

Farndon Parish Council Newsletter – Issue 21

Contact details for Parish Council clerk – clerk@farndonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

Christmas in Farndon

4th-6th December

Friday 4th

It all begins with the school fair at the memorial hall 4th Dec 4PM, including craft stalls the school choir, and Santa's grotto. The village tree light switch on will be at 6.15 with carols accompanied by the brass band. Mulled wine optional. St Chads tree festival will round the day off starting at 7PM in the Church.

Saturday 5th December

Top Farm Artisan Market in Top Farm Courtyard will run 2-4PM. We have been reliably informed Santa will be passing around 5PM.

Sunday 6th December

A Christmas feast in the marquee behind 209. Tickets £55 each in aid of Soul Kitchen Chester, limited numbers so don't delay.

It Doesn't stop there!!

Wednesday 9th December

The Hare annual Christmas Quiz starting 8.30PM

Saturday 12th December

St Chads Christmas Fair in the church 2-4PM

Tuesday 15th December

The Hare Christmas Fair starting 5.30PM in the pub carpark

Friday 15th January

Memorial Hall Quiz 6.30 for 7PM start



Farndon and Holt Men in Sheds

A big thank you to Farndon resident Tim Kenney (the driving force behind the popular and successful Farndon Soapbox Derby).

Tim has initiated a project to establish a Men's Sheds operation in or near Farndon.

Men's Sheds are set up to provide a meeting place - with some practical activities such as wood or metal-working - for people otherwise at risk of loneliness.

Projects have worked really well elsewhere - including in the Chester area - and we're sure that it would be valuable here as well.

Initial thoughts are to pair with the Scouts on the site at the top of the Farndon Recreation Ground - probably installing a new Men's Shed, with a new Scout hut alongside it.

(The land is leased by the Barnston Estate to Farndon Parish Council, and both bodies are fully involved in the project).

Whilst the proposed site is in Farndon, people from neighbouring villages will be most welcome - whether as participants when the operation is up-and-running, or to get involved in the work of setting it up. (Please note that it's most unlikely that the project will be operational before summer 2027, and even that depends on many factors, particularly raising the substantial necessary finance)

For more information, please contact Tim Kenney on fandhmensshed@outlook.com

Farndon Community Centre

Thanks to the fantastic support of our community, we have recently been able to resurface a significant section of the Community Centre car park. Funding generated through our car boot sales, together with support from Farndon Rocks and our Community Bonfire events, has enabled us to invest back into the Centre and continue improving our facilities for all users.

Our next event is a Burns Night Ceilidh on 23rd January and tickets are available now for this very popular evening. We look forward to welcoming you to this and all future events. Don't forget our regular classes including Pilates, Tai Chi, Art Classes, Children's Dance and Gymnastics and Dodge Ball. Details can be found on our website, www.farndoncommunityclub.com.

We welcome enquiries regarding hall hire and look forward to welcoming you soon and thank you to everyone who continues to support the Community Centre and all it offers the village.

Farndon Primary School



Make a Difference. Share Your Expertise. Support the Next Generation. Could you help shape the future of local children? Farndon Primary School is looking to appoint a Co-opted Governor to join our committed Governing Body. This voluntary role offers a fantastic opportunity to make a real difference in your local community while developing your own leadership and strategic skills. We are particularly keen to hear from people with experience in finance, accounting, business, or commercial leadership, whose expertise can help support the school's continued success. No previous governing experience is required — full training and support will be provided. If you are passionate about education, enjoy working collaboratively, and want to use your skills to benefit local children, we would love to hear from you.

Help us make a difference. Become a Governor at Farndon Primary School today. For more information, please contact either the Headteacher, Mr A Walker: head@farndon.cheshire.sch.uk

Or the Chair of Governors, Mr M Rudd: mrudd@farndon.cheshire.sch.uk

Farndon Neighbourhood Plan what does it do?

Many of you will remember going through this process in 2010, when we drew up our current neighbourhood plan to run from 2010-2030. A change in government policy means it is in the interest of the village to review/renew the plan. A Neighbourhood Plan gives local people a say in how Farndon develops and grows in the future. It is a community led plan that sets out how Farndon should grow and change over time. It forms part of the local planning framework and helps guide decisions on the building on new homes, infrastructure and places that matter to local people.

As part of this process, we have been advised that Farndon should expect to be allocated circa 400 new homes to be built over a 20 year period. We have also been advised that as part of the plan it is advisable for the village to get involved in site allocation ie. Where should these houses be built.

To that end we are arranging drop-in sessions so you can come along and have your say.

Monday 7th December from 2-4pm at Farndon Memorial Hall

Saturday 9th January from 10-12 at Rock Chapel

Thursday 14th January from 5-7PM at Farndon Memorial Hall

Farndon Memorial Hall

October 3rd marked the retirement of Pat Van Beek as caretaker of Farndon War Memorial Hall (although she remains a Trustee on the management committee and Booking Secretary).
Pat joined the committee in 1972 (unintentionally, as she related it to me) and was promptly dragooned into being its secretary, a post she held until 2023. She took over as caretaker in 1983, initially as cover for the then current caretaker who was going away for a short while. Said person never returned, and Pat has continued in the role until now, supported for almost all of that time by her husband At, who did a wide range of repair and maintenance jobs voluntarily. On behalf of all Trustees, both past and present, I would like to thank them both for their many years supporting the Memorial Hall.
In her place we welcome a cleaner and a caretaker, both part-time posts: Wendy Winnard as cleaner and Russell Barrington-Crow as caretaker.
We are still all finding our feet with the new arrangements in terms of how much time is needed to fulfil the functions of both roles, but both Wendy and Russell have hit the ground running, so to speak, and I am sure the cleaning and maintenance of the Memorial Hall will be kept to its previous high standards. However, we would really appreciate it if any users notice anything awry, please let one of the committee members know as soon as possible and we will endeavour to get it resolved.
Enormous thanks must go to Kathy Davies and the Farndon WI for organising a hugely successful Pop-Up Fashion Show recently. This raised the fantastic sum of £1900 for the Memorial Hall, which will be ring-fenced for a specific project to upgrade the toilets.



Meet Your New Street Orderly

Hello everyone! My name is Mike Francis and I am delighted to introduce myself.
I have been a Farndon resident for 15 years and I am incredibly excited to join the team and help keep our beautiful parish clean, tidy, and welcoming for residents and visitors alike. You will see me out and about regularly, taking care of our streets, litter picking, and monitoring our public spaces.
I take great pride in our community, so please feel free to stop and say hello if you see me working! If you notice any specific areas that need attention, do not hesitate to let me know.



Defibrillator Location round the Village

We have 5 defibrillators around the village:
At APTITUDE HEALTH & FITNESS, Churton Road, CH3 6QP
What3Words - excusing.occur.formal
At FARNDON PHARMACY, High St, CH3 6PT
What3Words - Trespass.paddlers.drizzly
At FARNDON COMMUNITY CLUB, Sibbersfield Lane CH3 6NX
What3Words - widely.pizza.giving
At THE VILLAGE SURGERIES GROUP, High St, CH3 6PT What3Words - shaky.libraries.grumbling
AT CREWE BY FARNDON METHODIST CHAPEL, Crewe Lane South, Farndon CH3 6PH What 3 words – disarmed.stars.improving

All the defibrillators are accessible 24/7 with clear verbal instructions from the equipment on how to use it.

A word from our ward councillor

After decades of concern, numerous crashes and near misses, the speed limit on the A534 Barton Road was reduced to 40mph in August. This is a welcome step forward, but it must not be mistaken for the end of the work needed to make this stretch of road safer.

Traffic levels have increased substantially since the road opened in 1986, and the dangers have been a longstanding issue for local residents.

This is why I am glad that I finally managed to persuade the Highways authority to agree to the reduction - important recognition that there is a genuine safety problem. But changing a speed-limit sign alone will not make the junction between Sibbersfield Lane, Worthenbury Road and the A534 itself safe. There have already been two further crashes since the change: one at the junction itself and another just outside the new 40mph zone.

Farndon Parish Council has historically raised these concerns, including previously organising a petition calling for traffic-calming measures. I also met with them and the then Police and Crime Commissioner John Dwyer on site in August 2023 immediately after being elected Councillor for the Farndon Ward.

I am grateful to the Parish Council and local residents for their efforts to secure action.

And yet enforcement must now be part of the solution. I have already requested police support to help address speeding and encourage drivers to comply with the new limit. And I have also received feedback from residents asking for improved signage, something which I have raised with Cheshire West and Chester Highways department.

The potential housing developments proposed around Farndon are another important consideration. If approved, they will bring more traffic onto a road network with a history of accidents. I have publicly said many times already that any planning approval must come, at the very least, with additional road safety measures at this location and my view has not changed.

The 40mph limit is, quite literally, a sign of welcome progress. But there is still more to do to make this route safer for everyone.

Adrian Waddelove
Conservative Party Councillor for Farndon Ward - (including the communities of Aldersey, Aldford, Barton, Carden, Churton, Clutton, Coddington, Farndon, Horton Green, Saighton, Shocklach, Stretton and Tilston)
Cheshire West & Chester Council, The Portal, Wellington Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BA
T: 07873 546975 E: adrian.waddelove@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

And finally

Please note We have a new website https://farndonparishcouncil.gov.uk

As we are all aware there are currently housing applications for circa 560 new houses in Farndon. The deadline for comments on the various applications has passed and to date no further information has been received from Cheshire West and Chester Planning Department. As previously advised, we will post any updates onto the above website. Don't forget the drop-in sessions so you can have your say on how Farndon develops in the future.