

FAIRFORD NEWS

FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

As we approach the end of the year, it is time to look back at all that has happened over the last 12 months.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to a number of great local characters this year, not the least of whom was Albert Alder, a faithful servant of the community and the local environment for many years (commemorated by an annual award in his name).

Thanks are also due to Jennie Sanford, who stepped down from the Council after many years of service (including Mayor). However, we have also welcomed a number of new faces, including Phil Braiden, Niall Tyrer, Deji Akala, Simon Hersom and Harrison Darley, so we now have a full complement of Councillors (and are seeking to increase the number to 15).

It terms of practical things, we have completed the new woodland path through the trees along Leafield Road, carried out more renovation of the play equipment in the Walnut Tree Field and surfaced Keble Alley so it is more usable in the winter months. The bus shelter on Milton Street has also been decorated internally with a mural by students from Cirencester College.

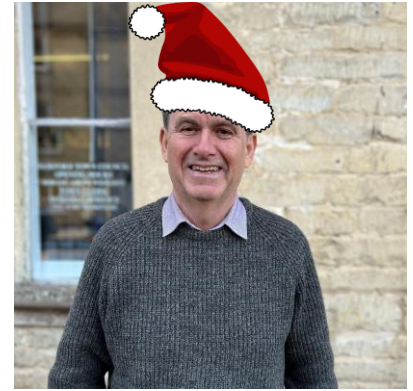
Moving on to upcoming events, we have the **Festive Market on Friday 5th December, with the lights being switched on at 6.30 p.m.** Many thanks to all those who have helped with putting up the lights and small trees around the centre of town, and particularly to Vanessa and Roz for coordinating all this and much more. This is a team effort! Finally, few people will now be unaware of Cotswold District Council's proposals (in response to Government demands) for a massive increase in housebuilding locally. They are putting on a public 'Consultation' event at the Community Centre on Thursday 11th December and we will be meeting senior District Councillors and Officers separately to discuss our concerns, which are set out in a **Position Statement published elsewhere in this Newsletter.** You can be assured we are challenging this vigorously through the consultation process, in conjunction with other Town/Parish Councils in the District. Please take the opportunity to make your views known as well.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year!

Richard.

Cllr Richard Harrison, Mayor & Chairman.

FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL
Telephone: 01285 712344
clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk



Cllr Richard Harrison
Fairford Town Mayor
richard@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

DECEMBER 2025



CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

The well-established Fairford Christmas Day Lunch will again be held in The Community Centre in Fairford.

As a reminder, the Lunch is for individuals and couples who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day and would like to spend some time in company. It is open to residents in Fairford and surrounding villages, plus Lechlade, and will take the same format as before.

The Lunch starts at 12.30 and finishes after the King's Speech at around 15.30.

Our contact details are below and are also on the posters which are displayed in the area, so please do let us know if you can come - or contact anyone who you think might be interested.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with the preparation and cooking of the meal, drivers to collect and return less mobile guests to and from home, and others to act as hosts/hostesses during the day.

Don't be shy; Please apply!

Amanda or Mervyn Cully. Tel: 01285 712700

Mobiles: Amanda 07960 485946

Mervyn 07773 557846

Email: cully.amanda@gmail.com

FAIRFORD Community Centre

Fairford Community Centre is not only a great venue for family gatherings or regular user groups, we also offer facilities for business meetings and conference style events. We offer a post box service if you work from home and do not wish to use a home address and have small offices available for long term lets. For availability and more information

contact us at bookings@fccentre.co.uk or call 01285 711571



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH COUNCIL NEWS

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

No meeting in December.

The next two Full Town Council Meetings will be on Tuesday 13th January 2026 and Tuesday 10th February at 7.00pm in Fairford Community Centre.



TRANSPORT PLAN UPDATE

Safety in Darkness Campaign – Working Together for a Safer Fairford.

Fairford Town Council was proud to work closely with Fairford Primary School, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Cotswold District Council, and the Neighbourhood Policing Team to promote road safety as the darker months approached.

Held during National Road Safety Week (the week starting from 17th November 2025), the “Safety in Darkness” campaign encouraged children and families to “Be bright, be seen.” The initiative aimed to raise awareness of road safety, particularly for pupils walking or cycling to school.

The campaign featured creative projects, school assemblies, on-street safety checks, and bike light giveaways for Key Stage 2 pupils—made possible through joint efforts between Fairford Town Council, Cotswold District Council, and local community partners.

Together, we helped ensure Fairford’s children were visible, confident, and safe on our roads—day and night.

Thank you for the ongoing community support and participation.



FAIRFORD BOWLING CLUB BACKS COBALT WITH GENEROUS DONATION

On Monday 13th October, Cobalt Medical Charity welcomed three members of the Fairford Bowling Club to their Imaging Centre in Cheltenham to celebrate the incredible amount raised to support Cobalt’s work over the years.

Brian and June Wall were long-standing members of the Fairford Bowling Club. Following their passing, the club has continued their wonderful legacy of raising funds year after year for such an important Charity.

To date, the club’s efforts have raised an incredible £13,292.88 for Cobalt - a contribution that continues to make a real difference to local patients.

This total does not include the amount of £2,012, raised so far in 2025!

Fairford Bowls Club continues to support the local community and welcomes new members

Photo: left to right: Ben Hughes Cobalt’s Superintendent Radiographer with members of Fairford Bowling Club: Terry Coss (landlord of the Plough Inn), Niall Tyrer (Fairford Town Councillor), and Paul Kent (Treasurer).



FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Concert: Saturday 29th November at 7pm. St Mary's Church, FAIRFORD
Benjamin Britten: Ceremony of Carols

Harp and Solo Choristers

Alexander L'Estrange: Wassail

Fairford Primary School Choir with Percussion, Keyboards & Recorder Players

Tickets: £15, under 18s £5

from Fairford Opticians, High Street, Fairford, 01285 713313

Also available on the door

PALMER HALL

There won't be a film in December.

The January film will be on Wednesday 14 January 2026. The name of the film is TBC nearer the time.

As usual doors open at 7.00 for 7.30 start. Admission £4.00 to include tea and biscuits. Glass of wine £3.50.

FAIRFORD FIRECRACKERS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The National Federation of the Women's Institutes is based on friendship, community, education and campaigning for social change. The Fairford Firecrackers WI meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month at Fairford Community Centre at 7.30pm. You will find a very warm welcome, interesting speakers covering a wealth of subjects and plenty of opportunity to get involved in community activities. In between our monthly meetings we also have various sub groups including pizza evening at The Marlborough, book club for the bookworms, crafty ladies for the creative, ambles with Ann for the walkers and lovely lunches for ladies who like to lunch and so much more.

If you are tempted by any of the above do give us a call on 07866 518830 to find out more. We'd love to hear from you.



NEWS FROM ST MARYS FAIRFORD

It feels like the year has passed in the blink of an eye, and here we find ourselves at the beginning of December, looking forward to Christmas less than a month away. At least, I hope we're looking forward to it. Christmas can be a tough time for some of us, and sometimes it can feel strange and pressured, or laden with memories that weigh just a little too heavy on our shoulders. But to step aside from the extra focus and weight that we might find gets attached to this season, the heart of the message of Christmas is simple, and life-giving. It is a message of JOY. Now joy isn't just happiness, or laughter, although both of those things can emerge from it. Joy is about knowing deep down in our very roots that this world is made to be good, that we are made to love and to be loved, and that there is a place of belonging for each and every one of us.

St Mary's wants to share that message with you, this Christmas, and there's lots of ways for you to join in! Perhaps you'd like to bring your family to the beauty and simplicity of our Christingle service at 4.45pm on the 3rd December – it's co-led by our very own Fairford Primary School, but everyone is welcome! Or would you like to be moved by our Advent Carol Service at 6pm on the 14th December – candle-lit and atmospheric, reminding us of the light to come at Christmas before the season fully arrives? Of course, as we get closer to Christmas itself we have all those big traditional moments – Nine Lessons and Carols on the 21st, with all your favourite Christmas carols; our two Crib Services on Christmas Eve (come prepared ready to dress up for the boisterous one!), Midnight Mass and our Christmas Day services. All the dates are up on our website (www.stmaryschurchfairford.org.uk), and we would love to see you!

CONTACT

Vicar Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 712467, carolinesymcox@googlemail.com
Curate Rev'd Vicky Falvey - 07356 234248, revvickyfalvey@gmail.com
Parish Office Heather Gorton - 712428, fairfordpcc@gmail.com



NEW DOORS AT ST MARY'S

After many years St Mary's Church has a wonderful set of new glass doors. Here's how they came into being.

Way back before Covid hit, discussions had begun about how to improve the entrance of St Mary's. The ancient great oak door, though beautiful and historic, was draughty and off-putting, and the small entrance door made accessing the church very difficult for anyone with a pushchair, wheelchair or other mobility device. A more welcoming entrance was needed.

Under the superb guidance of Mervyn Cully, plans were pulled together, including discussions with the Parochial Church Council, Gloucester Diocese, and the wider Fairford Community. Finally, a Faculty was granted in 2024 to begin making those dreams a reality.

Tracey Sheppard, a well-established artist and engraver took on the task of engraving the doors, following a design brief of the Good Shepherd and the church being a Wool Church.

A pair of shepherd's crooks are central to the design of the doors, with their form taken from a crook held by the shepherd in the Lady Chapel Nativity window. The thought is that each time someone opens or closes the doors they will be making contact with a crook and, by association, the Good Shepherd.

The River Coln runs across the doors, their shape being initially inspired by the decorative stone detail around the tops of the stone columns in the Nave. As the water flows across the doors, light sparkles and reflects on the surface picking out the word REJOICE. This word can be read on approaching and when leaving.

The name Cotswold means 'sheep enclosure in rolling hillside', and the top line of the water course also delineates the rise and fall of the land creating a hill at either side of the pair of doors and a valley in the centre. The valley is full of a mixture of wild grasses and daisies and stylized vegetation taken from the Ascension window blending old with new.

Butterflies fly amongst the grasses butterflies being prevalent to these hills and a Christian symbol for the Resurrection.

Sheep are shown grazing on the slopes at either side of the doors and serving as a reminder of the history of the foundation of this Wool Church.

The Bishop of Gloucester will visit on Sunday 7th December during the morning and will bless the doors. Everyone is warmly invited to help celebrate.

Ingrid Morris
Secretary
PCC



FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

**There is no meeting in
December**

**Afternoon meeting on
Thursday 15th January
at 2.30pm
at Fairford Community
Centre**

Gloucestershire men at the Battle of Waterloo

by Major General Sir
Evelyn Webb-Carter,
KCVO, OBE, DL
with refreshments from
2.00pm

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 TOWN COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT ON CDC'S LOCAL PLAN PROPOSALS

Fairford Town Council is making this statement to clarify our position on CDC's Regulation 18 proposals for the benefit of residents and highlight a number of questions on which CDC needs to provide clear answers before the next stage to avoid the 'submission' Plan being found unsound and undeliverable (with all the consequences that would ensue).

We believe the upward adjustment in the standard method for the District's housing requirement figure is unjustified and wholly inappropriate in the context of the particular demographic and housing market characteristics of Cotswold District. In simple terms, the 'workplace-based' earnings measure used in the 'affordability ratio' does not take account of the significant proportion of people living in the District but commuting to higher-paid jobs outside (or simply not accounted for in the very limited sample of the data) and is largely unrelated to the profile of the people buying the more expensive houses, including second and holiday homes, which are clearly boosted by the built-up equity of people moving and/or retiring to the District from more expensive (and urban) parts of the country. These people are moving to the Cotswolds because it is **a beautiful rural area** and prices are high because development and hence the amount of housing in the National Landscape area (AONB) is necessarily restricted. The houses that are bought here can clearly be afforded by the people that are buying them, so the appropriateness of the 'affordability' measure has to be questioned. Large urban extensions to small towns like Fairford with very limited facilities, overstretched infrastructure and poor access to employment are clearly not the solution to this demand. What is needed to solve the real affordability problem is more affordable homes in locations where people can easily access employment etc.

CDC needs to challenge the target on this basis, as other councils in a similar position elsewhere have been advised to do, rather than simply dividing up the highly inflated figure and dumping it on those settlements which are outside the AONB, whose infrastructure and facilities are unable to accommodate it (at least partly due to previous planning failures).



As regards feasibility, there are a number of major issues:

- 1) Thames Water is already indicating that there is a problem meeting the water supply requirements of new (smaller) developments and significant new projects will be needed to meet the new proposals. It is unclear what these are or how they are to be financed. Water supply is a fundamental need. This affects the whole area (i.e. most of Cotswold District).
- 2) The Fairford sewage treatment works is currently operating well beyond capacity, with 'dry storm' discharges into the river Coln happening for significant periods, and there is still uncertainty over the completion of the planned upgrade which is needed to serve existing built and planned development. A further 'Growth scheme' would be needed to support significant further development, but TW's owners/creditors are reportedly seeking to cut back on such projects rather than increase them and to have an exemption from environmental requirements for the next 15 years. A decision to allocate further development in Fairford without a Government-underwritten solution to this would essentially be a decision to 'pollute baby, pollute' – including the SSSI lakes downstream of the Fairford STW, and hence arguably contrary to CDC's statutory environmental duty as well and their 'Ecological Emergency' policy.
- 3) Over the last 15 years CDC has, through planning decisions and otherwise, and often apparently contrary to its own development plan policies, facilitated the loss of important frontages in Fairford's very constrained town centre and other facilities such as the Fairford Sports Centre (to Farmor's School). It is also failing to enforce s106 requirements concerning (among other things) the provision of the Leisure Facility (including swimming pool) at the Lakes 103, 103A, 104 and Milestone holiday development.
- 4) There are also significant issues regarding the capacity of health services for the ageing population, schools and parking in the town centre (since much of the proposed new development is outside recognised easy walking distance from this). Peak traffic flows through pinch points on the A417 through the town (and elsewhere, including Lechlade) need to be properly modelled so that solutions which do not undermine the viability of the town centre can be clearly identified and incorporated in the final plan. It may well be that a bypass or 'relief road' is needed, although it is not at all clear where this could be routed.

All these facilities are needed to make Fairford a genuinely sustainable location for major new development.



Key questions that Cotswold District Council needs to answer on these proposals are:

- 1) What is it doing to challenge the overall 'housing requirement' figure (on the demographic and market basis outlined above)? Will it progress and alternative plan (if necessary in parallel) based on a more realistic housing requirement figure?
- 2) What is it doing to develop the plan on a Unitary-wide (essentially, this means Gloucestershire) basis, at least as regards housing contributions, to address some of the Cotswold-specific issues and make it more sustainable?
- 3) How are conflicts with the Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan going to be overcome?
- 4) How does CDC intend to obtain/provide sufficient certainty regarding the ability of Thames Water to provide the necessary water supply capacity within the timescale of producing the plan?
- 5) Ditto for the sewage treatment capacity – Also, where will the additional sewage treatment capacity be located?
- 6) What other studies on infrastructure, services etc. is CDC going to carry out to address the in-combination impacts and needs to support the proposals?
- 7) Where do they think the 64 assumed 'windfalls' in Fairford are going to come from, in addition to the 265 homes from 'non-strategic' allocations?
- 8) Where are the jobs that are going to pay the mortgages for all these new homes?
- 9) How many will be genuinely 'affordable' for people with local connections?
- 10) How is CDC (or the anticipated new Unitary authority) going to ensure that there are adequate public transport services to access employment etc elsewhere on a practical basis?
- 11) How is CDC going to ensure that there is an adequate local retail/service and employment provision in the town to support the proposed greatly increased population? Will they incorporate this as an element of mixed development in the proposed 'strategic extension', and how will they ensure that this complements and doesn't damage the vitality/viability of the existing centre?

CDC suggest in the consultation document that they will filter out or ignore comments that do not relate to 'material planning considerations' (something which the guidance on the link indicates is relevant to planning decisions and appeals). Although this is potentially quite broad (depending on how it is interpreted), we don't believe it is legally consistent with the wording of the actual Regulation 18, which requires the local planning authority to invite representations "about what a local plan with that subject ought to contain" and also states "(3) In preparing the local plan, the local planning authority must take into account any representation made to them in response to invitations under paragraph (1)".

So don't be put off from saying anything you think is reasonable and relevant.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON FAIRFORD'S FUTURE

Cotswold District Council is updating its Local Plan and wants your views on where new homes could go. Come along to the exhibition in Fairford Community Centre (Farmor Room) on Thursday 11th December, 2–7pm.

You'll be able to speak directly with the planning team, ask questions, and view maps on the preferred housing options.



COTSWOLD
District Council

FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

Fairford Town Council Office will be closed from Monday 22nd December and will reopen on Monday 5th January. Emails will be monitored throughout this period.

COMMUNITY CAPITAL PROJECT GRANT FUND IS OPEN

Who is eligible to apply?

- The group must be either a registered charity, volunteer-led community group or sports club.
- The group should be based in Fairford or primarily benefit Fairford residents.

What will grants be awarded for?

- Equipment
- Capital projects

What is the maximum that can be applied for?

- The maximum awarded to any one group, in any one year, will be up to £5000.

How to apply?

- Applications will only be accepted using the application form and should be emailed to clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk or delivered to the Council Offices.

For more information and an application form please go to the website:
www.fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk/town-council/policies/

The deadline for applications is 31st December 2025



A WASH AND BRUSH UP FOR MAURICE THE HARE

The colourful icon that usually stands at the top of the High Street between the two metal benches has been missing for a few weeks. But now it is back!

Maurice the Hare was originally part of the Cotswold Hare Trail and was painted by Jake Sutton with livery to resemble that of Fairford's first Town Crier, Maurice Jones and sited in its prime position in December 2017.

Sadly, in May 2018, Maurice was wantonly destroyed and Fairford residents rallied round to raise money for a replacement. Local artist Freya Barlow designed and painted the new hare with the artwork based on the original popular Maurice Hare design but with a few changes. She added some wonderful little pictures on Maurice's legs, arms and red coat of beautiful Fairford landmarks including the Oxpens, Post Office, Church, Community Centre, Palmer Hall and the Mill, whilst being grounded by the River Coln flowing around his legs.

Recently, it was noticed that Maurice required a bit of renovation, as he was looking a bit weather-worn. Marilyn Stephenson, a member of Fairford Art Society for the past 35 years and resident of Meysey Hampton for over 40 years, volunteered to do the work.

Marilyn said: "Maurice needed a good scrub to get rid of the mould. I didn't think it was a good idea to paint on top of mould, so it took quite a while to get Maurice really clean. "There were spiders of all shapes and sizes in his ears and grubby bits in all his crevices!"

Maurice also needed quite a bit of sanding down and filling in places, especially around his left ankle, which Marilyn's husband, Gary filled with fibreglass. Marilyn explained that the most difficult part was fixing the cracks in his leg and reaching into his tummy and feet! The Cotswold Hare needed painting almost all over and his vibrant red coat needed two coats of paint. It took Marilyn around three weeks of hard work to get Maurice the Hare looking super smart.

"I've never done anything like this before, but would consider doing something like it again, if asked."

Marilyn's favourite art subjects are portraits using water-soluble pencils or graphite and landscapes in watercolour, acrylics or oils.

"Fairford Art Society is a very friendly group," said Marilyn. We help and encourage each other, and our members have various abilities. We would love to welcome some new members. If anyone is interested in coming along to see what we do, I am happy to chat to them." Contact Marilyn Stephenson on marilynstephenson1615@gmail.com.



FAIRFORD COMMUNITY VOICE

AQUATIC INSECTS ALONG THE FAIRFORD RIVER WALK

The local wildlife spotlight has generally been on the water voles, swans, egrets, kingfishers and otters; and rightly so, they are beautiful and fascinating to watch. However, along our river walk, there are many smaller creatures with intriguing lifecycles - beginning life as aquatic larvae before undergoing metamorphosis into flying insects.



Most of their lives - some as long as two years - are spent in the water before we see them as airborne beauties such as the Banded Demoiselle Damselfly (seen here with its prey). The lifestyles of these insects do vary but they all very much depend on a clean and healthy river which is able to support a variety of aquatic life as well as indigenous riverside vegetation. Most well-known of these insects are the colourful damselflies and dragonflies, but mayflies, alderflies and caddisflies are deserving of a mention too and are a very important food source for birds, fish, mammals and predatory insects alike.



The delicate looking **Mayflies** with their long slender abdomens, graceful translucent wings and pronged tails appear in early summer. They can miraculously reach maturity almost simultaneously hence why for two or three evenings in

succession swarms will suddenly appear. Their light airy dances over the water surface usually provide a feeding frenzy for fish. However their adult lives are very short - the majority perish a few hours after reaching maturity.

Alderflies are particularly unusual looking - with impressive antennae, long curved necks and 'tent' like shaped wings patterned by well defined veins. They are weak, clumsy flyers and have a tendency either to land on people wearing light colours or to fall into the water reducing their short adult lifespans considerably.



Caddisflies with their wings folded over their bodies in a roof like structure, are often mistaken for moths.



Several species have been spotted along the river walk, for example, the Silver Sedge Caddisfly (as shown). They generally have very long antennae and often can be seen around dusk. However, the aquatic larvae are more well known for their decorative, portable cases which they make from leaves, sand and plant material woven with often aesthetic results.

These insects all add to the diversity of wildlife we have in Fairford, and as they spend most of their lives as aquatic larvae it is crucial that the river and its riverbanks provide an unpolluted habitat in which they can thrive.

Photos: Sarah Lovatt





☀️ Hello from the W4W team! ☀️

We usually use our Newsletter to share what's coming up, but this month we wanted to pause and reflect on all the wonderful things that happened in October! Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special and busy month! We relaunched our Warm Welcome Room, and it's been successful with 18 people on opening day, 9 on the second day, 22 at our October pop-up of toasties and bingo session. Groups have also been using it after activities for a social coffee, we've welcomed Walkers Welcome, a diabetes support group and crafters. A huge thank you to our lovely volunteer Janet, who has been leading pop up craft sessions, which has also included Learn to Crochet attended by home-schooled children.

Did you know you can also book it as a Warm Working space? If you're looking for a break from working at home, it's a welcoming spot with free refreshments and internet.

🧘 Senior Yoga – Fully Booked! Our Senior Yoga sessions are currently FULL! We're hoping to add a second group in the new year – this depends on more people signing up. A special thank you to RURAL ELM for supporting W4W and helping us offer discounted, inclusive events for our community like the Senior Yoga and giving us the freedom to tackle issues of loneliness and isolation within our community.

💻 Digital Confidence & Community Support. Thank you to the DAISI Project, who delivered talks on scams and online safety at both Talking Cafés. They also fund our Tuesday Drop-In, which included a 4-week workshop and one-to-one digital support sessions. If you'd like help building your digital confidence, please get in touch or visit our drop-in sessions.

W4W is excited to announce we have opened ☕ Quiet Corner Café –Set in the Barker room, a calm alternative to our lively Talking Café hosted every Wednesday. (Shout out to Budgens for sponsoring our Teas and Biscuits.) It's a peaceful space for people to connect, chat, or simply enjoy being in a relaxed environment. A volunteer is always there to welcome you.

🧸 Family Hub Fun at Fairford Community Centre: join us every Wednesday 1030am-12pm but with extended hours for events. Located upstairs the Family Hub offers toys, free play, and free refreshments. In October, we hosted a Teddy Bear Picnic and Halloween Bag Painting with great uptake on both. This is in Partnership with Fairford Community Centre. Funding is due to end in the new year, so please support or it may be discontinued.

👶 First Steps Toddler Group: We celebrated the end of our Term in October with a Halloween party, featuring crafts and a disco, with 18 little ones joining in! Join us every Friday term time only: 📍 United Church, Milton Street 🕒 9:30–11:00am 📄 £1 per family (includes free play, crafts, snacks, and singing)

🌱 Community Garden – Officially Growing- Thanks to all the hard work by Fairford Town Council to transform the space! We're delighted to share that the community garden has officially begun, thanks to the amazing help of community volunteers and Quenington Bulldogs for sponsoring tools and PPE. Watch this space as it grows! If you want to join the team, please get in touch!



🚌 October brought a fantastic trip to Millets Farm, with a full bus. A big thank you to our amazing volunteer driver and to the Lechlade Lions for supporting us with transport. These outings are truly a lifeline—living in a rural area with limited public transport can make days out difficult, especially once you stop driving.

✂️ Craft & Chat – Now in Fairford and Lechlade! 📞 *Contact us for more information.*

🍲 Community Meals have returned! Thanks to generous support from the Cotswold Food Network, we've been able to bring a monthly meal back. We kicked things off at the end of October with 28 attendees sharing a hearty, home-cooked meal together. For many who live alone, having a warm meal in good company means a great deal.

💉 COVID Jab Drop-Ins – Our partnership with the NHS continues to grow as we host regular COVID vaccination drop-in sessions. We're proud to offer this vital service locally, helping people avoid the need to travel out of the area for their jabs.

📞 Here to Help – Signposting & Support! W4W has been busy offering support and signposting to those who may need it. If you're not sure where to turn or need a bit of guidance, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Thank you to The Mercers for all their support, which allows us to do the great work in the community.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, supported throughout October. We couldn't do it without you! If you want to attend an event, please contact W4W mayann.dibbs@w4w.uk or call 0755538138 for more information. Got some time—become a Volunteer and join the team!

🎄 December Events- All regular activities will be on. Warm Welcome Room Open Monday, Tuesday, with special pop ups on Fridays.

🕒 Wednesday 3rd – Christmas Breakfast (£5 donation) A joyful festive breakfast to start December right! A thank you to our Volunteers who are invited to sit back and enjoy as guests this time, with JPA Financial Planning popping in to be our guest Volunteers.

🎵 Wednesday 10th – Mind Song at the Café The wonderful Mind Song group will be joining us to sing and spread festive cheer.

🛒 Friday 12th – Shopping Trip (Orbital) Perfect for Christmas shopping.

🎁 Wednesday 17th – Secret Santa & Christmas Party (Talking Café) Games, festive treats and a little gift exchange! More details to follow soon.

🍲 Thursday 18th – Christmas Community Meal (Farmor's Room) 6.30pm Sit down for a very special Christmas dinner for around 40 people. £7.50 Two Course Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

Christmas Shutdown W4W will be closed from 24th December – 2nd January!





FESTIVE MARKET

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

FAIRFORD MARKET PLACE

4.30^{PM} - 8.30^{PM}

**COME ALONG AND SHOP FOR
CHRISTMAS!**

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

HOT FOOD

SWITCHING ON THE CHRISTMAS

TREE LIGHTS @ 6.30PM