family pictures, and parties. I also think of big church gatherings, singing carols, church nativities and light streaming through stained glass windows. But here we are approaching Christmas and none of us expected this. None of us expected social distancing to still be in place. No large family gatherings or Christmas parties with kissing and hugging. No singing - raising our voices to sing and celebrate Christ's glorious birth. God with us! At Christmas, our churches are usually packed but numbers and distancing in this deadly global pandemic means we will be sharing Christmas morning worship on Zoom from home.

To be honest, it does not feel so much like Christmas this year. It feels more like Good Friday. Heavy. Overwhelming. Full of grief and anguish. This has been a pretty intense year. Everything is changing so fast and my heart, my mind, and my soul cannot keep up. This horror is still unfolding and I feel helpless. There is absolutely nothing I can do to stop it.

Some folks are making life-threatening decisions and sacrifices for our health, wellbeing and protection. Where am I? Still tucked away in my house. There are times where it feels like I am hiding. Am I denying? Am I blaming? Sometimes I am bargaining. Everything is uncertain. What is going to happen? What is next for us? I wonder every time I leave the sanctuary of my house if I have brought it back with me? Will I be next? Or much more frighteningly have I unknowingly got it and passed it on to someone else?

Maybe, like me, you want to turn back the clock, but we know we cannot. We are living a historic moment, a world-changing moment and nothing will ever be the same. Nothing could have prepared us for this. Or for the consequences of the pandemic. Lives changed; businesses destroyed; millions unemployed, economic disaster, a national and international depression that will take years to climb out of. People frightened to leave home and mix with others; relationships stretched to their limits resulting in couples and family breakup.

It does not feel like Christmas does it? But, when I think about it a little more, maybe it feels like Christmas and Easter all wrapped up into one.

Like that first Easter when Mary Magdalene heads to the tomb. Grief and uncertainty are her constant companions. Everything is changed so fast and she cannot process it. I imagine her continuing to relive the horror of watching Jesus being crucified. She witnessed it. She was helpless to stop it. Now everyone is scattered, everyone is isolated. They are locked in hoping death will not come for them. That sounds all too familiar.

But it is also a Christmas, Easter new beginning. A time for celebration - a new birth, a new beginning. Is that what we have been given, a chance to start over? A chance to say sorry for the damage we are doing to this earth and work to change. A chance to realise what or more importantly who is important to us. We have realised

we can quickly react to a changing reality - so let us do it. Let us make this a better world. Let us make us a better people through loving our neighbour. Somehow supporting those most affected by this pandemic.

The angels said to the shepherds 'Do not be afraid; I bring good news of great joy for all the people.' Christmas is not cancelled... it will simply be different this year! Yes, it still feels uncertain but 'God is with us'. Let your weeping and grieving give way to hope. Let your anxiety give way to action.

God is with us! Hallelujah! Amen!

ZOOM MIDWEEK SERVICES

9:30am Monday to Friday Morning Prayer
6pm Monday to Friday Evening Prayer

Zoom Morning and Evening Prayer Services will be cancelled from Monday 28th December to 1st January. These Services will resume on Monday 4th January.

FARNBOROUGH CHURCH - TREE OF ANGELS

The Church invites everyone this year to take part in 'The Tree of Angels'. The Church will be opened at specified times in December for people to come, write the name on an angel, or make their own, in memory of a loved one, hang it on the tree and make a donation in the box underneath. All donations will go to Katharine House Hospice. Call Fiona Russell-Perry on 690 039 for further information.

We regret that this year, due to restrictions, we will be unable to hold the Carol Service. The PCC wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Library Service are currently operating a reduced and revised Mobile Library service, which comprises a transit van, no browsing and pre-selected books for customers who come out to the van.

They do need to speak to individual customers to create a profile of the sort of books required. There is no point turning up on spec as there is no option to select anything for yourself currently.

If you would like to have some library books, please contact the office on 01926 851 031 so that you can be advised how the Service is operating now and when they are scheduled to arrive.

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Welcome to the very 1st edition of our newsletter, due to be released every 2 months! We have had lots of feedback that there are several people who have not been seeing our social media pages, so we wanted to reach out!



Our first Quiz Night went extremely well! Thanks to all who attended. A great victory for one team with an impressive score of 52 points but nobody won 'Play Your Cards Right' which means the jackpot rolls over!

Our next Quiz Night (all being well) will be on Sunday 6th December at 7:30pm. We prefer tables to be reserved so we can keep you all safe & distanced!

Don't forget our Pie Night will continue throughout the rest of Winter, every Monday evening from 5:30pm-9pm. We will have a choice of 3 home-made pies to choose from for just £10 for 1 or £18 for 2!





When we reopen our doors at midday on the 3rd December, we will have launched a brand new main menu, set menu, dessert menu & cocktail menu! Log-on to our website at www.theyewtreepub.co.uk for a first glimpse at what we'll be offering.

Remember – if you book your table & dine from the set menu between 3rd & 11th December you will get 20% off your food bill!

Gift Cards are on sale from Monday 16th November, just in time for Christmas! You can purchase a gift card of up to any value just by giving us a call (you may have to leave a voicemail & we'll call you back) or by emailing us on theyewtree@happywolfpubs.co.uk. We have a Christmas or an original design & if you provide your address we will deliver it to you along with a smart little envelope & a gift tag.





01295 690 844 www.theyewtreepub.co.uk Finally, we'd like to say a big thank you to 'Millie's Garden Design' for completing phase 1 of 'Operation Yew Tree Garden'. Loads of new plants have been planted ready to blossom next year & we can't wait.

theyewtree@happywolfpubs.co.uk Instagram: @theyewtreepics

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DECEMBER 2020 DIARY

TUESDAY	1		
WEDNESDAY	2		
THURSDAY	3	6:00pm-8:00pm	Scout's Santa Sleigh - Fenny Compton
FRIDAY	4		
SATURDAY	5		
SUNDAY	6	9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer - Gaydon Holy Communion - Farnborough Morning Prayer - FC St Peter & St Clare Communion (BCP) - Burton Dassett with Live Zoom Songs of Praise - Online via Zoom
Monday	7	6:00pm-8:00pm	Scout's Santa Sleigh – F'boro & Avon Dassett
TUESDAY	8		FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
WEDNESDAY	9	6:00pm	RECYCLING COLLECTION Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, AD
THURSDAY	10		
FRIDAY	11		
SATURDAY	12		
SUNDAY	13	9:30am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	Communion (BCP) - Gaydon Morning Prayer - Northend Holy Communion - FC St Peter & St Clare with Live Zoom Evensong - Farnborough
Monday	14	7:30pm 7:45pm	Avon Dassett PC Meeting - Videoconference Fenny Compton PC Meeting - Online via Zoom
TUESDAY	15		
WEDNESDAY	16		
THURSDAY	17	11:00am	AD Walking Group - The Yew Tree, AD
FRIDAY	18		SCHOOL AUTUMN TERM ENDS
SATURDAY	19		
SUNDAY	20	9:00am-12:00pm 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	Fenny Compton Footpath Group - see article 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	21	7:30pm	DECEMBER SOLSTICE Carol Singing – Online via Zoom
TUESDAY	22		

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



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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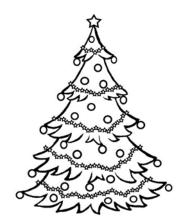
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On 25th December -It's Christmas! CHILDREN'S



real?

presents!

How can you tell Santa is You can always sense his

What's up December & January?

^{1st}December Advent begins 1st January

New Year 2021! 25th January Hooray!!!! Burns Night! Get your neeps and tattys boiling!



Here's one for the English students... What do you call Santa's little helpers?

 Subordinate Clauses!

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

PAGES!





Little Makes! Make your own gift tags!



Make your friends and family feel really special this Christmas with personalised gift tags!

Think about what your special people are interested in, and use magazine cuttings, fabrics or your own drawings to create labels just for them.

Why stop there? You can make matching Christmas cards and gift wrapping paper too!

Here are a few ideas to get you started.



- Hand print reindeers
- Pipe cleaner stars
- Tartan fabric labels



What do you call it when everyone cheers for Father Christmas? Santapplause!





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.... DECEMBER 2020 DIARY

WEDNESDAY	23	6:00nm	RECYCLING COLLECTION Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, AD
		6:00pm	Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, AD
THURSDAY	24		
			Christmas Day
FRIDAY	25	9:00am	Holy Communion - Farnborough
		10:30am	Christmas Service - Live on Zoom
SATURDAY	26		Boxing Day
SUNDAY	27	11:00am	Group Service - Zoom or in Church (TBC)
Monday	28		SUBSTITUTE BANK HOLIDAY FOR BOXING DAY
TUESDAY	29		
WEDNESDAY	30		
THURSDAY	31		New Year's Eve

DIGITAL CHURCH VIA ZOOM EVERY WEEK

MORNING PRAYER: 9:30AM MONDAY TO FRIDAY EVENING PRAYER: 6:00PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

NOTE: Morning and Evening Prayer cancelled between 28 December and 1 January. Both will resume 4 January.

METHODIST CHURCH FENNY COMPTON

SERVICE & COFFEE MORNINGS: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

KINETON CATHOLIC CHURCH MASS

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

	Mobile Library			
FENNY COMPTON	Avon Dassett	Farnborough		
SEE ARTICLE				

Post Office Opening Times				
Avon Dassett	FENNY COMPTON	Northend		
THE READING ROOM	THE VILLAGE HALL	THE VILLAGE HALL		
Monday & Wednesday 9:30am-10am	Monday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-10am	Monday & Wednesday 9am-1pm		

FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

COFFEE MORNINGS: WEEKLY ON TUESDAYS FROM 10:30AM UNTIL MIDDAY
PLANNED TO RESTART ON 8TH DECEMBER

JANUARY 2021 DIARY

FRIDAY	1		New Year's Day
SATURDAY	2		
SUNDAY	3	9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	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	4	1	
TUESDAY	5		SCHOOL SPRING TERM STARTS
WEDNESDAY	6	6:00pm	EPIPHANY RECYCLING COLLECTION Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, AD
THURSDAY	7		
FRIDAY	8		
SATURDAY	9		
SUNDAY	10	9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	Communion (BCP) – Gaydon Abacus Duck Race - Fenny Compton Morning Prayer - Northend Holy Communion - FC St Peter & St Clare with Live Zoom Evensong - Farnborough
Monday	11		
TUESDAY	12		
WEDNESDAY	13		
THURSDAY	14		
FRIDAY	15		
SATURDAY	16		
Sunday	17	9:00am-12:00pm 9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	Fenny Compton Footpath Group - see article 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	18	7:45pm	Fenny Compton PC Meeting - Online via Zoom
TUESDAY	19		
WEDNESDAY	20	6:00pm	RECYCLING COLLECTION Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, AD
THURSDAY	21	11:00am	AD Walking Group - The Yew Tree, AD
FRIDAY	22		

.... January 2021 Diary

SATURDAY	23		
Sunday	24	9:30am 10:00am 11:00am 11:00am	Holy Communion - Gaydon Morning Prayer - Farnborough Communion (BCP) – Fenny Compton Morning Prayer - Northend with Live Zoom
MONDAY	25	7:00pm	Farnborough Parish Council Meeting – Zoom
TUESDAY	26		
WEDNESDAY	27		
THURSDAY	28		
FRIDAY	29		
SATURDAY	30		
SUNDAY	31	11:00am	Group Service – Online via Zoom

River of Laughter

Maggie Campbell

It can begin -

as a tiny seeping of mirth from an underground source deep within your sombre self.

It emerges -

into sunlight and slowly gathers momentum with smiling, giggling, chortling

Until -

joined by other flowing chuckles from other streams, it becomes a full-blown laugh.

Sometimes -

the shared laughter, converging on a precipice, falls into a cascading, all consuming cacophony,

Giving way to -

face splitting, belly-aching hilarity, as it tumbles uncontrollably forward.

Only to -

gradually mellow into a wide, slow-moving stream of a shared moment, an estuary of humour

To be -

recalled, shared, repeated.

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FENNY COMPTON FOOTPATH GROUP

Things are a bit slower for the Footpath Group at this time of the year. Most of the

strimming is done and we are pretty much on top of things but we do have a few projects to keep us busy over the winter.

October saw another good turnout of volunteers, some of us had strimming to do and we also fitted a new closing spring to the Dog Lane gate – correctly this time. It is not perfect; we may go back and adjust it. A *Chronicle* reader in Avon Dassett called me and offered me a new spring, no doubt we will find a use for it.

We intend to continue working through the lockdown. Voluntary work is permitted and I am very careful to make sure we are well spaced apart and we do not share safety equipment. Hopefully by the spring we will all be vaccinated and can get a lot closer to what we remember as 'normal'. Other than our much-



missed monthly get-together in The Merrie so far we have managed to work around Coronavirus.

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 and 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 updates for regular what we have been doing. Look for on 'fennycomptonfootpathgroup' **Brian Peers** Photograph by Paul Grant

Christmas Greetings

This year more than ever we hope and wish for a wonderfully happy and healthy Christmas, not just for our family, friends, and neighbours but for everyone in our community.

Wishing for the Christmas spirit to sprinkle a little bit of magic over those most in need.



Merry Christmas everyone with love and best wishes from Tom, Suzanne and Ben Pratt x



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FENNY COMPTON SCOUT GROUP SANTA SLEIGH

Fenny Compton Scout Group is still really hoping to be able to bring Santa to the villages this year. Just outside Lapland, the sleigh has been dusted off, the reindeers



are in training, and we are good to go! The changing and unclear national Covid-19 picture is however impacting on our plans. We are in discussions with the relevant authorities with regards to what will be right, safe and legal to do, and so at the time of going to print cannot confirm any details. Once plans are clearer these will be communicated via village notice boards/Facebook sites and on our own "Fenny Compton Scout Group Santa Sleigh"

Facebook page.

In anticipation that we are able to bring the sleigh around even in a limited, non-stopping format, but recognising that door to door collections would not be right this year, we have set up a just giving page "FennyComptonScoutGroupSantaSleigh" any donations to primarily help cover the costs of the sleigh but also support some of our general scouting activities would be welcome. In whatever format it may take Fenny Compton Scout Group wishes you all a Merry Christmas!





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THE SURGERY

Sadly, the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic is upon us and has highlighted how important it is to follow guidelines and Government advice. The Surgery continues to work flat out and none of the staff can remember a time it has ever been so busy. You will know by now in order to keep patients and staff safe, it is a one in at a time at clinical discretion. This is taking more time than usual, and the rooms need to be cleaned in between patients. With the winter weather upon us we understand if you would choose to wait in the car rather than outside the door, and we ask you just to inform reception when you arrive. Due to the nature of the work we are unable to work exactly to time slots and patient safety remains of upmost importance so please do bear with us whilst we try to provide the ongoing care and meet all the increased demands.

Please do take care of yourself and continue to contact the surgery for your health needs, there are emergency on the day calls and the waiting time to speak to a Doctor just a few days which is still significantly less than the national average of around 2 weeks! This is testament to just how hard all the staff are working.

Flu Vaccinations: We have now vaccinated almost 1,450 patients since mid-September, more than 25% of our practice population! In line with Government advice, we have prioritised all those that are deemed to be most at risk. We were able to secure additional vaccines for patients aged 65 and over and we would encourage anyone in this group who would still like a vaccination to contact the practice.

Stock levels for patients under 65 years who are at risk are very low and we are now only adding appointment slots when we

are confident of our stock levels. This is not something we have control over, we are making all efforts to obtain more stock and will invite patients if additional stock becomes available.

For the newly eligible group – patients aged 50 to 64 years not in an at risk category – we can only offer the vaccine to this group once we receive the go ahead from NHS England and only if enough stock remains. We will contact this group if and when we can offer a vaccination.

Covid-19 Vaccinations: You will be aware of all the recent press regarding the potential Covid-19 vaccination. We are not any more informed than you I am afraid and the potential delivery, timings, and location of the vaccine at the time of writing is very uncertain. We will of course be doing everything we can in order to help deliver any potential vaccine to our patients and the public should we be called upon.

On behalf of all the staff members at the Surgery we wish you a safe Christmas and New Year and hope that there will be some respite from Covid-19 to allow a return to some normality in 2021.

Dr Sharples

SURGERY OPENING HOURS AT CHRISTMAS & THE NEW YEAR

Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd December – Normal opening hours.

Thursday 24th December – 9am-1pm both sites. The dispensary will close at 12 noon.

Friday 25th December – Closed

Monday 28th December – Closed

Tuesday 29th to Wednesday 30th December – Normal opening hours.

Thursday 31st December – 9am-1pm both sites. The dispensary will close at 12 noon.

Friday 1st January 2021 - Closed

Monday 4th January 2021 – Normal opening hours

The Dispensary: We would like to ask patients to ensure they order their medicines in good time ahead of the Christmas holidays and remember turnaround times will be the same and there is no requirement to request double amounts. The Dispensary hours will remain the same as usual apart from the 24th December and 31st December when it will not be open in the afternoon at Shenington.

See The Directory for normal opening hours and emergency phone numbers

FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Fenny Compton Neighbourhood Development Plan Exhibition has unfortunately been postponed due to the Covid-19 lockdown. We hope to be able to hold it as soon as the lockdown is over, if the Government rules allow. We will be putting up posters around the village as soon as we know we can go ahead so keep an eye out for them. You can see the proposal in full if you have access to the internet. You can also fill in a feedback form online at fennycomptonnp. co.uk. The date for receipt of feedback has been put back to Friday 18th December.

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We have been busy making Poppies for Remembrance Day, and the children sat really well for a (nearly) 2-minute silence. We have been colouring Rangoli patterns and making Diva lamps to celebrate Diwali.

Christmas Raffle: Our Christmas raffle has some fantastic prizes. These include a Christmas Hamper, a Pandora Necklace, a family ticket to Charlecote Park, Drink and Cake for 2 at The National Herb Centre and many more. Tickets cost £2 each. Please call us on 01295 771 050 if you would like some tickets.

Duck Race: We are still hoping to hold our ever-popular Duck Race in January. It may have to be a virtual event, so please keep a look out for further details on the Abacus fundraising page and posters around the village.

We thank you for your continued support in these testing times. We still have some sessions available. Please ring and have a chat. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

DASSETT COUNTRY SHOW

The AGM for the Avon Dassett Fete Committee took place on 12th November. Although we did not have a 2020 Show to discuss, we were able to review our audited accounts for 2019. We were also able to formally record our £600 donations each to Shipston Home Nursing and VASA. A Committee for 2021 committee was also elected.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Michele Gill at dassettcountryshow@gmail.com. Here's hoping that we are able to hold a show next year!

LIGHT UP FARNBOROUGH

The Farnborough Village Hall Committee are inviting everyone in the village to take part in a competition: 'Let's Light Up Farnborough this Christmas'. Decorate the front of your house and garden with lights, trees, branches, or wreaths. There will be a prize of a Christmas Hamper for the house considered to be the best. Closing date Saturday 12th December. We hope this will lift people's spirits and give the village a festive feel. The winner will be chosen at a date to be announced.

FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

Coffee Mornings will resume after lockdown on Tuesday 8th December if the restrictions are lifted, please check with Emm on 690 254. We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happier New Year.

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 will be available for download on the Church website but will also be placed in the Church porch. Check village Facebook pages too.

If you have any questions, please contact Hester Stevns on 07980 856 808 or hesterstevns@hotmail.co.uk.

FENNY COMPTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION.

As we approach the end of a very strange and difficult year it is perhaps worth reflecting on some of the positives.

This year has been the first real year for our new allotments at the end of Ridge Way, although you would be forgiven for thinking they look well established and have been there for years. The late summer of 2019 saw the area enclosed, the allotments marked out, and plot holders given their first access to begin working their plots on what was then a baked and hard dry ground. Then came the wet, very wet winter.

Although the national lockdown in March this year and the continuing pandemic has proved very difficult for many people, the allotments have not only provided a great source of exercise but also an external area to socialise, at a distance, with other villagers which in turn has no doubt helped with people's physical as well as mental health in these troubled times.

It would be easy to feel that November with the shortening days and the continuing uncertainties with Covid 19 could be a dull and depressing time but not on the allotments! There are still plenty of vegetables to be harvested and November really is the start of the next season rather than the end of the last.

Now is the time to clear, dig, maintain and prep the plot but also the time to plant the next batch of own grown food. November, December and sometimes January is a great time to plant garlic, broad beans, get your onions in, winter lettuce and much much more.

Many people have enjoyed a bounty of home grown, organic, healthy and really tasty food from the allotments this year. Many have also begun to eat vegetables they never would have thought to consider when buying from a shop — Kohl-Rabi anyone?! The list is almost endless as to what's been produced this year and it's a really satisfying to see children getting muddy, planting food then within weeks harvesting and sometimes even eating before they have managed to get the veg home. How often do you see that in a supermarket car park?

So as the end of 2020 approaches the Fenny Compton Allotments Association is already working on, looking forward to and planning for a healthy and busy 2021, assisting with 2021 Fenny in Flower and hopefully a return to a more normal, social and healthy society for us all to enjoy.



Simon Gooding Chair FCAA Photo by Jason Wise

THE MERRIE LION

BROOK STREET, FENNY COMPTON 01295 771134

A Merrie Christmas and a Happy New Year
To our customers, shareholders and staff
Thank you for all your support during these difficult times

We don't know at present what the regulations will be after lockdown ends but we are taking a punt that this is what we will be able to offer!

From Monday 7th December

Christmas Party Menu £25 for three courses £20 for two courses

Please book in advance

Christmas Eve Open All Day 12-10pm Food 12-5pm Christmas Day Open for Drinks 10am-12 noon

Christmas Day Lunch Pre-Booked Only

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New Year's Eve (Thursday) - Lunch only 12-2pm

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