

Compton Bassett Matters

Edited by Councillors Barlow and Waite for Compton Bassett Parish Council

‘Time for Action!’ Enough of the traffic increase and speeding!

Up to 200 cars an hour came through Compton Bassett at certain points over the summer! Inevitably, some were speeding, making matters worse. Those who walk through the parts of the village without pavements know how unsettling this can be. We have all had enough of the village being used as a cut through, or as a diversion from other traffic issues.

Taking on board observations from villagers, the Parish Council has decided to commission a report from traffic management experts to help us decide what best to do about it. The traffic specialists 2020 Consultancy Ltd have been retained to report, advise and lobby Wiltshire Highways for funds to improve the situation; the first stage has now been completed, with a presentation of their findings given during our October council meeting. Available on the village website shortly, the report gives over 20 options ranging from clearer road markings, reduction in speed limits and pronounced village entry demarcation points, to the creation of a village hub complete with mini-roundabout to slow traffic and promote the idea of an attractive village centre. Many of these proposed measures have succeeded in other villages and once the Parish Council has costed a realistic list, further consultations with stakeholders will be necessary.

Once recommendations have been received it is intended that they will go out to the wider community for consultation. Should you have any observations having viewed the report, please feel free to raise them with the clerk via email on cb.parishclerk@gmail.com.

Surprise Road Closures

We were all somewhat shocked to find our road shut whilst surface repair work was carried out. Whilst we were delighted that Wiltshire Council agreed to spend £10,000 to sort out some of the potholes and drain problems, we appreciate how difficult it was for everybody that we were given no prior warning that it was going to happen!

- **Wash hands**
- **Cover face**
- **Make space**

Sadly, it looks as though the Coronavirus pandemic is once again rearing its ugly head and infection rates are growing throughout the UK. At the time of writing Wiltshire is faring better than many other regions, however should central government impose another general lockdown we want to re-assure all those living in the village that should they require help it will be available.

We are able to re-instate the volunteers initiative when needed and the majority of those who helped earlier in the year have once again kindly agreed to step forward to help any of you who may be required to self-isolate.

If any new residents who have joined the village community in recent months also wish to volunteer please contact the clerk who will be able to add you name to the appropriate list.

Free Trees Offer!

Woods are home to a wealth of wildlife and if we don't protect those we have and create new woods for the future, we stand to lose more than just trees. In an effort to encourage communities to plant more trees, the Woodland Trust are offering packages of free trees (up to 420) to schools and communities that can find land to put them on.

These are some of the tree packages available:

- Hedging - dog rose, hawthorn, hazel and crab apple (enough for 6-8m of double row hedging)
- Copse - 30 trees of silver birch, roman and wild cherry (about a tennis court size)
- Wild harvest - hazel, blackthorn, crab apple, dog rose and rowan (football pitch size)

There are many other packages of trees, all we have to do is find some land to put them on!

So, if you have the space that you're willing to give a happy tree filled future to, do please let us know!

We will organise the tree delivery (hopefully March 2021 but if not, November 2021) and press gang volunteers into planting them.

All you have to do is give permission for us to plant them on your land!

Contact Jane Marshall, Tel. 760170

Prescriptions delivered free

There are several companies who will deliver your NHS repeat prescriptions free of charge to your door, such as Echo, Pharmacy2U, Co-op and Boots. You will need to contact them by website or phone:

[boots.com/online/pharmacy/](https://www.boots.com/online/pharmacy/) – Tel. 0345 121 9040

[coop.co.uk/health](https://www.coop.co.uk/health) – Tel. 01744 812 411

Echo by Lloyds Pharmacy – [echo.co.uk](https://www.echo.co.uk)

[pharmacy2u.co.uk](https://www.pharmacy2u.co.uk) – Tel. 0113 265 0222

Stick them and slow them down!



30mph & 40mph wheelie bin advice stickers are available free of charge to all Compton Bassett residents and one is provided here in your newsletter. If you would like another, please ring Jane Marshall, Tel. 760170

Coronavirus pandemic brings new approach to council meetings

Local government business continues during the pandemic with Compton Bassett Parish Council meeting virtually since March.

Following central government advice it has been decided that for the foreseeable future face to face meetings are not appropriate. Therefore our regular meetings, normally held in the village hall, will continue to take place over the internet until this guidance changes.

If any members of the community want to take part or view proceedings please contact the parish Clerk on 07828 630764 or email cb.pariahclerk@gmail.com



Telephone kiosk on road to recovery



Cllr Barlow makes an external call...

The old village GPO kiosk/book repository, that was both dilapidated, tired and unused is gradually being given a new lease of life as it undergoes professional restoration. Sandblasting to remove paintwork has revealed substantial deterioration to the teak door frame, requiring joinery.

An anonymous donor has contributed towards the cost of ensuring the cast iron telephone box is stripped back, re-painted, re-glazed and returned to its distinctive original pillar box red colour.

We have established that our kiosk is an early example of a K6C Mk I series, dating to 1937. The K6 was designed to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V, featuring a Tudor Crown embossed in bas-relief, and was the first red kiosk to be used extensively outside London. It has been valued at 500% more than was originally envisaged, partly due to its rarity value. When restoration is complete it will be relocated to an area of the village that makes its access safer and more convenient than the previous location.



...Cllr Reis opts for an outside line...



...Chairman Pete - a smooth operator...



...Cllr Waite talking rot.

News in Brief



The recent broadband outage from Quemerford exchange affected a large portion of the village, reminding us just how much we rely on broadband as well as fibre landlines. We were able to send SMS texts, giving updates and information to those for whom we have mobile numbers but our directory is incomplete. If you didn't receive a text and want to be included in the future please send a text with your name to Laurie Waite on 07831 131171. Be assured that all data received is covered by GDPR regulations and will only be used by the Parish Council in exceptional circumstances and will not be given to third parties.



Yet another vehicle accident has occurred at the turn-off from Compton Road toward Bushton, when a car flipped onto its side after colliding with a van. It is unhappily becoming a regular event at this junction. Although it is just outside the parish we shall be making enquiries about the recurrent nature of accidents at this location to Wiltshire Council.



We have a number of new residents who have moved in to the village over the summer. A very warm welcome to you all during this strange 2020 where we can't get together or to enjoy events at the village hall. Some day...

Compton Bassett War Memorial at 70

70 years ago, at 10.30am on Sunday 12th November 1950, Captain Guy Benson unveiled the new war memorial during a special service of dedication conducted by Reverend Vernon Thomas and held at the site to commemorate those soldiers who had died during both world wars. Captain Fielding-Johnson (Manor Farm) and Captain Benson (Compton Bassett House), set up a village planning committee for the purpose of erecting the memorial. Villagers contributed to a fund but the majority was donated by the two captains.

The location for the memorial is deliberate; its elevated setting allows views over an idyllic and unhindered landscape that serves well as a place of contemplation; it may also be no coincidence that the furthest point of reference on the horizon lies the former RAF base at Lyneham.

Captain Fielding-Johnson lost his only son Hugh and step-son Diccon Earle in the Second World War and the verse inscribed on the rear panel of the memorial is taken from the sonnet 'Say Not That Beauty' composed by English poet Robin Flower:

*Not with the earthly eye or fleshly ear,
But lifted high above mortality,
We see at last the eternal hills,
and hear the sighing of the universal sea;
And kneeling breathless in that holy place*



A 2004 article by Jack Watkins for the War Memorials Trust Bulletin describes how the building of the memorial came to fruition:

'There may be grander War Memorials than the stone cross in the village of Compton Bassett in Wiltshire, but few can occupy a more evocative setting. Beyond the narrow lane at the foot of the steps leading up to it, the ground falls away, amidst the trees and hedgerows, to rich green meadows grazed by herds of dairy cows. It is the sort of 'Forever England' landscape evoked by war poets.

"It is a wonderful view and a nice place to come and think your thoughts, even if some of them are painful ones", reflects Alan Lewis, a veteran of the D-Day landings at Arrowmanches. He stands on the steps with his friend, Les Smith, two men steeped in the village and its dairy-farming traditions. Moments later, up rolls Jim Taylor; like the other two, he was present at the memorial's unveiling in 1950 and carries a photograph of the ceremony.

Of the two local military men, Captains Benson and Fielding-Johnson, Jim has some wry memories of the latter. "He wouldn't put money into it unless the villagers got involved first. He had a little rubber dinghy set up and, for every sixpence we threw in, he'd double it".

The Compton Bassett memorial is constructed from Portland stone and is Grade II listed, having been judged in 2002 to be an uncommon example, meriting its status of special architectural and historic interest. It is designed after Sir Reginald Blomfield's Cross of Sacrifice design in 1918, being a plain cross with a bronze longsword, blade pointed downward, on the front. Compton Bassett's version has a sword carved as a recessed shape, rather than having a sculpture fixed to the face. It is situated on an octagonal plinth, at the top of a flight of twelve steps from the street.

Subject to public health guidelines, a special open-air Remembrance Sunday service will be held at the War Memorial, commencing at 10.45 am on Sunday 8th November.



Diane Zeitzen	Parish Clerk: cb.pariahclerk@gmail.com
Pete Szczesiak	Chair, Calne Area Parish Forum, Hills Liaison Committee, Legal Duties, Neighbourhood & Farm Watch
Jane Marshall	Vice-Chair, CATG & Calne Area Board, Health & Well Being, Village Hall Rep, Road Safety
Peter Barnett	Hills Liaison Committee, Parish Steward Link, Village Hall Rep
Julian Barlow	Road Safety, Communications, Broadband, CATG & Calne Area Board, Neighbourhood Plan, Wildlife Trust Liaison
Tony Horseman	Calne Area Parish Forum
Charles Reis	Heritage, Neighbourhood & Farm Watch, Rights of Way Liaison
Laurie Waite	Communications, Neighbourhood Plan, Heritage, War Memorial, Website Liaison