

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

How quick the 6 weeks summer holiday go by. The Council continues to work hard on projects and with District and County Councillors. The Skatepark continues to make me smile. Now completed, officially opened, (thank you to Monty Morris) and used all the time by so many, all we hear is how all the children and young people are helping each other to learn and have fun.

Steam Steve put on the most fabulous return of the Fairford Steam Classic & Retro Show. Thank you to all the organisers, volunteer's, exhibitors. Roll on 2024!

The Festive Market is now sold out – all the stalls have been booked. It will be as big as ever with a huge variety of traders for everyone to enjoy.

After the passing of Maurice Jones, Fairford's Town Crier for so many years. He had the most fitting celebration of his life at St Mary's Church. Fairford very much in his blood, a huge character of the Town will be dearly missed. Cllr Chris Roberts has written a tribute to Maurice, from the Town Council, which you will find in this edition of the Newsletter.

As the year moves on, September will see the flags being taken down, please do watch out for the date and help out if you can. We are always looking for volunteers to help with activities around the Town. Likewise with the Christmas trees, they will go up in December.

I must say a huge thanks to Alex Jackson, a science teacher at Farmor's, for spending his time and coming out with myself and Cllr Marcus Stroud, looking around the Town to where we can improve upon the biodiversity. We shall be feeding back to the Works & Events Committee and making plans for the future of the Town.

And finally, on a very personal note, I must send out huge congratulations to my husband, Mark Kettel, who made the GB shooting team, and flew out to Greece, only to come back a World Champion having won team gold!

Best wishes Vicky.



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

OCTOBER 2023

A colorful poster for a 'Quiz & Chilli Night' event. The poster features a lightbulb icon with a brain inside, and text that reads: 'FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE COMMUNITIES QUIZ & CHILLI NIGHT Round up a team for an evening of fun! Friday 20th Oct Fairford Community Centre Doors open at 7:00pm Quiz starts 7:30pm £10 per person (includes Chilli) Teams of 6-8 To register or for further information please email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk www.friendsoffairford.org.uk'. The Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities logo is in the top left corner.

MULTI-USE PATH BETWEEN FAIRFORD & LECHLADE

We have been working to create a cycleway between our two towns for some years. The idea is for a circular route running north and south of the A417. We are not there yet but have arranged an exhibition of current progress at the Lakes Bar and Kitchen, on the Bowmoor Sailing Club lake. There will be boards showing a southern route we are proposing along with the problems still to solve. With an opportunity to comment and offer ideas.

The exhibition will start on 23rd September and run for 3 weeks.

NEW SKATE PARK – AN INSTANT HIT!

The new Fairford skatepark has been an instant hit attracting children from Fairford and beyond. 30 plus children of varying ages can regularly be seen on the skatepark from morning until evening. It's also been amazing to see interaction between different age groups with older children helping the younger children to learn the skills they need to safely use the ramps. This is a welcome asset for Fairford and one I hope our town's children have fun on for many years.

Cllr Marcus Stroud, Deputy Mayor.

STREETLIGHTS ON CIRENCESTER RD – UPDATE

An update from Gloucestershire Highways, *“The planning of the new lights for Cirencester Road, Fairford is now all complete. There have been some challenges as we have had to change our original design in order not to disturb the new carriageway surfacing. There are also some trees that require cutting back that have Tree Preservation Orders on them. We now have a date for cutting the trees back and for installing the lighting equipment, but we are still awaiting a date for some of the required electrical supplies from the electricity company, SSE.*

The date we have for the work is the 23rd and 24th of October, although we are slightly concerned at installing all of the equipment if we cannot make the lights operational due to the SSE work being outstanding. We will continue to chase SSE in the hope that we can complete all of the works at this time and to have the lights operational before the clocks go back.”

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 10th October and 14th November at 7.00pm in Fairford Community Centre.



FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Join us on **Saturday 7th October 19:00** for a Fundraising Restaurant Night at the Trout Inn, Lechlade. £26 for a main and desert, drinks not included. To book or for the menu choices, call 07540 798 226 (Transport line) or 01367 252706 (Ruth), or email transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Our next Quiz and Chilli Night will be on **Friday 20th October** at Fairford Community Centre (doors 7pm, quiz starts 7:30pm), £10 per head, includes meal. Tables of 6 – 8. Please book by email to admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk. Our festive event will be a Wine Tasting Evening and the annual raffle draw on **Saturday 25th November**, 7:30pm at Fairford Community Centre. More details TBC and will be confirmed on our website or contact admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES: TRUSTEES

Can you help us in the governance of the charity? 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

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 (images welcome too!). Books will be available to purchase before the end of the year. Please send submissions to Kerry at admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

EDNA DAWES LUNCH CLUB

Our much-loved Edna Dawes Lunch Club provides a hot meal, activities and social interaction for isolated elderly people. Transport can be provided. We are hoping to reopen on Mondays so if you are interested or know someone that would like to attend, please do get in touch with Katie our Lunch Club Team Leader: edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk / 07713 607106.

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

FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 19th October at 7.30pm
at Fairford Community Centre

Nick Humphris will talk on the 'The early development of Concorde at Filton'.

and on

Thursday 16th November at 7.30pm
at Fairford Community Centre

Dr Samantha Harper on 'How to read a Medieval Church: Church and community in Medieval England.'

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



MAURICE JONES – A FAIRFORD LEGEND

By Cllr Chris Roberts

When baby Maurice Andrew Henry Jones was born on 2nd November 1941, no one could have guessed what a legend he would later become in his home town of Fairford.

He was born in one of the small cottages in Horcott Road opposite what was Coln House School – number 4 The Virgills. He went to school first at the old Fairford Primary School – now Fairford Library – and then on to Farmor’s School, which was then in the present Fairford Community Centre.

It’s difficult to imagine the Community Centre being a school, as it’s now so well used by various community groups and, of course, Fairford Town Council, to which Maurice was elected in 1995.

As a Councillor, Maurice was a member of the Leisure and Tourism committee (now Works and Events), sat on the Palmer Hall committee, served on the liaison panel with Cotswold District Council and was a member of Fairford Town Council’s Planning Committee for many years. It was a wonderful and memorable experience to sit on the Planning Committee with Maurice, who made the usually sombre and humourless planning meetings great fun! With each planning application that the committee had to discuss, you could count on Maurice to readily recall some historical information about the application. For every house, building or plot of land that came before the committee, Maurice had a tale to tell borne out of his personal and extensive local knowledge.

In his broad and easily recognisable Gloucestershire accent, he laughed about the day when he and his other young friends scrumped apples from the lady who lived at one particular house and how she chased the young apple thieves away waving her rolling pin! Or how a certain very well-known local gentleman staggered home from the pub one night and collapsed into a drunken stupor in the barn that was being considered for conversion to a residential home!

Maurice stepped down from the Town Council in 2013 having served 18 years as one of Fairford’s longest-serving elected representatives.

He took on the voluntary role of Town Crier for a fortnight in 1975 after accepting a dare to enter a competition. When Fairford Parish Council became Fairford Town Council in 1983, the Mayor and Councillors of the new Town Council recognised Maurice’s talent and appointed him its official Town Crier. At the time, he said: “This has given me the greatest pleasure because Fairford is my home town, where I was born, bred and live.”

Maurice said: “My official dress is based on the early 18th century style to be in keeping with the first recorded Town Crier. Our mum said I got my love of dressing up from our dad – he used to have his own Morris Dancers team, but I don’t reckon I could trip the light fantastic as well as he.”

As an official Town Crier, Maurice was able to become a member of the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers and reached the semi-final of the World Championships at his first attempt paving the way for a long and successful career.

Over the years, he competed in numerous national championships and represented Fairford in several European cities and even went to South Africa to open their Whale Festival!



Maurice had none of the old civic duties which Town Criers had in the past, such as cleaning up after the local market or ducking nagging wives! But, in September 2010, he did help to organise the Fairford Town Crier Competition with more than 30 Town Criers taking part in the first Town Criers' Competition to be held in the town for 10 years. At the start of the event, Maurice stood proud and resplendent in his great coat and tricorne hat and bellowed a ceremonious welcome to all the Town Criers and their escorts who came from all over the UK.

To mark Maurice's 30 years of being a Town Crier, he was presented with a Medal for Meritorious Services to Town Criers by Tony Evans, the Vice President of the Ancient & Honourable Guild of Town Criers. At the October 2013 meeting of Fairford Town Council, Tony presented Maurice with the prestigious medal and said that Maurice aka Big Mo or Super Tanker was held in high esteem by Town Criers all over the world especially in Belgium, Canada, South Africa and Australia.

There are many jobs, groups and committees that Maurice had been a part of during his 81 years in this world: choir boy, altar boy and bell ringer at St Mary's Church; farm hand; plumber's mate; MOD fire service; driving milk-tankers and bulldozers; working at RAF Fairford; master of ceremonies at weddings; taxi driver; a member and Group Leader of the Red Cross and Fairford Town Councillor.

There are bound to be some organisations that have been omitted from the list above, but what must not be left out is his love and devotion to his family – he was above all a son, a brother, a husband to Pat, father to Sam and Paul and a grandfather.

He was loved by all. No one had a bad word to say about Maurice. He was full of fun, caring for others and always willing to help. Larger than life itself, Maurice now not only lives on in the hearts of all those in Fairford that had the privilege of knowing him, but also in the 'Maurice the Hare' figure at the top of Fairford's High Street and put there by Fairford Town Council.

Someone once said: if you want to find a place that symbolizes Fairford, then you pick St Mary's Church. If you want a person that symbolizes Fairford, then you choose Maurice Jones.

RIP Maurice Jones 2nd November 1941 – 30th August 2023



Maurice Jones (left) with Tony Evans



Maurice with "Maurice" the hare



FAIRFORD COMMUNITY VOICE

We thought it would be a good idea to have a short series of 'getting to know your Neighbourhood Plan (NP)' articles from FCV following on from the last newsletter. So firstly, in order to find all you need to know about the plan go to Fairford Town Council website

In this month's article we would like to highlight the content of the NP concerning sewage and potential future development.

Much in the news recently has been the state of our waterways. The sewage outflow spills into the River Coln just after Shy Hole (the deep section on the long bend). In periods of extreme rainfall, Thames Water are permitted to discharge untreated sewage into the river. However, Thames Water's own data has shown that untreated sewage has been discharged into the river for hundreds of hours, even during periods of little or no rainfall. Our system is running at more-or-less full capacity, a fact which is recognised by Cotswold District Council (CDC) who have said that an upgrade is needed. Our NP, Policy No. FNP 5 'Investing in Utilities' Infrastructure Improvements' says (amongst other things) that planning permission will **only** be granted to a development intending to connect to the sewer network **if** the sewer network can accommodate the additional demand for sewage disposal, either in its existing form or through planned improvements to the system in advance of the construction of the development, to ensure that the environment and the amenity of local residents are not adversely affected (my bold emphasis). Look it up on the Town Council website. This differs from many past outline permissions which have been granted before any plan for sewage disposal has been accepted, or even considered. In the meantime, what can you do to help our local river? It's the 3P limit on flushing loos: just pee, poo and paper please.

FCV and FTC have been lobbying to ensure that no more of the hedge between Lakes 103/104 is removed. So far, so good but please do get in touch if you notice any more removal of trees and shrubs.

If you would like to be more involved with any of this work or have any queries then please contact us. Our email is info@fairfordcv.org.uk. Please do keep an eye on our website <https://www.fairfordcv.org.uk> for information about our activities.

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

Sometimes these days it can be hard to find places to have those big conversations – to ask those big questions that circle around our brains: Why am I here? What's the point of it all? What happens when we die? Sometimes those questions can seem too heavy to bring up with friends, and too taxing for a night down the pub.

That's why St Mary's, along with the other churches in Fairford who together make up Churches Together around Fairford, will be running an Alpha Group throughout the autumn. For 11 weeks on Tuesday evenings, starting on the 19th September, we'll be gathering at the Community Centre from 7.00pm to 9.00pm for a meal, and a chance to talk about the big questions.

Crucially, Alpha isn't about someone standing at the front and giving you all the answers. The heart of everything is the discussion, when every person can share their thoughts and explore these big topics together. Each week builds on the next, but you can pop along as and when you're able to join in – you'll always be welcome!

Let Rev'd Caroline know if you're planning to come along if possible, but if not, just show up on the night, for food and conversation.

Hope to see you there!

CONTACT

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

FIRST STEPS

TODDLER GROUP AND FAMILY SUPPORT HUB.
EVERY FRIDAY FROM 8TH SEPTEMBER 930AM-11AM
Fairford United Church
79 Milton Street

W4W will be present to offer signposting and support as well as once a month specialist guest speakers
Toys, Crafts, singing and snack
£1 donation per family

Contact Mary Ann for more details
07555738138

Working 4 Wellbeing
Fairford and Lechlade Area





FAIRFORD WEDNESDAY MARKET

Every Wednesday from 9.00am – 1.00pm.

Regular traders selling Artisan breads, Cakes, Fruit & veg, Cheeses, Fish, local meats, Foods from around the world, Jewellery, Plants, Gifts, Liquorice, wine, Specialist dog food, Plus a host of visiting traders. There's always something to tempt you!



Pindy's Samosas.

Artisan samosas parcelled up to perfection using our family's authentic Punjabi recipe, completely vegetarian & handmade in Oxfordshire. Authentic homemade curries also available made the way we have them at home.



Chloe's Cakery

Award winning baker, Chloe, bakes everything fresh the morning of the market.



The Billowing Loaf

Small artisan bakery which specialises in organic sourdough breads and pastries.



Benno's Fruit & Veg

Fresh fruit & veg every Wednesday.



Skylos Foods

Skylos Foods provides premium complete dog and cat food. Hypo-allergenic, biologically appropriate.

Hania Cheeses

Suppliers of fine cheese



Just Liquorice

Importers of the Finest Dutch Liquorice.



Cotswold Pantry Co.

Based in the heart of The Cotswolds, our grass-fed lamb, wild venison and game birds are free to roam as nature intended.

LLOYDS MOBILE BANK EVERY OTHER WEEK.