

APRIL 2023

THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



DAFFODILS FOR EASTER

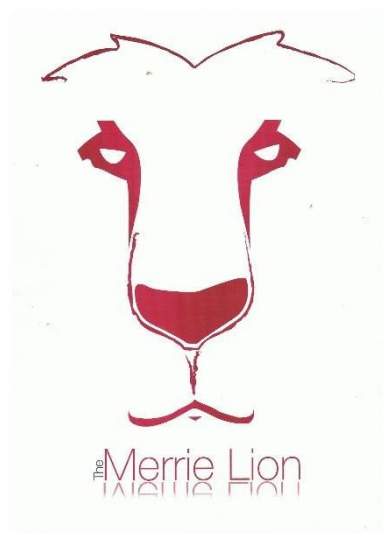
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THE COMPTON CHRONICLE

APRIL 2023



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We value the support of our advertisers and ask readers to mention *The Chronicle* when using their services. Please advise of any businesses who might consider advertising with the magazine. Our rates are very reasonable

Easter and the school holidays are nearly upon us. Hope you have all planned trips out for your family. The *What's On* page may give you some ideas of places to go.

The closing date for news & articles
for the May 2023 edition is

Wednesday 12th April 2023

Articles/News to comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk

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EDITORIAL TEAM

Amy Aylward 770 749
Emily Kilshaw
Jason Wise

Jennifer Cranfield 770 285
Emma Wilkinson

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

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AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Trevor Gill

www.avondassettparishcouncil.com 07775 762 927

Clerk: Joanne Jarman

clerk@avondassettparishcouncil.com 07809 197 817

The Parish Council met on 6th March and the agenda and minutes are available to view on the website.

Policies: New and updated policies and protocols were approved for Complaints; Habitual and Vexatious Complaints; Communications; Recording and Filming of Meetings; and the legal dealing with developers in respect of pre-planning applications.

Planning: Following a request from the Agent of a developer for an informal meeting with the Parish Council, it was agreed that the request should be met but that a copy of the Legal Protocol be sent to the Agent along with an offer to facilitate a public meeting, if required.

Projects: Business Cases for the following projects were accepted subject to funding, including grant applications being accepted:

- Traffic enhancements - relocation of 30mph signs; erection of gates at the entrances to the village
- Reading Room kitchen refurbishment
- Village Playground – adult exercise equipment; play equipment for older children
- Live streaming of meetings

Reading Room: The improvement work to the kitchen should be completed by the end of April.

Parish Plan: It was agreed that a public meeting should be held after the May Council Elections, with the aim of clarifying the progress made to date and seeking greater involvement from the wider community. A general request to landowners calling for offers of land that could be suitable for allotments, a dog walking field, a community garden, affordable housing and off-road parking will be made in advance of the public meeting.

Roads, Traffic and Drains: The street light at Lower End has been repaired.

Tree Warden's Report: The first report from the Tree Warden stated that power lines should be kept clear of trees and branches; that shadow planting be undertaken beneath established trees; and, that footpaths be kept clear.

Council Elections: Prospective candidates for election are encouraged to review the 'Be a Councillor' pages on Stratford DC's website www.stratford.gov.uk. Applications must be submitted by hand to the exact location and within the timescale that will be published by the Returning Officer at Stratford DC.

Resignation of the Chair: Cllr Gill announced his resignation from the Parish Council effective from 26th April 2023.

Continued overleaf

Continued.....

A new Chair will be appointed by the Parish Council that will be formed after the May elections. Until then, the Clerk will assume the responsibilities of the Chair.

Next Meeting
Monday 15th May 2023
at 7pm
in The Reading Room

FENNY COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Jon Dutton 771 174 fcpc.chair@gmail.com www.fennycompton-pc.gov.uk

Clerk: Lydia Cox 07748 901 501 fcpc.clerk@gmail.com

Damage: The installation of a new electrical connection along The Slade has caused some damage to the road. The Parish Council are in contact with National Grid to ensure that this is rectified.

Play Area: There were no objections to the proposal to remove the fence around the under 8s play area so this will be progressed.

New Housing Development: The Parish Council have been asked to help with the production of a welcome leaflet for the new development at the former Compton Buildings site. If your organisation wishes to be included, please send some brief details, including contact information, to the Clerk.

Avian Flu: There have been reported cases of mammals dying after eating bird carcasses infected with Avian Flu.

If you keep poultry, please follow the latest advice which is available on www.warwickshire.gov.uk/.../animal-health-advice/2 or search 'Animal Health' on the WCC website.

Parish Council Elections: Parish Council elections will be held on Thursday 4th May - if there are enough candidates. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council and making a difference to your community, please contact the Clerk, the Chair or any of the Councillors, whose contact details on the website, address above.

Parish Assembly: 7pm on Monday 3rd April in the Village Hall.

Our next meeting will be the Parish Assembly at which we will present reports from the Parish Council and other local organisations. Please come along to find out what we have been up to.

Neighbourhood Plan Referendum: The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are delighted that the result of the Referendum was a resounding "Yes" with 93.7% voting in favour. There was a 20% turn out; 134 voted 'yes' & 9 voted 'no'.

This means that any future planning applications for the Parish will have a document which Planning decisions must rely upon and the views and wishes of our residents

will be considered. Applications for Planning permission must be determined in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan, unless specific material considerations indicate otherwise. This affords us, in effect, a greater influence over decisions than without a Plan. This plan lasts until 2031.

Many thanks to the Steering Group who have worked tirelessly on this project for the last 6 years.

Next Meetings

**Monday 3rd April 2033 at 7pm
& Monday 17th April 2023 at 7:45pm
in the Village Hall**

FARNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Peter Johnston

www.farnboroughparishcouncil.co.uk

Clerk: Kirsty Buttle

01295 275 372

farnboroughpc@outlook.com

The March meeting had not taken place when the magazine went to press. The next meeting will be in May.



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NAPTON & FENNY COMPTON WARD - STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Budget: The District Council set its Budget on 27th February based on the Administration's proposals. This is for a Council Tax rise of £5 for a band D property applied to the District Council element of Council Tax. Liberal Democrat opposition proposals to increase the resource for planning enforcement were accepted and included in the budget. Other suggestions from the opposition: a zero-carbon fund for community buildings and village halls, encouragement of solar PV, and an economic support officer, were turned down, although these would have been included in the overall budget figure that was agreed. The Council Tax is therefore as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24	% Increase / (decrease)
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£154.12	£159.12	3.24%
Warwickshire County Council	£1,590.93	£1,653.57	3.94%
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£262.71	£276.71	5.33%
Sub-total	£2,007.76	£2,089.40	4.07%
Town and Parish Councils (average)	£66.08	£69.26	4.81%
TOTAL	£2,073.84	£2,158.66	4.09%

For those Parishes that raise funds by a 'precept' an additional figure is to be added as follows. A number a smaller Parishes do not precept.

	Precept	Increase
Napton	£89.23	2.2%
Fenny Compton	£67.7	-9.2%
Priors Marston	£63.53	0.5%
Priors Hardwick	£26.09	-18.5
Ladbroke	£43.07	13.3%
Harbury	£107.45	7.9%
Southam	£105.75	16.4%

The Lib Dem opposition made a proposal for a review of the collection of 'medical' waste in the grey bins for residents with extra need, such as stoma products, incontinence produces and adult nappies. It was hoped that such a system might be extended to infant nappies in this proved feasible. The Administration did not accept this proposal, but following on from the Council meeting I had further informal discussion with other councillors to ensure this is kept on the agenda.

HS2: There may be more disruption in future on the A423, between Ladbroke and Southam, following the works during March. A year ago or more we were told that

any disruption would be short lived, but I am concerned that there is more to come on a route for which is difficult to arrange satisfactory diversions. I will stay in touch with the contractor.

There are also plans for lights and closures between Wormleighton and Boddington in coming weeks and months. This is another situation likely to be very disruptive for local residents as there are no easy bypassing routes. I am in repetitive contact with HS2 contractor EKFB to minimise the disruption which is due to connecting the realigned road way at the Stoneton Lane/Wormleighton Road junction by the heave trail site. I have asked if there is any possibility of phasing the working differently, which in itself is difficult to avoid both harvest traffic and school transport in the summer when the longest closures are likely to happen.

I have been in further contact with the contractors about light pollution from their sites.

Elections 4th May - Photo ID: These are unusually complicated because of the Government's instruction to introduce photo ID (unnecessarily in my view) as well as boundary changes. At the risk of repeating myself, I would recommend getting a postal vote. Online you can apply at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post and return the completed form to Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6HX. Alternatively, e-mail a scanned copy to elections@stratford-dc.gov.uk. If you are not on-line, I can give you a form.

Annoyingly for us, electors without a photo ID can go in person to the Council offices in Stratford to get a special ID. This is hardly much use to residents over here, which I have pointed out to the senior staff.

Cllr Nigel Rock
nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk



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Confessions of a Hoarder

Maggie Campbell

I am not a complete addict.
I don't have piles of newspapers saved
And stacked up in piles upon the stairs,
This is not an activity I've craved.

But I am teetering on the brink,
I have everything but the kitchen sink
Before I even have time to blink
Another item fills an empty chink.

The worst offenders are my books,
A whole library full of much loved tomes,
With extra piles on tables and on shelves,
They really should be passed on to other homes.

Their serried ranks are pleasing to my eye,
And I have read them, well nearly all,
Just seeing them makes me think back
And all those happy hours I can recall.

Books everywhere, they can gather dust,
It certainly is a must,
Some must go, but which, I just -
Wonder who will want them, who can I trust?

They don't take up as much room,
But cards and letters are another fault.
Greetings and words from someone long gone,
How can I shred these memories - I halt.

I put them in back in neat new folders,
To be re-read another day.
More drawers and boxes filled,
When I am gone, what will my tidy children say?

Wardrobes filled with favourite clothes,
Photo albums catalogue my past
More china than I can use,
I sometimes look around aghast.

But then I stop and think - and grin.
Keeping things is not a sin,
Why put useful things out in the bin,
Search cupboards and a treasure may hide within.

In these austere times things can be re-used,
Old books can be read again or shared,
Things kept may come into their own again,
And some loved treasures can be.

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AVON DASSETT COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY

www.avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk

Our financial year accounts will be with our accountants shortly and once their work is completed, we will arrange the AGM.

Easter Market: There will be an Easter Market on Saturday 8th April, 10am–1pm, when stallholders will offer local craft and produce from stalls in the pub and the car park. That weekend there will be a focus on kids and families, The Shack will reopen, and it is hoped that the weather will allow the garden to be brought back into use.

Soap Box Derby: Planning is well under way for the Soap Box Derby on Saturday 24th June and entries are now being accepted. Further details and the rules are available on the community website and on Facebook.

Other more than a pub activities included:

The Warm Hub: The Warm Hub, has been running since December but is due to end on 31 March. This facility has attracted some regular customers and groups but, in general, attendance has been low. We will look to lessons learned and review how the Warm Hub might operate in the future.

Quiz Nights: Quiz nights, which have risen in popularity and now attract around 50 contestants. The Quiz is held on the last Sunday of each month, with cash prizes, Play Your Cards Rights, and a music quiz. Book a table to be sure of your place.

Groups: The Bridge Club and Walking Group which continue to be well attended and are looking to extend their memberships. All are welcome to join.

Facilities: The planning application for improvements to the toilet facilities including the provision of disabled access remains with Stratford DC.

Sale of Shares: We are always interested in attracting new shareholders as well as encouraging existing shareholders to increase the number of shares that they own. Application details together with further information on the website.

OVER 60S

The Over 60s lunch will be on the second Tuesday every month at The Merrie Lion

Over 60s at 12noon for 12:30pm. Anyone wishing to join us will be made most welcome. Please ring Carol Walker on 770 410 or Mollie Hill on 271 570 for further details. Dates for April are in The Diary.

ROADWORKS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA

Monday 24th April – Friday 28th April Road closed 9:30am - 3:30pm each day: Church Street, Fenny Compton - Drainage Works for Warwickshire County Council

Monday 24th April Two way signals 9:30am - 3:30pm: Dasset Road, Little Dasset - National Highways

Saturday 29th April Road closed 7am - 4pm: Fieldgate Lane, Fenny Compton - Utility repair for Severn Trent Water



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APRIL 2023 DIARY

SATURDAY	1		
SUNDAY	2	10:00am 11:00am 11:00am	Holy Communion - Farnborough Morning Prayer - FC St Peter & St Clare BCP Communion – All Saints, Burton Dassett
MONDAY	3	7:45pm	SCHOOL SPRING HOLIDAY STARTS Parish Assembly FC Village Hall
TUESDAY	4		
WEDNESDAY	5	11:00am-12:30pm 2:00pm-5:00pm	Coffee Morning - Avon Dassett Reading Room Dassett Men's Club - Reading Room, AD
THURSDAY	6	10:00am-11:00am	GENERAL REFUSE COLLECTION Coffee Morning - Mid England Barrow, F'boro
FRIDAY	7	12:30pm	GOOD FRIDAY Merrie Men's Lunch - Merrie Lion, FC
SATURDAY	8	10:00am-1:00pm	Easter Market – Yew Tree, Avon Dassett
SUNDAY	9	9:00am-12:00pm 11:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	EASTER SUNDAY Fenny Compton Footpath Group Holy Communion - FC St Peter & St Clare Morning Prayer - Northend Evening Prayer – Farnborough
MONDAY	10		EASTER MONDAY
TUESDAY	11	12:00pm	Over 60s Lunch - Merrie Lion, Fenny Compton
WEDNESDAY	12	7:30pm 7:30pm	Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, Avon Dassett WI Meeting - Fenny Compton Village Hall
THURSDAY	13		RECYCLING COLLECTION
FRIDAY	14		SCHOOL SPRING HOLIDAY ENDS
SATURDAY	15	2:00pm-4:00pm 7:00pm	So Sew And Make Group - FC Village Hall Skittles Evening - Farnborough Village Hall
SUNDAY	16	10:00am 11:00am 11:00am	BCP Communion - Farnborough Morning Prayer - FC St Peter & St Clare Holy Communion - Northend
MONDAY	17	12:00pm-1:30pm 7:45pm	Just-A-Bite Lunch - FC Village Hall Fenny Compton PC Meeting - FC Village Hall
TUESDAY	18	7:30pm	AD Gardening Club - AD Reading Room
WEDNESDAY	19	9:45am-11:45am	Tots & Toddlers Group - FC Village Hall
THURSDAY	20	11:00am	Avon Dassett Walking Group - Yew Tree, AD
FRIDAY	21		
SATURDAY	22		
SUNDAY	23	9:30am 10:00am 10:00am	ST. GEORGE'S DAY Morning Prayer - Northend Food For Thought Breakfast - FC VH Morning Prayer - Farnborough



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APRIL FOOL'S DAY kids



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out!!!!



Easter!

9th April

National Unicorn Day!

Where does Easter take place?

Eggs marks the spot!



What's a Daddy
Unicorn called?
Pop Corn!

How do you do prepare for Easter treats?
Eggs-ercise!

Christmas does come before Easter in one
place—but where? The dictionary!



What's on in
April?



4th
World Rat Day!
(you heard it here first!!)



pages

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..... **APRIL 2023 DIARY**

MONDAY	24	7:00pm	Farnborough PC Meeting - F'boro Village Hall
TUESDAY	25		
WEDNESDAY	26	9:45am-11:45am 6:00pm	Tots & Toddlers Group - FC Village Hall Bridge Club - The Yew Tree, Avon Dassett
THURSDAY	27		GENERAL REFUSE & RECYCLING COLLECTION
FRIDAY	28	10:30am-12:00pm	Carers4Carers - Kineton Village Hall
SATURDAY	29		
SUNDAY	30		

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MOBILE LIBRARY TIMES

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14 th April	14 th April	18 th April
1:30-1:45pm; 1:50-2:05pm	11:35-11:55am; 12:00-12:20pm	10:00-10:45am

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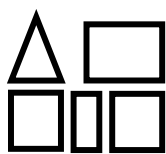
WEEKLY ON MONDAYS AT 10AM AND SUNDAYS AT 11AM

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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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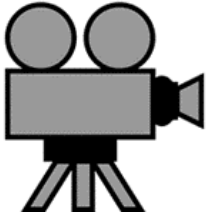
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RURAL CINEMA



This month the film at Fenny Compton Village Hall is *The Banshees of Inisherin* which will be shown on Saturday 8th April at 7:30pm, doors open at 7pm. See a trailer at bit.ly/317kL0j

Please email cinema@fcvh.org.uk or text 07850 630 401 if you would like to reserve seats. The ticket price is now £4.

CHARITY BREAKFAST

The Dogs For Good Charity Breakfast will be held on Saturday 8th April 9am-11am at The Peacock, Main Street, Oxhill, CV35 0QP. Full English Breakfast £12. To book call 01295 675 019.

The Dogs For Good Charity work '*Making life changing differences for people with disabilities through the help of expertly trained dogs*'.



WI

Due to unforeseen circumstances our speaker was unable to come on 8th March so a social evening was planned instead. Sadly, in consideration to our friends who needed to travel in the inclement weather at the time, we decided to cancel the meeting. It is a very long time since we have had to do that!

Our next meeting on Wednesday 12th April looks exciting, as we will be arranging flowers, something we all enjoy, with the help of Becky Asquith to guide us.

Please join us in the Village Hall at 7. 30 pm if you are interested.

FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall was closed for the first two weeks of March for repairs to the ceiling and decorating. It has now been thoroughly cleaned and is now ready for use. The regular Tuesday Coffee Morning group was undeterred and relocated to The National Herb Centre for the two Tuesdays.

Teas: Saturday teas are starting again, so look out for the new advertising boards around the village and come in for tea and cake.

Skittles Evening: On Saturday 15th April there will be a Skittles Evening - 6:30pm for a 7pm start.

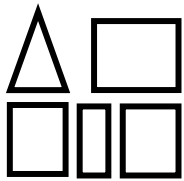
.JUST A BITE

Just a Bite Lunch will be on Monday 17th April, a light lunch of homemade soup, a roll and cheese will be served from 12noon to 1:30pm in Fenny Compton Village Hall.

The cost will be £5 with tea, coffee, and homemade cake also available and with concessions for pensioners. All welcome.



ABACUS



We have had a busy month, making surprises for Mother's Day, and learning new songs for our Easter bonnet parade.

By the time this goes to print one member of staff Nicky will have left Abacus to start a new career. Nicky has been with us for many years, so we would like to say good luck in your new venture and thank you for the hard work and support you have given over the years, and you will be missed.

If you need a place for your child come and see us or call in, we look forward to seeing you.

CARERS4CARERS

www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk

Friday 28th April 10:30am-12noon: Carers4Carers monthly meeting at Kineton Village Hall. Join us for a friendly chat, coffee, and biscuits. Leamington Community Fire Prevention team will give a presentation about fire and home safety.

Your loved ones will be able to attend our Companionship Group while you are with us. Pre-booking for the Companionship Group is essential.

For more information about our self-help support group, including help with transport to/from meetings, phone Gillian on 07947 893 504, email us at kcarers4carers@gmail.com or take a look at www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk.

YOUNG AT HEART FUNDRAISER

The Young at Heart Charity supports families under the care of the cardiac team at Birmingham Childrens Hospital. This fundraising fun-filled day will be held in Harbury Village Hall CV33 9JE at 12noon-3pm on Sunday 23rd April.



There is a Tombola, Raffle, Refreshments etc. Funds raised will go towards providing a defibrillator and INR machine for families who need one at home.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The Charity Coffee Mornings at the Mid-England Barrow Fenny Compton Road, Farnborough OX17 1FA will resume in April. These will be held at 10am-11am on the 1st Thursday of every month:

- 6th April - Cats Protection
- 4th May - Cropredy Cluster Care Group
- 1st June - Dogs for Good
- 6th July - Southam NCT

Other dates are available if anyone would like to nominate a charity.

For further information call 07791 807 970.

AVON DASSETT GARDENING CLUB

On Tuesday 18th April the Club will be meeting at 7:30pm in the Avon Dasset Reading Room. Our speaker will be the ever popular Roger Umpleby telling us about the plants and creatures who are ' Aliens in our Garden'.



We welcome new members who can come along on the night for £2, or join for the year for £15. Annual membership gives us 4 speakers, 4 garden visits, an American Supper, a Christmas meal, a seed swap and AGM plus quiz. Also membership gives 10% off at the Herb Centre and at Farnborough Nursery. Do come along if this is of interest.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

EASTER EGGSTRAVIGANZA



This Easter Event is hosted by Warmington Village Hall OX17 1BX 10am-12noon on Easter Monday 8th April. Egg hunt, Treasure Trail, Bonnet Parade judged by the Easter Bunny and more.

All proceeds go towards the Children's Play Facilities

EASTER ART EXHIBITION

Napton Art Group are holding their Easter Exhibition of members' work at Napton Village Hall CV47 8LS on Monday 8th April & 9th April, open 10am-5pm. There will be about 200 paintings in all mediums including oils, watercolour, acrylics and pastels and greetings cards of some of these will be available.

Admission is £1; free entry for children. There will be light refreshments in the pop-up cafe. Everybody who comes can vote for The Best in Show. The art group has a membership that now stands at over 60 and meets every Thursday afternoon at Napton Village Hall and has a programme featuring a wide range of demonstrations and weekend workshops.

SO SEW AND MAKE

The next meeting is Saturday 15th April 2pm-4pm at Fenny Compton Village Hall; £2 each to include tea/coffee and biscuits. Come along with your sewing, knitting or crochet projects.

For further information contact Jane 01295 770 627

BOWLS

The new outdoor season is nearly with us. The Club will be preparing the green ready for opening at the end of April.

If you are interested in playing come down and have go. We are open for social bowls on Friday nights and our league matches commence in early May. Watch out for more details on the village social media.

FENNY COMPTON FOOTPATH GROUP

Last month we reported a dangerously rotten wooden footbridge to Warwickshire County Council, and they agreed that it needed to be removed and replaced so this month's task was to dismantle it. It did not put up much of a fight and within a couple of hours 4 of us had it stripped down, sawn up and stacked to one side. It pains me to have to abandon so much firewood but there's no vehicular access to the site and it is too far to carry back along the footpath. Next step is for WCC to deliver materials to the site. I know that Rights Of Way at WCC are on a very tight budget nowadays, but 2 railway sleepers will probably suffice and be far cheaper than a bridge kit. We hope to finish the job off next month.



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


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CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

Fenny Compton: Street Party Sunday 7th May: Thanks to the support from lots of people in the village things are coming together. Please Bring Your Own drink and nibbles.

We will be running a very reasonably priced BBQ (includes gluten free and veg burgers and rolls); Children's Kings and Queens Fancy Dress judged by Reverend Nikki at 2pm; Adult Fancy Dress if you fancy it - no judging but if you have got a spare tiara hanging about at home why not polish it up and show it off; Coronation Cup Cakes stall; Plant Stall - might be a bit early for stuff but we will do our best; Raffle - donations welcome.

Please call any of the numbers below and we'll come and collect, or leave at number 11 or 14 Northend Rd. Tombola - same as the raffle, we are seeking donations so please let us know if you have any bottles you would like to offer. There will also be a Children's Corner with pens and paper etc for the little ones.

And last but not least, Music, so bring your dancing shoes. And as well as all the above, if you are into board games why not bring one along with you? Dominoes, Chess, Kerplunk, Trivial Pursuit - you know the kind of thing. As someone once said, Let The Good Times Roll!

Contact Karen 770 727 / 07816 621 678 or Jacci 770 948 / 07543 850 187

Avon Dassett: 6th - 8th May: A number of events are being arranged including a street party in Park Close (picnic boxes will be provided), a marquee and bouncy castle; a BBQ where residents are invited to bring their own refreshments; songs and a quiz in the Yew Tree. Full details will be published next month.

Farnborough: Sunday 7th May: The Hall will be open for residents to celebrate together. Following the success of the Jubilee last year, the Village Hall and garden will be available for people to bring their own picnics. Prosecco for a Royal toast will be provided with activities for the children and a topical quiz for everyone

AQUEOUS

The scheme to protect vulnerable properties from flooding is progressing, albeit at a frustratingly slow pace due the complexity and number of listed buildings which require Listed Building Consent. Work should commence in the next few weeks.

Thanks to the volunteers who regularly check the watercourses for potential blockages we have not experienced any problems over the winter. Just a reminder to all those who have the watercourse on their property that they are responsible for maintenance to ensure there are no blockages.

THE SURGERY

Our first major Bank Holidays are around the corner, and we wanted to share our opening hours for the Easter period:

Thursday 6 th April	Normal opening hours
Friday 7 th April	Closed all day
Monday 10 th April	Closed all day
Tuesday 11 th April	Normal opening hours

If you require medical assistance when we are closed, please call NHS 111. The call is free. For medical emergencies, please call 999.

We also thought it would be useful to share some of our call data with our patients. In the first 2 months of 2023, we had over 6200 calls and our average call waiting time was 3 minutes and 52 seconds. This has gone up slightly as we have new staff that need to take a little longer to ensure they handle all incoming calls correctly. It also really helps us if you have your diary to hand when you call so you have your availability to hand.

Finally, there has been a marked increase in patients keeping a list of problems and wanting them all to be resolved in one 10-minute appointment. We do understand it is frustrating if you have not been seen for a while and problems may mount up, but this has a huge impact on the GPs and their ability to get through their huge workload. It would therefore be really helpful to the GPs if patients could keep one problem to one 10-minute appointment.

Dr Marshall & Dr Sharples

DASSETT COUNTRY SHOW

Saturday 5th August 12noon-5pm



The Dasset Country Show is very happy to announce that this year, the charities supported are Tommy's and Dogs for Good - UK. They are both very deserving charities so we hope to see you all there to help us raise as much money as possible and of course, have a great, fun day!

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS 2023

On Saturday 22nd April the celebrations start with a procession through the town from 9:45am to noon.

The following day at 11:15am is the Shakespeare Service in Holy Trinity Church, where the Quill will be received and placed in the hand of Shakespeare's effigy above his grave. The service includes the Shakespeare Sermon and performance of verse and music from members of the current RSC ensemble.

For full details see website www.shakespearescelebrations.com/

THE DASSETT MEN'S CLUB

A well-presented talk and presentation on the history of aircraft through the ages. Ian Frimston, a photographer with a passion of aviation. His collection of photos was exceptional of both ground and air to air pictures.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th April at 2pm at the Avon Dassett Reading Room. Our speaker will be Seymour Major talking on the history of computers.

In May we are planning a visit to Stanway Water Mill near Broadway. This trip will be a pre booking one, as we need to know numbers. There will be more information next month.



Photo: Alan Turing from The National Portrait Gallery Collection

npg x227078,alanturing

OTTER AT WORMLEIGHTON RESERVOIR

I am all for wildlife and regularly walk along the canal to Wormleighton reservoir to see what's there. Over the years I've seen a 5-foot-long grass snake, the courtship dance of the great crested grebe, kingfishers, herons, cormorants, and all manner of migratory birds.

Last week I visited, and it was strangely quiet, just two adult swans, a kingfisher, a solitary grebe and a coot. Then I saw a disturbance in the water and soon realised that what I thought was the dorsal fin of a large fish was the snout of an otter and I clearly saw its long tail as it dived underwater. Within minutes it had caught a large silver and yellow fish and I watched as it swam back to the far side taking the fish with it.

Bringing back the otter from near extinction is widely applauded as a conservation success story but I am not convinced. I spoke to an angler who had been there for four days and caught two fish. He believed that the otter had taken many of the fish in the reservoir and that he has seen evidence that they often just eat the eyes and brains of the fish and discard the rest. Another member of the Angling Club has seen it taking cygnets so no doubt any ground nesting bird is at risk. Otters will also eat amphibians and small mammals.

The otter is protected by law and has no natural predators. Without the otter there was a balance and to have otters with no predators is an imbalance. Despite all the good intentions of the conservation organisations my fear is that the overall impact of the otter on nature is not fully thought through. Time will tell, it may just be that the reservoir is quieter through the winter and that my fears are unfounded. I understand that Boddington reservoir also has otters. If the otter proves to be a problem, then the genie is out of the bottle.

Brian Peers



Banbury Sailing Club, based at Boddington Reservoir, Byfield NN11 6UD, is a family friendly club, formed in 1950 and ever since has been training and developing its members. The Club is open to all ages and experience levels - from keen racers, family sailors through to those who are new to sailing. Their Sunday Racing - Spring Series commences on Sunday 2nd April, from 10am.

For more information about the Club see www.banburysailing.org.uk/

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Recruitment Drive: - The *Better Place To Live* campaign focuses on what we would all like to achieve – whether it be making new friendships, looking after our environment, supporting our neighbours, reducing isolation and loneliness, or working together to reduce fear of and opportunities for crime. For more information and to join see ourwatch.org.uk/join

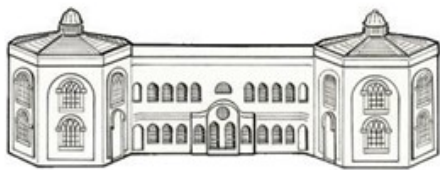
Southam Safer Neighbourhood Team: Their latest newsletter can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/3ypQFbw>

Scam Calls: The best way to reduce nuisance calls is to register for free with the Telephone Preference Service. They will add you to their list of numbers that do not want to receive sales and marketing calls.

It is against the law for salespeople from the UK or overseas to call numbers registered with the TPS. Once registered report all unsolicited calls, visit www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

WARWICKSHIRE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Warwickshire Industrial Archaeology Society was formed in 1989 with the aim of promoting the study, recording and preservation of the industrial archaeology of Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.



Monthly meetings are held at The Hasle Pavilion, Warwick School, CV34 6PP at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm for refreshments. Visitors are welcome. See their

website for full details www.warwickshireias.org/

The next few meetings are:

Thursday 13th April: View of Computing History - 22,000 Years in 60 Minutes

Thursday 11th May: Herbert Austin and the Longbridge Story

Thursday 8th June: The Aluminium Works, SONA and Stratford Produce Cannery

The Society also arranges various interesting trips visits.

Thoughts After 84th Birthday

Jim Peers

The main event a lunch with winter sunshine dazzling the windows
and patient disappointment from the young
for whom no normal birthday should be held like this.

At 8 (or 4) the adults know the score but 84 is more or less
a non-event; it's just a temporary cancellation
of their starchy adult style around a lavish meal
which lacks familiar tastes and takes all day; no joy
at having grown some more and left another worn out skin behind.

Amid this kind festification I wonder if the things I've thrown behind
In my long flight from loping age will soon be more myself than what I've kept.
And yet it isn't nature's way to work predictably;
witness my handsome apple crop, securely locked away
at summer's end, perfect to yield a quiet gloat
come autumn's chill and, albeit wrinkled, all the way to Easter,
then overnight destroyed or spirited away by agencies unknown,
the wreckage left behind signed only with contempt. Misfortune
bares its sting with glee, but in its shameless licence nature sets us free.

*The poem refers to the theft of my entire apple crop from a locked outhouse
by robbers unknown - probably squirrels.*

*Today however I discover that my entire store of seed potatoes - about 70 in
all - has also been taken away from the loft above my garage. It too was
locked and there is no trace of who did it or how they got in.*

*I would love to know what has been going on; nothing has been taken like
this over the nearly 30 years I have lived in Fenny Compton. Mice and rats
have caused damage but never take things away.*

WHAT'S ON

Easter Trail at Draycote: Draycote Water Kites Hardwick CV23 8AB. Every day from Saturday 1st April to Sunday 16th April 10am-4pm

Come and join in the family fun with our Easter Trails. Pick up the sheets for £3 from the Visitor Hub and follow the eggs to find the trail which is located around the Country Park. Every completed trail gets an Easter egg with non-chocolate alternatives also available.

Eggstraordinary Easter Eggventure: Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PP. Saturday 1st April - Sunday 16th April. Opening hours Mondays: 12noon-5pm; Tuesdays-Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays: 10am-5pm.

Eggsplore the galleries with an eggciting family trail! Spot the eggs around the Museum and check out some of the eggcellent objects on display! This trail joins up with the Museum of Natural History. Pick up trails from the Pitt Rivers Museum entrance.

Hot Air Balloons: Banbury Museum & Gallery. Tuesday 4th April sessions at 10:30am & 1:30pm.

Make your own papier mâché hot air balloon. Take home and fill your basket with Easter treats! All materials provided. Suitable for ages 3+. Cost £4 per child. Booking essential Call: 01295 236 165 or email: enquiries@banburymuseum.org.

Guided Highlight Tour: Pitt Rivers Museum, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PP. Friday 7th April, 3pm – 3:40pm.

A 40-minute guided highlight tour of some standout objects in the collections. Our tour guides have selected 8 of their favourite objects to share with you! Tours will be held every Friday. Book your tickets on the website www.prm.ox.ac.uk/ Tickets: Adult £5, Child £3.

Wild Banbury - Spring Wellbeing Walk: Meeting at St Mary's Church, Horse Fair, Banbury OX16 0AA. Thursday 13th April 10am-11:30am.

A gentle walk around Banbury looking at some of the fascinating urban wildlife. Organised by the local Wildlife Trust and led by the local Community Wildlife Officer. Free but book a ticket, see www.bbowt.org.uk/, call 07802 876 773. or email veritieturner@bbowt.org.uk

Crackley Wood Morning Wildlife Walk: North of Kenilworth, on Crackley Lane just off A429 CV8 2JS. What3Words: nest.gender.branch or ozone.fonts.pints. Friday 14th April 10am-11:30am.

Meeting at the gate in the first car park What3Words: latter.across.glass. Morning walk through this ancient woodland whilst looking for wildlife. Led by an Officer of the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Free but book a ticket. Call 02476 302 912 or email philippa.arnold@wkwt.org.uk

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chat2rev.nicki@gmail.com

Keith Distin AD/FC 770 118

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Fiona Russell-Perry Farn 690 039

COLTS FOOTBALL CLUB

fennycoltssec@gmail.com

COUNCILLORS COUNTY

Christopher Kettle FC/Farn

christopherkettle@warwickshire.gov.uk

Chris Mills AD

chrismills@warwickshire.gov.uk

COUNCILLORS DISTRICT

John Feilding AD/Farn 07718 037 142

Nigel Rock 07971 343 065

nigel.rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk

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Mike Forbes 690 900

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wakeley.pl@welearn365.com

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Keith Hicks FC 236 448

Andrew Campbell Farnbro' 690 776

OVER 60s

Carol Walker 770 410

POTTERY CLUB FC 770 215

PLAYING FIELDS GROUP - FARNBOROUGH

Keith Binding 690 390

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SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

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southam.snt@warwickshire.police.uk

SCOUT GROUP

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crevitt@gmail.com

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