

## Celebrating 70 years at Fawley – 1951 to 2021

# Community Matters

Energy lives here™

Volunteers at work in the Healthy Haven garden.

## Donation helps Healthy Haven to bloom



### Step back in time

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the opening of Fawley Refinery. But how did the giant plant come about and why was it needed? Turn to page two to find out.



### Online learning support

Fawley's science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) team has been busy helping youngsters in lockdown with some fun educational support. Find out more on the back page.



### Growing bit by bit

A garden retreat in the grounds of a Waterside medical practice is blossoming, thanks to the hard work of volunteers and a contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley. The full story is on page three.



### Demolition phase completed

Work to transform the old Holbury Club site into a community garden and picnic space is well underway with the completion of the demolition phase. Read more on the back page.



# Charity 'grateful' for contribution

**A New Forest charity has thanked ExxonMobil Fawley for its contribution towards the launch of a new pilot scheme aimed at helping people to access its vital services.**

Citizens Advice New Forest has received £1,500 from the site to help fund an outreach service to sit alongside the Food Larder project, a community programme run by volunteers. Alison Talbot, Chief Officer for Citizens Advice New Forest, said: "The Food Larder scheme is a partnership initiative between New Forest District Council, FareShare, Citizens Advice New Forest, local foodbanks, and parish councils. It's a membership scheme aimed at helping those on low incomes make their money go further by reducing food shopping bills."

She added: "Food Larders have already been launched across the district, including the Waterside, and the aim is to have a Citizens Advice representative present at each one to offer extra support, advice and information where needed. It means that anyone who comes along to the Food Larder can also chat to one of our team if they would like to. This generous contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley is helping to pilot this initiative at Food Larders in Marchwood, Hythe, Blackfield, and Calshot, supported by Marchwood Parish Council, Fawley Parish Council, Hythe and Dibden Parish Council, and the Waterside Foodbank."

Angharad Vaughan, Community Affairs Adviser at ExxonMobil Fawley, said: "Citizens Advice New Forest provides a valuable service to many people in our community. We are delighted to support this pilot initiative to have representatives from the charity at each Food Larder. We hope it will help many more people in need of advice to access the support they need."

- The Food Larders are a FareShare scheme funded by New Forest District Council and supported by the Citizens Advice Bureau and local foodbanks. Membership depends on household size, with weekly subscription costs ranging from £2.50 for a single person to £5 for a family of four or more. The value of the "bag" is worth considerably more than the weekly membership fee.

Waterside Food Larders are held at the following venues. People can turn up on the day to register and find out more information if required. No appointment is needed.

**Marchwood Village Hall**  
Mondays from 12.30pm to 2pm

**St Anne's Community Centre, Hythe**  
Tuesdays from 1pm to 2.30pm

**Queen Elizabeth Recreation Centre, Blackfield**  
Thursdays from 9.30am to 11am

**St George's Hall, Calshot**  
Thursdays from 12.30pm to 2pm

The Food Larder programme in action at St Anne's Community Centre, Hythe.



An aerial view taken in October 1949 showing the preliminary site work in progress. The old AGWI refinery is on the right of the picture, with the land earmarked to become home to the new Fawley Refinery in the foreground.

## Back where it all began

**This year marks the 70th anniversary of the opening of Fawley Refinery. In this edition of Community Matters we travel back to the beginning of the project and discover why the giant plant was needed.**

By the end of the Second World War, the British oil industry was facing a big challenge. It needed to meet the nation's increasing appetite for petroleum products without further impacting its already-strained foreign trade account. Pre-war oil consumption had stood at about 10m tonnes a year, with just a quarter of this refined on home soil. Projections indicated that by 1950, the country's demand for oil would soar to around 25m tonnes, a figure way beyond the capabilities of the UK's existing refineries.

In response to this dilemma, a huge expansion programme was drawn up by Whitehall with Fawley at the heart of the plans. The site, which had been home to the Atlantic Gulf and West Indies (AGWI) Refinery since 1921, was to become the new Esso Refinery. Capable of processing 220,000 barrels a day, the plant was forecast to save the country well over \$100m a year and provide the petroleum products needed for a self-sufficient Britain.

In 1946, planning began for the new refinery on a scale that had never previously been seen in Europe. With a projected two-and-a-half-year construction schedule, impeccable planning, meticulous attention to detail, and an extensive workforce was required to transform the proposed construction site.

After three years of planning, work finally began on the build in the summer of 1949. A huge contingent of about 5,000 British workers arrived at Fawley, their ranks bolstered by more than 70 American supervisors experienced in refinery work and ready to share their knowledge.

In the months that followed, this vast team of workers battled the elements and overcame various challenges in order to reach their goal of building a modern-day refinery that would be the envy of its European neighbours.





Volunteers at work in the Healthy Haven garden.



## An oasis of calm

**A community garden in the grounds of a local medical centre will blossom a little more this year thanks to a contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley.**

The "Healthy Haven" garden at the Waterside Medical Practice, Beaulieu Road, Hythe, is run by volunteers for the benefit of patients, staff and the general public. As well as being a source of colour, calm, and comfort for humans, the aim is to also create a space that attracts and nurtures wildlife. Lead volunteer Christine Bennett said: "ExxonMobil Fawley kindly contributed £700 last year, some of which we used to buy some trees. These include a Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Elderberry, and a Joseph Rock Mountain Ash, which has yellow berries. We also purchased three tonnes of topsoil which has been used for a large border that was cleared in the autumn."

In addition, the remaining funds of about £470 will go towards a fundraising appeal to purchase a new log cabin to replace the Healthy Haven's dilapidated shed. Christine said: "We are hoping to raise £7,500 for the cabin, which should last for the next 30 to 40 years. We have raised just over £1,000 so far, so this contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley is very much appreciated."

Due to COVID-19, the garden is currently closed to the public, but the volunteers hope they will be able to welcome people back before too long. Christine said: "We were able to host small groups of visitors for strawberry cream teas last summer and we would love to do that again this year as they were hugely popular. In addition, we hope to hold an open day which we had to postpone last year, as well as Tai Chi classes. If circumstances allow, the medical centre's Bereavement and Health Promotion groups will also use the garden this year, and we hope to invite some of our benefactors in to see how their kind donations have made a huge difference. We are incredibly grateful for all the support."

Angharad Vaughan, ExxonMobil Fawley's Community Affairs Adviser, said: "The Healthy Haven provides a colourful and welcoming space for people from across the Waterside community. The volunteers have done a fantastic job. We are delighted to have been able to support this wonderful project and look forward to seeing it blossom in the years to come."

The volunteers have set up a Facebook group about the garden and the fundraising effort for a new log cabin. Search for Healthy Haven Garden to find out more.

## Welcome boost for community groups

**Three vital community support groups have been given a welcome boost with a £1,750 contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley. Families Matter is a small charity based at Cornerstone Hythe United Reformed Church offering support to a wide range of people across the Waterside area.**

Julia Cross, Project Manager, said: "The funds from ExxonMobil Fawley will help support the Women's Wellbeing Group, Hythe Huddle, and the Memory Group which provide regular support to about 70 households within our local community. Although all our groups

are currently closed due to the COVID-19 lockdown, we hope to restart as soon as possible. This contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley will help with the costs of room hire, heating and other costs, and will go a long way to helping us continue our much-valued work. For a small charity like Families Matter, this money means a lot, especially at such a difficult time."

The Women's Wellbeing group provides a weekly opportunity for women with mental health needs to socialise together. Julia said: "As well as a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, members can also learn about healthy activities that will enhance their mental wellbeing. These include arts and crafts, nature walks, volunteering, and outings. The group is led by qualified mental health experts, who support the members by text message and phone calls when the group is unable to meet."

The Memory Group offers a weekly session of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy for people with dementia, which is proven to reduce mental decline and aid wellbeing. Julia said: "This is a small, friendly group of up to six members and their carers. It's very well received, and members say they look forward to coming each week."

The Hythe Huddle is a larger group also catering for people with dementia and their carers. It provides entertainment such as a sing-along, a music group, or a magic show. Julia said: "The founder and previous leader of the Hythe Huddle was Sally Wood, who sadly died last year after a short illness. We want to continue her amazing legacy and will look to start the group up again as soon as we have found a new leader."

Alison Jones, ExxonMobil Fawley's Community Affairs Manager, said: "We are very happy to have been able to give Families Matter a helping hand at a difficult time. The last year has been incredibly challenging for many people, particularly small charities. We hope this contribution from the Fawley site will help the continuation of these vital community services as soon as circumstances allow."

- To find out more about Families Matter and its services, call **023 8020 7623** and leave a message. Alternatively, email **office.fm.hurc@gmail.com**.



Members of Hythe Huddle enjoying a musical performance.



The Memory Group offers a weekly session of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy.

The demolition of the former Esso Club has been completed.



## Demolition phase completed safely

**Work to transform the former Esso Club in Holbury into a community garden and picnic space is now well underway with the demolition phase of the project complete.**

The plans for the site, which also include a commitment to continue to allow it to be used for sport, were approved by New Forest District Council towards the end of last year.

Fawley Estates Lead Andy Patz said: "The demolition work began at the end of November and has progressed to schedule. Most importantly, it has been carried out safely. The resulting rubble has also

been cleared from the site ready for the next stage."

The plans include landscaping and car parking to the front of the site adjacent to the road. A community garden and picnic space will also be created with views out to the fields behind. The sports facilities will continue to be used by the Holbury Community Sports Association (HCSA), which comprises football, cricket, tennis and bowls. The planning application also includes provision for a new sports pavilion, which could be constructed at the edge of the sports field.

## Online learning support continues in lockdown

**Fawley's science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) team is continuing to provide fun learning support to youngsters during the latest lockdown.**

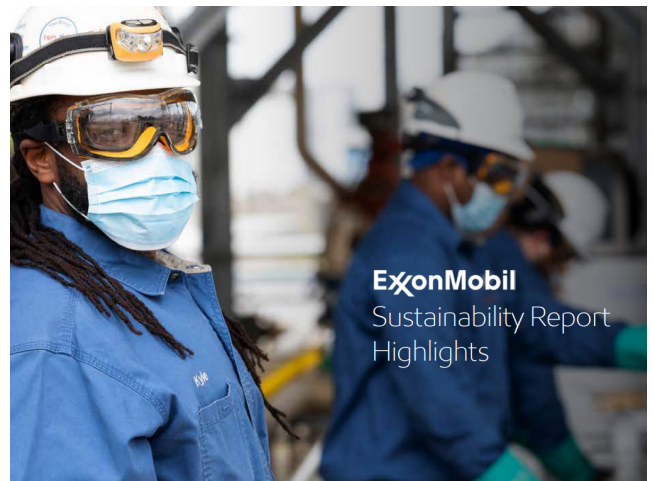
During the first set of restrictions, and again over the festive break, the team worked together to produce an online STEM pack which included a range of educational activities for youngsters of all ages. The "Solve it with STEM" resource will now also be continued as the UK sits out its third lockdown.

Fawley's Community Affairs Assistant Cara Mansbridge is part of the site's STEM team. She said: "We launched the activity packs last year during the original lockdown. With the vast majority of school-age children at home during that time, we thought it would be good to help keep them engaged by reaching out to

them in a way that meant they could learn and have fun at the same time. As soon as the latest lockdown was confirmed we started working on new packs."

The weekly packs are emailed to the Fawley site's 10 link schools and also shared on the Fawley Online website. Cara said: "Supporting young people and schools is a priority for us at Fawley and our STEM team members are always keen to engage with young people whenever we can, despite the difficulties brought about by COVID-19."

You can see the packs at [fawleyonline.org.uk](http://fawleyonline.org.uk).



## ExxonMobil publishes sustainability reports

The new year has seen the publication of two new reports that detail work being done by ExxonMobil around sustainability. The Sustainability Report 2021 and the Energy and Carbon Summary 2021 are both available to read in full online.

The Sustainability Report 2021 focuses on the "umbrella" areas of environment, social, and governance. These areas include plastic waste management, safety of the workforce, inclusion and diversity, community investments and much more. The document also includes a case study of the Corporation's COVID-19 response and the support it is providing to communities around the world.

In addition to the Sustainability Report, ExxonMobil's Energy and Carbon Summary 2021 has also been released. Among other topics, the summary outlines ExxonMobil's approach to managing climate risks, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It also highlights the company's commitment to advancing sustainable, effective solutions that address the world's growing demand for energy.

Both reports are available to read online at [corporate.exxonmobil.com](http://corporate.exxonmobil.com).

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