

# Compton Bassett Matters

A free publication edited by Councillors Barlow and Waite on behalf of Compton Bassett Parish Council

## Worst roads, verges and paths in living memory?

The Parish Council have had more complaints about the poor state of our roads, paths and verges than any other topic in recent months. A combination of increased traffic flow (1000 cars per day on average), appalling weather and installation of broadband by Gigaclear plus heavy goods vehicles accessing the GreenSquare project, have meant that many of the village verges have been turned into unsightly mud patches. The road has a plethora of potholes and too many drains and gullies appear to be blocked and ineffective.



### Village gains initial £10,000 grant to help improve roads and drainage

As a starting point we have secured £10,000 which the Highways Officer has decided will specifically deal with the following:

- Sorting out the drains to help with the constant flow of water on Church Corner
- Lifting up a sunken drain cover near the Estate House
- Resurfacing the worst section of the road near Manor Farm
- New signage and reflectors around Church Corner
- White lines at the bottom of Church Hill.

Whilst this will not be enough to solve all our issues, it is a beginning. The work will take place later in the year when the weather has improved.

Verges, blocked drains and gullies are a matter for Wiltshire Council, and also Gigaclear who accept responsibility for the destruction of verges during their work programme and have agreed to reinstate where needed. This will take place during late spring, hopefully when it's drier. The Parish Council has also made a formal complaint to Wiltshire Council regarding the absence of any notice when Gigaclear has arbitrarily placed traffic lights in the village. These have at least acted as ad hoc traffic calming!

The Parish Steward has been approached regarding the issues associated with drains and gullies and will review problem areas in the coming months.

Concerning the unsightly road verges suffering from vehicle overrun, which frequently fill with water, we are told that these are only eligible to be repaired if they are deemed dangerous. However, we don't want to widen the road by filling in the damaged areas with tarmac, which makes the highway wider and will then encourage people to drive even faster than is already the case.

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## Are your verge markers legal? Don't get caught out!

The County Engineer has issued some advice to residents who have demarcated their verges. If you live within the **30mph** village zone and have erected sticks or stones in an attempt to protect the verge, we would ask you please to get in touch with us and we can help obtain the correct licence to allow proper posts to be installed by the Parish Steward. You will need to pay £15 per post. If you don't do this you should ensure that your house insurance has public liability cover. If someone hits them and damages their car you may have to foot the bill!

Those who live in the **40mph** section of the village should not have any emplacements and remove all boundary markers, posts or stones, as these are deemed illegal by the Highways Department and may put you at risk of prosecution in the event of them impeding the highway safety overrun.



## GreenSquare

Plots 1, 2 & 4 at Briar Leaze are now occupied, while plot 3 is ready to be handed over. Plots 5 & 6 will follow during April and the whole site should be completed by the end of June.



*A new chapter for Ethel*

## Wheelie bin stickers



30mph & 40mph wheelie bin advice stickers are available free of charge to all Compton Bassett residents.

Please pick up yours at the **Annual Parish Meeting on 29th April.**

## Coronavirus COVID-19

Anyone who is concerned about their health, feeling isolated and could use some practical help please phone Pete Szczesiak on 815006.

- **Avoid close contact with people**
- **Wash your hands frequently!**
- **Don't go to your GP - phone NHS 111**

## Annual Parish Meeting - All Welcome!

This year's Annual Meeting is taking place at **6.30pm on Wednesday 29th April** (Doors open 6.15pm). Entry is free and not only will you be able to hear about what is planned for the village in the coming twelve months but also there will be a talk on the role of the honey bee, how they make honey and what you could plant in your gardens to encourage them. The Wiltshire based editor of the national magazine Bee Craft, Richard Rickitt is coming to the village and he would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Drinks and Nibbles will be available afterwards.



## Bobby Van

The Wiltshire Bobby Van will be at the Village Hall **Tuesday 7th April** from 10am till 12 for

**“Stay Safe Online”** for the over 60s.

This interesting event will help us to learn basic practical skills, avoid being scammed and how to keep our information safe online.

It's free, so please come along at 10am, refreshments are provided.



# Ready to plant your wildflower seeds?



You may recall we gave each resident a complimentary pack of seeds with the last issue of *Compton Bassett Matters*. We hope you kept them safe, as about now is the time to plant them. Not only will they enhance your garden, verge or window box but they are also helpful in the village improving the environment and attracting insects.

Monty Don's advice: Rake the soil to expose earth, mix your seed with sand, then broadcast the seed and tread in, making contact with the soil.



## Household waste collection changes

It's all change for recycling collection days in Compton Bassett. From now on only glass bottles & jars (including lids) and mixed textiles (bagged up) go into the black box.

Blue lidded bins take mixed recycling (plastic, cardboard, cans, foil and paper).



### Fortnightly Collections

Wednesday - Household waste

Thursday - Chargeable garden waste

Friday - Blue lidded bin and black box

First all new collection week: 18th, 19th & 20th March



## News in Brief

**Telephone kiosk restoration** – We are now at the point of moving the Village Phone Box to Marlborough for restoration. Having waited for a year to have the electricity connection removed, we are now due to transport it to a specialist restorer. We should have the new unit ready for re-installation in its new site by the bus shelter in the village around early summer.

**Spring clean: re-schedule** – Sadly, due to poor weather we had to cancel our planned lane spring clean. We will organise a new date once things have dried up sufficiently.

**Take the Pledge!** – Wiltshire Council have pledged to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to help, **The Green Pledge** has been launched committing to small but positive changes for the environment:

Leave the car and walk more – Take shorter showers – Use a reusable cup – Turn off unneeded lights

Visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy-climate-emergency](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/green-economy-climate-emergency) to make a pledge

**HGVs in the village** - If you suspect an HGV is going through the village, to or from Hills Lower Compton site, please contact them with the registration number on **01793 781786**. They will check their automatic plate recognition (ANPR) system and deal with the offending driver.



# Village snowplough arrives!

You may well think that after all the wet weather we've had, a snowplough is not high on our wish list but it was given to us free of charge via a grant from Scottish and Southern Electricity, so we didn't look a gift horse in the mouth!

## Team of 1910

110 years ago Compton Bassett 'enjoyed' two cricket matches against Hilmarton. The first was played at Hilmarton on Tuesday 5th July 1910, the home side scoring 61 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. In reply Compton Bassett were skittled out for just 9 runs. Bill Rumming top scored with 3 runs, Maurice Wild and Jim Rumming both with 2; no other batsman troubled the scorer.

Undaunted, Compton Bassett hosted a re-match on Friday 12th August and Hilmarton again batted first, this time achieving 63 for 7. Compton Bassett fared a little better than previously, but were all out for 20. Once more only three batsmen scored runs, the consistent Jim Rumming with 2, Charlie Lewis 6 not out and last-man-in John Taylor an impressive 6.

Sometimes we look back on this pre-war period as halcyon days of an endless English summer. The carnage wreaked by Hilmarton in a sporting context, was to be repeated in an unimaginable way just four years later when many of these men were sent in to bat for their country and their very lives.

Jim and Bill Rumming (both lived at 63 Compton Bassett), Fred Smith (35 CB), Harry Offer (37 CB) and Bill Derham (68 CB) all served in the war. Bill Rumming was shot twice in separate incidents but survived, his brother Jim received serious shrapnel wounds and was in poor health for the rest of his life; he died in 1934, aged just 46. Fred Smith was invalided out in 1917 with gunshot wounds. Maurice Wild, farm bailiff to the Walker-Heneage estate was exempted until late 1916 on grounds of his work and having only one eye, then he too was called up though he survived the war.

HILMARTON v. COMPTON BASSETT.—Played at Hilmarton on Tuesday. Scores:—		
HILMARTON.		
H. J. Bussell, not out	...	23
J. K. Atlay, c Durham, b Bradfield	...	8
P. W. Fry, b Bradfield	...	8
F. J. Bicknell, b Wild	...	13
A. Rivers, b Bradfield	...	3
J. Dash, b Bradfield	...	1
F. Wilkins, b Wild	...	0
F. Lewis, not out	...	1
Extras	...	6
Total (for 7 wickets)	...	61
L. F. Lewis, A. Dixon, and A. Wilkins did not bat.		
* Innings declared closed.		
COMPTON BASSETT.		
J. Rumming, b Bussell	...	2
A. Bradfield, c Bussell, b Lewis	...	0
F. Snell, b Bussell	...	0
M. Wild, b Bussell	...	2
W. Rumming, c Church, b Bussell	...	3
A. H. Sharp, c Lewis, b Bussell	...	0
A. Rumming, b Bussell	...	0
F. Smith, run out	...	0
H. Evans, retired ill	...	0
C. Durham, not out	...	0
H. Offer, b Lewis	...	0
Extras	...	2
Total	...	9



HILMARTON v. COMPTON BASSETT.—Played at Compton Bassett on Friday. Scores:—		
HILMARTON.		
H. J. Bussell, b Rumming	..	5
J. Dash, b Rumming	..	0
P. W. Fry, lbw, b Rumming	..	5
A. C. Atlay, b Rumming	..	13
W. Miflin, b Bradfield	..	0
G. N. Hobbs, b Bradfield	..	1
J. K. Atlay, not out	..	20
F. Bicknell, b Bradfield	..	12
Extras	..	7
Total (for 7 wkts.)	..	63
F. Lewis, F. Holley, and A. Rivers did not bat.		
COMPTON BASSETT.		
Jim Rumming, b Lewis	..	0
A. Finber, b Bussell	..	0
W. Derham, b Lewis	..	0
W. Rumming, c Dash, b Lewis	..	0
J. Rumming, b Bussell	..	2
A. Bradfield, b Lewis	..	0
C. Durham, b Lewis	..	0
C. Lewis, not out	..	6
H. Evans, c Miflin, b Atlay	..	0
H. Offer, run out	..	0
J. Taylor, run out	..	6
Extras	..	6
Total	..	20

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Peter Barnett	Hills Liaison Committee, Parish Steward link, Village Hall Rep
Julian Barlow	Road Safety, Communications, Broadband, CATG, Neighbourhood Plan, Wildlife
Tony Horseman	Calne Area & Parish Forum
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