



FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL

APRIL 2018

Mayor's Introduction



Cllr Stephen
Boulton
Fairford Town
Mayor

stephenboulton89
@yahoo.com

Well that's a third of 2018 gone, how time flies when you're enjoying yourselves!!

The Council have had a busy time, organising litter picking, youth shelter installation, working on the Neighbourhood Plan and many more activities for the benefit of the community.

Norman Brown, the Council's groundsman, has been improving the environment of Fairford, by planting trees and shrubs around parts of the town. The plants were given to the Council by Cotswold District as part of the Big Tree initiative, to encourage communities to become greener.

The hydrology survey has started and you can find more information on page 5 of the Newsletter.

I'd like to welcome Jim Frank back to the Council. I, along with the rest of the Councillors, very much look forward to working with him. I would like to invite all the community to come to the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 24th May at 7.00. This is an opportunity for you to meet and ask questions of your town, district and county councillors. I hope to see you there.

The Town Council will be organising another litter pick later in the Spring, once the ditches are dry. Do please lookout for the date and details on how to participate. Blue "litter pick" bags can be collected from the Town Council office if you want to give it a go at your leisure!

It's very pleasing to be involved with the Town Council at a momentous time, as the Town Council celebrates its 35th birthday. I've been a Councillor for 9 of those 35 years! Alison Hobson, Fairford History Society, has written an article celebrating the Town Council's birthday, it is published on the back page.

Best wishes, Steve.

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LARGE PRINT VERSIONS OF THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE REQUESTED

COUNCIL NEWS

CONTACT DETAILS: Fairford Town Council, Community Centre, High Street, Fairford, GL7 4AF

Tel: 01285 713326/712344 Email: clerks@fairford-tc.co.uk

Website: www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Council Meetings

The next two Full Town Council Meetings will be on **Tuesday 10th April** and **Tuesday 8th May** at 7.00pm in the Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. The **Annual Town Meeting** is on **Thursday on 24th May** at 7.00 in the Farmor Room at the Community Centre. Everyone is invited to come along.

Keep up to date with the Council news

Follow us on Twitter for up to date news and information from your Council. @fairfordcouncil



Or find us on Facebook - search for Fairford Town Council.



Council News

Meet your new Councillor.

Firstly, I would like to thank the residents of the Fairford North ward for their votes at the recent election and I am thrilled to have become the successful candidate for a position on Fairford Town Council. I offer my commiserations to Trevor Smith, the other election candidate. Fairford has changed dramatically since I first arrived in 2001 and continues to change. Very excited by my return to FTC, I am keen to be able to play an active role in steering Fairford through the changes ahead. I am passionate about Fairford, and with three generations of my family living here, I have a vested interest in all residents, especially the young and the elderly. Several issues, that local residents have raised with me, require attention, which include, safe crossing for parents and children on Leafield Road, road condition, excessive development and planning, flood alleviation and blocked drains to name a few. Whilst I cannot guarantee to fix everything, I will do my utmost to work for the benefit of our town. Once more, many thanks for your votes and I look forward to representing the residents of Fairford again on the town council and working together with the other councillors for a better Fairford.



ANNUAL CITIZEN AWARDS

Fairford Town Council is inviting nominations for the three Annual Citizen Awards: **Citizen of the Year**; **The Geoff Chick Award** and **The Albert Alder Award**. The Citizen of the Year award is to recognise an outstanding contribution to Fairford by an individual of any age, but they should live in Fairford and their contribution to the community should be voluntary and not paid. The Award will be a cheque for £100. The Geoff Chick Award will be awarded to two young people aged between 16-19 years to enable them to take part in voluntary work overseas. The nominees must live in Fairford and the work must be part of an organised/approved scheme. The recipients must report back on their trip to the Annual Town Meeting in the subsequent year. The Award is a grant of up to £500 each person. The Albert Alder Award is to recognise an outstanding contribution to the environment in Fairford by a young person aged 19 years and under. They must be resident in Fairford and their contribution must be voluntary and not paid. The Award will be a cheque for £50.

To nominate anyone for any or all of these Awards, please write to the Town Clerk on clerks@fairford-tc.co.uk by **Friday 6th April**. The winners will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 24th May.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will take place on **Thursday 24th May** at 7.00pm in the Farmor Room. This is your opportunity to talk to members of the Town, District and County Council and representatives from other organisations about concerns you may have and to put forward any suggestions for improvements in the Town. This is an informal meeting and we hope that as many members of the community will attend. For more information please contact the Clerks.

Palmer Hall

The Palmer Hall, Fairford, is a large space available for hire, with an alcohol licence and kitchen facilities. There is a spacious raised stage for band performances, shows and plays. The hall is available for private hire for birthday parties, weddings, functions and social events.

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, Palmer Hall runs a monthly cinema at £3.00 entry per person inclusive of tea, coffee and a biscuit, with wine available at £2.50 a glass. Look out for the posters around Fairford for details of the next film or visit our web site.

A variety of clubs use the hall on a regular basis, if you would like to join or hire the hall just visit our web site on www.thepalmerhall.org

Fairford Community Centre 10 Year Anniversary

It's 10 years this June since Fairford Community Centre opened its doors to the public following extensive refurbishment. The Community Centre has a long and complex history dating back as far as 1738 when it was a free school. It has undergone many changes over the years and was extensively refurbished in 2008.

The refurbishment 10 years ago has meant that the Centre is now a thriving hub in the community host to a wide range of groups and activities. **To celebrate our 10 year birthday we will be hosting some celebrations on Friday 1st June, more details to follow in the next newsletter and on our website.** If you have any questions or would like to come and have a look at the community centre and what we have going please drop in to the office any weekday morning.

www.fairfordcommunitycentre.org Tel: 01285 711571

Email: bookings@fccentre.co.uk

Access to the Countryside

Fairford Town Council have set up the "Access to the Countryside Group" to identify and implement footpath improvements so that less able people can use them. We are working closely with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and through them with the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England to make the path from Dilly's Bridge to Snake Lane accessible for wheelchairs and buggies. The current status is that EA will do a water vole survey to decide how to construct the path so that the water vole habitat is not destroyed. The Group is also working with Ernest Cook Trust and other land owners to improve access to other paths.

Local conservation award-winning farmer, John Phillips is embarking on a new fencing project at Thornhill (on the right hand side heading out of Fairford on the Hatherop Road). This work will improve the safety of those who access the countryside; help demarcate rights of way and points of access; and help Mr Philips to protect breeding livestock, crops and wildlife habitats (including the rare and protected wild grey partridge).

This work is supported by FWAG, The Ernest Cook Trust and Fairford Town Council, who are collectively reviewing signage around Fairford. Their aim is to provide clear signage with better information on footpath location and other considerations for those enjoying the countryside. Work on fencing is due to commence towards the end of March and we aim to keep disruption to a minimum.

Drainage improvements

Over the past two years Fairford Town Council has been working closely with Thames Water, Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways to improve the drainage around Fairford. These are the three major improvements so far:

- a. In November 2016 the drain from East End to the Court Brook was unblocked and will be regularly maintained in future. This should prevent East End properties being flooded to the extent they had been in previous years. The problem was that the road drainage could not flow to the Court Brook and so backed up into the sewers and flooded properties with foul water.
- b. In early 2017 Thames Water CCTV investigation showed that tree roots had blocked the main road drain under London Road opposite Keble House. These tree roots were cut out over a 150m length of drain. This should prevent London Road properties being flooded in future. The problem here was that the tree roots in the road drains caused water to pond in the road and so flood the properties to the south of London Road
- c. Also early in 2017, after the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) highlighted the issue, Fairford Town Council provided funds so that Thames Water and GCC Highways could undertake work to divert road water away from the Quenington Road. This reduced the amount of surface water flowing down Coronation Street and into the Milton Road sewers. As a result, properties in Coronation Street and Milton Street should be less liable to flooding.

The Town Council's proactive approach to flooding issues has meant that Fairford was one of the initial beneficiaries of funding for the Coln river flood alleviation scheme and the Council continues to collaborate with all agencies to address other drainage issues in Fairford.

Hydrological Study: Fairford Town Council, through the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, have commissioned a Hydrological Study of Fairford with the aim of providing hard evidence of surface water and groundwater risks to any future housing development. Our consultants, Water Research Associates (WRA) are starting their study by drilling two new boreholes, one in the corner of the Coln House School playing field and the other off St Mary's Drive. The study will monitor groundwater levels in these two boreholes over a three month period, correlating them to levels in the permanent Environment Agency (EA) borehole at the Football Club and some wells across Fairford in order to get a picture of likely groundwater levels across the whole of the town. The study will also review all existing reports on likely surface water flooding and produce a comparative risk assessment of surface water for potential development sites.

Fairford History Society

Thursday 19th April at 7.30pm

at Fairford Community Centre

What the visitors thought: a light-hearted look at Cheltenham since 1700s. By Steven Blake

Thursday 17th May at 7.30pm

at Fairford Community Centre

The White Horse Whisperers, a contemporary folk trio from Faringdon talk about local folk songs and their traditions

Membership £5 Visitors £3

For further information contact Alison on 01285 711768 or email: enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk or visit www.fairfordhistory.org.uk

Fairford and District Choral Society

Concert on Saturday 21st April 2018 at 7.30pm

Fairford and District Choral Society's spring concert is on Saturday 21 April 2018 at St Mary's Church, Fairford. Along with professional soprano and baritone soloists, they are performing **A German Requiem** by **Johannes Brahms**, which will be sung in English.

The Society are performing the version that Brahms wrote to be sung with a piano duet. They are hiring a beautiful grand piano for the concert, which will be played by Alison Howell and Jo Scullin. The concert will be conducted by the society's music director, Marysia Gorska-Saj.

The society enjoys coming together to learn, perform and share beautiful choral music. They will start rehearsals for their December concert in September, and new members are very welcome.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and each ticket can be exchanged for a complimentary drink. Wine and soft drinks will be available.

Tickets are £15 for adults, £5 for under 18s. They are available from Fairford Opticians - 11 High Street, Fairford GL7 4AD - 01285 713313 from choir members by calling 01285 713681

More details about the society, tickets, concerts and how to join are on their website: www.fairford.org/choralsociety

Fairford & Lechlade Business Club



A MAGICAL AGM

The April Fairford & Lechlade Business Club meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 26th April at 7.30pm at Hatherop Castle School.

After the business of the meeting, members (and non-members) will be able to enjoy a fish and chip supper provided by New Business of the Year 2018 winner, The Cotswold Chippy and a glass of wine or soft drink. Nigel Reed, Headteacher of Hatherop Castle School will give a short talk about what is happening at Hatherop Castle and then Andy Cole, winner of the Business Person of the Year 2018 Award, will explain how he turned his hobby into a business and will astound people with a few of his amazing magic tricks.

Please note: there will be a small charge for the fish and chips and it would help – for catering purposes – if you could please confirm your attendance by registering on line at www.flbc.org.uk/Events.

If you would like more information about the Club or would like to join, please contact Chris Roberts on 01285 712150 or email admin@flbc.org.uk.

Free Summer Activities

Back by popular demand!!

The Ernest Cook Trust has agreed to run four, free to attend, Forest School at Leawood in August. The sessions will be on Thursdays in August (2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd) and run from around 10.30 - 3.00pm.

The Town Council has, once again, engaged World Jungle to run various workshops and activities throughout August. And new for this year will be a half day fun day in the Walnut Tree Field.

More details, including registration will be made available via the website and facebook page.

To help fund the activities, the Council has successfully applied for a grant from Tesco Bags of Help. You will see the project in both Tesco stores in Cirencester, and we would like to encourage anyone who shops there to use their blue token and help fund this important project. The more we can fund through grants, the more activities we can put on.

The Town Council has also applied for a grant from Cotswold District Council to help fund the Summer activities.

A moment from Fairford's rich history...

Thirty-five years ago, on 8 March 1983 Fairford changed its status from Parish Council to Town Council. This happened because the Parish Council had become aware that the Local Government Act, 1972, Part XII, Section 245; sub-section 6, provided for "the council of a parish which is not grouped with any other parish or community, could resolve that the parish should have the status of a town". It was indisputably accepted that Fairford was in 1983 still a 'Market Town' and therefore entitled to avail itself of the provisions of the sub-section 6 mentioned above.

To support the decision evidence from June Lewis's History of Fairford, 1982 was presented.

"Fairford's status as a country market town dates back to the twelfth century when Robert Earl of Gloucester and Lord of Fairford, gave notice that Remphrey, his falconer, who was also falconer to Henry I - had acquired from the king (Henry I) a market in Fairford on Tuesdays and Fridays...including the levying of tolls on sales, purchases and stall rents. Charles II granted a charter to Andrew Barker in 1668 for a weekly market."

The main changes were:-

- (a) the council of the parish shall bear the name of the council of the town of Fairford
- (b) the chairman and vice-chairman of the council shall be respectively entitled to the style of town mayor and deputy town mayor:
- (c) the parish meeting shall have the style of town meeting:

The council was then under the leadership of Mr David Perry who was the first mayor and Mrs Dorothy Paton who became the deputy town mayor. Mr Perry was presented with his chain of office at the first Annual Town Meeting in April 1984 by Councillor Eric Groves, the then chairman of CDC. (Groves Place was named after him as he had strong ties with Fairford).

The chain had been made by Cotswold craftsmen in Chipping Campden, and it was decided to use the Tame family coat of arms with 'Fairford' underneath as the badge. John Bevan, the parish clerk arranged this with advice from the College of Arms.

David Perry retired from the Council in 1991. He joined the Council in 1955, and was Chairman for nine of the 36 years on the Council. He was the first Town Mayor from 1983-1985.

After three years of hard work by the Parish/Town Council Fairford Market was reinstated as a weekly market in the Autumn of 1986 with the new car park at the top of the High Street constructed on land leased from the Ernest Cook Trust opening at the same time.

Another date of note that was missed in 2017 (30 years on) was that on 1 April 1987 Horcott became part of the parish of Fairford (from Kempsford) as part of Boundary Commission changes.

Alison Hobson, Fairford History Society