

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION



Christmas is around the corner and another Festive season is nearly upon us.

Firstly, I would like to thank Clerks and Councillors who continue to do amazing things, and to all those who have run events and supported the community throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who helped with taking down the flags, wrapping and chopping the little Christmas trees, and putting them up, making the Town look spectacular.

We have been very fortunate to have secured funding from The National Lottery to enhance the community youth work provided by The Door in both Fairford & Lechlade and we will continue to support youth work which is so very valuable for our children and young people.

Thank you to those who have commented on the plans for the Fairford to Lechlade Path and for your support. We are aware of the challenges surrounding the Whelford Road section in particular and are working to try to overcome these.

The Remembrance Day Service was, as always, well attended. Thank you to the Fairford Branch of the Royal British Legion for organizing the parade and to Rev. Symcox for a beautiful service. Remembering those who gave so much for us.

The Christmas Market has to be the biggest and best yet, with all the planning and preparation already underway. Thank you to all the stall holders who are coming. Do come along and show your support, Santa will be there!

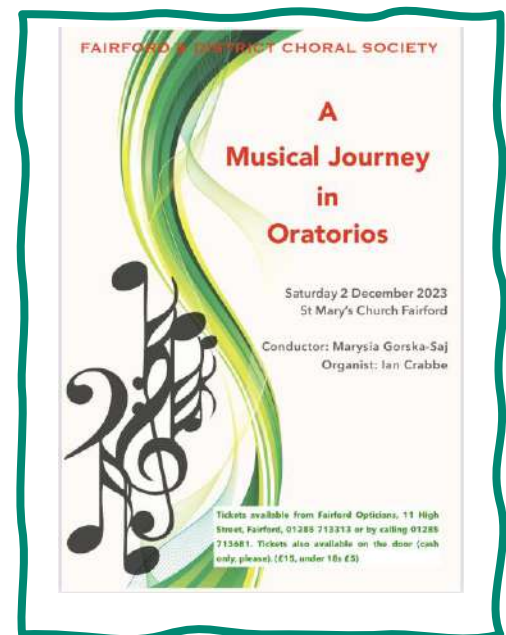
So, it just leaves me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and prosperous new year,

Best wishes Vicky.



Cllr Vicky Lipscombe-Kettel
Fairford Town Mayor
vicky@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

DECEMBER 2023



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

The now well-established Christmas Day Lunch will be held in Fairford Community Centre on Christmas Day. The Lunch is for individuals and couples in Fairford, surrounding villages and Lechlade who would otherwise find themselves alone on Christmas Day.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist in the running of the event while cash contributions are always gratefully received. Any surplus money will be used - as in recent years – towards providing Christmas hampers for families with children at Fairford Primary School on free school meals.

We are taking bookings now, so perhaps you would like to think about friends and neighbours who might like to join us.

Amanda and Mervyn Cully
Email: cully.amanda@gmail.com
Tel: 01285 712700

FARMOR'S SCHOOL GOVERNOR OPPORTUNITY

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful secondary school in our town. Farmor's School has an extremely good reputation for the quality of education that it provides. We have a governing board of twelve trustees which consists of the Headteacher, staff governors, parent governors and members of the community. Governors serve a four-year term and attend committee meetings where they support and challenge the senior leaders.

The governing board would benefit from members of the community who would be willing to volunteer their time to support the school in this way, particularly residents of Fairford with financial expertise and an interest in education. If you are interested in this role and would like more information, then please contact the Chair of the Governing Board, Mr Sam Bartholomew: s.bartholomew@farmors.gloucs.sch.uk

Governors are required to undertake a disclosure and barring service check.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH COUNCIL NEWS

Follow us on Twitter for up to date news and information from your Council. @fairfordcouncil Find us on Facebook - search for Fairford Town Council.

Fairford Town Council,
Community Centre,
High Street, Fairford,
GL7 4AF
Tel: 01285 713326/712344

If you would like to contact us then please email: clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Or visit our website: fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

NEXT MEETINGS

The next two Full Town Council Meetings will be on Tuesday 9th January 2024 and 13th February at 7.00pm in Fairford Community Centre.

NO MEETINGS IN DEC.



FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

The Charity sends our best wishes to all through the festive season and beyond.

Thank you to everyone that has supported us this year. Whether you attended an event, made a donation, volunteered or helped to raise awareness of what we do, we are very grateful.

DO SOMETHING NEW IN 2024

If you would like an exciting new opportunity, want to meet new people and help our Charity continue supporting the health and wellbeing of local people, please consider volunteering with us. We have a variety of roles available:

TRUSTEES

We are seeking new Trustees to take on the Chair and Vice Chair roles, and for Trustees to take responsibility for various Subcommittees. For more information or to discuss, please contact Shelley on chair@friendsoffairford.org.uk

LUNCH CLUBS

Our much-loved Edna Dawes Lunch Club meets on Wednesday and provides a hot meal, activities and social interaction for isolated elderly people. We would appreciate more volunteers - please do get in touch with Katie our Lunch Club Team Leader if you can help: edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk / 07713 607106.

PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICE

Our volunteer car service vital service is a lifeline to many. We would welcome more volunteers, please do get in touch if you can assist. Fuel costs are covered. If you think you can help, please contact Val on transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk / 07540 798226.

CHARITY RECIPE BOOK

Want to see your name in print? We're creating a Community Recipe Book! We'd love submissions of your favourite personal and 'secret' family recipes. Please send submissions to admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

BEREAVEMENT CAFE

We continue to run our Bereavement Café on the first Friday of every month, for people who have suffered a loss and would like to talk. Our nursing team will be present to welcome you with a hot drink and some refreshments. Please do drop in, between 10:00 and 12:00 at The Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. If you have any questions, please call 07938244335 or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk



Contact information

Chair: Shelley
chair@friendsoffairford.org.uk

General Manager: Kelly
gm@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Administrator:
admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk
01285 707300

Patient Transport: Val
transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk
07540 798226

Nursing Team:
Emma and Jan
nursing@friendsoffairford.org.uk
07938 244335

Charity Shop: Linda
shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk
01367 252189

Edna Dawes Lunch Club: Katie
edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk
07713 607106

Website
www.friendsoffairford.org.uk



FAIRFORD COMMUNITY VOICE

Here is a roundup of the work FCV has been doing in/on the river during 2023.

- Monitoring of the river quality, including for levels of phosphates, nitrates and ammonia, as well as 'river fly monitoring' (identifying invertebrates that are indicators of good water quality); the results were generally within an acceptable range. We would like to be able to increase the regularity of this to gain a clearer picture of the health of the river and would be keen to hear from you if you are interested in getting involved in this (with training and support). At the moment we are unable to test for anything else such as bacteria levels, as we do not have the funds for the equipment to be able to send samples off to laboratories where such work is carried out.
- Continuing to keep a close eye on the sewage treatment works (STW) in Fairford. We know that this is one of the worst performing STWs in the Thames region and at the time of writing (October 24), it has, since October 19, discharged untreated sewage into the River Coln for over 130 hours. Thames Water say they intend to improve the sewage works and their website details that this is planned for completion in 2025. However, we are aware that they are currently reviewing this, and they have stated that they may need to rephrase some schemes from the current regulatory period.
- We are checking to ensure that the Himalayan balsam, which is present around Lake 104, does not spread to the river. We think there is a good chance that this may start to establish itself along the riverbank in the section where the footbridge crosses the river near to Lake 104 (the Broad Boards) and if this happens, we will be looking for volunteers to help remove it.

The banks of the river alongside the all-weather path are becoming increasingly naturalised and provide great habitat for water voles. However, there are still patches where dogs are accessing the water, and it is important to minimise disruption. The Town Council have erected signs asking for dogs to be kept on leads for this stretch of the river walk to help avoid disturbance.

We are keen to develop a list of volunteers who would be willing to come and help us with some of this work so if you would like to become involved in any way at all, please contact us - email info@fairfordcv.org.uk. Our website is www.fairfordcv.org.uk for information about our activities.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH WORKING 4 WELLBEING:



Are you looking for a rewarding way to give back to your community? Join us as a volunteer and experience the joy of making a positive impact in the lives of others. We have a range of exciting roles available, each offering unique opportunities for personal growth and community engagement.

Chair of Trustee: As the Chair of Trustee, you will lead our organization, shaping its direction and ensuring effective governance. By utilizing your leadership skills and strategic thinking, you will contribute to the growth and success of our Charity, making a lasting difference in the lives of those in our community.

Host of our First Steps Toddler Group and Family Hub: If you have a passion for supporting young children and families, this role is perfect for you. As the Host you will collaborate with our Wellbeing Coordinator to create a nurturing environment, organise and facilitate engaging activities.

Kitchen Host: Join our Kitchen Support team and assist in preparing nutritious snacks for the children and preparing hot and cold beverages for all. Clearing away and washing up, leaving the kitchen ready for the next time it's used.

Talking Café Listening Ear Buddy: As a Listening Buddy, you will provide support to individuals attending our talking cafes, offering a non-judgmental ear and a caring presence along with a warm drink and a biscuit or cake. Your kindness and empathy will help create a supportive community for those going through challenging times. Engage in conversations, build connections, and create a sense of belonging for all.

Talking Cafe Kitchen Support: Join our Talking Cafe Kitchen Support team and be part of a vibrant community space. You will assist in the preparation of refreshments, washing up, set up of tables ensuring that visitors to our Talking Cafe have a warm and welcoming experience.

Digital Support: As a Digital Support volunteer, you will assist individuals in developing their digital skills. You will support someone to feel confident in how to send a message via what's app, show them how to send an email or even order their online shopping. Empathy and patience are key, no need to be a technical expert, just feel confident in using your mobile phone, email and general internet use.

Volunteering with W4W offers numerous benefits. You will have the opportunity to give back to your community, meet like-minded individuals, and make new friends. Volunteering also provides a chance to learn new skills, enhancing your personal and professional development. Moreover, studies have shown that volunteering can improve mental health, boost self-esteem, and provide a sense of purpose and fulfilment.

Ready to make a difference?

Visit our website at www.working4wellbeing.org.uk or contact us at volunteering@w4w.uk to learn more about these volunteer roles and how you can get involved. Together, let's create a stronger, more connected community.



FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

There is no meeting in December.

Thursday 18th January 2024 an afternoon meeting
at Fairford Community Centre

Afternoon Tea meeting at 2.00pm

FHS display and opportunities to visit the FHS Archive
Room on the upper floor of the Centre. Lift available.

FHS Membership is £5.

Visitors are welcome to attend meetings at £3 per session.

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

THE PALMER HALL

Are you planning a party or event for Christmas or in the New Year? Have you got a birthday, anniversary, wedding, christening party coming up? Do you belong to a club/organisation that is looking for a room to hold regular meetings? Do you need a large space for an indoor sports or exercise session? Whatever the occasion, the Palmer Hall can meet your needs.

The Palmer Hall is the ideal venue and provides:

- Beautiful historic Cotswold building.
- The only community building in Fairford with a stage/stage lights/electric curtains.
- The elevated stage that can be used for productions/displays.
- Huge hall with beautiful wooden flooring ideal for large dances/parties.
- Very affordable rates (book by the hour or day or become a regular user).
- WiFi.
- Hearing loop/sound system.
- Licensed for live music, DJ or disco.
- Fully equipped kitchen for on-site catering.
- New modern toilets.
- New modern disabled toilet with baby changing facilities.
- On site parking plus additional free parking nearby.

The Palmer Hall is now taking bookings so, if you would like to hire a large, spacious hall for a small or large private event or meeting on a one-off or regular basis, please get in touch with Sue on 01285 712189, Steveandsue-sjc@live.co.uk.

24HR ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS:

There are 7 publicly accessible defibrillators in Fairford. These are at the following locations:

- Fairford Fire Station, Hatherop Road.
- The Bull Hotel, Market Place.
- Fairford Youth Football Club, Horcott Road.
- The Old Phone Box, Milton Street.
- Bowls Club, East End.
- Queensfield Phone Box
- Keble Fields Estate

Other defibrillators are available during operating hours at:

- Fairford Community Centre;
- Hilary Cottage Surgery;
- Fairford Town Football Club &
- White Cottage Dental Practice.
- The Palmer Hall



NEWS FROM ST MARY'S - St Mary's Eco Churchyard

There's been quite a buzz in the churchyard since the Eco Churchyard Group established an area of long grass with the aim of increased biodiversity and wildlife habitats. Now in its second year, the area has attracted a wide range of insects including many varieties of bees, butterflies and moths, and orchids appeared, where none had been before. In spring the bulb areas were much appreciated, not only by hungry insects in search of early nectar, but by members of the congregation and passers-by. More bulbs planted this autumn, promise another good display in the spring.

Squirrel-proof bird feeders were kept topped up, especially during the winter months and some of the bird boxes installed to provide homes for bluetits and robins, had new residents. A talk given by a bat expert on a summer evening at dusk proved popular, especially when bat monitors were provided and evidence of 7 different types of bats were detected.

The flower bed by the north gate, originally planted as a Beanology project, is now maintained by members of the Eco Churchyard Group and looked lovely all summer with a mix of perennials and annual flowers.

'Love Your Burial Ground' events in June in conjunction with Fairford Primary School were a good way to share the churchyard with the wider community.

Although for much of the year, the best thing is for nature to be left alone, there are certain times, especially in the autumn, when we have to manage the area in preparation for winter and volunteers would be most welcome. If you'd be interested in helping, please contact Beth Bruce-Gardner or Nicky Turner, via the Parish Office.

The churchyard is a public space and there for all to enjoy. It provides a quiet place in nature not far from the High Street and is well worth a visit at any time of year, but please do come and see the bulbs in spring!

St Mary's Eco Churchyard Group

St Mary's Church contact info **Vicar**

Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 712467,
carolinesymcox@googlemail.com

Associate priest

Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde - 713285

Parish Office

Heather Gorton - 712428, fairfordpcc@gmail.com





FESTIVE MARKET
FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER

FAIRFORD MARKET PLACE
6.30PM – 8.30PM

**COME ALONG AND SHOP FOR
CHRISTMAS!**

**WE HAVE OVER 45 STALLS SELLING
A HUGE VARIETY OF CRAFTS &
GIFTS AND FOOD & DRINK**

HOT FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE

**SWITCHING ON THE CHRISTMAS
TREE LIGHTS!**

