

FEBRUARY 2021

# THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



WHITER WINTER

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

FENNY COMPTON • AVON DASSETT • FARNBOROUGH



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# THE COMPTON CHRONICLE

**FEBRUARY 2021**

As I write we are all in another lockdown and the number of people contracting Covid-19 is increasing as are the number of deaths. However, the vaccine has arrived and we should all be offered it soon. See the article in this magazine from The Surgery.

February is the month of Valentine's Day, Pancake Day & the Chinese New Year, this time the Year of the Ox. At least Valentine cards can be posted & Pancake Day can be celebrated in the usual way at home.

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

Keep safe and sane.

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

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Articles/News to [comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk)

Advertisers contact Amy Aylward 01295 770 749

Club News & Diary Dates [comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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## AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Trevor Gill      [www.avondassettparishcouncil.com](http://www.avondassettparishcouncil.com)

Clerk: Helen Hide-Wright      [avondassettparishcouncil@googlegmail.com](mailto:avondassettparishcouncil@googlegmail.com)

The Council meeting and the Annual Parish Assembly took place by video-conference on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Fox Hunting:** A number of members of the public attended the meeting to express their concerns about a local hunt that came through the village. It was alleged that several offences had been committed including trespass, damage and hunting foxes and that these would be reported to the Police. It was agreed that the Parish Council would investigate the allegations before considering its position.

**Playground:** Quotations have been received for repairs to playground equipment. These are being considered.

**Roads and Drains:** Residents have expressed concern at the delay in repairing the potholes on Church Hill and the continued erosion of the verge at the corner of Park Close. These matters will be raised again with the Highways Authority.

**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 opening has been reduced to one day a week and is now only open 9:15am-10am on Wednesdays.

**Reading Room:** The Reading Room remains closed until Government restrictions are lifted. However, painting work has been completed and the internal appearance is much improved.

**War Memorial:** A grant application will be submitted to fund re-laying the slabs around the War Memorial and repointing the exterior wall.

**Projects and Grants:** The project to improve the electricity supply to St Johns Church is ongoing. It is hoped that the sale of plaques on the steps will help to fund the cost of the works.

**Next Meetings:** The date of the next meetings are 1 February and 1 March and these will be conducted via videoconference, unless restrictions on meeting are lifted, in which case they will be held in the Reading Room as normal.

**Annual Parish Assembly:** Minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the Chairman's report was accepted. Questions have been raised about the purpose, organisation and notice given for the Annual Assembly and, as a result, it has been agreed to do things slightly differently in 2021 in an attempt to get more public engagement than in recent years.

### Next Meetings

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 & Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 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

**Compton Buildings Development:** Representatives from the Parish Council met at the end of last year with representatives from Orbit to discuss their proposals for the development of the former Compton Buildings site. The development will be for 60 shared ownership and 40 rental properties with preference being given to people with a local connection. Anyone interested in shared ownership should register with the help to buy agent here: [www.helptobuyagent2.org.uk/](http://www.helptobuyagent2.org.uk/)

Orbit are willing to engage more widely with the community on this development, although this is difficult in the current circumstances. If you think more engagement would be helpful, please respond to this article with your thoughts on how you think this should be done and we will pass these on to Orbit.

**Dog Poo:** Dog fouling is a problem again, especially on the sports field. Please clean up after your dog.

**Speedwatch:** We are looking to set up a Speedwatch group in the village. This was attempted some time ago but despite several volunteers coming forward we were unable to get any traction with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team. We now believe this has been resolved and if you are willing to put yourself forward to support this initiative please contact David Johnson via the Clerk details above. Training will be required but we are unlikely to start this before Covid-19 restrictions are eased.

**Trees:** Four trees have been planted to replace the trees that were felled before Christmas on Church Street and the Green at the top of The Slade. A fifth tree was kindly donated by a local resident.

**Planning:** 20/03334/TREE: 1 The Willows, High Street: Reduce height and spread of two apple trees: No representation. 20/03575/TREE: Meadow Bank, Mill Lane: Fell ash and lawson cypress: No representation. 20/03429/FUL & /LBC: Buttercup Barn, Rectory Farm Court: Replacement of ground floor door and first floor window: No representation. 20/03490/FUL: Bumble Bee House, Station Fields: Single storey side extension: No representation.

### **Next Meetings**

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 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

The January meeting had not taken place at the time of going to press.

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

### **Next Meeting**

**There is no meeting in February**



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

**Covid-19:** The level of Covid-19 infection has been worrying nationally and locally, and changes from week to week. Over December the numbers in Warwickshire Stratford district surged. Whilst Stratford has continued to have the lowest rates in Warwickshire, Stratford District cases rose from around 50 to 350 per 100,000 in the period from beginning of December to mid-January. Our local area, which had a history of being the lowest, is now about 20-30% higher than the rest of Stratford District at the time I wrote this item. This of course emphasises the need for extreme vigilance and social distancing.

**Vaccine:** There is some sign of good news in the roll out of the vaccine. This is a challenging task for everyone and there were restrictions imposed by central Government on sharing information until the vaccination centres had gone live. The rollout of the 'local vaccination sites' has been done in waves and whilst our site is one of the later sites I have been assured that they will receive adequate vaccines to 'balance' things up. The wider Southam area is being serviced by a single centre in Southam at the Pendike Street Clinic and organised by the Clinical Commissioning Group rather than GP practices. The priority groups for vaccinations are Care Homes residents and staff, those over 80 and frontline health and social care workers. Please wait to be contacted and do not contact GP practices unnecessarily while the NHS works through the age range. You may have received a letter from NHS England inviting you to attend a mass vaccination site – the nearest one currently being Milleninum Point in Birmingham. I want to emphasise that this is an additional option. If you decide not to go there, I am assured that this does not affect your priority to go to your 'local' centre. If patients do go the Birmingham for the first jab, they will have to go there for the second one.

**HS2:** I have had a number of conversations with HS2 and their contractors about traffic. Although HGV movements are regulated by the Act of Parliament, light van and vehicle movements are less constrained and I have been working with Warwickshire County Council and HS2 to influence some of the routings to address the problem of smaller vehicles going through villages to HS2 sites. Of course, this is all much more difficult because of the unexpected long-term closure of the A425, but I am told vehicle routing for interaction with villages will be considered in future.

**Green Bin Collections:** From 1<sup>st</sup> April charging for green bin garden waste collection is to go ahead. The proposed charge of £40 had been deferred from earlier in 2020, after widespread opposition. I and my colleagues opposed this change last year as we believed that the charge was a fund-raising exercise not justified by the financial position. I am also concerned about the impact charging may have on the volume of garden waste which is recycled and the pressure on local recycling centres, but more details on the new system can be found in the Council magazine that was recently delivered to homes.



If you want to keep having your green waste collected, you can sign up before 28<sup>th</sup> February for a first year's discount of £5 lowering the charge to £35 for the year. [www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/gardenwaste) or call 01789 260 628.

Stratford is investigating new collection arrangements for the longer term in co-ordination with Warwick District Council called a 123+ system. This would involve:

- One-weekly separate food waste collection
- Two-weekly mixed recycling collection in a wheelie bin, plus garden waste service, which unfortunately would still be chargeable as described above
- Three-weekly general residual waste black bin collection

It is early days on this idea with a three-week cycle instead of two-weekly, and possible Government action is another variable factor in all waste collection arrangements. It seems to be taking a long time for central government to say what they are going to do, having given an indication of supporting more waste recycling.

Nigel Rock

Councillor for Napton and Fenny Compton Ward [nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk)

### **LOCAL ROADWORKS**

Now – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021: Banbury Road/Dasset Road: 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.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February: 9 High Street, Fenny Compton.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February: Top Street, Northend: Road Closure. 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.

1am Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February – 6am Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February: Knightcote Road at the bridge: Road Closure: Vegetation removal & brickwork repairs at the railway bridge.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February: Church Hill, Avon Dasset: Road Closure 9am-3pm: Carriageway Patching and Associated Works.

### **FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The consultation closed before Christmas with 340 comments from 47 respondents, including local residents and statutory consultees such as Severn Trent Water, Sports England, Stratford District Council and Warwickshire Police. A formal summary document is being written that outlines the comments and the changes to be made to the Plan. This will come to the Parish Council meeting in February for approval before formal submission to the District Council.

### **LIGHTING UP FARNBOROUGH**

Thank you to everyone who participated in 'Lighting up Farnborough' at Christmas, the village looked amazing and many commented how cheering it was in such a difficult time. Thank you also to everyone who made donations enabling us to award three lovely hampers together with three other prizes.

## LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

After my father died, I spent some time reflecting on his life and the things we did together. I remembered the fun we had doing certain things together; the times I needed to be challenged and disciplined; the lessons I learned, some the hard way. And how blessed I was to even have a father. As I was thinking, what came to mind with absolute clarity, more so than anything else, were those times when he had said "I'm proud of you."

Those words meant more than any anything else he could have said to me, because I knew he meant them, and they were from his heart. The phrase "I'm proud of you" is powerful and full of meaning. It can change one's life and one's world. These words are meant to build someone up, offer encouragement and recognise an achievement. "I'm proud of you." Full stop, or better yet, exclamation mark! There is no waffle in this blessing, no "buts", nothing else to do. Not, "I'm proud of you, but if you could only get married...then we could have a grandchild." Or "I'm proud of you, it almost makes up for those teenage years." Or "I'm proud of you, almost as much as I am of your brother."

At Jesus' baptism God said...*"This is my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased."* A little blessing goes a long way, "Great job.... Well done." Studies show that in the heart of every child is a cry for parental approval. Something happens when a father or mother says to their child, "I'm so proud of you." The timing of God's words strike me because Jesus had not done anything at this point. It was before he started his ministry, giving the impression that God's great love and pleasure in Jesus has nothing to do with any accomplishment.

Maybe I'm speaking for myself, but I think there are no more important words to hear, than to hear from your parents or from anyone else for that matter, "I'm proud of you." Even "I love you" does not carry with it perhaps what the phrase was meant to convey. After all it is expected our parents will love us, it is expected that God will love us. But saying, "I'm proud of you" seems to offer an affirmation that is unexpected and different.

Your earthly father may have always been present in your life, or maybe you did not know him or he was not always around. You may or may not have known what it took to make him proud of you and rarely, if ever, felt like you accomplished that goal.

Well, forget that for a moment. I believe that through this phrase God wants us to know that we also are his beloved and that he is well pleased with us. He wants us to wake up every day knowing that we are his beloved, unconditionally loved and wholly approved. The Lord is proud of you simply because you are his child and he thinks you are pretty special. Your heavenly Father loves you when your generous and kind. He loves you when your selfish and mean. God does not focus on all the bad stuff when he looks at your life. That sin has been covered by the cross! He delights in who you are because you are his. What he does see is his *"beloved child, in whom he is well pleased."*

*Rev'd Nicki*

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## FEBRUARY 2021 DIARY .....

MONDAY	1	7:30pm	Avon Dassett PC Meeting - Videoconference
TUESDAY	2		
WEDNESDAY	3		RECYCLING COLLECTION
THURSDAY	4		
FRIDAY	5		
SATURDAY	6		
SUNDAY	7	6:00pm	Songs of Praise via Zoom
MONDAY	8		
TUESDAY	9		
WEDNESDAY	10		
THURSDAY	11		
FRIDAY	12		CHINESE NEW YEAR
SATURDAY	13		
SUNDAY	14	9:00am-12:00pm	ST VALENTINE'S DAY Fenny Compton Footpath Group - <i>see article</i>
MONDAY	15	7:45pm	SCHOOL HALF TERM STARTS Fenny Compton PC Meeting - Online via Zoom
TUESDAY	16		SHROVE TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY	17		RECYCLING COLLECTION ASH WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	18		
FRIDAY	19		SCHOOL HALF TERM ENDS
SATURDAY	20		
SUNDAY	21	6:00pm	Songs of Praise via Zoom
MONDAY	22		
TUESDAY	23		
WEDNESDAY	24		
THURSDAY	25		
FRIDAY	26		
SATURDAY	27		
SUNDAY	28		

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### KINETON CATHOLIC CHURCH MASS

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



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14th February.  
Valentine's Day

16th February:  
Pancake Day

What's up in  
February?

7th  
February:  
Send A Card  
To A Friend  
Day

22nd February:  
World Thinking  
Day

12th February:  
Chinese New Year  
(Year of the Ox)



Life of Bear - 'My Love!'  
By Emma Wilkinson of ArtDecaDance



# Pages

What did one volcano say to the other?

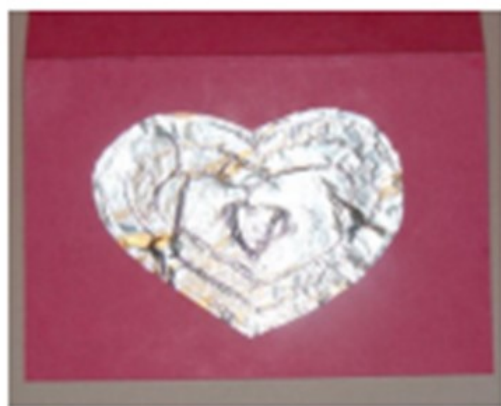
I lava you!

What did the cucumber say to the pickle?

-You mean a great dill to me.



## LITTLE MAKES: FOIL VALENTINE'S CARD!



You will need:

Piece of kitchen foil  
Newspaper  
Thin paint brush  
Glue  
Card blank

What did one light bulb say to the other light bulb on Valentine's Day?

I wuv you watts and watts!

What kind of flowers should you NOT give on Valentine's Day?  
Cauliflowers!

Lay your kitchen foil shiny side down on a folded newspaper.

With the end of your paintbrush, and pressing firmly, draw your design on the foil. Take care not to press too hard or you will rip the foil! Achieving the right level of pressure may take some practise.

Trim around the outside of your design and the glue it, shiny side up, to the front of your card blank.

What did one bee say to the other?

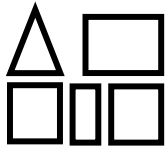
I love bee-ing with you, honey!

Why do skunks love Valentine's Day?

They are very sentimental creatures.



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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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<b>MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES – SELECT AND COLLECT SERVICE</b>		
To arrange a collection of books, please contact the Mobile Library Team on 01926 851 031		
<b>FENNY COMPTON</b>	<b>AVON DASSETT</b>	<b>FARNBOROUGH</b>
Station Road; Grants Close		Village Hall Car Park
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Not available	1 <sup>st</sup> February
10:50-11:05am; 11:10-11:20am		11:35-11:50am

<b>POST OFFICE OPENING TIMES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)</b>		
<b>AVON DASSETT THE READING ROOM</b>	<b>FENNY COMPTON THE VILLAGE HALL</b>	<b>NORTHEND THE VILLAGE HALL</b>
Monday & Wednesday 12:30pm—1:30pm	Monday 9am-10am	Monday & Wednesday 9am-1pm

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# FEBRUARY TAKEAWAY MENU

**SERVED**

**MONDAY – THURSDAY 5.30-8PM**

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY 5.30-9PM (SPECIALS AVAILABLE)**

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

Collection slots every 10 minutes

COVID Secure

Wholetail Scampi (C) (G) (D)

Fries, Salad, Homemade Tartare Sauce 10.95

Feta Cheese and Spinach Parcel (D) (G)

Saute Potatoes, Salad 10.25

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

Garden Peas, Hand Cut Chips, Homemade Tartare Sauce 11.00

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

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

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

Piri Piri Chicken (D) (E)

Fries, Salad, Coleslaw 12.00

Pie of the Week (D) (G)

Chips or Mash, Seasonal Vegetables, Gravy 11.50

## SIDES

Skinny/Chunky Chips 2.50

Mixed Salad 2.50

Onion Rings 2.50

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

*BBQ OR TOMATO BASE*

Margarita 5.50/7.95

Cherry Tomatoes, Buffalo Mozzarella, Basil

Meat Feast 7.50/10.50

Pepperoni, Chorizo, Pancetta, Spiced Chicken

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

Extra Toppings:

Cheese, Chorizo, Pepperoni, Seasoned Chicken, Pancetta 1.00

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

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

**PUDDINGS (G) (D)**

***Biscoff Cheesecake 4.50 Sticky Toffee Pudding 4.50***

**DRY JANUARY? WE HAVE NON-ALCOHOLIC OPTIONS!**

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**2.50/BOTTLE**

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**3.50/BOTTLE**

## AVON DASSETT VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARD

### Kwanzaa

Alfonso Siverls

it is the light  
of candles  
that shines brightly  
after a long journey  
of darkness,  
that empowers my soul  
and proclaims my place  
in the culture of humanity

The sale of Avon Dassett Christmas cards featuring a festive village scene raised £195 for the Alzheimer's Society to remember long-standing village resident, Thelma Watts, who sadly passed away just before Christmas. The production of the card was particularly fitting as Thelma was a talented artist and craftswoman, and one of her paintings had graced a previous village Christmas card some years ago.

The card was co-ordinated by Sandra Sandiford and members of the committee of Avon Dassett Community Benefit Society helped with publicity and sales. The cheque was presented to Thelma's husband, Reg, son, Mark and daughter in law, Deb by the Community Benefit Society.

Jennie Mummery, of the charity, commented, "It's ever so kind of you to think of the Alzheimer's Society at this difficult time and we are honoured that you have made a donation of £195 in Thelma's memory." A committee member for the Benefit Society said: "The ongoing Covid pandemic has hit charities hard with many of their traditional fundraising activities on hold. We are therefore

pleased that for a small village, we have been able to do our bit to help and at the same time pay our respects to Thelma."

It is heart-warming, that in such challenging times, there are moments of cheer and positivity, demonstrating 'the culture of humanity' as referred to by the poem above.



Professor Sarah Richardson



## **AVON DASSETT COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY**

[www.avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk](http://www.avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk)

The Yew Tree has been closed since November, with the exception of opening for takeaways on selected weekends in December and New Year's Eve. More dates for takeaways will be announced during January, together with the menu extended to include pizzas.

Other activities, such as the pub Quiz, the Walking Group and the Bridge Club have had to be suspended but will restart as soon as local lockdown restrictions are eased.

We are pleased to report that the sale of Christmas Cards resulted in a donation of £195 to the Alzheimer's Society, dedicated to the memory of Thelma Watts. Many thanks to all who both organised the events and who bought cards.

As a result of the pub being closed our income has been less than expected so we have sought grants and bounce back loans to help us through until the pub is allowed to reopen. We continue to sell shares to new investors and shares continue to be available, further information about the Benefit Society is available at the website, address above.

### **CARERS4CARERS**

Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton and the surrounding villages and rural area. We offer members a monthly newsletter, telephone support as well as a virtual coffee morning. Look out for joining instructions in our monthly email or contact the number below. New and existing members are always welcome. Have a look at our website [www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk](http://www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk), email us at [kcarers4carers@gmail.com](mailto:kcarers4carers@gmail.com) or call 07947 893 504.

### **ADVENT WINDOWS TRAIL**

Thank you to all who took part in the Fenny Compton Advent Windows Trail in December; either by creating a window or going on the trail. The quality and variety of window displays were very impressive! We hope to be able to run it again this year so get planning! Best Wishes for 2021. St Peter and St Clare's Fundraising Committee

### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Understandably, many are suffering from low mood in this third lockdown which seems so much worse as it is winter. There is help out there. Here are some useful links regarding Mental Health services.

**Arty Folks:** Wider arts support available for adults over 18 with mild to moderate Mental Health difficulties. They offer free on-line Art and Mental Health courses. See the website [arty-folks.org.uk/what-we-offer/](http://arty-folks.org.uk/what-we-offer/)

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

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

## FENNY COMPTON FOOTPATH GROUP

Three things this month. We bit off more than we could chew in November. The footpath at the allotments had become waterlogged and I thought we could dig a drain by hand in a morning. After 4 hours we had done less than a third of the job, so we returned in December, this time with a man with a mini-digger. Unfortunately, I underestimated how much clay we had to dig out and remove from the site, but Mik Squire came forward with his loader and after about 5 hours we had filled the bucket twice over.

We laid the perforated pipe in the ditch then I had to find enough rubble to back-fill. We soon used up what I had set aside but after a bit of knocking on doors we found just about enough. The path is still a muddy mess, so I will be back with more rubble to top it off. Thank you to the Ridgeway residents and the allotment holders for putting up with the disruption and mess, to Mik Squire for the use of his loader and for disposing of the clay and to John Perry who dug in half a day what would have taken us months to do by hand. We live and learn.



A local farmer contacted me regarding the state of the footpaths. An increased number of walkers combined with the very wet conditions has meant that paths that should be 1 metre wide are now 5 metres wide. It looks a mess and must add up to a significant amount of lost crop. This is an issue nationally not just locally. Grass fields are holding up OK but many arable fields are badly affected. I have put some signs up to try to encourage walkers to find alternative routes, time will tell how effective this is.

Finally, Covid19 has not shut us down so far but things have moved on and so we will be cutting down what we do significantly over the next few months. We have nothing urgent on that cannot wait and it is not worth the risk. As we move into the

spring and summer hopefully we will get back to normal.

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

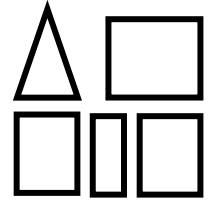
Brian Peers



Photographs by Paul Grant

## **ABACUS**

Abacus remain open for all children during the lockdown, and it was lovely to see the smiling faces of the children returning after the Christmas break, despite some having older siblings who were staying at home. They have enjoyed talking about the small bit of snow we had, and made some lovely pictures of snowmen, and decorated balloons for New Year.



Please accept our apologies for cancelling the Duck Race. We had hoped to do it 'virtually' but as lockdown happened, it was important to follow the guidelines, so the decision was made. Hopefully, it can return next year, and we will be able to restart our fundraising as lockdown and restrictions are lifted in the future.

We do have some spaces available, please get in touch and have a chat. We look forward to hearing from you.

## **FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL**

We are delighted to announce two new members to the committee, Robert MacPherson from Park Lodge and Kay Taylor from Walnut Cottage. We hope they enjoy their time with us and look forward to their input and new ideas. Sadly, we have been unable to hold a full committee meeting, but we have kept in contact by 'virtual meetings'.

Various suggestions have been made for forthcoming events at the Hall but, of course, cannot proceed due to restrictions. Coffee Mornings will resume as soon as we are able.

We still have a wide variety of books and now quite a range of jigsaws for people to borrow and enjoy, please contact any committee member if you would like to browse.

## **FENNY COMPTON SCOUT GROUP**

Happy New Year from Fenny Compton Scouts Well a few weeks into the New Year and scouting is back online again. We want to take this opportunity to thank all our leaders, parents and young people for their perseverance and support of scouting in this Covid world.

Thankfully, Santa Claus was able to make his annual appearance in Fenny Compton and surrounding villages – likewise we want to thank all the people that worked so hard within the restrictions and regulations to make this happen. A little festive cheer was spread when we needed it the most. Scouting offers hope and friendship during hard times – we are in this together. Thanks to the wider village for your support.

## **CO-OP HOME DELIVERY SERVICE**

The Co-op have teamed up with Snappy Shopper to offer a home delivery service. You have to download the Snappy Shopper app from the app store or Google Play. Enter your postcode and the app will show you what stores you are able to order from. This process might be daunting for some so if a neighbour needs support it would be kind to help. See [www.snappyshopper.co.uk](http://www.snappyshopper.co.uk) for more information.



# Sheep

Maggie Campbell

Each year we celebrate - (any excuse)  
Chinese New Year - with rice,  
Noodles, Prawn Crackers, Chow Mein,  
Foil trays opened in a trice.

No elegant names, no Libra  
Sagittarius, or Capricorn,  
We are an ark full of creatures  
Depending on when we were born.

Decorative, devious, daring dragons  
display,  
While mischievous, melodramatic  
monkeys cavort  
Colourful cocks crow and call to us all  
And tigers terrify us as we've been  
taught.

But what am I?  
A shy sheep  
Happily following my Bellwether.  
Keen to keep  
One of the crowd  
Don't stand out ,  
Keep together  
That's what it' all about.

But I am not!  
I am the lost sheep  
The one who wanders off  
Who doesn't want to keep  
To the flocking rules.  
Better to teeter on the brink  
Of the precipice  
And be alone to swim or sink.

To see the yonder world  
Spread out before me mile on mile  
Mine to explore alone  
No sisters to make me walk in file.

When the shepherd came along  
Kind and caring with his crook  
I butt him and kick out  
This is a risk I willingly took.

I shall return to my sisters when I choose  
But in the meantime, leave me be,  
It is my choice to win or to lose  
In a future that I cannot see.

Baa - humbug  
This is my voice.  
Baaa - I am bored with conformity,  
Give me life and a choice.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR—YEAR OF THE METAL OX

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February sees the start of the Chinese New Year and ushers in the Year of the Metal Ox. Whilst we see a Year of the Ox every 12 years, a Metal Ox Year only arrives every 60 years. A person born in the Year of the Ox will be dependable, calm and methodical. A Metal Ox is considered to have a strong sense of responsibility and will keep his/her word.

What is your Chinese Zodiac sign? Do you match up with the animal?



## CENSUS DAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

The UK's national statistician has suggested the census to be held this March could be our last. After 200 years of officially documenting Britain's households, it may be scrapped in favour of cheaper and easier ways of collecting the data. A decision will be made on this in 2023. But for historians and social scientists this precious document provides a treasure trove of information about lives of ordinary people through the ages.

For anyone interested in the lives of ordinary people in the past, the lack of source material is extremely frustrating. Before 1841, we get only glimpses in records such as tax returns or court cases. All this changed with the introduction of the population census taking at ten yearly intervals from 1801 (the only exception was 1941 due to World War II). The first three census registers only returned a figure for the population of each district but from 1841, the name and details of every person and their address on a particular night (6<sup>th</sup> June in 1841) were listed by census enumerators.

This rich archive of material opens a window on the lives of ordinary people in the past providing systematic information on their names, ages, family size and relationships, occupations, and birth places. Using this information historians have been able to trace key demographic and economic shifts in nineteenth-century Britain, for example the rise of white-collar occupations or improving rates of infant mortality. Those interested in family histories are able to uncover lost details from their own past: the previous marriage(s) of great great grandparents or routes of migration from the rural south to the industrial north.

Data from the censuses for *Compton Chronicle* villages shows that the population of Avon Dassett and Farnborough has remained remarkably stable over the past 200 years. And although Fenny Compton has grown recently, in 2011 it was the same size as in 1851. What has changed though is the number and size of households. So whilst the population may have remained relatively stable there are almost double the number of households containing far fewer people.

### Population from the Decennial Censuses

Village	1801	1851	1901	1951	2001	2011
Avon Dassett	174	307	228	185	210	210
Farnborough	241	349	312	367	289	265
FennyCompton	383	802	489	496	797	808

The release of the population figures after each census was a source of pride and competition in the district. In 1901 there was an outraged letter in the local paper because a national newspaper had claimed the parish of Chapel Ascote (between Bishops Itchington and Ladbroke) had no inhabitants. In fact, the writer spluttered, the population of the parish had doubled from 2 inhabitants to 4.

Bishops Itchington and Ladbroke) had no inhabitants. In fact, the writer spluttered, the population of the parish had doubled from 2 inhabitants to 4.

The census has also been used as a means of protest, most famously in 1911 when women's suffrage workers either boycotted the census entirely or added amendments to their entries. Ada Florence Wightwick, a member of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association who lived in Leamington signed her name adding that she was 'a non-militant suffragist (at present!) and all around the border wrote Votes for Women! Ada would never find out, but the frustrated enumerator receiving her form, added the word No' in front of each slogan.

Every census is slightly different in the questions it asks, and 2021 is no different. This census will ask about gender identities and, also, if people have served in the armed forces. So, please complete your census form (most people will do so online this year), future historians will thank you for it.

Sarah Richardson

Professor of British History at the University of Warwick & resident of Avon Dassett

The reason for the large increase of residents in Fenny Compton in 1851 was that there was a huge number of railway navvies who were building the Great Western Railway and they lived in a camp in the parish called The Railway Huts. Some married local girls including my husband's great great grandfather James Guntrip who married Hannah Willis. His brother Abraham married her neighbour Hannah Betts. Once their work was done both couples settled in Acton, Middlesex and their time in Fenny Compton was forgotten by the family until my research found them here.

Jennifer Cranfield

### **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.

We understand how easy it is to lose touch with your friends, family, and community when you are caring for another, coping with loss, or are unable to get outside as much as you would like. Through the remaining phases of lockdown and throughout whatever comes next in the Covid-19 pandemic, we can offer you regular support and conversation.

Our brilliant pen pals and telephone befrienders come from all walks of life and want to help you to feel your best. You can talk about whatever is important to you: your worries, your stories or your favourite television show! We are here for you.

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](mailto: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.

## THE SURGERY

The Surgery wishes you a Happy New Year in these ongoing challenging times. We continue to work to our maximum capabilities despite the new increased current lockdown rules. We urge you to follow Government guidelines to ensure you and others stay safe. If you are invited to come into the surgery your temperature will be checked and should you have any symptoms of Covid-19 please contact the surgery to cancel before arriving. I apologise for the weather and having to queue outside to collect medications and speak to reception. I am sure you understand it would be impossible to be able to socially distance patients and staff within the building. Please do wrap up warm and consider an umbrella/coat, and remember the staff are working as hard as they can and, also need to wrap up with the windows open all day, to deal with your needs as quickly as possible.

**Covid-19 Vaccinations:** We can confirm that invitations to receive the Covid-19 vaccination have now started and local vaccinations commenced the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January. Invitations will initially be made via telephone, text message or letter. Invitations will be sent gradually according to both the supply of vaccine from the NHS, and according to the priority groups set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation. Please note that the text message or call will refer to the East Primary Care Network.

The service is being provided to the local practices (East Primary Care Network) by an external team as a result, the Surgery does not have any control over the ability to book appointments or move patients. The service is dependent on the availability of vaccines as they are rolled out across the country. The vaccinations will be performed at a central hub, not at the Surgery and this is again in order to accommodate the local practices.

Please do try to be patient, we are aware we all want to have the vaccine as quickly as possible, but the restrictions are nationwide as the largest vaccination programme in our history is rolled out. At the time of writing, contingency plans are being put in place to manage those housebound patients but as this is not yet confirmed patients are encouraged to attend clinics where at all possible and safe to do so.

The vaccination programme as you know is an ever-changing landscape and we endeavour to keep the most up to date information on the practice website and once we know we will let you know.

We would like to thank you all for being so understanding of the difficulties facing primary care and managing your health. Your support and kind words and thoughts, particularly over the Christmas and New Year period have been extremely well received by all the staff who continue to work front line to deliver care to you.

Dr Sharples & Dr Marshall







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chat2rev.nicki@gmail.com

Keith Distin AD/FC 770 118

Lesley Bosman AD/FC 771 177

Fiona Russell-Perry Farn 690 039

### **COLTS FOOTBALL CLUB**

David Finch 770 026

### **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

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### **COUNCILLORS COUNTY**

Izzi Seccombe FC/Farn

cllrseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk

Andy Crump FC/Farn

cllrcrump@warwickshire.gov.uk

Chris Williams AD 770 792

### **COUNCILLORS DISTRICT**

John Feilding AD/Farn 07718 037 142

Nigel Rock FC 07971 343 065

nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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## **FOOTPATHS GROUP**

Brian Peers 770 644

## **GARDENING CLUB AD**

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Derek Maries 07968 439363

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fennycomptonnw.blogspot.co.uk

stratfordnw.blogspot.co.uk

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Keith Hicks FC 236 448

Andrew Campbell Farnbro' 690 776

## **OVER 60S**

Carol Walker 770 410

## **PLAYING FIELDS GROUP - FARNBOROUGH**

Keith Binding 690 390

**POLICE** 101

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## **VILLAGE HALLS**

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fcvh.org.uk/hiring

### **FARNBOROUGH**

farnboroughwarwickshire.co.uk/bookings

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