

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

Happy New Year!

We want to know how you want the Town to mark the King's Coronation in May. The Palace has confirmed that Community Parties should be on Sunday 7th May.

Do you want the Council to put on an event at the Cricket Club if it's available, or the Walnut Tree Field if it isn't. Or do you want to hold your own street parties and we can facilitate the road closures? Or something completely different?

Please get in touch and tell us what you think, after all, it's your money we are spending!

Email clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01285 712344/713326.

From May 2023 individuals who wish to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper. This is a national change implemented by the Government as part of the Elections Act 2022 which councils are required to follow when running elections.

This change will apply for the local elections taking place in the district on 4th May 2023. To vote in person, voters must be on the electoral register and bring a suitable form of photographic ID to their polling station. If you do not have one of the accepted forms of photo ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, which can be obtained free of charge from the Council. Anyone applying must already be on the electoral register. The Voter Authority Certificate is a document containing an elector's name and photograph that can be used as ID to vote in an election. Voter Authority Certificates do not have an expiration date and can be used in future elections so worth keeping hold of if you apply for one. You can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate online at <https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk/> If you can't complete the online application form you can request a paper form instead or apply in person at the Cotswold District Council offices. For more information, please call 01285 623002 or email elections@cotswold.gov.uk. **The deadline for applying for a Voter Authority Certificate for elections in May 2023 is 5pm Tuesday 25th April 2023.**

Best wishes

Steve



Cllr Steve Boulton

Fairford Town Mayor
stephenboulton89@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 2023



A massive thank you to Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities for the very generous donation to the skate park project. We cannot thank you enough.

We are nearly there, but we still need to raise more to reach the target. Information on how to make a pledge can be found at www.spacehive.com/skateparkfairford



WARM ROOM IN FAIRFORD

W4W have been very fortunate to secure funding from Cotswold District Council, Community Investment Fund, to increase the use of the Fairford Warm Room. Fairford Town Council have been sponsoring the Warm Space in the Heritage room at Fairford Community Centre. It is a warm friendly space for people to come during the colder months. People at home may not want to put their heating on due to the cost of living. The Warm Room allows individuals or groups to come to a warm space to be enjoyed by all. There are comfy chairs, books, magazines, cards, toaster, toastie maker as well as tea and coffee making facilities.

To promote this space and use the room to its full potential W4W would like to invite you all to some FREE fun events. Advice on energy matters and benefits will be available.

- Wednesday 25th January 12pm-2pm Bingo and Toasties. (No transport provided on this date)
- Thursday 2nd of February 5pm, W4W will be offering minibus transport for those who cannot get to the community centre on their own - a chance to be picked up and taken to the centre to enjoy chilli and jacket potatoes. (Please contact Mary Ann to book your space on the minibus.)
- Thursday 9th February 2pm, W4W will be hosting an afternoon tea in the Warm Room. We are providing transport from our Talking Café in Lechlade and inviting local Fairford people to come and socialise while enjoying sandwiches and cream cakes.
- Wednesday 15th February 12noon, come and enjoy soup and a roll while watching a movie of the group's choice. (No transport provided on this date.)
- Wednesday 1st March 4.30pm, we see our second Lechlade and Fairford mingle with afternoon tea in the Warm Room. We are providing transport from Lechlade and inviting local Fairford people to come and socialise while enjoying sandwiches and cream cakes.
- Thursday 9th March 5pm, W4W will be providing transport to those who would like to attend the Warm space but cannot get in on their own - an opportunity to come and enjoy an evening meal with others.

The Heritage Room at the Community Centre will be open as a warm, friendly space, for people to spend time in during the colder months. The Heritage Room will be open from Monday to Friday between 9.00a.m. and 2.00p.m. Free wifi is available.

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 14th March and 11th April at 7.00pm in the Fairford Community Centre.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FAIRFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

After many years of work, the Fairford Neighbourhood Plan has been accepted by CDC and gone for official examination. If the Examiner's report is favourable, the Plan will be offered for public Referendum, and, if the majority accept it, will become part of local planning law.

The Plan is based upon the results of wide consultation with the local community over many years. Its acceptance has significant benefits for Fairford in terms of additional Planning protection and an increased share of Community Infrastructure Levy (money to be used for local projects in Fairford.)

We cannot control the number of new houses to be built in Fairford, this is set by the allocations in the Cotswold District Local Plan, according to housing need in the district. However, this Plan can determine the most sustainable sites and make sure that factors such as flood risk, sewage provision, protection of green spaces and Heritage considerations including settings of listed buildings and Conservation Area, etc. are taken fully into account. It proposes that building development can be delayed until adequate infrastructure services are provided.

The complete Plan is on Fairford Town Council's website, details are available from the Council Office and we welcome questions from the community. It is intended that the Referendum will take place in May, alongside the Council elections, when you will have the opportunity to vote whether it should be accepted.

We hope that you will give it your full support.

Jon Hill, Margaret Bishop
Joint Chairs, Fairford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

**Thursday 23rd
February at 10.00am
(during half term)
at Fairford Community
Centre**

**Sport in Fairford by Edwin
Cuss

and**

**Thursday 16th March at
7.30pm
at Fairford Community
Centre**

**Kathy Haslam will talk
on Kelmscott Manor**

**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**



FAIRFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Not only are we a hub for the community with over 40 regular users we can also meet your business needs too.

Fairford Community Centre offers a range of services to support your business. These include photocopying, virtual post boxes for anyone working from home but wanting to keep their home address private, meeting and conference room space. We have 4 versatile rooms to hire that will suit a large conference to a small intimate meeting. Prices start at just £5 per hour including WIFI, heating and access to a kitchen.

To discuss your needs please don't hesitate to get in touch via email at bookings@fccentre.co.uk or call us weekday mornings on 01285 711571.

BEREAVEMENT CAFE

Run by The Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Nursing Team

A drop in café for anyone that has suffered a loss and would like to talk.
Trained support available.

The Barker Room
Fairford Community Centre 10-12am

FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Phone:
07938244335

Email:
Nursing@
friendsoffairford.org.uk



Friends of Fairford and Lechlade
Communities
Registered Charity Number: 118009

WWW.FRIENDSOFFAIRFORD.ORG.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.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

You can still purchase our cheeky Charity 2023 Calendar – get in touch with Kerry on admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

DO SOMETHING NEW IN 2023

If your New Year's Resolution was to VOLUNTEER or meet new people, please consider getting involved with us. We provide health care and social support to people in Lechlade, Fairford and the surrounding villages. There are many ways to help us, such as becoming a volunteer driver, Charity Shop volunteer, helping to arrange and run fundraising events, becoming a Trustee, volunteering at our Edna Daves Lunch Clubs and many more. See our website or get in touch with Kerry on admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk / 01285 707300 for information.

PICK UP A BARGAIN

Our Lechlade Charity Shop will have sale on men's shirts from 6th – 17th February. Please email shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk or call 01367 252189 if you have any questions.

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

GET UPDATES FROM US

We are planning another busy year of fundraising and social events for 2023 so please do join our mailing list to be the first to know about our plans –join by sending your email address to admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk.



YOU CAN SUPPORT US FOR FREE

Did you know that you can support us for free, helping us in our work for no extra cost to you?

Select us as your charity on Amazon Smile and remember to always use smile.amazon.co.uk when you shop. You can now turn on Amazon Smile in your phone app to donate when you shop in the app too! Register an account with easyfundraising.org.uk and select us as your charity.

When shopping on an eligible website, click the button saying 'click to get donation' if a pop up appears. Or you can search eligible websites via the easyfundraising.org.uk website.

Register for Gift Aid with us so we can claim an additional 25% on any donation you make to us (monetary or Charity Shop donations) from HMRC. Check our website for more information about any of these.





WORKING 4 WELLBEING

The W4W team would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we are excited to see what W4W will bring to the community in 2023.

With sadness, we say goodbye to Rachel Coates, our Volunteer Coordinator, and wish her luck for the future.

A massive thank you to all our Volunteers who support events and the running of the Talking Cafe, we really couldn't do it without you!

W4W was invited to support the Christmas Lunch this year and it was truly a pleasure to be involved in such a great event. The day would not be possible without the hard work of Amanda and Mervyn Cully and their amazing gang of volunteers.

The Fairford Talking Cafe enjoyed lots of festive activities in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to Fairford Primary School who made Christmas cards for the W4W Christmas Party. Thank you to Mind Song and John Read's Choir of Friends who came in and got us in the festive mood.

Please get in touch if you would be interested in joining the Memory Lane singing group for people and their families affected by dementia.

CHANGE OF TIME - Fairford Talking Cafe is every Wednesday 10.30am-12pm in the Farmor Room in Fairford Community Centre.

Lechlade Talking Cafe is held in Lechlade Baptist Church every Thursday 10.30am- 12pm.

Digital drop ins

Fairford 9.30am-10.30am Every Tuesday Fairford Community Centre or by appointment.

Lechlade 10.00am Lechlade Baptist Church or by appointment.

WELLBEING WALKS - Two of our W4W volunteers have been organising walks around Fairford. The day and time do change due to weather but if this is something that you would enjoy, please get in touch to receive the walking group emails for information on when the group is meeting for a stroll.

After the great success of our two shopping trips we are planning future outings.

W4W will be organising a trip to the Barn Theatre to see *Around the World in 80 Days*.

Date and price to be confirmed but please get in touch to express your interest.

FAIRFORD CRAFTERS - there is a lovely group that meets the first Wednesday of the month 2.00-4.00pm At Fairford Community Centre. They come together and share what they are working on.

We also have the evening Crafters group that meets on the last Thursday of month 7.00-9.00pm. This group is about learning a new skill and we are asking for any volunteers that could share a craft with the group to get in touch.

YOUTH EVENTS

W4W will be hosting FREE youth events during Half term at Fairford Community Centre.

Tuesday 21st February 10.00am-12.00pm Felting workshop ages 11-17

Tuesday 21st February 10.00am-12.00pm Crafts for under age 11.

Friday 24th February 2.00-4.00pm Crafts for all.

Book on only events so get in touch!



FAIRFORD COMMUNITY VOICE

It's early in the year but this is the time to be putting up bird boxes in time for spring nesting, and, if you haven't already done so, it is time to clean out the ones you already have (don't forget the boiling water to kill parasites) - avian flu is making it so much more important to keep everything, including feeders, as clean as possible. Make sure boxes are sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight, ideally, facing them between north and east so the chicks do not overheat. High quality local bird boxes can be sourced from Fairford Men's Shed.

admin@fairgordmensshed.co.uk

We are very lucky here to have so many lovely walks, both Public Rights of Way (PROWs) and other paths (Pitham Brook and around Horcott Lakes). A useful resource for finding all the official PROWs is the Gloucestershire County Council online map of Rights of Way www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/public-rights-of-way/rights-of-way-online-map.

It is important that we keep to the paths in fields under cultivation and stay off wide field margins, as these are an important refuge for wildlife and are often purposefully managed for wildlife. This is especially the case if you are a dog walker. Dog poo left on fields containing cattle or from which grass is collected for hay could expose cows to a parasitic infection that may result in early abortions or leave calves infected with the parasite. So, dog poo should be collected even in those areas which seem to be away from paths or where children play.

It goes without saying that walkers should abide by the Countryside Code and take their litter home, but it would be good to see visitors to our countryside go further, and clear the litter they see, taking an active role in caring for nature. If we enter the countryside with this mindset, we can become active custodians of the countryside and benefit its ecology.

Lastly, we are concerned at the extent of the destruction of the hedgerows at the east end of Lake 104 so if you have any relevant photographs or information about the works on site then then could you please contact us; our email is info@fairfordcv.org.uk.

Please do keep an eye on our website

www.fairfordcv.org.uk for information about our activities even though things are quiet at the moment due to the weather.

TESCO COMMUNITY GRANT

From mid-January to mid-March you will be able to vote for the Fairford Skate Park in Tesco with a blue token. You will find voting boxes in the Tesco stores in Cirencester. Up to £1500 can be given to the Skate Park fund. Please think about casting your vote to help this fantastic project for your Town.

We are so close to reaching our target. If you would like to help us reach the target please make a pledge by following the QR code:



**LOOKING FOR A FRESH HOBBY IN 2023?
JOIN US TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, PUT YOUR SKILLS
TO GOOD USE OR LEARN SOME NEW ONES.**



The Cotswold Canals Trust is a volunteer led charity working to restore the 36 miles of canals across the Cotswolds. Focus of activity has been in the Stroud area where restoration of the western-most 10 miles will be completed in the next few years.

“Volunteers are the life blood of the Trust and are always welcome.”

We are now gearing up for restoring the eastern 10 miles across the Cotswold Water Park from Lechlade to South Cerney and have many volunteering opportunities. In addition to the more obvious hands-on physical canal restoration work, we urgently need volunteers to help with a range of supporting activities such as:

- Setting up our new restoration workshops near Driffield
- Working in our wood-working workshops to manufacture canal-side benches and components for locks
- Setting up and staffing our new visitor centre and bookshop near South Cerney
- Supporting our firewood log sales
- Working with the team planning the eastern restoration

Have a look at our website to find out more about what we have achieved and see our A to Z of volunteering opportunities where you can be part of the largest canal restoration society in the UK, working together to leave a lasting legacy of a natural wildlife and leisure corridor across the Cotswolds.

Contact our friendly office team to find out more and come along for a taster session or two.

mail@cotswoldcanals.org

www.cotswoldcanals.org

01453 752568



Cotswold Canals Trust
Working for Restoration

