

## FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

We are now two months into the new year, which promises to be every bit as challenging as the last, and I hope everybody benefited from a break over the holiday period. I extend the Council's thanks to all those who helped put up the lights and trees in the town centre to make it so beautiful – and indeed to take them down again. I'm glad that people came out to enjoy the Christmas Market and festivities despite the weather.

By the time you read this, we will be in the middle of a period of disruption due to the replacement of the gas mains in London Street and London Road. We would highlight that the businesses there remain open and accessible from one direction or the other (and on foot), so please continue to support them. However, we became aware at an early stage of problems with drivers speeding on the diversion route through the town centre ignoring the new 20 mph speed limit. We have been in communication with the highway authority and the Police about improved signage and enforcement because of the obvious safety issue. Please be patient and start your journey a little bit earlier if necessary, so we don't have any tragedies e.g. with children cycling to school on the same roads.

Following on from the last newsletter, we submitted the Council's response to the Local Plan Consultation before Christmas and published it on our website. We are now working with Cotswold District Council and other Parish/Town Councils both to challenge the Districts' housing requirement and to try and ensure that whatever new development is eventually proposed for Fairford is both properly master planned and makes appropriate contributions to new and/or improved infrastructure/facilities so that things are made better not worse for the future.

On a lighter note, over 1000 daffodil bulbs have been planted around the town (by the Council and volunteer groups) and these should be emerging to brighten up our verges etc. through the spring.

Finally, we note the sad passing of Liz Hope, former Town Councillor and leading member of the local community. She will be remembered well.

Best wishes  
Cllr Richard Harrison



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

## FEBRUARY 2026

### EVENTS FOR 2026

- **Fairford Festival**  
5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June
- **Royal International Air Tattoo**  
17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> July
- **Fairfest**  
7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> August
- **Fairford Steam Show**  
15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August



## WORKING 4 WELLBEING

W4W are thrilled to share that 2026 has started with incredible energy and community togetherness. Our recent events have been a huge success, and it's all thanks to YOU the community – our amazing volunteers, supporters, and local businesses.



- Rural Elm Bespoke Buildings – Your generosity and ongoing support throughout the year have been invaluable.
- JPA Financial – Thank you for hosting a special Christmas Talking Café, treating our regular volunteers to a well-deserved morning off.
- RIAT – Thanks to Matt and the team, W4W loved having you lend a hand at one of our Talking Cafés and at our Christmas meal on December 18th.
- Kitchen Club – A huge shout-out to Mel for catering our Christmas feast for 48 guests with all the trimmings. You always keep us well-fed and bring such positive vibes to our community meals!

### Weekly Highlights

- Talking Cafés: Wednesday, 10:30am – 12pm at Fairford Community Centre  
A friendly space to meet new or old friends. Prefer a quieter setting? We've got a quiet corner café in another room. W4W staff are on hand for signposting and support – whatever the issue.
- Family Play & Stay: Wednesdays, 10:30am – 12pm at Fairford Community Centre  
A FREE play and stay space with refreshments.
- Movement Class & Wellbeing Walkers: Join our free exercise sessions or take part in a refreshing walk. Get in touch to learn more!
- First Steps Toddler Space: Fridays during term time, 9:30am – 11am at United Church. January and February have been packed with fun themes like Peppa Pig, soft play, and Under the Sea. Come join the fun!
- Don't forget W4W offers digital support- pop into our drop ins Tuesday 10am-11am Fairford Community centre.

Contact Mary Ann  
07555738138  
Maryann.dibbs@w4w.uk

## 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](mailto:clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

Or visit our website:  
[fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk)

### NEXT MEETINGS

The next two Full Town Council Meetings will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm in Fairford Community Centre.



## FAIRFORD FIRECRACKERS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The National Federation of the Women's Institute 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 and interesting speakers covering a wealth of subjects such as midwifery, health and wellbeing, cookery, nature, town criers and history to name but a few we have to look forward to this coming year. There is also 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 during the warmer months and lovely lunches for ladies who like to lunch.

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.



**THE JAZZ CLUB**

# Jazz at FAIRFORD

Saturday 14th February 7:30pm

## AMP Trio + Ben Holder

*Coming February!*

**Marco Marconi - piano**  
**Paul Jefferies - bass**  
**Alex Goodyear - drums**  
**BEN HOLDER (Jazz Violinist)**

AMP trio = three virtuoso musicians  
PLUS the extraordinary jazz violinist & singer Ben Holder create their 'antidote' to Valentine's day!  
Entertainment guaranteed.....

Tickets £22.00 from website / QR Code / call 07704 297119  
The Palmer Hall, London Rd, Fairford GL7 4AQ  
**www.thejazzclub.uk**

World Class Jazz Violinist Ben Holder will be performing with an all-star jazz trio led by the exciting Italian classical / jazz pianist Marco Marconi.

They'll be presenting a 'smorgasbord' of music from the likes of George Gershwin, Billy Joel, Antonio Carlo Jobim Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington and more!

The music will be top notch and all presented with bags of humour and style.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm



## FAIRFORD TOWN NEEDS YOU!!

We're looking for mascots for our home games in March/April on the following dates:

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March v Cinderford (7.45pm kick off)

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March v Cirencester Town

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March v Longlevens (7.45pm)

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March v Pershore

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April v Thornbury

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April v Royal Wootton Bassett

(Kick offs are 3.00pm unless otherwise stated)

The matchday mascot experience would include

- A kick about on the pitch before the game
- Walking out with a Fairford Player before the game
- A picture with the captains and officials before kick off
- Half time crossbar challenge with prizes to be won
- Half price entry for one paying adult for the game (plus free entry for all children!)
- A chance to meet the team and management after the game in Spikes Diner.

If this is something that your child would be interested in, then please contact Chris or email us on [chrishughes0910@gmail.com](mailto:chrishughes0910@gmail.com) to guarantee a spot for their child.



## NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

What a wonderful Christmas and New Year we have had! It was lovely to see so many new and returning faces at St Mary's for the festive season, and as always our special services were a joy to offer and share in. A big shout out to the many actors and helpers for our two Crib Services on Christmas Eve who made those celebrations so special and memorable!

The most important message of Christmas continues into the cold of January and beyond – that even in the darkness, there is a light to warm and encourage us, and, Christians believe, the presence of God himself with us. The world does seem incredibly dark at the moment, with shocking and troubling news of violence, war and upheaval across the nations, whether that be in Ukraine, Iran, or the USA. That there may be peace is the prayer of all of us at St Mary's – an end to war, and the building of peace and community at home here in Fairford and to the furthest ends of the Earth. We would love for you to join us in that prayer – our Community Prayers at 5pm on a Monday, led by Rev'd Canon Denise Hyde, is always open to people wanting to take time to pray. Just pop along – no advice notification needed.

As we head into brand new year, we're looking ahead to some exciting events at the church, most especially our line-up for 2026's Music at St Mary's programme. We already have three concerts booked, so watch this space for final dates and details on how to secure your place.

We have also been working hard on our website. Come and visit us online for details on everything that's happening at St Mary's, including audio recordings of our Sunday sermons, and our newsletter, updated every week! [www.stmaryschurchfairford.org](http://www.stmaryschurchfairford.org)

### CONTACT

Vicar

Rev'd Caroline Symcox - 712467, [carolinesymcox@googlemail.com](mailto:carolinesymcox@googlemail.com)

Curate

Rev'd Vicky Falvey - 07356 234248, [revvickyfalvey@gmail.com](mailto:revvickyfalvey@gmail.com)

Parish Office

Heather Gorton - 712428, [fairfordpcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordpcc@gmail.com)

## **FAIRFORD TENNIS CLUB** Game. Set. Breathe. By Sarah

There are some mornings when the alarm goes off, the children are already awake, and the day begins at full speed before I've even managed breakfast. As a full-time working mum of two, life can feel like an endless relay; juggling work calls, school runs, and the constant background hum of responsibility. Rewarding? Mostly. But restful? Not often.

And that's exactly why Fairford Tennis Club has become my escape.

Throughout the year, as the sun drops behind the trees and laughter drifts across the courts, I'm reminded how important it is to carve out time that's just for me — not as "Mum," or "Manager," but as a person.

Life doesn't slow down for working parents. But stepping on the court gives me space to breathe, to laugh, to move, and to reconnect.

Tennis has a way of forcing you into the moment. You can't dwell on work stress while chasing a lob across court or line up the perfect backhand if your mind's still spinning from the school run.

Whether you're a total beginner, a parent carving out a rare slice of "me time," or a lifelong player with enviable consistency and grace, you'll find your place here.

Of course, the match doesn't always end at match point. More often than not, you'll find a few of us heading to the local pub after evening play — still in our trainers, still chatting about that impossible volley or debating whether that last ball was really in. It's not about post-match performance reviews — it's about connection, camaraderie, and maybe a well-deserved pint.

Fairford Tennis Club isn't just a place to play sport. It's a reminder that amidst the chaos of working parenthood, we all need space to breathe. It's where I find my balance, my energy, and, sometimes, even a little perspective.

So if you ever find yourself racing from one responsibility to the next, consider picking up a racket and joining us. You might find, as I did, that sometimes the best way to restore calm isn't by stopping altogether... it's by finding your rhythm again, one rally (and maybe one pint) at a time.

*Join Fairford Tennis Club via the link below. The new membership year begins on 1 April 2026:*

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/fairfordtennisclub/Membership/Join>



## FAIRFORD TENNIS CLUB

### Fairford Tennis Club Celebrates a Standout Year — and Prepares for a New Clubhouse in 2026

Fairford Tennis Club has enjoyed one of its strongest years yet, with membership rising sharply, especially amongst young people, families, and newcomers to Fairford. Youth coaching has grown substantially, we entered **two Winter League teams** for the first time in many years, and our **summer tournament drew its biggest turnout ever**, with many new members lifting trophies.

Alongside this success, the **new clubhouse project** is making excellent progress. Plans have been submitted to Cotswold District Council, and we expect a decision by the end of January. The Ernest Cook Trust is supporting us and the clubhouse is on track for completion next year. Additionally, we have applied to Fairford Town Council under the Community Capital Project scheme for funding.

Local support remains important, and we are currently seeking **sponsors and donors** who would like to be involved in this exciting development and gain visibility within the Fairford community.

The new clubhouse will provide modern, practical facilities for members, including an integrated toilet, kitchen, indoor seating area, and a community space for coaching sessions, match-days and club events. It will give the Club a much needed base that supports year-round activity and enhances the experience for players of all ages and abilities.

Anyone wishing to learn more, offer practical help, or discuss sponsorship or donor opportunities can contact Richard Jeffreys at [richard.jeffreys@me.com](mailto:richard.jeffreys@me.com)

Together, we're building a clubhouse — indeed, a complete club — that Fairford can be proud of.

## THE FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

**Spring Concert: MOZART REQUIEM**

**Conductor:** Nia Llewelyn-Jones with professional Soloists and Organist

**Date:** Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm

**Venue:** St Mary's Church Fairford.

**Tickets:** £15 ( U18: £5) on the door or at Fairford Opticians.

## FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February  
2026 at 2.30 pm  
(an afternoon meeting)**

Fairford in Close-up by  
Edwin Cuss  
Refreshments will be served  
from 2pm and after the  
meeting.

**There will also be a used  
book sale, proceeds of  
which will go towards  
the purchase of new FHS  
display boards.**

and

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March  
2026 at 7.30pm  
at Fairford Community  
Centre**

'On two wheels – the  
fascinating story of the  
bicycle'  
by Bill King

Visitors are welcome to  
attend meetings at £3  
per session

For further information  
contact Alison on  
01285 711768  
or email:  
[enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk)  
or visit  
[www.fairfordhistory.org.uk](http://www.fairfordhistory.org.uk)



## **PALMER HALL CINEMA**

The dates for the Palmer Hall film showings will be:  
Wednesday 11th February and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March.  
Usual start times, 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Titles to be announced – keep an eye on Facebook for further updates.

## **FAIRFORD FESTIVE LUNCH WAS A GREAT SUCCESS**

Fifty-two individuals and couples sat down for the annual Christmas Day Lunch in Fairford Community Centre and voted it a great success.

Many guests arrived early so as not to miss the first glass of bubbly but, fortunately, the invaluable team of volunteers were all there ready and waiting too.

After the festive lunch of turkey with all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding and custard or fruit salad and cream, guests took part in a quiz over coffee and then watched the King's speech at 3pm. Later everyone enjoyed a game of pass-the-parcel before departing with a goody bag to take home and enjoy in the evening.

This vital community lunch would not be possible without the support of a dedicated team of volunteers who are responsible for every aspect of the event: from a 'meet and greet' role to cooking the food, serving it, clearing up, acting as car drivers (for guests who do not drive or are disabled) and organising the entertainment.

Sincere thanks are also due to outside local support, particularly the Lechlade & District Lions Club, Andrew Butler Butchers and the Church Lands Trust, as well as very generous financial contributions from many local individuals and other supporters who were prepared to display posters.

The Fairford Christmas Lunch has been a regular annual event since it was started in 2013 and is offered to individuals and couples who are residents of Fairford, the surrounding villages and Lechlade who would otherwise be on their own at Christmas and would like to spend some of the time in company).



## BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN – SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Following concerns from residents about children cycling without lights during darker hours, Fairford Town Council has been working to promote the Safety in Darkness Campaign, aimed at improving road safety.

Launched during National Road Safety Week, the campaign focused on the simple but vital message: ‘Be bright, be seen’.

The campaign was delivered through a strong partnership between Fairford Town Council, Fairford Primary School, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Gloucestershire Neighbourhood Policing Team, and Cotswold District Council.

Throughout National Road Safety Week, the Neighbourhood Police engaged directly with children and families, spoke to young cyclists about the importance of lights and reflective equipment, and explained that riding without lights after dark is not only dangerous but also an offence. These friendly interactions helped raise awareness.

At Fairford Primary School, the campaign was promoted with the support of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, and pupils learned how to stay safe in the dark and why visibility matters. All Key Stage 2 pupils were gifted bike wheel lights, helping children be more visible.

By raising awareness, providing safety equipment, and engaging with the community, Fairford has taken another positive step towards making the town safer for all.

### Upcoming Events

- Next Community Meal Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>  
March 12pm Sunday Roast at  
Lechlade memorial Hall.  
Two course meal £7.50
- Coming in March / April – Cooking for No Wastage.  
Join our friendly cooking classes and learn how to  
reduce food waste while cooking in an  
environmentally friendly way.



### 24HR ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATOR

#### LOCATIONS:

There are 9 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
- Fairford Gate North (on Jacob's Piece)
- Fairford Gate South (on Honeybone Close)

Other defibrillators are available during operating hours at:

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

