



WELCOME TO FAIRFORD

Welcome to Fairford. We hope you settle in quickly to this beautiful and characterful town and soon feel part of the community.

This Welcome Pack is to help you find your way around and discover the delights of living in this friendly and historic market town. There is a wide range of clubs and societies in Fairford, suitable for a variety of interests and activities. More information can be found inside this booklet. Fairford is an excellent base for starting out on many beautiful riverside and lake walks, some of which lead out to the Cotswold Water Park.

Fairford is fortunate in having a good range of shops and facilities within the town and every Wednesday there is an outdoor market in the Market Place selling a range of foods and other products.

Fairford Town Council encourages you to support your local businesses. We have a wide range of amenities such as pubs, coffee shops, restaurants, take-aways, bookshop, optician, hairdressers, therapists and beauty salons.

The Town Council produces a bi-monthly Newsletter to keep residents informed of Council activities and also of local community news and events. This is delivered to every home in the town. You can also visit our website at www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk or our Facebook page, to read more about Fairford and keep up to date with the latest news.

Cllr James Nicholls, Fairford Town Mayor



Cllr James Nicholls
Fairford Town Mayor
james@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk



FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL

WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Fairford Town Council is the elected local authority for Fairford. It is the tier of local government that is the closest to the people of Fairford and its Parish and is in place to represent the interests of its local population. Fairford Town Council is a legal body and can only act within the powers given to it by Statutes (Acts of Parliament).

Fairford Town Council consists of 13 Councillors, a Town Clerk (Vanessa Lawrence), a Deputy Clerk (Roz Capps). Town Councillors are elected by the residents of the Parish and serve for a term of 4 years. They are not paid and have to declare an interest in any matter they have a pecuniary or substantial personal interest in. The Clerk and Deputy are paid employees of the Town Council and act according to the instruction of the Councillors. The Town Council Office is located in Fairford Community Centre, High Street, next to St Mary's Church. The Office is open from 10.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday.

Fairford Town Council meets in the Barker room of the Community Centre at 7.00pm on the second Tuesday of the month, and meetings are open to the public. There are also a number of committees that have regular meetings: Finance, Planning, Works & Community. Details of the meetings can be found on our website and on the notice board outside the Community Centre.

Fairford Town Council works closely with Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council to provide and maintain services and facilities for the town. The cost of works undertaken by the Town Council is met by raising a precept; this is the amount of money that the Council requests Cotswold District Council to raise on behalf of the town through the Council Tax. Where possible grants are also applied for in order to help with funding.

The Town Council organises a Festive Market in the Market Place on the first Friday in December. This has become a very popular local event. Some of the projects the Town Council has been involved with include the purchase and restoration of Fairford Community Centre, the upgrading of play facilities in the Walnut Tree Field and most recently co-ordinating volunteers during the Coronavirus pandemic. Fairford Town Council is also consulted on all planning applications in the town and is responsible for maintenance of part of the Churchyard and operation of the Burial Ground.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH COUNCIL NEWS.

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

Find us on Facebook - search for Fairford Town Council.

Fairford Town Council,
Community Centre,
High Street, Fairford,
GL7 4AF

Clerks:

Vanessa 01285 713326

Roz 01285 712344

If you would like to contact the Council, then please email:

clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Or visit our website:
fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk



COUNCILLOR CONTACTS

Mayor **Cllr James Nicholls**
Tel: 07760845225:
E: james@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Deputy Mayor
Cllr Richard Harrison,
Tel: 01285 712944
E: richard4fairford@gmail.com

Cllr Phil Bird,
Tel: 07833 476922 E: phil@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Stephen Boulton,
Tel: 07823559786
E: stephenboulton89@yahoo.com

Cllr Andrew Doherty,
Tel: 01285 711552 Mobile:07879692429;
E: andrew@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Colin Foxall,
Tel: 01285 711562
E: colin@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Jon Hill,
Tel: 01285 238007 E: jonlunhill@btinternet.com

Cllr Vicky Lipscombe-Kettel
Tel: 07584 077022
E: vicky@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Simon O'Connell
Tel: 07815 374496 E: simon@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Gill Stopka
Tel: 07545 250414 E: Gill@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Christine Roberts,
Tel: 01285 712150
E: chrisrobertsmbe@gmail.com

Cllr Jennie Sanford
Tel: 01285 713671
E: jennie@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Derek Thornhill,
Tel: 01285 711717 E: derek@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

24HR ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS:

There are 4 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.

Other defibrillators are available during operating hours at:

- Fairford Community Centre;
- Hilary Cottage Surgery;
- Fairford Town Football Club &
- White Cottage Dental Practice
- Fairford Bowls Club



HISTORY OF FAIRFORD

FAIRFORD MANOR

Fairford Manor (really a parcel of land not a house) was Crown property from early times. In 1487, Henry VII leased the estate to John Tame, a wealthy wool and cloth merchant of Cirencester. The old manor house had fallen into disrepair, and he built a new house to the south of the church and was living in Fairford by the mid-1480s. During the 1490s he rebuilt the church, which was re-consecrated in 1497 and dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. The chief glory of the church was the magnificent set of stained-glass windows illustrating the Christian faith.

Henry VIII visited Fairford in 1520, staying at the Tame manor house. It is thought that Henry VIII attended Mass in church on 28th August and would have seen the new windows in all their splendour.

The male line of the Tame family died out in 1544 and the manor house became neglected. Fairford estate still belonged to the Crown until sold by Queen Elizabeth I and was bought by Robert Tracey, who fought on the side of the King in the Civil War. He consequently had to pay a large fine to Cromwell and had to sell the Fairford lands to pay the debt.

The now dilapidated manor was bought by Andrew Barker in 1650. He did not repair the manor house, but in 1661 built a fine new house in The Park, to the north of the church. This house lasted until 1955 when it was demolished, and the site used for a new building for Farmor's school. This was quite appropriate since the original Farmor's school, near the church, was founded by three ladies: Lady Jane Mico, Mary Barker and Elizabeth Farmor, all members of the Barker family.

The Fairford estate continued in the ownership of the Barker family until sold off. The remainder of the estate was bought by Ernest Cook.

During World War II, troops were quartered in huts in The Park, and the manor house was used for officers' quarters. In 1942, an American military hospital was built in the grounds, and this was later used as a Polish refugee camp and resettlement hostel.

The estate now belongs to the Ernest Cook Trust (ECT), an educational charity set up by Ernest Cook. The ECT supports a large number of educational and research projects which benefit the conservation of the countryside.

WHERE FAIRFORD GETS ITS NAME.

The name Fairford (derived from the Saxon Fagrinforda) means ford across the river with clear (or fair) water. Before the River Coln was channelled and the Town Bridge built, the watercourse spread out over a much wider area. The crossing was probably just a stone track laid through marshland.



FAIRFORD MARKET PLACE

Fairford has been a market town since 1135, selling mostly cheese, milk, corn, livestock, and wool. Its prosperity continued until the decline of the wool trade. Fairford's position on the main road between Gloucester and London, and nearness to Oxford and Bristol made it an important coaching town in the 18th century. Many of the current public houses owe their existence to this development. Fine examples can be seen in The Bull, The Marlborough Arms and The White Hart (now residential). The market had declined by the mid 1930s and came to an end. A Wednesday traders' market was revived in 1986 and is still popular today selling a wide range of products.

FAIRFORD HOSPITAL

Originally, the plot of land on which Fairford Hospital now stands was donated to Fairford free of charge by the Lord of the Manor, Raymond Barker with the express request that it be used to build a hospital. Fairford people then went about raising money out of their own pocket and the foundation stone for the hospital was laid to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887. The cost of the building was in the region of £447. In 1908, a new wing was added, and this was paid for from a bequest from J R Arthur Gibbs of Ablington Manor. The red brick was made locally in a yard at the top of Waiten Hill.

From the hospital's inception, people subscribed annually to pay for the running of the hospital. The Fairford Carnival in 1906 (the Biggest Show in Gloucestershire) and subsequent Carnivals and house-to-house collections were the biggest fundraisers. This was continued until 5th June 1948 when the NHS took over cottage hospitals.

The hospital continued to serve the local communities of Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages until 2006 when the Primary Care Trust closed it to in-patients despite strong public opposition. The hospital is still running as an out-patient facility and new x-ray equipment was purchased in 2009 following fundraising by the League of Friends. Throughout its long history the hospital has been supported by Friends of Fairford Hospital.



FAIRFORD MILL

The river was very wide and shallow and the ancient ford was probably just a stone-surfaced track across the marsh until the town bridge was built in the 13th century. In 1787 the river was dug out and channelled into the much narrower and deeper course it follows today. The present Mill, built in the 17th century on the site of a much older mill, was worked until the 1920s. It was used for grinding corn but had once been used for fulling cloth. Fairford didn't become a weaving centre because the river lacked the necessary power to run heavy machinery.



REGULAR EVENTS

FAIRFORD FESTIVAL

Each year the town organises Fairford Festival. The main weekend of activities is during the first weekend in June. The Festival was launched to enhance community spirit and provide events catering for and involving all sectors of the community. It is organised by the Fairford Festival Committee - a group of local volunteers. Profits from the Festival are donated to the Fairford Town Charity, created as a result of the Festival. Local groups and organisations can apply to the Charity for grant funding.

The majority of events for the main Festival weekend in June are held in the Fairford Cricket Club field. Events include the Literary Festival, Parade, have-a-go sports sessions, children's party, live music, discos, 10k Road Race and 3k fun run.

Further details can be found on the website www.fairfordfestival.co.uk.

New committee members are always welcome.

FESTIVE MARKET

On the first Friday in December, the Market Place becomes alive with a street market, entertainers, and a fantastic festive atmosphere. The Market opens at 6.30pm and is marked by the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. Numerous stalls selling a wide variety of goods are set up and shoppers are entertained by carol singing, band playing and a children's performer. Santa always calls in for a visit too!

ROYAL INTERNATIONAL AIR TATTOO

The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) takes place each year in July at RAF Fairford. RIAT brings thousands of visitors to Fairford and fills the sky with spectacular aircraft. Residents can collect "Resident Car Passes" from the Town Council office for use during the show. These passes do not confer any special rights of access and do not allow access to the Tattoo. However, they do inform the traffic police that you are a local resident and your journey will be eased where possible. There are road closures and one-way systems put in place during the show which are advertised locally.

OTHER EVENTS

The Town also plays host to Continental Markets throughout the year.

Fairfest – a music, beer and cider festival takes place each summer in the Walnut Tree Field. This 3-day festival is a fundraising event for Fairford Rugby Club.

Family fun days are often hosted in the Walnut Tree Field and summer activities for children run throughout the long school holiday. These are put on by the Town Council, Fairford Library and Churches Together.

Each Spring sees Fairford ablaze with colour as flags are put up around the town. They come down in the Autumn to make way for our stunning Christmas lights.



PALMER HALL

The Palmer Hall belongs to you! It belongs to everyone living in Fairford!

The Palmer Hall was originally built on land donated to the people of Fairford by Arkell's Brewery that also owns the Plough Inn next door. The hall was built of stone in 1936 on the site of the old corrugated iron Assembly Rooms and was funded by Colonel A J Palmer, who lived at Fairford Park House and gave the Hall to the town 'for the enrichment of the lives of the townsfolk.'

The flooring in the Hall is made of Australian Jarrah wood and is said to have come from the trucking alley at the Huntley & Palmer Biscuit factory in Reading where Colonel Palmer was a Director.

In 2018, the Palmer Hall Management Committee began a considerable fundraising campaign to raise around £70,000 to update the historic Palmer Hall. The refurbishment and modernisation includes work to update the male and female toilets, re-decorate the entrance lobby and old ticket office, make-over the main hall and stage area and install a new accessible toilet facility for disabled users.

There was considerable support from the individuals and groups in the community as well as The Ernest Cook Trust, Fairford Town Council, Cotswold District Council, Glos County Council, Lechlade Lions, the RAF Charitable Trust Enterprises, The Summerfield Trust, Travis Perkins, Cotswold Doors, Hyperion House Care Home, Fairford WI and The Bull Hotel.

To find out more about the Palmer Hall, please visit:
www.thepalmerhall.org.



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, the Palmer Hall runs a monthly cinema at £3.50 entry per person inclusive of tea, coffee and a biscuit, with wine available at £3.00 a glass. Look out for the posters around Fairford for details of the next film or visit the website.

A variety of clubs use the hall on a regular basis. If you would like to hire the hall, just visit the website on www.thepalmerhall.org.



COMMUNITY CENTRE

The former Fairford Free School, a Grade II listed building dating back to 1738, was repurchased in 2002 jointly by Fairford Town Council and the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church. The building is located along the High Street, next to St Mary's Church.

Thanks to major grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Rural Renaissance Fund, and donations from local people, the building has been improved, extended and made fully accessible. Following this £1.3 million refurbishment, an amazing transformation has taken place, resulting in a building which, in addition to rooms available to rent for local activities and services, has Council and Parish offices, a Heritage room, and an Archive room, managed by Fairford History Society.

Fairford's fully modernised 21st century Community Centre really lends itself to functions such as wedding receptions, christening parties and wakes, being next door to the Grade I listed St Mary's Church with its world-famous stained-glass windows. The old school playground has been updated and has become an elegant alfresco entertainment area accessed by a glazed corridor, which links the old building with the new.

The new Centre has a variety of small and large meeting rooms and office space and these can be booked by the hour or for longer periods by contacting 01285 711571.



THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!

Dozens of clubs and classes are happening at the Community Centre every week. From Yoga to French, from Toddler Groups to Table Tennis, and everything in between!

Fairford is a busy little town, and there's no need to ever be stuck for company or inspiration. There are places to walk, if getting out in the open is your thing, and walking groups to join if you like company. There are places to sit and watch the world go by, or swing on a swing and twirl around on a roundabout!

The Walnut Tree Field has outdoor exercise equipment if you want to keep fit and healthy, and a great range of play equipment for children of all ages.

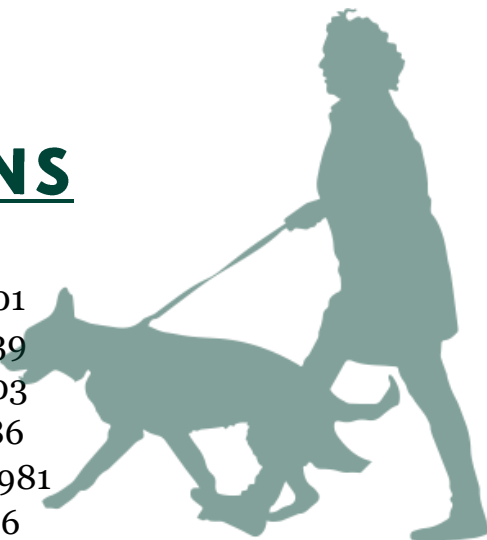
On the next page, you will find contact details for many of the organisations in Fairford.



CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

SPORTS CLUBS

Bowmoor Sailing Club	Graham Royle	01367 252601
Fairford Bowls Club		01285 712039
Fairford Badminton Club	Suzanne Jones	01285 712003
Fairford Fury Basketball Club		01285 713786
Fairford Cricket Club		01285 713521/07881236981
Fairford Football Club	William Beach	01285 712136
Fairford Netball Club	Jenny Bennett	01285 810019
Fairford Rugby Club	Scott Cohoon	01285 713735
Fairford Sports Centre		01285 713786
Fairford Tennis Club		01285 712265
Fairford Youth Football	Adam Sloman	01285 xxxxxx
Heikina Kai Karate	Steve Crowley	01285 712189
REAL Fairford Football Club	Di King	01367 252843



CHILDREN'S CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Brownies	Annette Stannard	01285 712529
Fairford Youth Club		01285713326/712344
Happy Beans		01285 711571
Irish Dancing		07795026521
Little Lambs Toddler Group		01285 810988
Rainbows	Louise Vass	01285 711626
Scouts		01285 713337
Cubs		07502 381842
Beavers		07704 703377
TS Raleigh Navy Cadets		xxxxxxxxxxxxx

OTHER CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

Bell Ringers	Barbara Lyne	01285 713148
FEST (Red Cross)	Andrena Miles	01285 712118
Fairford Choral Society	John Read	01285 713681
Churches Together	Maureen Partington	01285 712480
Cotswold Arcadians	Pamela Kingsford	01285 850131
Fairford Art Society		01285 711115
Fairford Bridge Club		01285 713747
Fairford Firecrackers (WI)	Jean Moulden	01285 713308
Fairford & Lechlade U3A	Sue Johnson	01285 713756
Fairford History Society	Alison Hobson	01285 711768
League of Friends	Christine Barker	07767 408409
Fairford Community Voice	Malcolm Cutler	01285 712173
Fairford & Lechlade Business Club	Admin	07947 993784



AT YOUR SERVICE

FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL (Open 10am-1pm Mon- Fri)

Community Centre, High Street, Fairford, GL7 4AF

tel: 01285 712344/713326

website: www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

email: clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX

tel: Reception 01285 623000

website: www.cotswold.gov.uk

email: cdc@cotswold.gov.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG

tel: Reception 01452 505345

Environment Helpline 01452 425500

Public Rights of Way 01452 425577

Registration of Births,

Marriages and Deaths 01285 650455

website: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HIGHWAYS (INC. STREET LIGHTING)

Imperial Gate Business Park, Corinium Avenue,
Barnwood, Gloucester, GL4 3BW

tel: 08000 514514

email: GCCHighways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE

Non Emergency Number 101

GP SURGERIES

Hilary Cottage Surgery, Keble Lawns, Fairford, GL7 4BQ

tel: 01285 712377

website: www.fairfordsurgery.co.uk

Lechlade Medical Centre

Oak Street

Lechlade

tel: 01367 252264

website: www.lechlademedicalcentre.co.uk



AT YOUR SERVICE

DENTAL PRACTICE

White Cottage Dental Practice, London Road, Fairford

tel: 01285 713993

CHEMIST

Boots Group plc, Gloucester House, Market Place,
Fairford

tel: 01285 712350

HOSPITALS

Fairford Hospital (Out-patients only), The Croft, Fairford

tel: 01285 712212

Cirencester Hospital (including Minor Injuries Unit),
Tetbury Road, Cirencester

tel: 01285 655711

VETS

Davies and Evans Veterinary Practice, Milton Street,
Fairford

tel: 01285 713555

LIBRARY

Fairford Library, London Street, Fairford

tel: 01285 712599

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS - DIAL A RIDE

tel: 0845 680 5029

BUSES

Information on buses to Cirencester & Swindon -
www.traveline.info

CHURCHES

St Mary's Church - Rev Caroline Symcox

tel: 01285 712467

Church Office (10am to 12noon)

tel: 01285 712611

St Thomas of Canterbury R C Church - Father Michael
Robertson.

tel: 01285 712586

Fairford United Church - Rev Tony Barnes

tel: 01285 653655



AT YOUR SERVICE

COMMUNITY CENTRES/HALLS

Fairford Community Centre, High St, Fairford

tel: 01285 711571

Palmer Hall, London St, Fairford

tel: 01285 712189

SCHOOLS/PRE-SCHOOLS/NURSERIES

Farmor's School, The Park, Fairford

tel: 01285 712302/712228

Fairford Primary School, The Park, Fairford

tel: 01285 712543

Fairford Pre-school, The Park, Fairford

tel: 01285 713176

Flying Start Nursery School, Gloucester House, Fairford

tel: 01285 711711

POST OFFICE

The Chanting House, Market Place, Fairford

tel: 01285 712296

MARKETS

Fairford Wednesday Market, Market Place

tel: 01608 652662

website: www.cotswoldsmarkets.com

RAF FAIRFORD

Community Liaison Officer

tel: 01285 714822

