

Compton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Monday 18th March 2019 at 7:00pm in the Wilkins Centre, Compton

Councillors present: Councillors David Aldis (Chair), Mark Birtwistle, Patricia Burnett, Linda Moss, Michael Pinfold, Rebecca Pinfold, Keith Simms, Alison Strong and Ian Tong.

Councillors not present: None

In attendance: Sarah Marshman (Clerk), Virginia von Celsing (District Councillor), Pam Scott (Editor of Compilations), Chris Prosser (Headteacher, The Downs School).
10 members of the public.

18/19-APM-01 Apologies for absence

There were none.

18/19-APM-02 Introduction by the Council Chairman

DA welcomed everyone to the meeting.

18/19-APM-03 To approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 30th April 2018

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record. They were then signed by the Chairman.

18/19-APM-04 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th April 2018

There were none.

18/19-APM-05 To invite Dr James Cave from The Downland Practice to address the meeting

Three new doctors have started at the practice in the last year, and the practice is half a doctor short of having a full complement. There is also a new Practice Manager. There is currently no receptionist at Compton, but it is hoped the practice will have one soon as it is likely that services at Compton will expand. The premises at Compton are quite old, and so the practice is interested in the idea of building a new surgery if a big development were to take place in Compton. The practice is therefore speaking with the NDP group.

There is a new GP contract that starts on the 1st April. This involves forming Primary Care Networks and the Government are going to try to fund people who can work across practices. This means that out of hours appointments may be available at other local surgeries within the Primary Care Network.

There have been significant changes to the dispensary, combining the dispensary and the pharmacy. The dispensary deals with between 11,000 and 15,000 prescriptions per month. Doctors must sign every prescription before the medication can be dispensed.

Changes to the contract in 2004 stopped registration of patients with an individual doctor, instead patients register with a practice. As such, patients are now assigned a 'usual doctor', but are able to see any doctor within the practice.

Dr Cave encouraged people to contact the practice or the patient rep on the Parish Council with any concerns so that these could be addressed.

18/19-APM-06 To invite District Councillor Virginia von Celsing to address the meeting
Virginia gave her report which is at Attachment 1.

**18/19-APM-07 Parish Council Reports: - Reports from the Chairman and Parish Councillors
- Financial Report from the Clerk to the Council**

The **Chairman** gave his report as follows:

This past year has gone very quickly. The Council has been as busy as ever, carrying out its various functions and representing the Parish at all levels. The Neighbourhood Development Plan is now into its work, following a very successful response to the questionnaire last year. I am pleased to report a good level of interest in the different topics with many volunteers coming forward to engage with the process of formulating the Plan. We recently met with Homes England on the Pirbright Site, to open a dialogue regarding the future of the site. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend this evening, but we understand that on site contamination surveys have taken place with Homes England hoping to go for outline planning permission in the late Spring. The working parties are looking at their individual topics and we expect that there will be more public feedback sessions later in the year, to outline progress.

The work of the Council is broad and I wish to outline areas of spend, as there has been some comment regarding the precept increase this year. Almost 2% of the 9.2% increase is due to the requirement of having to budget £750 for election costs. This is mandatory and out of our control. We spend money on street lighting repairs and electricity costs, maintenance of the play area, maintenance of trees and hedges around the recreation ground and allotments, regular grounds maintenance, grass cutting – which includes all the areas that were “gifted” to us by Dyson – and for which we now have to pick up the annual running costs and, of course insurance. We also spend money on dog bins and it is a pity that not all dog owners use them. These are the major spends and our accounts are available to view in the documents section of the Parish Council website. Our councillors are all unpaid volunteers who give their time freely to make our community what it is today.

The Burial Ground Project received planning permission last year and we have to fulfil a number of pre-conditions, the first of which was carried out last weekend, the geophysical survey. Further work is to follow.

There has also been some concern expressed at the proposal to reduce speeding through the village. The original request was made by the Parish but the design details are the responsibility of West Berkshire Highways department. It seems that, in order to provide a 20mph limit, the speed of vehicles should be below 24mph. West Berkshires’ recorded data shows that to be the case in all areas but one, namely School Road. It is along this stretch that traffic calming is required, to reduce the speed of vehicles. West Berkshires’ current proposal is for a section of cushions to achieve the desired speed reduction. There has been a public consultation, run by west Berks and, I believe, a number of objections received. We will see what the results are.

Finally, as we are in purdah, I am not allowed to thank everyone personally but wish to say a big thank you to all who work to make the Parish a dynamic and rewarding place to live. There is much in Compton in terms of facilities, groups, clubs, first class schools, a shop with Post Office, a decent pub, a hairdressers and much more to be proud of-we should cherish them.

The one person I can thank is the clerk, who is not a voter on our village. Sarah works hard to ensure the smooth running of the council and is a vital part of the organisation, so thank you Sarah.

The **Clerk** gave the finance report at Attachment 2.

18/19-APM-08

Reports from/on:

The Flood Warden

The Flood Warden was unable to attend but noted that his regular reports published in the minutes and in Compilations throughout the year should be viewed as his report.

The Downs School and Compton Primary School

Chris Prosser, Headteacher of The Downs School, presented reports on The Downs School, which is at Attachment 3, and Compton Primary School, which is at Attachment 4.

Compton Scouts

Keith Simms noted that all sections of the Scouts are full, with waiting lists.

Patient Representation Group

Alison Strong highlighted that there has been investment in the computer systems in Compton which has improved the facility so more doctors are willing to work in the Compton surgery. AS noted that it is good news for Compton that the Downland Practice are looking to utilise the surgery more and obtain a receptionist. The pharmacy is improving and the addition of the telephone in Compton surgery has helped.

Autumn Group

Patricia Burnett spoke about the Autumn Group, which started 9 years ago. The group meets on Tuesday afternoons, with a hobbies club also running on Monday afternoons. The group is open to anyone over the age of 45. There are regular speakers and trips. The group now has the use of a bus to bring people from the villages. PB thanked the Parish Council and the community for their support, grants and help with fundraising, especially with the Christmas dinner.

Compilations

Pam Scott, the editor of Compilations, gave her report which is at Attachment 5.

Compton Players

The Chairperson of the Compton Players gave her report, which is at Attachment 6.

The following reports were provided to the Parish Council in advance of the meeting:

Compton Pre-School – Attachment 7;
The Downlands Sports Centre – Attachment 8;
School Road Allotments – Attachment 9.

18/19-APM-09 Questions from members of the public

18/19-APM-10 Items for information and consideration

Meeting closed 8:37pm.

Chairman:

Date:

Attachment 1:

ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA VON CELSING, WARD MEMBER, COMPTON, WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL

The past year has been a challenging time within West Berkshire Council as well as all other local authorities. We as members of the council continue to strive to keep council tax as low as possible, whilst having to shoulder the large burden of the large cost of statutory requirements by the council, notably adult social care, whilst receiving greatly reduced funds from central government. This remains by far the largest cost pressure and has necessitated difficult year on year decisions about other areas of expenditure. We are very conscious of the increases that have had to be passed onto residents, and understand the difficulties this causes.

One helpful addition this year has been the additional £1.7m in business rates paid by local businesses returned to the area. This is after last year's pilot in which WBC received a larger percentage than the previous 20%. Richard Benyon, our MP, has worked tirelessly to make this happen. Two million pounds has been received also by West Berkshire Council from the national pothole fund.

Despite the current maelstrom at Westminster, the Conservative council is run efficiently, with West Berkshire maintaining its place as one of the most desirable places to live in the UK. We in Compton ward are so fortunate to live within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and I will work hard to ensure it stays that way. The pressing need for more housing weighs down on all areas of the country. I am very supportive of the Neighbourhood Development Plan work that is going on in the village, and am most grateful for the residents who are contributing their time to this. It is far better that local people play such an important role in the future development of the village, not having policy imposed on them from afar.

Compton is fortunate to have an excellent and effective parish council, ably chaired by David Aldis, to whom I give thanks for the work we have done together over the year. They work tirelessly for the village and we are all lucky to have them.

My four year term serving as ward member ends in May, when I will stand again as Conservative candidate in the local elections on May 2nd. I hope that you feel able to support me.

Virginia von Celsing
Ward Member,
Compton
West Berkshire Council

March 2019

Attachment 2:

Compton Parish Council Annual Finance Report Annual Parish Meeting 2018/19

The finance report for Compton Parish Council for the financial year 2018/19 is presented. Please note that as the financial year is not yet completed, all figures are provisional and will be subject to audit.

Income

The total income received from all sources of funding was £62,714. Significant figures included in this total are:

- £42,000 precept;
- £4,923 members bid grant received to support the purchase of play equipment;
- £4,977 VAT refund;
- £2,692 Compilations advertising fees;
- £6,453 CIL receipts – it should be noted that CIL is a planning charge to ensure development contributes to the cost of infrastructure. It cannot be budgeted in advance and is earmarked for infrastructure expenditure only.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for the year was £56,323. Significant figures included in this total are:

- Grounds maintenance £3,243;
- Allotments expenses (excluding grounds maintenance work which is included in the above item) £1,446;
- Purchase and installation of zip wire (half of this cost was covered by the members' bid grant) £9,845;
- Installation of safety surfacing for the basket swing £4,395;
- Repairs to play equipment in Recreation Ground £4,081;
- Total employment costs £10,922;

- Insurance £1,563;
- Compilations printing costs (offset by advertising income of £2,692 above) £4,745;
- Street lighting electricity and maintenance £5,144;
- Burial ground development £1,758;
- VAT (reclaimable in the next financial year) £3,467;
- Purchase and installation of war memorial bench in High Street £1,300;
- Audit fees £570;
- Neighbourhood development plan £550.

Grants and Events

Grants totalling £1,900 were provided to various organisations within the Parish of Compton.

The following organisations benefited from the grants process: Friends of Compton Primary School; Compton Scout and Guide Hut; Pang Valley Flood Forum; 1st Compton Scout Group; Compton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides; Compton Pre-school; Autumn Group; St Mary and St Nicholas Church, Compton.

In addition to the grants given, the Council provided funding to assist with the costs of staging the Christmas events.

Looking Forward to 2019/20

The precept will increase from £42,000 to £45,850. This is an increase of 9.2%. A Band D household will pay a total of £70.10, an increase of £6.27 per Band D household.

It is expected that large items of expenditure will continue to include grounds maintenance, street lighting electricity and maintenance and employment costs. It is possible that expenditure for some items may increase as projects progress, such as the Neighbourhood Development Plan,

the street lighting replacement programme and the development of the new burial ground. It is also possible that the Council will agree to carry out refurbishment of the Football Pavilion. If it should be agreed to go ahead with this, the

Council hope to fund the work, at least in part, by obtaining grant funding. The Council will also continue to provide grants to applicant organisations within the parish in line with its grants policy.

Attachment 3:

The Downs School

March 2019

It has been a busy and extremely successful year at The Downs School, which seems to have passed by in a flash. Our recently published applications show that we are oversubscribed for the 2019/20 academic year. Our current school role is 1212, with 289 students in our Sixth Form.

At the end of August 2018 we celebrated our phenomenal GCSE and A Level results. Our A Level students surpassed the incredible results achieved by our 2017 leavers, demonstrating the consistent high standards and dedication of our teaching staff, under the direction of our senior leadership team.

Over 140 students sat A Level examinations, and 8% of entries gained A* grades, 33% of entries gained A*-A grades and 65% of entries gained A*-B grades. In total, 85% of entrants gained A*-C grades.

A large number of our top students achieved A*AA, particularly impressive with the demand of the more challenging linear A Levels and BTECs. Our collective results were a great springboard, enabling our students to go on and achieve great things in Higher Education, apprenticeships and employment.

Our GCSE results were equally as impressive. Just short of 83% of students achieved the standard pass grades 4–9 (C to above A*), with 80% of these also including English and Mathematics. There were many high grades, with 13% of all entries achieving grades 8 or 9 (A* and above) and 27% achieving grades 7–9 (A and above).

Achievement across vocational subjects was also striking. For the three BTECs in Performing Arts, over a third of students achieved a grade 7 and above. In Business, Media, IT and Sport at least 85% of students achieved grade 4 and above. As Headteacher, I have a huge amount of satisfaction knowing that we prepare our students fully to achieve their future aspirations. To have surpassed last year's excellent results, particularly given the new tougher GCSE examinations, is testament to the resilience and determination of this talented group of students.

We returned to school in September for the start of the new academic year, with our new Year 7 students settling in very quickly. We also unveiled our new school vision which is 'Educating today's students for the world of tomorrow,' which we will achieve by 'Learning together, learning for life.'

The vision runs through the daily life of the school, with the guidance we need to realise our vision and achieve outstanding outcomes for our students.

So why did we change our vision? During the last academic year, I reflected a lot on what I wanted to get the school to look like in 5-10 years' time and what qualities I wanted our students to have. As a school, it has become clear that we have to keep pace with the demands of the 21st Century and provide students with a range of skills that will allow them to face these challenges head on. They need to thrive in a future that will become more complex, more information risk and more demanding of fresh creative thinking.

At The Downs School we ensure our students have an individual learning experience, alongside opportunities to enhance their sporting, social and creative skills both inside and outside the classroom. We want our students to leave here as well-rounded successful individuals, wherever their next journey takes them.

Reflecting back on key highlights of the Autumn term, our annual 10km sponsored walk raised an incredible £20,000. Following consultation between students and staff it was decided to rejuvenate the central courtyard area of the school, replacing the existing seating and creating new planting areas, making it a more relaxing place to be for the students. New raised beds have now been created, with a variety of trees, flowers and shrubs planted, which will bring more colour to the area all year round.

Other highlights included two successful parents' evenings, French and Spanish trips, visits to The Globe Theatre to see Shakespearian tragedy Othello, a five-day residential to Berlin and house matches week with competitive rugby and hockey matches being played across the school.

Our careers team were busy helping our students acquire the skills and knowledge to make the best choices for them. We held an apprenticeship event involving local employers working with our students to help them understand the recruitment process. We held a study skills and careers day, with students undergoing mock interviews and listening to guest speakers from local companies. I was also extremely proud that The Downs School was the *only* school in West Berkshire and one of just 132 schools in the country to have participated in research into Generation STEM, a work experience programme, designed to prepare our students for the future and give them an insight into the world of work.

Just before Christmas, we held our Christmas Fair, and then our 2018 leavers returned to the school for the annual presentation evening, celebrating individual successes with a prize giving and certificate presentation. Over 300 students and their parents filled our school hall to receive a variety of prizes ranging from academic achievements, through to sporting, acting and dance accomplishments and charity endeavour.

Guest speaker was Sean Ryan, Media Director of Save the Children and a former Editor of the Sunday Times. He gave an inspiring speech to the students about his incredible career, and encouraged the students that with 'resilience, drive and ambition, they can achieve whatever they want in life.'

January saw our Year 9 students look at course options ahead of starting their GCSEs in September, and our Year 11 students receiving mock exam results for the exam papers they took just before Christmas. January also marked the deadline date for our Year 13 students to apply for university places. I am delighted to report that for the third year in a row we have a 100% success rate in that all students who applied for a university place have received at least one offer from their chosen establishment, the majority receiving multiple offers. I am also delighted that seven of our Year 13 students have been offered provisional places to study at Oxford or Cambridge, our most successful number of applications to date. Preparation for employment is an integral part of everything we do at The Downs School, and whether it is higher education, employment or apprenticeships, our careers team provides our students with the skills and knowledge to make the choices that are best for them.

In January, our school library was turned into a 'book den' with a pyjama party for Year 7 and 8 students, and there were visits to the Victoria and Albert museum for our Year 11 Fine Art students. Our 'student takeover day' saw students from across the year groups lead, and in some instances decided lesson content for the day. There were a variety of different sporting events, which included victories for The Downs School in the schools' cross country tournament.

The February half-term saw our Sixth Form ski trip to Sunday River in Maine, Maine's largest and most visited ski resort, and a further trip will be taking place at Easter, when our Year 8 students travel to Pre Saint Didier.

March was also the month of our annual school production, which this year was Les Miserables. As with all our productions, it was incredible. We have a wealth of talented students from actors, singers and musicians, to set designers, make-up artists and lighting technicians. I am always impressed and take a great delight in watching our students perform, and judging from the response of our audience, they felt the same.

In these times of uncertainty and a constantly changing educational landscape I take pride in the fact that we remain focused on providing the best experience possible for all our students and aspiring to achieve our new vision 'Educating today's students for the world of tomorrow'.

Attachment 4:

Compton CE Primary School

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT March 2019

Our school continues to grow. This week saw our school roll reach 190. 23 pupils joined our Reception class in September and they have now been joined by a further four friends, either from within catchment or with siblings already in the school and they have all settled in brilliantly. Mrs Ridler and Year 6 were delighted to move into our spacious new classroom in September. This has provided a comfortable classroom space for our eldest pupils and we are grateful to the Friends of Compton Primary School who have supported us with new furniture for our children. The additional classroom is enabling us to cater for the increased number of pupils on roll and has freed up the HORSAs building to be used as dedicated before and After School Club premises as well as providing much needed space for small group intervention teaching within the school day.

The school site was a hive of activity over the summer holidays. In addition to the building work for our new classroom, the HORSAs building underwent complete refurbishment, we had a brand new heating system and toilet facilities were added to our Reception classroom for our youngest pupils. We are very grateful to West Berkshire Council who have supported us with these projects.

Staff and pupils continue to work hard and strive to achieve the very best we can. We are particularly pleased with pupils' progress in phonics after considerable investment in new resources and staff training. This year, we have a strong focus on improving pupil outcomes in writing. Our excellent school results speak for themselves. Compton CE Primary was listed in the top ten primary schools in West Berkshire in this year's good schools guide.

Many trips and visits have enriched the curriculum for the children and this has included events and visits such as Whipsnade zoo and Brooklands transport museum. Later this year our year 5 will enjoy a residential trip to Wantage and our year 6 will benefit from their residential trip to Sealyham with other local schools. Our pupils enjoy opportunities to explore nature and the outdoors -our youngest pupils enjoy weekly trips to local woodlands and older pupils enjoy using the embankment area and school grounds in their learning. Cultural experiences are also regularly planned: a whole school trip to the Winter Show at the Watermill theatre and an opportunity for our pupils to visit Bradfield college. Children are able to have individual music lessons in school; we currently have cellists, guitarists, saxophonists, clarinetists and flautists in our midst and this year sees the start of a new school choir. All children in Year 3 have been learning to read music and play the recorder. We have supported Children in Need and Comic Relief and look forward to our summer term charity week which will be planned by our children. All children also participate in their own drama productions – Key Stage 1 do a Christmas play, year 3, 4 and 5 will be performing in Peace Child later this month and our year 6 pupils stage a fantastic production each year.

Links with the Church continue to be strong– we enjoy regular clergy visits to our assembly in school and the whole school attends services at all the major festival times. Our pupil Worship Committee goes from strength to strength as they hold their own assemblies as well as taking major parts in our church services.

We are very grateful to our Friends of Compton Primary School who work tirelessly to fundraise on the children's behalf. Over the course of the year they organize a range of events for our children: discos, film nights, sponsored bounce and work very hard to support the annual Downlands Dash. As well as subsidizing the cost of school trips, this year the Friends have supported us in the purchase of

new furniture and resources for our new classroom as well as a huge variety of playtime and classroom resources. This autumn, a group of volunteers worked hard to improve the quiet area and other outdoor spaces around school. In addition, I would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has supported FCOPS events making it possible for our children to enjoy these new resources.

The federation with The Downs and Beedon continues to grow and the children look forward to Mr. Prosser's visits and assemblies. Our school productions and concerts are hosted at The Downs School. Pupils in year 5 and 6 have enjoyed a range of taster workshops and an international day at The Downs and have been very enthusiastic about these sessions.

Work has continued on aligning the curriculum in all three schools so that there is a more seamless academic transition between the primary and the secondary. Teachers meet termly to share good practice and look at progression in key English and Math's skills between key stages. Primary colleagues from Beedon and Compton meet regularly for training sessions and support and challenge one another in the moderation of pupils' work for assessment. Over this year, as our school curriculum and other needs have aligned, we have been able to negotiate joint purchases across our primary schools, benefitting from economies of scale. We know that the pastoral transition has always worked well.

We continue to work with the "Downland Alliance" to improve outcomes for all children in West Berkshire. Joint training days have been organised; leadership training has been put in place; specific support has been available for some schools and the links are growing. This year we have contributed to the training of newly qualified teachers across West Berkshire. Through the Downland Alliance, three of our teachers, who are Specialist Leaders in Education, have been complimented on their work supporting teaching and learning in other West Berkshire schools. We are excited to be hosting some of the first cohort of Downland Alliance primary trainee teachers.

Attachment 5:

COMPILATIONS

Parish Council AGM 2019

I'd like to say thank you to the Parish Council for their support and trust in me to edit this magazine.

As I become a little more computer literate and more confident with the layout it is certainly more an enjoyable task, rather than such a daunting and exhausting one!!

I am also a lot braver in asking for articles, and indeed, nagging in some cases. The persistence seems to be paying off as more articles are arriving before the deadline. Selfishly, this makes life so much easier for me. Being quite firm about the deadline has also made a difference. (Anything arriving after the date cannot be included and, sadly, one or two people have learnt this the hard way. But they've never been late again.)

I am also quite firm with people who want to include articles that are negative about individuals. They have learnt that Compilations is a positive magazine that welcomes opinions about Parish matters, not personal ones.

This past year more and more ideas for inclusion, articles and comments were forthcoming. It seems that people are aware that I am quite happy to take constructive criticism as well as favourable comments. It would seem that this magazine is found to be useful as well as informative and enjoyable. I aim to make Compilations a source of information about what is happening in the villages. Finding this information is not always easy. There are still groups that are wary of letting people know what they are doing. I will keep working on them!! But, thank you to all the regular contributors.

The advertisements are crucial. Not only do they provide an instant access point to services, but, without them the finances of the magazine would not be viable. So, I would like to thank the advertisers.

I'd also like to thank Howard and Steve, the printers, who are so helpful, speedy and such pleasant men. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them. I think you will agree that the standard of printing is very high. When the new equipment was installed there were some teething problems which resulted in lack of production for about ten days. Compilations was put at the head of the queue and they managed to get the magazines out to me in time for delivery as close to the first of the month as possible.

In Compton the deliveries are organised by Faye McGeehin. She is amazing. She has a team of villagers who get the magazine through letterboxes almost as soon as they arrive. They go out in all weathers and they all deserve a big thank you. Pete Goddard delivers all the magazines in East Ilsley. He too makes sure they are delivered as soon as he gets them. He never complains.... Except on the odd occasion he has had six fewer copies than usual!! I haven't made that mistake again.

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to the Council for keeping this magazine in its current format and not going digital. Sitting down with a cup of coffee and a magazine is still more favourable than coffee and computer.

Attachment 6:

Compton Players: report for the Compton Parish Meeting 18/03/2018

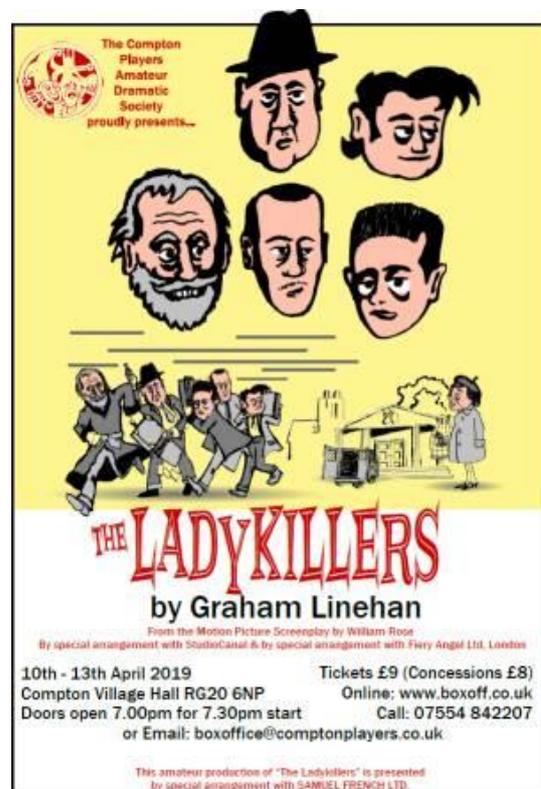
Compton Players Amateur Dramatic Society started its life in 1947 and has been producing plays in Compton ever since. We normally have two productions a year, in the Spring and Winter, and we sometimes enter (and win prizes at!) the annual one-act play festivals held in the area.

In 2017 our Platinum Jubilee production of **Richard III** won a NODA (The National Operatic and Dramatic Association) Accolade of Excellence. This was a big production for us, and with the money we raised for the production we were able to install a new wiring system in Compton Village Hall for modern stage lights. Reviews of this production said: “an intelligent, insightful and enthralling depiction of this famous story” – NODA; “a smooth, well-acted and skilfully-directed performance” – Newbury Weekly News; “a spectacular production” – Compilations; “a very special production” – Oxfordshire Drama Network.

Last year our productions were **Perfect Wedding** by Robin Hawdon (“very entertaining evening” – NODA) and two one-act plays by our resident playwright H Connolly: **The Promise** and **Murdering at the Vicarage** (“what a bold and creative band you are Compton Players” – Compilations). And we’ve been nominated for a NODA South East Region Award in the **Best New Show** category for our production of **The Promise** and **Murdering at the Vicarage** – the award ceremony is on 24th March 19.

Our next production is **The Ladykillers** from 10th to 13th April. This is a classic black comedy by Graham Linehan; a sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing. We’re well into rehearsals – the three-level set is a bit of a challenge in the Village Hall! You can read about it and book tickets on our website: comptonplayers.co.uk. And watch out for our panto this Winter.

We always welcome new members, and we are looking not only for people who want to act, but also those who can construct scenery, or would like to learn how, those who can make or sew costumes, those with a knowledge of electrics and/or electronics, and those who would like to help with publicity, box-office and front of house. We normally rehearse on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and for most productions there are twelve weeks of rehearsals. It doesn't matter if you've had any previous experience or not.



Attachment 7:



Compton Pre-School continues to be a success, with 33 local children attending. We have 4 more children starting after Easter. In September we will see 19 children off to the local schools and 17 children are returning after the summer break and we are currently advertising in the local area.

We still have a good uptake on the 30 hours free childcare initiative. The majority of children with access to these hours do use their full 30 hour entitlement.

We have changed the way we enroll 2 year olds slightly. We used to take all children from 2 years 9 months and children with the 2 year funding from the term after they turned 2. As we can accommodate up to 4 2 year olds at any given time, we have decided to take all children from the age of 2 as we were never filling our 2 year old capacity with just the 2 year old funded children.

This has allowed us to better fill our capacity and makes staffing more cost effective.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their continued support for preschool. I hope that the relationship between both organisation's continues to thrive.

My long term future goals for the Pre-School is to continue to improve the outside area. We have discussed the idea of removing the mound firstly as this area gets very worn and gets very muddy over the winter months and secondly as we are infested with an annual influx of Hershey mining bees over the summer months thus making this area out of bounds! We don't have the biggest of garden space so to we are trying to make the most of the area we do have and find it very restrictive when we have to cordon off parts of the garden.

Also over this winter we have noticed our outside shelter roofing is now leaking. This means the children's belongings have been getting wet under the shelter and the shelter is no longer sufficient on rainy days!

Attachment 8:

Downland Sports Centre

(For the period April 1st 2018 to February 28th 2019)

- **Background**

The Downland Sports Centre is a small traditional dual use sports facility located on The Downs School campus, Compton. In terms of community use the Centre is operated by Legacy Leisure on behalf of West Berkshire Council under a contract which is scheduled to run until June 30th 2022.

Opening times for the centre are Term Time - Monday to Friday 17.45pm - 22.00pm, at weekends the facility is available for private hire. The centre was also open during the school summer holidays where holiday programmes were organized for children.

The facility has a 12 station gym, a three court Sports Hall, male and female changing rooms with showers and toilets.

The centre Manager is Rose Metalli of Legacy Leisure who covers the Centre along with the Lambourn Centre and Hungerford Leisure Centre. This arrangement provides some flexibility with staffing and support if the need should arise.

- **Programme**

Although a small centre a varied programme of activities and clubs can be found at the centre including:

- Downland Badminton club
- Fitness training in Gym
- Circuit Training
- Archery Sessions
- Downland Bowls Club
- Compton Harriers
- Children's Parties
- Camp Adventure Holiday Programme for children.

New members/users are always welcome to all activities but it should be remembered that club activities are organised by the clubs themselves rather than the centre staff.

- **Performance**

In reviewing performance it should be noted that the timetable for the report means that the full year is not yet complete.

The total recorded attendances between April 2018 to February 2019 totalled 8,341 which was approximately 1,600 attendances up on the period April 2017 to February 2018 – the vast majority of attendances seen are through either the use of the centre by clubs or organised courses at the centre. The number of attendances represents approximately 0.9% of the total attendances on the West Berkshire Leisure Centre contract (a total of 7 leisure centres).

Due to the limitations of the centre, i.e. no separate room for group exercise classes, only one Fitness Class per week is available at the Centre (Circuit Training) – over the eleven months of this report a total of 192 attendances were recorded, the group itself has reduced in size with 14 individuals recorded during the past 11 months, 6 of whom attend regularly.

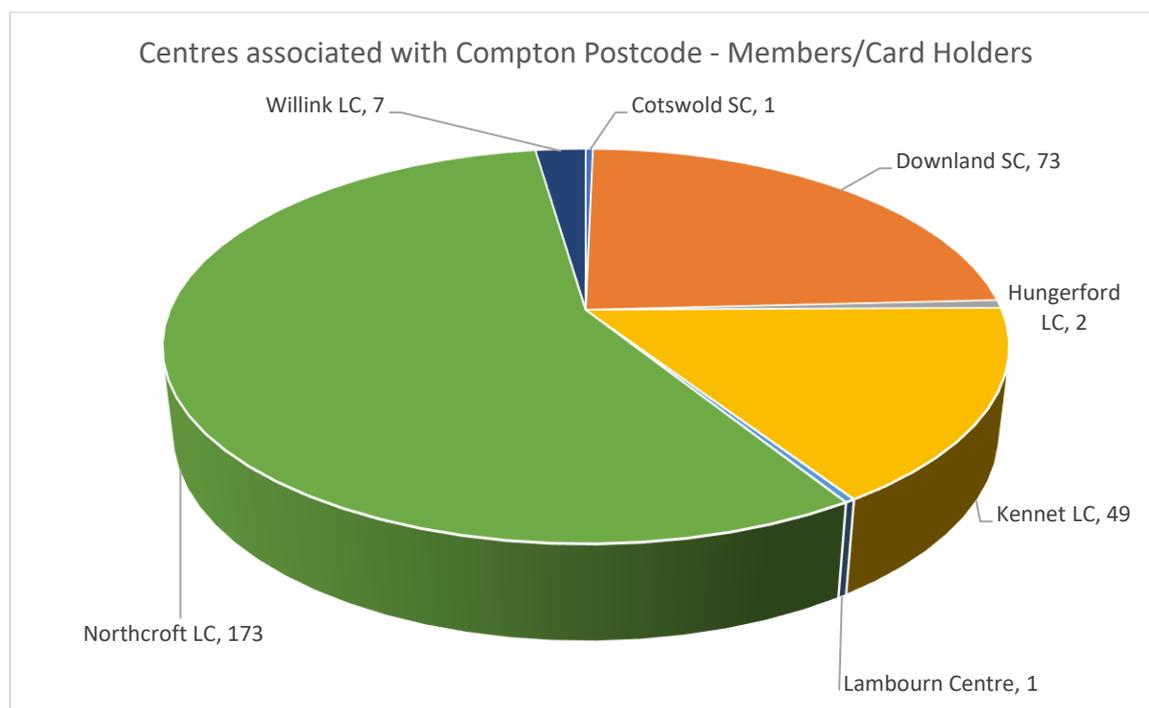
The centre continued to offer a holiday programme for children in the school holidays offering a wide variety of structured and informal provision. The last year saw 352 attendances at holiday programmes compared to 349 in 2017/18.

The fitness gym use usage fell back slightly with 350 recorded attendances in the eleven months April 2018 to February 2019 as opposed to 384 attendances for the period April 2017 to February 2018. The number of individuals identified as using the fitness gym at the Downlands Sports Centre also fell back to 27.

The majority of use, as previously stated, is through clubs and block bookings across several sports which accounts for 6,667 recorded attendances between April 2018 and February 2019 attendances recorded – this does amounts to almost 80% of all usage at the centre.

In 2017 a comprehensive User survey was undertaken – the numbers responding for Downlands was very low so the data obtained has no statistical significance. Overall the level of respondents who were at least satisfied with the performance of the leisure centres was 92.4% (from just over 1,600 responses). It is planned for a further User survey to take place in the autumn of 2019

Legacy Leisure have a membership scheme across the centres and in 2009 the West Berkshire Card was introduced offering discounted admission for card holders on a pay and play basis as well. At this point in time a total of 306 individuals with a Compton postcode either hold a leisure centre membership or a West Berkshire Card. These are distributed as shown in the pie chart below across all of the seven centres.



56.5% of these individuals have cards/memberships associated with the Northcroft Leisure Centre in Newbury, while 23.8% are associated with the Downlands Sports Centre. It should be noted that in relation to club use and group activity such as badminton we would only get the details of the individual making the booking and not all participants.

Given the limited facilities available at the Downland Sports Centre Legacy leisure have introduced a bespoke membership only applicable to the centre at a reduced rate (individuals can still take out full memberships which would allow them to access other centres as well. The total number of Downland only members is listed as 7.

- **General**

Legacy Leisure and the Downs School continue to have a positive working relationship. Regular operational meetings continue to discuss the facility and any issues. West Berkshire Council also attends these meetings.

As part of the contract monitoring, regular Client monitoring inspections are undertaken by West Berkshire Council. These inspections ensure Legacy Leisure is operating in accordance with the Contract.

If minimum contract standards are not achieved upon inspection, West Berkshire Council will issue Legacy Leisure/Parkwood Leisure with a default notice to ensure that any issues are rectified. In the last year I am pleased to be able to say that no rectification or default notices needed to be issued to the contractor for Downlands Sports Centre.

Jim Sweeting
Sport and Leisure Manager
West Berkshire Council
15th March 2019

Attachment 9:

SCHOOL ROAD ALLOTMENTS – ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2019

Who'd have thought having an allotment would bring so many good things into your life. Exercise, fresh air, new skills, old skills, wellbeing, fun, nature, produce and most importantly community.

Occupancy is full again for 2018-19 which is fantastic, there has been some movement but plots were snapped up which shows a healthy enthusiasm. All plots are chargeable this year and I have confidence that fees will be paid promptly. Renewals will be sent out at the beginning of April. I would like to propose we move this date back to January so that those who wish to give up their plot can do so and the new tenant can get going at the first sign of spring; April is a little late in the year! I propose we charge 9 months this year and renew in Jan 2020?

The water supply has been off for several months now and I have been supplying tenants from my own garden tap.

Our unwelcome visitor, the fox, who visited regularly last year thankfully has not shown up yet. The back perimeter fence is where they are accessing the allotments, this is non-existent in places and I last year you will recall that I requested a survey to be undertaken to assess the vulnerability; I would be keen to hear your views regarding this.

We are still struggling with cars being parked over the access gateway. I requested council to supply us with new signage but as yet not heard.

Overhanging trees and the boundary hedge is in good order thanks to the work undertaken last year.

The grass cutting along pathways as far as I can tell has been done by allotment holders. It would be useful to know when the contracted ground works are scheduled. I have sourced a supply of woodchips which was delivered to the main gate. This is a fabulous resource that we are using to maintain the paths between plots which get very muddy.

The compost plot has a crop of nettles thriving on it which is not attracting people to use it. I asked all current tenants if they wanted to keep this as a compost plot and the majority said yes and that they would help to maintain it, therefore it remains.

All in all everything is growing well.

Jude Cunningham
School Road Allotment Manager