

JULY 2020

THE COMPTON CHRONICLE



LOCKDOWN RAINBOWS

VILLAGE MAGAZINE

FENNY COMPTON • AVON DASSETT • FARNBOROUGH

Cornwall Holiday Cottage – Carpenters Cottage, Langore!

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| Saturday | Grade 1 Ballet (10-11 yrs) 2.00pm - 2.45pm |
| Prima Ballerinas (3-5 yrs) 9.00am - 9.45am | Grade 1 Modern (10-12 yrs) 2.45pm - 3.15pm |
| Gymnastics (3-6 yrs) 9.45am - 10.15am | Grade 2 Ballet (11-12 yrs) 3.15pm - 4.00pm |
| Intro to Ballet (5-7 yrs) 10.15am - 11.15am | Grade 2 Modern (13 yrs +) 4.00pm - 4.30pm |
| Gymnastics 2 (6-8 yrs) 11.00am - 11.30am | Grade 3 Modern (14 yrs+) 4.30pm - 5.00pm |
| Pre Primary Ballet (7-9 yrs) 11.30am - 12.15pm | Grade 3 Ballet (12-13 yrs) 5.00pm - 5.45pm |
| Primary Ballet (9-10 yrs) 12.15pm - 1.00pm | Grade 4 Ballet (14 yrs+) 5.45pm - 6.30pm |

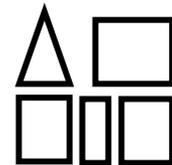
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THE COMPTON CHRONICLE

JULY 2020

We usually produce a joint July/August edition to give our band of volunteers a break. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Committee have decided that we ought to produce two separate editions this year as events are moving so very quickly.

This is our third PDF edition but the Committee hope that we can revert to the printed format in August if safe to do so.

What has been the best thing about the lockdown for you and what has been the worst thing? Email a brief statement of your experiences for us to publish in the August edition. I intend to lodge copies of *The Chronicle* covering this pandemic with the Warwickshire County Record Office for future generations to read how we survived these strange times.

Hope you enjoy this edition.

Keep safe and sane.

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

Sunday 12th July 2020

Articles/News to comptonchronicle@yahoo.co.uk

Advertisers contact Amy Aylward 01295 770 749

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

EDITORIAL TEAM

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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 lovely cover drawing was created by Emma Wilkinson

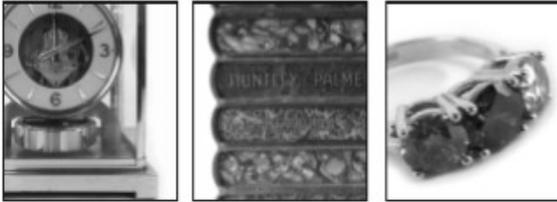
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FENNY COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Clerk: Lydia Cox fcpc.clerk@gmail.com

Playgrounds: Residents are reminded that, despite the gradual releasing of the lock-down, playgrounds are still closed. Twice over the weekend the tape marking the playground was taken down and the play equipment used. Please help our community stay safe by respecting the restrictions that are currently in place.

Test and Trace: Coventry and Warwickshire are part of an early roll out of the Government's Test and Trace programme. Therefore, you may get a call if the programme believes you have been in contact with an infected person.

Warning: However, please note there are some scams around and you should not be asked for any money as part of this service.

Next Meeting

Monday 20th July 2020

at 7:30pm

Via Zoom

Please contact the Clerk if you wish to observe one of our meetings.

AVON DASSETT PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Trevor Gill www.avondassettparishcouncil.com

Clerk: Helen Hide-Wright avondassett.clerk@googlemail.com

Playground: Despite having posted notices advising that the playground is closed and having taped off the equipment some people have still been using the playground. Fencing has now been erected to deter further usage. The fence will remain in place until we are allowed to reopen the playground.

Green Areas: Concerns were expressed about the poor state of the verges and this will be taken up with the contractor. It was also noted that the graveyard at the side of St John's Church is overgrown. Stratford District Council is responsible for maintenance and this issue will be reported to them, together with a request for remedial action to be taken.

Coronavirus Volunteer Group: The group is still making the cakes, fetching shopping and prescriptions and supporting the food banks. The Parish Council thanks everyone who is contributing in any way.

Post Office: The Post Office has reopened, but on reduced opening hours – Wednesdays 9:20am–10pm. Social distancing measures apply.

Reading Room: Other than for Post Office use and mail collection The Reading Room remains closed until Government restrictions are lifted.

Next Meetings

Monday 6th July & Monday 3rd August 2020

at 7:30pm

via videoconference

unless restrictions on meetings are lifted, in which case they will be held in the Reading Room as normal.

FARNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Peter Johnston

www.farnboroughparishcouncil.co.uk

Clerk: Kirsty Buttle 01295 275 372

farnboroughpc@outlook.com

Next Meeting

Wednesday 27th July 2020

at 7:30pm

Via Zoom

NAPTON AND FENNY COMPTON WARD STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

With the reopening of ‘non-essential’ shops from 18th June, Town, District and County Councils have been working on plans to provide extra space in Stratford-upon-Avon to enable shoppers to comply with the required 2m social distancing arrangements. This involves wider pavements, more space for cyclists and a number of traffic changes such as one way systems. In future it is intended to consider whether similar changes might be helpful for market towns. At the moment, the Stratford scheme incorporates industrial barriers and fencing that seems quite inappropriate for heritage towns. I hope that further changes for Stratford and elsewhere will evolve into something more suitable. Presently, we are awaiting further news from the Government surrounding the reopening of areas such as pubs and restaurants. (*Editor’s Note: The Government has announced these can open from 4th July*)

There are three recovery groups being set up by the District Council to address the challenges of the post-Covid world: ‘Economic Recovery’, ‘Community’ and ‘Council Recovery’ Groups. The first meeting of the ‘Council Recovery’ Group has been held and work will concentrate upon the financial consequences to the Council from Covid19, a revised budget and longer term issues for the Council such as remote meetings and maximising homeworking. The other groups are being convened at the time of writing.

Following the first full Council meeting, held remotely with reduced numbers, which agreed a protocol for remote meetings and the first remote Scrutiny Committee, a calendar of meetings has been re-established. For the foreseeable future, all of these meetings will be held by video conferencing, as gatherings of more than 2 people indoors are still prohibited. The first Planning meeting is now scheduled for 17th June. As these meetings routinely involve a significant degree of public participation, initially there will be a restricted number of cases coming before the planning committees, although in fact there is something of a backlog to be processed in coming weeks.

I am told the latest figures of laboratory confirmed cases in Stratford District show we have 369, which indicates that the Covid19 infection rate has stabilised in our area. New cases are being reported in low single figures each week. There is no cause for complacency though with the UK being the worst affected country in Europe.

One of the meetings that was held was to progress the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for the Climate Emergency. Among other things, this document aims to enable better influence in planning for low carbon energy and environmental measures. Some of these controls were lost as a result of central Government action in 2015, for example, preventing Stratford applying a 10% renewables rule in new developments. This was a policy I was instrumental in bringing into being many years ago and there now is hope that something like it can be reintroduced.

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

FENNY COMPTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

COVID Symptom Study: The COVID-19 NHS track and trace app still has not arrived as of 12th June but you can help fight COVID-19 by joining the COVID Symptom Study and aiding research. You can also see the local infection rate at <https://covid.joinzoe.com/data>

Vehicle Thefts: Warwickshire Police @warkspolice are advising people who drive sports/high performance Hatchback-type vehicles and Transit style to consider buying a steering wheel lock after a rise in the number of thefts involving these vehicles across the county. Call 101 or 999 in an emergency: <https://bit.ly/2BBQWxS> Check the reviews before you buy; some cheaper types can be defeated in under 5 secs!

Fly-Tipping: Take care with your waste. CCTV cameras are being put in place to fightback against fly-tipping in south Warwickshire.

Anti-social behaviour: Anti-social behaviour can now be reported to Warwickshire Police online. All reports are reviewed by a dedicated team on their digital desk. If you need to report an issue and it is not an emergency, please see here <https://bit.ly/3cN5CH9>

AVON DASSETT COMMUNITY BENEFITS SOCIETY

www.avondassetcommunitybenefitsociety.co.uk

The Committee has responded to recent Government announcements that pubs will be allowed to reopen on Saturday 4th July, by making preparations to reopen as early as possible. We have placed adverts for a tenant or a manager but have also made plans for reopening if we have to do this ourselves. We have formed a number of subgroups to organise supplies, social distancing processes and procedures, PPE and staff training and the recruitment of a tenant or manager.

It is likely that when The Yew Tree reopens that customers will only be able to use the garden areas, with limited access to the toilets. We will be seeking volunteers to help us prepare the garden and outside areas ready for use.

During the time that the pub has been closed, we have had new windows fitted, while others have been repaired and repainted, as necessary. Volunteers have worked to strip years of varnish off the floors and there are plans to improve the lighting and décor to brighten up the appearance. Our accounts are in draft and await our accountant's sign off. We will arrange an AGM as soon as we are able.

LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

First thing – how are you all? I hope the current times are not proving too difficult. I know from personal experience that the change in routine, whilst novel at first, has at times taken quite a strain. Some have cleaned the house to within an inch of its life, watched everything recorded for rainy days, read more books than usually possible in a year, and taken daily walks that are outside the usual routine! There are still moments when the never-ending nature of the crisis can almost overwhelm. These moments pass and we try to remain positive. When frustration gets too much my tip is to change a duvet cover! The physical exertion and hilarity caused when, more often than not, it is I rather than the duvet that ends up in the cover inevitably lifting the mood.

Despite having our digital church services and school assemblies to prepare and present, finding things to do when so much of what we do is off limits has been a real test. It would be too easy to slip into a pool of melancholy and 'poor me' when actually we have lots to be grateful for. Psychologists talk of warm and cold memories. Our lives are filled with both, but warm memories are the ones where just the scent of a flower or hearing a piece of music takes you back to a significant moment. Memories connect us to special events and people of the past, but memory also serves to help us learn from the past and be transformed. It is only as we reflect on situations that we can seek to change the way we will react to the same stimulus if it were to happen again. Otherwise life merely becomes a re-enactment of the same situations over and over again, cleverly depicted in the classic film Groundhog Day. Strangely the last few months has felt like we were re-enacting our own version of Groundhog Day.

Many have taken advantage of the weather and time to enjoy our gardens - some discovering their green fingers as they fill time by planting and landscaping their previously rarely touched gardens. Discovering the tenacious beauty of nature. Whether a well planted border or even the sumptuous burst of yellow provided by a clutch of rogue dandelions, the joy that we live in a world providing such wonder is a great comfort. The enforced time together as families will have forged warm memories as well as has cold ones when we have got on each other's nerves! Many children will have warm memories of quality time spent with their parents - often not possible in '*normal times*' due to work and outside commitments. Many orchestras, theatres and artists have made their output available online to keep us entertained. It is remarkable how adept we are as a race to know what others lack and to provide solace, humour, or a virtual shoulder to cry on.

We may feel like, at the moment when churches are closed for worship, work is difficult, separation from loved ones is painful, childcare and schooling is frustrating, and when we have so many other cares to think about, that our life is floundering. But like sheep, we should be eating and listening. Eating for Christians, is all about nourishment with God's word, the Bible, and spending time with God in

prayer.

These are both ways in which we can be fed spiritually while the church is shut, and when it is open too, and made more able to recognise God's voice when he calls us. If these disciplines are new to you, or perhaps ones you have lost the habit for, then now is the time to restart.

Like the sheep, we eat and listen for God, training ourselves to hear Jesus's call upon our lives, and nourishing ourselves in prayer and in God's word while we wait. If you emerge from lockdown different in any way, let it be that you have developed the discipline of spending time with God each day. Compared to other habits you could pick up in lockdown, this one will serve you for your whole life, and *Rev'd Nicki* beyond.

PARISH CHURCH

Church Fete Cancelled: In the May *Chronicle* the Fundraising Committee for St. Peter and St. Clare hoped that the Church Fete could be postponed until later in the year but it is now clear that even in September it will not be wise to go ahead and it must be cancelled. We are currently discussing holding the Fete next year but will make further announcements later in the year.

Church Income: The Church Fete is held every other year to support the day-to-day running costs for our Parish Church including the important cost of affording Nicki, our vicar. This is normally met by the contributions of those who attend church, the proceeds of the Just a Bite Lunches and the Church Fete, and in this exceptional year our income has reduced drastically.

The unexpected reduction in income will be true for many people and organisations but if you are able to make a donation towards these costs, the Parochial Church Council would be extremely grateful. You could either place your contribution in Deborah Lea's letterbox at Melrose, Avon Dassett Road, Fenny Compton with cheques made payable to 'Fenny Compton Parish Church' or make a transfer to the Church account at HSBC Sort Code: 40-09-02 Account No. 31092340 or <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/AvonDassettandFennyComptonPCC>. If you have any queries, please call Deborah Lea on 01295 770 652

Church Roof Repairs: The appeal for the Church Fabric Fund for the repair of the church roof is a separate additional cost and the fundraising for that is halted while we concentrate on the immediate needs.

FENNY COMPTON CUPCAKE DAY

Come along and enjoy some tasty cupcakes outside Carpenters Cottage on Dog Lane, by the church, from 1pm on Friday 17th July in aid of the Alzheimer's Society.

There is also a bake-off competition, so dust off your baking bowls! All your cupcakes will be sold on the day to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society. If you would like to enter, please contact Sarah Gales directly on 07563 673 062.

With social distancing guidelines in place, you are welcome to drop off your cash in the box on the day or pay online at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/FennyComptonCupcakes Hope to see you all there!!  



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GERALD KNIGHT 1932-2020

Gerald Knight was born in a small cottage in Dog Lane, possibly now part of Gardeners Cottage & was the 5th in a family of six. He attended the village school and loved being there & remembered helping in the school garden. One of his favourite teachers was Mrs Olive Sheasby. The latter part of his education took place at Miss Mellor's school in Banbury.

On leaving school he carried out an apprenticeship at Young's Garage in Banbury as a car mechanic. Those villagers who are a little older will remember that Mr Young & his family lived at Fenny Compton Lodge.

After Gerald's training, he joined the family firm - C&W.Knight and really loved driving various lorries delivering goods, mostly stone, around locally.

He had his own home built in Dog Lane having purchased the paddock from Christ Church College at the same time that Ducketts Cottage and Ivy Cottage were sold. He married Jane and shortly after his two daughters were born. Gerald along with his brother Basil were a mainstay at Fenny Chapel. Basil being Steward & Gerald 2nd Steward and he continued to worship there until lockdown. Gerald's favourite hobby was veg gardening & he grew most of the family's vegetables. He was a perfectionist & opened his garden only once as he could not bear to have anything untidy.

Gerald was much loved and a kind & gentle man and will be remembered for his pipe smoking following a long tradition in the Knight family. Latterly he could be seen walking down to the Chapel on a Sunday morning. His health deteriorated several months ago & he died in May leaving a big hole in the lives of his family.

WINE MAKING IN FENNY COMPTON IN THE 1930S

Many of the people in the village made their wines from the fruits or the flora of the countryside. It was made in quite large quantities, several gallons at a time. My parents used to make wine, dandelion and cowslip being the favourite. I would be sent out with buckets to pick the dandelion flowers from the churchyard. I would pluck them off with two fingers, the milky secretion from the stem would stain my fingers for a week afterwards.

The flowers would be put on newspaper and left in the sun to dry out thoroughly. They were then put into pillowcases and stored for a while. The copper under a shelter in the back yard was filled with water and a fire was lit underneath. The fire was stoked up with slack, so the chimney belched out a lot of black smoke. When the water came to the boil, the dandelions, still in the pillowcases, were put into the boiling water along with sliced lemons and oranges. The sugar was added, and the wine allowed to cool. Baker's yeast was put on a slice of bread and floated on the wine which soon started fermentation. About a week later, this was bottled or put into stone jars and was left for at least 6 months, it was then ready to drink.

Joe Grant 1925-2010

HEATHER COUPE

1937-2020

As Heather's many friends were unable to pay their respects in person, I hope they will be interested to read the following, a shorter version of that which was read at Heather's funeral.

Heather was born in 1937 in Stockport, the youngest of three, with an older sister, Sheila, and brother, Bob. Their father worked for The Manchester Evening News. Their mother loved music, teaching the children to play the piano. Heather was perhaps less studious than her siblings but developed an interest in sport, playing tennis from an early age. Once in London, she joined Dulwich Tennis Club, making many friends including Bruce Lee and his late wife Jill who became lifelong friends. Heather left school at 17, working on a farm before taking up her place at Studley Agricultural College. There she became one of a group of friends, one of whom, Ann, is the mother of Heather's god-son, Richard Walters.

Heather's first job was making cheese on a farm near Nantwich. Heather often cycled into Nantwich for evenings with her friend Mary. She was the first in the family to learn to drive, being bought a 1934 Morris Minor for her 21st Birthday.

She then joined the Milk Marketing Board, becoming a milk recorder, and enjoying travelling around, making friends with the farmers' families. After the hard winter of 1962/63, she moved to the Farmer and Stockbreeder in London, buying a flat in a Victorian house in Lee.

Heather adapted to London life, and the world of journalism. She later secured a post on the Farm Life section of Farmers Weekly. She loved the independence it gave her, attending agricultural shows, and visiting Farm Women's Clubs. She wondered whether she was working or at leisure as she participated in the clubs' activities!

Among her friends were Sally Turf and Alec Paris. In 1987 she decided to retire, moving to live with Alec in Avon Dassett. The Thatches, originally a 17th century farm-worker's cottage was a home of character. Heather enjoyed cooking, and friends and relatives enjoyed their generous hospitality, often paying croquet on the lawn.

Sadly, Alec died in 2001. Heather remained at The Thatches, continuing to enjoy village life, and being a steward at Farnborough Hall. But The Thatches was not easy to manage, and she moved to Fenny Compton for the last eight years of her life. She revived her piano playing, and often went to opera performances with her friend Joycelyn. She gave up golf, joining a croquet club in Kenilworth. Bridge remained a passion and she played several times a week.

Heather made an effort to meet her new neighbours, making friends in Cotters Croft, whose support in the last few weeks of her life was tremendous.

The many cards and letters of condolence indicate the high regard in which she was held. Characteristics often mentioned were her ability to make friends, her sense of humour, her hospitality and her forthright manner!



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JULY 2020 DIARY

| | | | |
|-----------|----|----------|---|
| WEDNESDAY | 1 | | |
| THURSDAY | 2 | | |
| FRIDAY | 3 | | |
| SATURDAY | 4 | | |
| SUNDAY | 5 | | |
| MONDAY | 6 | 7:30pm | Avon Dasset PC Meeting - Videoconference |
| TUESDAY | 7 | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 8 | | RECYCLING COLLECTION |
| THURSDAY | 9 | | |
| FRIDAY | 10 | | |
| SATURDAY | 11 | | |
| SUNDAY | 12 | | |
| MONDAY | 13 | | |
| TUESDAY | 14 | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 15 | | |
| THURSDAY | 16 | | |
| FRIDAY | 17 | from 1pm | CUPCAKE DAY - <i>See Article</i> SCHOOL SUMMER TERM ENDS |
| SATURDAY | 18 | | |
| SUNDAY | 19 | | |
| MONDAY | 20 | 7:45pm | Fenny Compton PC Meeting - Online via Zoom |
| TUESDAY | 21 | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 22 | | RECYCLING COLLECTION |
| THURSDAY | 23 | | |
| FRIDAY | 24 | | |
| SATURDAY | 25 | | |
| SUNDAY | 26 | | |
| MONDAY | 27 | 7:30pm | Farnborough PC Meeting - Online |
| TUESDAY | 28 | | |
| WEDNESDAY | 29 | | |
| THURSDAY | 30 | | |
| FRIDAY | 31 | | |

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CHILDREN'S

What do you call a droid that takes the long way around?

R2 detour.



How do you stop an astronaut's baby from crying?

You rocket!

Why was 6 afraid of 7?

Because 7, 8, 9

What did one plate say to the other plate?
Dinner is on me!



How does a vampire start a letter?
Tomb it may concern!



PAGES!



Little Makes Make a Bee Hotel!

Help the bees! by giving them a home you'll be encouraging nature into your garden and helping bee populations.

What you'll need

You do not need to build a hotel as big as that in our photo, you can make one quite easily using:

- A terracotta plant pot (9 – 15cm in size)
- Modelling clay
- Plastic straws or bamboo canes
- String

What to do

- Cut the straws or bamboo canes to a length that fits the depth of your pot. If you are using bamboo canes you will need a grown up to carry out this part as it's tricky.
- Tie the bundle of straws or canes together with a piece of string.
- Place some modelling clay in the bottom of the pot and stick the bundle of straws or canes in to the clay.
- Place the pot horizontally in your garden in a quiet place for the bees to move in.

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| | | |
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| FENNY COMPTON BOWLS CLUB NIGHTS | | |
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| FARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL | | |
| VILLAGE TEAS & COFFEE MORNINGS: CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE | | |

RETHINK

What could "normal" look like after the Covid19 crisis? *Rethink*, a unique collaboration between BBC Radio 4, Radio 5 Live and World Service asked just that.

Launched at the end of June, there was a week of dedicated programming featuring influential speakers including Pope Francis, Tim Berners-Lee, Caleb Femi, Jarvis Cocker, Eliza Manningham-Buller and Lady Hale addressing what they have learnt from the Coronavirus and what, in turn, we can do to improve our lives going forward.

These are not throwaway resolutions; they are an opportunity to effect lasting change.

These broadcasts have been made available as podcasts and there is food for thought there in abundance. Just google 'BBC Rethink Podcasts' and enjoy.



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FENNY COMPTON SURGERY

Fenny Compton and Shenington Surgery wishes to thank all the patients for their ongoing support during these difficult times.

The generosity of the patients be it supplying webcams, home-made scrubs and wash bags, sourcing face masks and PPE has been something to behold. We thank you for your patience with regards accessing our services, you will be aware that consultations are being carried out mainly via telephone leading to a huge number of patients being contacted throughout the day. Please do bear this in mind when waiting for your calls or ringing in. The volume of patient contacts remains very high and the staff are working as fast as they can to deliver the high standard of care we have always provided. There continue to be challenges to the delivery of services. These relate to restrictions on contact, hospital services and referrals, medication supplies and the need to create a safe patient and staff working environment in order for the Practices to remain open. Thank you for heeding the advice notices on the building and adapting to the many changes imposed on us and you due to Covid19 and also maintaining your social distancing and safety.

Can we also ask that all individuals who are required to be seen by the Dr or Nurses and do require face to face contact bring their own mask to any appointment. A scarf or mouth covering will also suffice. This is further guidance and goes in line with those travelling on public transport or attending hospital appointments.

These are very difficult times and I know a number of patients remain anxious and struggle with the continued lockdown imposed on them. Please do try to continue to follow the government guidelines but also take time for yourself, consider spending time outside in the garden, on a walk, engaging your brain with reading or listening to music. Also think about structure to your day and trying to remain healthy and active despite being in lockdown. Eat well, drink plenty of water and try and get a good night's sleep. Routine is very important in maintaining a positive and healthy physical and mental balance. Should you find yourself alone and struggling please do consider contacting the Surgery to discuss this further with your Doctor. Stay safe and take care.

Drs Marshall and Sharples

WARWICKSHIRE SAFE HAVEN

The Warwickshire Safe Haven offers mental health support from 6pm-11pm every



Thursday to Sunday evening. Currently support is provided by telephone 02477 714 554 or text 07970 042 270 or email safehaven@cwmind.org.uk with a view to being provided face to face once government

guidance allows. Warwickshire Safe Haven aims to help those who might be finding it difficult to cope and need support when other services are closed. Wellbeing practitioners can provide a reassuring chat, signposting, and guidance on building coping strategies to manage both mental and emotional wellbeing.

THE MYSTERY OF THE SILVER PLAQUE

This small silver plaque was found buried in Mrs Squire's garden in Church Street, Fenny Compton, Warwickshire.

Presented to
Miss M Kerr
As a mark of respect
By the Pupils and Teachers
of the
Burgh School Linlithgow
29th May 1891



The challenge was to find out who Miss M Kerr was and what is the connection between Linlithgow, West Lothian, and Fenny Compton.

The date on the plaque was fortuitous for there was a census taken the previous month. The Linlithgow census returns show that there were only 4 women called 'M Kerr' and only 1 was a schoolteacher – Miss Maggie Kerr. This is her story.

Margaret Kerr was born in High Street, Linlithgow at 10:25pm on 22nd April 1864 daughter of James Kerr and his wife Mary Liddle. James and Mary had married in 1846 and had a large family. He was a boot and shoe merchant and he died on 4th July 1883 aged 60.

Margaret was married as 'Maggie' Kerr on 21st July 1891 at St Michael, Linlithgow to John Richmond Bryce, a doctor who had qualified at the University of Glasgow. The engraved silver plaque was probably attached to a wedding gift from the school where she worked.

After their marriage Margaret & John settled in Hornsey, London. At some point, John qualified as a Barrister-at-Law and later worked for the Ministry of Health. He was awarded the Freedom of the City of London in 1900 and was President of The Burns Club of London in 1902.

The year after their wedding a daughter was born but she died shortly afterwards and was not named. A daughter Mary Ross Richmond Bryce was born on 15th December 1894, a son James Kerr Richmond Bryce in late 1899 and a final daughter Margaret Janet Richmond Bryce on 4th August 1902.

At the outbreak of the Great War, son James tried to enlist giving his age as 19 but was soon discovered to be only 15 years old; he was discharged the following day. He did however briefly serve in 1918 with the London Regiment. His father John Richmond Bryce was appointed a temporary Lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps in July 1915.

Margaret died on 18th January 1925 aged 60. Her husband John died aged 65 after suffering a heart attack on 9th May 1927 at home in Finsbury Park.

Daughter Mary Ross Richmond Bryce was married at Crouch Hill Presbyterian Church, London on 30th April 1921 to barrister, Arthur Sinclair Lupton, who was 17

years her senior. There were no children to this marriage. Arthur was awarded a CBE. In 1939 the couple were living in Liverpool and are both described as 'Government Servants'. Arthur died at Kendal, Westmorland in 1949. Mary at some point moved to Bodicote, Oxfordshire where she died on 1st December 1979 just short of her 86th birthday.

Son James Kerr Richmond Bryce qualified as a dentist and was married to Ella Kennedy Hamilton on 17th April 1926 at the same church as his sister. They had one child; a daughter Margaret Angela born 1936 who died at the age of 31. The family lived in Croydon, Surrey. James served as a Lieutenant with the Army Dental Corps in WW2. James died on 7th September 1968 in Brighton, Sussex.

The younger daughter Margaret Janet Richmond Bryce proved to be an interesting character. In 1920 she was accepted by Bedford College, London despite the College receiving poor references from her High School headmistress who described her as 'not always amenable to discipline'. She studied for the Intermediate Examination in Arts & continued on to study for the degree. She briefly toyed with studying for an M.A. but this was about the time her father died so she decided to look for work.

Finding employment that suited was difficult for her. She changed jobs regularly, working as a secretary in many different educational settings. In 1936 she accepted the post of secretary to the Principal of Bishop Otter Training College in Chichester. When this ended in 1939, she had another period out of work.

In September 1939 whilst unemployed Margaret was briefly staying at The Red House in Fenny Compton with her friend from Bedford College Miss Doris Helen Davis who was a schoolteacher. Another College friend was also staying at his time, Miss Marian Joyce Tooley, a University Lecturer in History. The three women remained friends throughout their lives.

Doris Davis ended her days at Kit's Close, Avon Dassett Road, Fenny Compton in 1971. Marian Tooley died at Orchard Cottage in Dog Lane Fenny Compton in 1973. Margaret Janet Richmond Bryce lived at Carpenters Cottage in Dog Lane, Fenny Compton and she worked as receptionist to local GP, Dr Youngson. She died in the summer of 1994.

This does not solve the problem of how the silver plaque came to be buried in a garden at Fenny Compton.

Jennifer Cranfield

ART WEEKS FROM HOME

Warwickshire Open Studios are currently hosting an on-line event showcasing the best of Warwickshire artists. To find out more you can: follow Warwickshire Open Studios on Facebook, follow the hashtag #artweeksfromhome on Instagram or see the website www.wostudios.org

CANAL & RIVER TRUST

The Trust says that every year an estimated 14 million pieces of plastic end up in and around our canals and rivers. Here is how to help. If everyone who visited a canal or river picked up just one piece of plastic, the water and towpaths would be clear within a year.

AVON DASSETT OPEN GARDENS

Every year, Avon Dassetts opens its gardens in support of National Garden Scheme (NGS). This year, ten gardens were due to open on 5th July. However, at the end of May, the garden owners decided that, even if government guidelines and the NGS allowed it to do so, the village would not be opening on that date as they could not see how an opening could work in any way close to 'normal'. This was a difficult decision to take as, with the extra time available for gardening due to the lockdown, the gardens have never looked nicer. The tubs in the village also look lovely with their pretty, bright planting, all thanks to David Hicks.

When the idea of including something about Open Gardens in *The Chronicle* was mentioned, Lily Hope-Frost from The Old Rectory offered a few words on her planning for the opening, and some reminiscences about her experience of opening her garden over the years.

'Having opened The Old Rectory garden every year, it is very sad not to be able to clock up my 34th time. With lockdown and the weather, it would have shown well after extra gardening and I have completed filling my 90 pots and troughs with bright colour even if we will be the only ones to see them! It was hard to take out all the spring pansies, violas, and wall flowers as they were still flowering their heads off and had never looked lovelier. Making way for the new season though had to be done.

In all the years we have never had any trouble, litter, or unpleasantness. Just delightful garden lovers, many of whom have been before, some more than once. They enjoy seeing any changes. I meet and greet everyone which is a pleasure but sometimes tricky as folk like to settle in for a chat! Only two, luckily not serious incidents, which were rather amusing come to mind.

Two ample ladies decided to sit down heavily and in unison on a bench near me and the seat gave way to show a rather undignified sight of their undies with their legs in the air ! No harm done apart from to their pride and my furniture which had to be replaced. Of course, I did not claim as the day is for such good causes.

One year an elderly white bearded gent wanted to cool off and cupped his hands in the stone pond. We always dye the water a dark blue black which is very effective in hiding pipework for the fountain and side jets. With light through the water it is a pretty blue and so was his face and beard which made the surrounding children giggle. Quite safe for birds and animals so no harm done, and he returned to almost a normal hue when dry!

Always a happy and rewarding day after much hard work, and people arrive in large numbers come rain or heatwave. Macs and brollies turning into summer frocks, pretty hats and parasols!"

Another gardener at 10 Avon Carrow wanted to mention that she will open 'by arrangement' for groups from July to October this year. Please contact Anna Prosser on 690 926 if you are interested in booking a visit. Proceeds to Dogs for Good.

For those who are not aware, NGS supports nursing and health charities and made an annual donation of £3 million in 2019. As well as slowly starting to offer a small number of pre-booked garden openings, NGS has a gallery of virtual tours to view on their website. Please pay a visit and, if you are able, make a donation in support of their valuable work.

CARERS4CARERS

www.carers4carersonthefosse.org

Carers4Carers is a self-help support group for carers living in Kineton and the surrounding villages and rural area. While we remain unable to run our monthly meetings, we are keeping in touch via our monthly newsletter and our volunteers are offering telephone support calls.

We also hope to run a 'virtual coffee morning', so keep your eyes out for further info! If you are a member and have not heard from us, but would like a call, do get in touch on this number 07947 893 504. If you would like to find out more about our work, take a look at our website address above or email kcarers4carers@gmail.com.

ABACUS

Following Government guidelines, we had a further phased return on 1st June. We are now open for children starting school in September to help their transition, as well as the children of keyworkers. As before, we would like to thank all parents, children, and staff for their understanding and cooperation in the challenging situations we find ourselves in.

Some children are not returning to us before they start school so we would like to wish them well and when they start school, please come and say hello when we return to normal, whenever that may be!

We have reworked our room to enable the children to social distance as much as possible, and this is working well, with the children coping well with the slight changes in routine.

We hope to restart our fundraising as soon as possible, but if anybody has any social distance ideas please let us know.

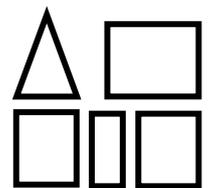
If you are new to the village, and have a child you would like to register, please give us call for a chat. For contact details see The Directory.

Hopefully, the next newsletter will bring better news. See you all in September.

BOWLS CLUB

Hopefully by the time you read this the Bowls Club will be reopened. Following Government and Bowls England advice we are now allowed six players per rink plus spectators providing social distancing rules are maintained.

The bar will remain closed until further notice and we have developed a set of rules which will be displayed at the Club. As all competitive matches have been cancelled, this is an opportunity for people in the village to come and play and hopefully join. Look out for more details on the local social media sites.



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FENNY COMPTON SCOUT GROUP
Celebrating the Great Indoors

Necessity is the mother of invention, as they say, and the Scout Group has tried to embrace the current situation in as positive a manner as we can. Each week our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers have been putting on their uniforms and joining in with a 'Great Indoors' programme. Using Zoom, they have been enjoying lots of fun activities.

Our Beavers have enjoyed taking part in a 24-hour VE-Day Sleepover. Dens were constructed, food was prepared, and VE day activities were completed. There has been a science-based theme lately, ranging from exploding volcanoes, elephant's toothpaste, dancing milks and optical illusions. They have also been making written messages in code for the other Beavers and decoded each other's. Coming up they will be learning their Beaver promise in Makaton to complete the Communicators badge and doing our Book Readers badge. Our Cubs have met together on Zoom. They have been working on their Collectors and Entertainer badges, as well as taking part in quizzes and a virtual camp joint with the Scout section.

The Scouts have put together a 'Pass the Necker' video and climbed Mt Everest! Over 42,000 steps were climbed by members of the Cub and Scout sections, by scaling the north face of their staircases and bunk bed ladders. They successfully 'summitted' ready for their 7pm virtual campfire! The Explorers have also been very busy. Their activities ranged from backwoods cooking, where they have cooked cake in an orange and egg in a potato. Other meetings have included Scout bingo, a Ready Steady Bake challenge and they are preparing for a virtual cycle ride from the UK to Venice in the coming month!

The work of all our volunteer leaders has been immense, as ever! In these current times and we are extremely grateful for all that they are doing to give our young people a chance to meet their friends and enjoy Scouting together. Until we can get back to enjoying the Great Outdoors, we are going to carry on *Doing our Best* to make the most of the Great Indoors!

The Scout Association has put together an ever-growing list of #GreatIndoors ideas for children that can be found on www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/ Take a look.

WARWICK WORDS HISTORY FESTIVAL
5th – 11th October 2020

Currently, the organisers are really not sure what the Warwick Words History Festival will look like this October. However, they are determined that some sort of Festival will take place - but probably not in its usual form. It is felt that this is an important annual event for the town of Warwick.

 If you are interested in finding out what plans are being made about the Festival, see the website www.warwickwords.co.uk/ where you can sign up to receive their e-newsletter and be on their emailing list.



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REMINISCENCE GROUP

Over 25 years ago I formed a Reminiscence Group in Fenny Compton and invited the older residents to join in. We met once a month at my home and had tea and cake and some very good conversations. Memories flooded back. Most of the participants had been born in the 1920s and many had gone to school together and all told the same stories about the Headteacher Freddie Moore, his black dog who he brought to school, and his love of cricket which was regularly played at lunchtime. When he was batting the boys said they avoided bowling him out so that the lunch hour could be stretched to maybe 90 minutes. Those taking part in the group most months were: Joe and Margaret Grant, Peter Allington, Dorothy Keyte nee Knight, Margaret Hutchcox nee Ward & John Wilkins and his wife Pauline nee Mold.

Some wrote reminiscences. Earlier in this edition I included an article written for me by Joe Grant explaining how wine was made by his parents, I have saved his article on killing the pig for another day! Below is an article by John Unitt who also wrote two books about the village in the 1930s.

I am currently writing a history of Fenny Compton 1913-1921 and stories passed down by the parents of these lovely people have added so much information. In the lockdown I have been kept busy with this project.

Jennifer Cranfield

HISTORY OF THE SPORTS FIELD

During the early part of the 20th Century the field adjoining the school, at that time owned by the Parish Council, was known as the Village Playing Field and used as such by all ages. Two grass tennis courts were in the top corner of the field next to the lane leading to The Mill House. The Bowling Green consisting of two rinks, one more has been added, positioned as today. A few items of children's play equipment stood at various points. From about 30 yards inside the gate on Mill Lane to a point the hill side of The Reading Room, now The Picture Frame, the ground resembled an old railway cutting, referred to as 'The Hollow'. (*Editor's Note This was later filled in*). The field became a dangerous place for younger children. A child held in mother's arms some 150 yards away from the cricket pitch was hit on the head by a cricket ball. Thankfully, there was not a village tragedy.

Negotiations to purchase land took place between the Parish Council, Messrs Bob Draper, Denis Bloxham, James Spraggett, Keith Knight, Bruce Harrison and myself, guided by the Parish Clerk, George Cotterill, and the owner of the land which is now the Sports Field. An agreement was reached with the owner retaining the frontage of the field and allowing only a narrow access road to prevent the Council selling on the land for development. The original Playing Field was then sold to the County Council under a covenant agreement 'to be a playing area for children of the primary school age and an open space for all time'. The sale of the Playing Field for £970 funded the purchase of the Sports Field in Station Road. Parishioners have enjoyed the facility since the deal was completed on 15th April 1964. John Unitt 1926-2006

NERVES ON EDGE

Roy W Jenkins

Anticipation has gone mad.
How can a deadly virus
Make the world so sad?

Our world as we know it
Has now gone for good.
Life changing acts now
Are well understood.

Avoiding contact between
Our fellow man
Will kill the Norovirus
Disease and a life ban.

All over the world
The fight goes on
To see this deadly virus gone

Invisible like a snake
That lies in the grass
Waiting to strike as the innocent pass

Keep out of its reach
And continue the fight
Don't be a victim
To its deadly bite

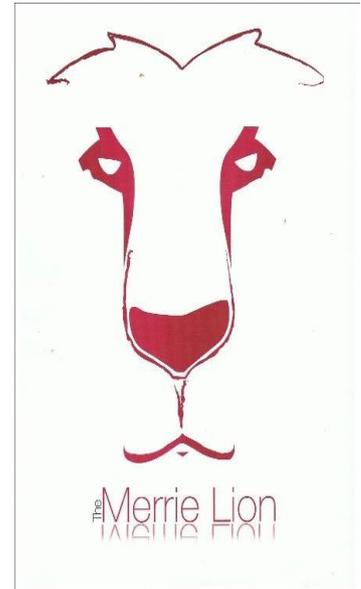
No one is above this deadly disease.
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