

FAIRFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

As we emerge from another wet winter, potholes have featured prominently in the news and social media – The weather and the increasing number of heavier cars on our roads have undoubtedly made things worse, but the slow response of the GCC Highways in responding to reported large and growing potholes which are creating highly dangerous situations, particularly on the diversion route of the A417 through our town centre, is really inexcusable. I have personally raised this issue with the Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, querying the efficiency of the current process for 'outlying' parts of the County such as ours, and am expecting a positive response in terms of action (I hope!).

The Annual Meeting of the Town will take place on **Saturday 16th May at 11.30am – 1.30pm** at The Palmer Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along. Many of our local clubs, organisations and Council representatives will be there showcasing what they have to offer.

Fairford Council is inviting nominations for the Annual Citizen Awards: **Citizen of the Year**; and **The Albert Alder Award**. The Citizen of the Year award is to recognise an outstanding contribution to Fairford by an individual of any age, but they should live in Fairford and their contribution to the community should be voluntary and not paid. The Award will be £200.

The Albert Alder Award is to recognise an outstanding contribution to the environment in Fairford, by an individual of any age, they must be resident in Fairford and their contribution must be voluntary and not paid. The Award will be £100. To nominate anyone for any of these Awards, please write to the Town Clerk on clerks@fairfordtowncouncil.gov.uk by **Sunday 12th April**. The winners will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting in May. Coffee & Cake will be served!



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

APRIL - MAY 2026

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN

**Saturday 16th May
11.30am – 1.30pm
Palmer Hall**
Refreshments will be available.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Best wishes
Cllr Richard Harrison



WORKING 4 WELLBEING

Before W4W shares what we've been up to, I'd like to recognise the people who make it all possible. We are incredibly fortunate to have a fantastic team of volunteers who bring our events to life, a dedicated group of trustees who generously give their time to steer W4W, and the organisations and individuals who support us financially through grants and donations. Thank you, we truly couldn't do this without you. If you would like to know more about W4W and how you could become part of the team, please contact maryann.dibbs@w4w.uk

We began February with a wonderful community meal in partnership with Cotswold Food Network. Thirty-three people came together to enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by our Kitchen Club. One comment from the evening summed up exactly why these events matter. When someone said they felt "guilty taking a place at a fully booked event," a friend replied, "If you weren't here, you'd be sat at home on your own and look what a lovely evening we've had: good food and fantastic company." Creating spaces for connection remains at the heart of what we do.

Throughout the month, we welcomed guest visitors to our cafés, including NHS Outreach, a local PCSO, Walking Cricket, People for You, the DAISI Project, who provided support with the NHS App and repeat prescriptions, and Cotswold Listener.

Thanks to funding from Foresters Financial UK, we supported Kempford Community Café and Kempford Youth Club with popular slime-making sessions, as well as hosting our best-attended Family Hub to date, where siblings of the toddlers could join in with messy slime play. The Warm Welcome Room has also been well used, with crafts, quizzes, toasties, a Pancake Day celebration, and a fascinating Antarctica talk — complete with tea and crumpets.

We ended the month with Craft & Chat and a trip to Witney, made possible thanks to the local Lions minibus. Families and individuals have also been enjoying free passes to Westonbirt, helping people access and enjoy green space. As we move into April, we'll be launching Cooking for No Wastage, a free four-week cooking course designed to help people make the most of ingredients, reduce waste, and build confidence in the kitchen.

On 9th April, we're hosting a family event where groups of friends can enjoy an hour of bouncy castle fun for just a £2

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

The next two Full Town Council Meetings will be on Tuesday 14th April and Tuesday 12th May at 7.00pm in Fairford Community Centre.



donation per family, a great way to connect over the Easter break.

We are also delighted to continue our partnership with The Barn Theatre and their Bus to Barn project. If you enjoy the theatre but struggle with transport, please get in touch, we'd love to help you access future performances.

Finally, if you are a local business and would like to support W4W, either through volunteering manpower or financial support, we would love to speak with you. We are visiting businesses to share the impact this small charity is making in our community. Please contact us to arrange a meeting.

Contact Mary Ann

07555738138

Maryann.dibbs@w4w.uk

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 and our meetings very often include a speaker. In April "The Tales of a Midwife" will be delivered, in May we have "The Miracle of Bletchley Park" to amaze us and in June we will be "Spicing it Up!" with a masterclass on how to use spices. Then in August you can expect the volume to go up a notch when we will be joined by a Town Crier for the evening - OH YAY!



If you are tempted by any of the above please do give us a call on 07866 518830 to find out more.

FAIRFORD TREE WARDENS NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteer tree wardens to help us respond to tree applications. If you are interested in trees and would like to know more, please contact

TreeWardenScheme@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Or call the Town Council office on 01285 712344



RAF FAIRFORD - COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISOR

INTRODUCTION

I wanted to take the opportunity to re-introduce myself as the Community Relations Advisor to the local community for RAF Fairford.

My name is Zoey Peace, I am a civilian employed by the MOD to support the US Airforce, specifically the 501st Combat Support Wing to maximize the mutual understanding between United States Visiting Forces (USVF) and the British communities in which they live and work.

Should you have any queries or feedback from a local perspective please do get in touch on the contact details below.

Email: 501CSW.CRA.RAFFW@us.af.mil

Civ: 01285 714965 / Mobile: 07764 166079

FAIRFORD STEAM SHOW

The trade and craft sections of Fairford Steam Show are now open to book!! Places get booked up quickly, so book early to avoid disappointment.

At Fairford Steam Show 2026 taking place on Saturday and Sunday 15th and 16th August, Fairford Cricket Club will once again be running their fantastic bar thanks to Kevin Smart and his team!!

The Show organisers will be providing a hop-on-hop-off bus to and from Fairford again – huge thanks to Ellisons Coaches.

Unfortunately, only Exhibitor camping is allowed on the main site, but public camping will be available at Fairford Football Club/Spikes Diner, and the Steam Show bus will run to and from here and the showground. The public camping at Fairford Football Club is supported by the Rally but is an independent entity.

Follow the link to the Steam Show's fantastic website provided by Emma @BulldogWebsites: www.fairfordsteamshow.co.uk



FAIRFORD TENNIS CLUB

Ace Your Fitness and Social Life: Why 2026 is the Year to Join Fairford Tennis Club

Are you looking for a way to boost your health, meet new people, and enjoy the outdoors? Whether you are a seasoned pro or have never picked up a racket, **Fairford Tennis Club** offers the perfect environment to get active and have fun.

The Dawn of a New Era: Our New Clubhouse

2026 is set to be the most significant year in our club's history. We are thrilled to announce that **construction of our brand-new clubhouse is soon to be started!** This project marks a major upgrade from our current setup, providing a modern, high-quality space for members to socialise, change, and relax. It is a huge leap forward for the club, and a sign of our commitment to providing the best possible experience for the Fairford community.

Why Choose Fairford Tennis Club?

Nestled in the beautiful Walnut Tree Field, our club prides itself on being inclusive and welcoming. Here is what members can look forward to this season:

- **Year-Round Play:** Two floodlit asphalt courts mean the game doesn't have to stop when the sun goes down.
- **Social & Competitive Play:** From our popular Wednesday "Club Nights" to matches in the Swindon and District Tennis League, there is a level for everyone.
- **Expert Coaching:** In partnership with Griffin Tennis, we offer comprehensive programmes for both juniors and adults.

Unbeatable Value: 2026-2027 Membership

We believe tennis should be accessible to everyone, which is why we have kept our membership prices **highly competitive**. When compared to gym memberships or other private clubs, Fairford offers incredible value for a full year of sport and social activity.

Membership	2026/27 Price
Single	£105
Double	£185
Family	£205
Student (U25)	£40
Juniors	£23
Parent of Junior	£23

Get Involved

With the new clubhouse on the horizon, there has never been a more exciting time to pick up a racket. We welcome prospective members to come along and try out a session before committing.

For more information on coaching, court booking, and how to join, visit our website at clubspark.lta.org.uk/fairfordtennisclub or follow our Facebook page for the latest updates on the clubhouse build.

We look forward to seeing you on the court (and soon, in our new home)!

Harry Mallalieu, Fairford Tennis Club Membership Secretary

FAIRFORD COMMUNITY VOICE

Fairford Community Voice (FCV) needs your help. We have been looking back over 60 years of activity to consider all that we, and those who came before us, have achieved. Sadly, the current FCV committee has come to the decision that due to age and other community commitments we can no longer continue to run FCV. Therefore, if the work of FCV is to carry on, we need others in the community to come forward and continue the work we have been undertaking, either as a single group or a range of groups focusing on specific areas. All three groups which joined forces to become FCV, came into being in response to a particular planning event or proposal and the first of these was the threat of demolition.

In the 1960s East End's Cable Cottages were dilapidated and in such a poor state of repair that they were likely to be demolished. Fairford Preservation Trust (FPT) was formed and the cottages, now much loved, were saved. Over the next 60 years the FPT continued to help protect Fairford's architecture and heritage.

In the 1990s Fairford Environmental Society (FES) was formed to protect Fairford's green environment and successfully opposed the first planning application for development on Lake 104, which at that time was a beautiful unspoilt rural lake with a lovely walk around the perimeter. In 2014 Fairford Planning Watch (FPW) presented evidence at the appeal by Gladman against the refusal of planning consent for a development along the Cirencester Road.

In the years since there have been many changes to the town and pressure from these groups has helped to make those changes as positive as possible. We have spent many happy evenings discussing issues important to the town over a glass or two of wine.

FCV is presently involved in:

Planning - monitoring planning applications for Fairford as they come in and responding where necessary (positive and negative) and in discussion with Fairford Town Council

FAIRFORD HISTORY SOCIETY

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

**A Brief History of
Tetbury' by Jane Haines**

and

**Thursday May 21st at
7.30pm**
at Fairford Community
Centre

**Misericords by Miles
Dodd**

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



FCV cont'd

Walkers are Welcome - organising routes, monitoring Public Rights Of Way (PROWs) to ensure that way signs are maintained and the paths kept clear (including keeping an eye on legal path closures to ensure that they are closed for the minimum amount of time)

River watch - regularly testing the quality of water in the river to monitor for pollution, seeking possible opportunities to work with local charitable trusts to improve river habitats.

Environment - supporting local wildlife where possible, largely through articles in the FTC newsletter but also through activities such as tree planting.

Now it is time to pass on what has been a most fulfilling role for all of us down the years. Over the next 6 months we encourage anyone who is interested in continuing this work, or specific aspects of this work, to let us know.

We can help put individuals with common interests in touch with one another; our website is www.fairfordcv.org.uk where more information about FCV can be found.

If you feel you can help with any of these, please contact info@fairfordcv.org.uk

ST MARY'S ECO CHURCH

St Mary's Eco Church Group has been going since 2022, started by an enthusiastic group of church members but now extended to a wider local group of churchgoers and non-churchgoers all committed to addressing climate change and biodiversity in our churchyard and more widely in Fairford.

Activities last year included plant sales, a Fairtrade Coffee morning, managing a wildlife friendly churchyard maintenance programme, bulb planting, a children's Bug Hunt during the summer holidays, a demonstration on the subject of sustainable church flowers, and most recently the series of four 'Jane Kidd Eco Talks' - winter talks in the community centre on a range of environmental issues.

Our summer activities this year will include volunteering/events on maintaining the churchyard on ecological lines, a family event on the Saturday 6th June for the Fairford Festival, and we hope another family event during the summer holidays. We also have plans to put a Bug Church in the churchyard! Watch out for posters and for posts on Facebook Fairford GL7 page.

If you would like to get involved, or find out more about our activities, please contact The Parish Office **Phone Number:** 01285 712611 fairfordpcc@gmail.com



FAIRFORD CRICKET CLUB

Fairford Cricket Club is **recruiting new players for the 2026 season.**

We are strengthening our squad and welcome experienced cricketers who want to play **competitive Saturday league cricket in one of the most picturesque grounds in Gloucestershire.**



Fairford Cricket Club fields **two Saturday league teams**, both playing regular league cricket throughout the season. If you are an experienced player looking for a new challenge, or someone returning to the game after time away, you will find a place in our squad.

Our club is **friendly, supportive, and sociable.** New players quickly become part of the team both on and off the field. We run regular social events for players and supporters, and our clubhouse is the perfect place to relax after a match. We also run a **thriving junior program**, with coaching starting 17 April.

Training

Winter nets run **every Tuesday from 8pm to 9pm starting 10 March at Farmor's Sports Centre in Fairford.**

Outdoor training begins at **Fairford Cricket Club from mid-April**, depending on ground conditions.

New players are very welcome at nets, just turn up and introduce yourself.

The future of the club

It is an exciting time for Fairford Cricket Club.



This season marks the start of a **major refurbishment of our clubhouse**, including:

- Modern changing facilities
- A new decking area overlooking the ground
- An improved bar and social space for members and visitors

CGI of proposed new clubhouse at Fairford Cricket Club

We are proud of our club and **look forward to welcoming new players as we begin this next chapter.**

Get in touch Follow Fairford Cricket Club on **Facebook or Instagram** for updates.

You can also contact our captains directly:

1st XI Captain
2nd XI Captain

Charlie Bailey
Tom Sealey

charliechazbailey98@gmail.com
tomsealey1994@outlook.com

We look forward to **seeing you at winter nets or around the ground this season.**

PALMER HALL CINEMA

April's film will be *The Choral*:

As World War I rages on, Dr. Henry Guthrie takes over a British choral society that's lost most of its men to the army. The community soon discovers that the best response to the chaos of war is to make beautiful music together.

Date: Wednesday 8th April

May's film will be *Song Sung Blue*:

A musical drama based on a true story about Mike and Claire Sardina, two down-on-their-luck musicians in Milwaukee who find love and success by forming a Neil Diamond tribute band, "Lightning & Thunder".

Date: Wednesday 13 May

Doors open at 7.00 for 7.30 start. Admission £4 to include tea and biscuits. Glass of wine £3.50

FAIRFORD LADIES HELPING CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

We're four ladies from St Mary's Church in Fairford who have embarked on the "High Five Project" for 2026, arranging a programme of community events throughout the year to raise a minimum of £500 for each of five children's charities. The chosen charities cover different needs (physical, mental, social, etc.), and geographic regions (Local – Home Start Cotswolds; Gloucestershire Young Carers; National - The Magic Breakfast; The Rainbow Trust; and International – Smile Train). Some events are hosted at home by our generous parishioners, some are held in the church, and others in the Community Centre.

The events will include an "Olde English Garden Party", a "Strawberries with Scones and Prosecco Afternoon", a summer concert and an autumn concert, a "Soup and Savouries Light Lunch", "Songs of Praise in Fairford" at the church, a "Sunday Roast Lunch Event", a "Summer Barbecue Day", a "Songs of the Season" Christmas concert, and the "High Five Star Talks", amongst others. Look out for posters on the High Street Notice Boards and in the church entrance.

In April, everyone is welcome to the first of our High Five Star Talks, "What a Difference A DNA Makes". This is a true story about upbringing without parents in the nineteen forties and fifties, and the later ancestry search for unknown and lost relatives. The results give a fascinating, emotional story, touching the hearts of everyone. We also have our "Songs of Praise" Event at St Mary's – a chance to sing those favourite hymns of yesteryear school assemblies, chosen by vote from our congregation, with special guests, and performances from the church choir. Come along and join us!

High Five Star Talk: "What A Difference A DNA Makes" (followed by light refreshments) – 7.15pm Friday 10th April in the Community Centre.

Songs of Praise Event: 6.00pm Saturday 18th April in the church (includes light refreshments).

Retiring donations for both events to the High Five Children's Charity and St Mary's Church. We hope to see you there!

Jos, Hope, Meg, and Linda from St Mary's Church.

RESTORATION OF ST MARY'S CHURCH WORLD-FAMOUS STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Keith Barley, restorer of St Mary's Church windows completed in 2010, recently attended Geoff Hawkes Memorial Service and brought with him his latest book on illuminating stained glass with the sub-titled 'creativity, conservation and craft at Barley Studio'.

The first section entitled 'Conservation and Craft' describes work completed at various churches and cathedrals across the country and includes St Mary's, Fairford explaining Keith's 20-year project.

The book is illustrated with the before and after restoration in the East window, specifically the crucifixion of Christ and the two sinners where their faces have been sympathetically restored.

There follows a section about Helen Whittaker MBE, the Creative Director at Barley Studio.

It describes her concepts and creative approach, and the variety of techniques used in creating stained glass and how they conceive projects for new buildings which blend the traditional and contemporary design.

The book is beautifully illustrated with examples of their old and new designs. It shows how stained glass can play a significant role in our visual culture and heritage.

The book is at the Steward's point in the Church for anyone who would like to look at it.



Church window before



Church window after

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

It finally feels like Spring has sprung here in Fairford! The lightness of heart that comes with the sunshine, the blossom on the trees, buds bursting in leaf, and birds nesting in every hedgerow is just wonderful. The winter has been long and wet, but now Easter is just around the corner, and the countryside is springing back into life.

There is a lot happening at St Mary's as we head into the fullness of Spring – Easter on the 5th April is the glorious high point of our Christian year, following a packed Holy Week, and we would love to celebrate with you and your families! Do keep an eye on our website or St Mary's on the fabulous 'A Church Near You' to get more information and all the dates for your diary.

Music will also be springing out in the church as we get started on the year's concert schedule, with the early high point being the King's Men joining us on the 25th April, but with much more besides!

The improved weather also means it's now time to get to work on repairing and maintaining the church. The roof is a huge ongoing project, but our eyes are turning first to our lovely clock, and the bells that ring out the hours and quarters to the whole town of Fairford. Sadly, the clock has seen better days, and needs a complete overhaul, both aesthetically, with its face needing some restoration work, but more critically in its internal structures, with all the wiring and connections that link it to the bells. We'll be looking to do some targeted fundraising and crowdfunding for this project, so do keep an eye out for more information on how you can support this project. We hope to keep Fairford on time for many years into the future!

Rev'd Caroline

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

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.





FAIRFORD TOWN FC
— Cinder Lane —



CAR BOOT SALE



Every First Sunday of the Month



ENTRY 50p



CARS £5



VANS £5



VANS £8

— **SET UP: 8:00am** —
SELL FROM: 9:00am – 12:00pm

----- **IN AID OF** -----



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