

## Celebrating 70 years at Fawley – 1951 to 2021

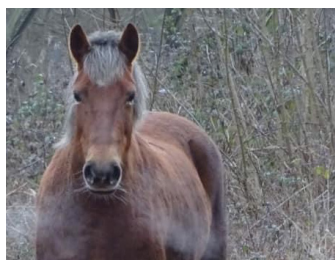
# Community Matters

Energy lives here™



A new resident of Hardley Halt admiring the view.

## Grazing boost for New Forest tradition



### Commoners get helping hand

An ancient New Forest tradition that dates back to before the Norman Conquest of 1066 is getting a helping hand to continue from ExxonMobil Fawley. See page two to find out how.



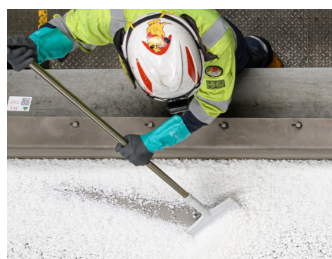
### Support for porch repairs

Much-needed repairs at a 12th century church are a step closer thanks to a donation from ExxonMobil Fawley. You can read more on page three.



### Pond project success

A project to preserve a natural habitat and encourage it to flourish has seen ExxonMobil Fawley working hand-in-hand with a local church and volunteers. Find out more on page three.



### Helping the fight against COVID-19

As the worldwide battle against COVID-19 continues, ExxonMobil Fawley is playing its part by becoming a key player in the vaccine supply chain. Turn to the back page for the full story.



# Supporting a new generation of commoners

**An ancient New Forest tradition that dates back to before the Norman Conquest in 1066 is getting a helping hand to continue from ExxonMobil Fawley.**

Commoners have been grazing their animals in the open New Forest for centuries, helping create and maintain the landscape and rare wildlife that makes the area so special. However, the rising price of land in the New Forest makes it difficult for new and young commoners to establish themselves - commoners require back-up grazing for when they need to bring their animals off the forest, but affordable options are in short supply.

In a new initiative helping to address the issue, ExxonMobil Fawley, which owns land on the edge of the New Forest, is licencing some of its untenanted grazing land to young commoners at a reduced rate. The first two commoners to benefit from the scheme, Louise England and Daniel Drodge, each have access to five acres of rough, open vegetation at Hardley Halt. The site has also installed new stock fencing and an animal pound, as well as providing a mobile water tank.

Daniel, 27, was born into a commoning family and has a herd of 12 New Forest ponies, which he hopes to grow over time. He said: "I have loved commoning from the very beginning, following in the footsteps of my father and grandfather. I find it so special that the ponies' bloodlines are passed down through generations of commoning families. I bred a filly this year whose grandmother had been bred by my grandfather."

Daniel will use the land at Hardley Halt for extra feed during the winter and bringing in mares and foals. He said: "To be honest, it's near impossible to find

affordable back-up grazing in the New Forest, so I'm very grateful I have been given the opportunity by ExxonMobil Fawley to use this land."

The grazing land initiative has been led by the site's Estates team in conjunction with the New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS), and the help of the New Forest Commoners Defence Association (CDA). Julie Melin-Stubbs, Manager of NFLAS, said: "It has been a pleasure working with the team at ExxonMobil Fawley over the past couple of years to identify these sites and survey them to assess their suitability for grazing. The two main areas of work for NFLAS come into play through this initiative - supporting commoning and encouraging sustainable, best practice land management. Many of these sites will become better for nature once they are grazed."

ExxonMobil Fawley and NFLAS have also identified two more pieces of land which will be licenced to young commoners who were shortlisted in the original application process. Julie said: "There is still more land to be offered over the coming years as we get the grazing infrastructure installed so, in time, more commoners will benefit from this initiative."

Simon Downing, ExxonMobil Fawley Refinery Manager, said: "This year marks 100 years of a refinery on this site and is the 70th anniversary of the opening of the new Esso refinery. As far back as 1951 the commitment to supporting the local community and to being a good neighbour has been a priority for Fawley. That has not altered over the last 70 years and I can't think of a more appropriate way of celebrating this special anniversary than by supporting a centuries-old New Forest tradition right on our doorstep."



Workers on a morning tea break, September 1949.



Construction workers battle through the mud during the bitter winter of 1950.

## The beginning of the build

**Fawley Refinery will celebrate its 70th anniversary in September. In the second of our series of articles to mark the occasion, we go back to the beginning of the build.**

The new Esso Refinery needed a sizeable chunk of land to accommodate the huge plant. Preparing the extensive site in a relatively short space of time was the first challenge. The initial steps involved clearing and levelling the vast site to allow the construction of temporary roads and the installation of the 3.5mile railway system. Water wells were dug and miles of fencing erected, all during an horrendous spell of inclement weather.

The winter of 1949-50 had been unpleasant, but the following year saw Fawley, like the rest of the country, suffer one of the longest and bleakest winters in memory. The average rainfall during construction was 2.73in per month, peaking at 7.96in in October 1950, the wettest month for over 60 years.

As Fawley was a rural location, virtually all the construction labour force was recruited from places 15 miles away or more. A camp capable of housing 750 workers was specially built on site, with canteen and club facilities provided in tandem. Within a month of opening, 300 men were lodging in the camp and by August 1951, it was expanded to house 800. When construction was at its peak, the caterer served 650 breakfasts, 775 midday meals, 725 dinners, 2,500 sandwiches, 7,500 cakes and 13,000 cups of tea every day.

- Look out for July's Community Matters when we look back at the official opening of the refinery.



A new resident of Hardley Halt.





The new pond has been created from what began as a natural spring.



## Pond project gets a helping hand

**A project to preserve a natural habitat and encourage it to flourish has seen ExxonMobil Fawley working hand-in-hand with a local church and volunteers.**

All Saints' Church, which borders the Fawley site, has a close association with the refinery stretching back over many decades. So, when volunteers from the church wanted some assistance with a conservation project, they knew just who to turn to.

David Chappell, who is a member of the church congregation and sits on the Parochial Church Council, said: "We have done a lot of conservation work in and around the churchyard itself over recent years, and the dividends are really starting to show with a beautiful carpet of wildflowers.

"The consecrated land is owned by the church, but the surrounding woodland is owned by ExxonMobil Fawley. However, the area is not within the site's security fence and is accessible to the public via a path. A little while ago, I came across the remains of an old bridge and realised that there was a natural spring present, which meant the potential to create a wildlife pond."

David, who helps to look after the church grounds and is passionate about ecology, decided to get in touch with ExxonMobil Fawley to ask for help. He said: "The ExxonMobil Estates team were really enthusiastic about the opportunity to create a natural habitat for wildlife and arranged for a local contractor to come in and dig out the pond. It was quite a big task, but the pond is already coming along nicely. There are plenty of frogs in residence, and we hope to have newts and wildfowl in the future when planting helps the pond to become more established."

As part of its offer of support, the Fawley site's Environmental team also arranged for an ecological survey of the churchyard and surrounding woodland to be carried out. This will give David and his fellow volunteers a better insight into how the habitat can be

best maintained and nurtured. He said: "The survey was really useful, especially in terms of what we need to plant around the pond to help it thrive. As a church, we are passionate about conservation and biodiversity, and feel it is very much part of our faith to do what we can for nature. We are incredibly grateful to ExxonMobil Fawley for the amazing support we have had, it's been such a huge help."

Ian Althorp, ExxonMobil Fawley's Environment Team Lead, said: "We are committed to being a responsible neighbour. We have several schemes on site which encourage sustainability, recycling, and biodiversity so, when David got in touch, we were only too happy to help. The pond project is a great example of the conservation work that is being carried out by the church and volunteers. We look forward to seeing the woodland and the pond flourish in the future."

### Bird population is thriving

All Saints' Church and the surrounding woodland is proving a real haven for wildlife, especially the winged variety. David said: "We've been fortunate to have some research carried out by a local expert who compiled a report on the various bird species that can be found. As well as the more common varieties such as Robins and Blue Tits, the survey also discovered Coal Tits, Firecrests, Nuthatches, and Treecreepers, among many others. We've also installed quite a few nest boxes to encourage breeding."

David hopes that in time the church will be able to welcome organised groups to see the conservation work being carried out. He said: "It is something we would like to do when we can, it would be nice to share our experiences. If each of us does our own little bit to help the environment it will make a big difference collectively."

## Contribution will help to preserve porch

**Much-needed repairs to the porch at All Saints' Church are a step closer thanks to a donation from ExxonMobil Fawley.**

The porch at the entrance to the 12th century building needs attention and the £2,000 contribution from its closest neighbour will go a long way to helping pay for the repairs. The Venerable Caroline Baston, Interim Priest in Charge for the parish of Fawley, said: "The porch was a Victorian addition to the church, but unfortunately it is leaking water. Some of the guttering also needs repairing because when it rains it creates a waterfall down the wall."

The porch protects some very beautiful "dogs tooth" engraving around the original Norman west door of the church, and the repairs are crucial to preserving this historical feature. Caroline said: "We are very grateful for the donation of £2,000 towards the cost of the work, it will go a long way to helping us make the porch watertight again."

Alison Jones, Community Affairs Manager at ExxonMobil Fawley, said: "The church is our closest neighbour and has been since the refinery was built in 1951. All Saints' is not just an important community asset, it has enormous historical value going back more than 800 years. We are pleased that our donation towards the porch roof repairs will help to protect that history for many more years to come."

Much-needed repairs to the porch at All Saints' Church, in Fawley, are a step closer thanks to a £2,000 contribution from ExxonMobil Fawley.







## Chemicals units helping fight against COVID-19

Butyl rubber produced at Fawley is used in COVID-19 vaccine vials.

**As the worldwide battle against COVID-19 continues, ExxonMobil Fawley is playing its part in fighting the disease, in particular by becoming a key player in the vaccine supply chain.**

The site's Chemicals units are responsible for supplying a range of products that are being used to combat COVID-19. Among these products is halobutyl rubber, a key component in the production of the vials that hold the COVID-19 vaccines. Jamie Renshaw, Fawley's Chemicals Technical Manager, said: "Halobutyl rubber creates a strong, impermeable barrier which lends itself perfectly for use in the production of pharmaceutical bottle stoppers, used to keep injectable medicines sealed and sterile. The rubber creates a re-sealable barrier, which does not fragment when pierced by the needle of a syringe, as required for a COVID-19 vaccine vial."

As the race to produce vaccines has gathered pace, so has the demand for the all-important vials. Jamie said: "By providing approximately 70 per cent of all ExxonMobil pharmaceutical grade rubber, Fawley is making a significant contribution to the COVID-19 vaccine supply chain. In fact, we believe that in the region of half of all the rubber that goes into the vial stoppers globally may originate from Fawley."

As well as halobutyl rubber, Fawley's Chemicals plant produces a range of liquids that are also helping the COVID-19 fight. For example, Fawley is an integral part of ExxonMobil's global Isopar™ production, making four different grades of high-purity synthetic isoparaffin – branded as Isopar™. These fluids can be used in the manufacture of a variety of medical products, including sterile packaging and cleaning agents.

In addition, Fawley is the only site within the global ExxonMobil circuit to produce Methyl Ethyl Ketone, a chemical liquid commonly known as MEK. MEK plays a key role in the production of pharmaceuticals, as does Secondary Butyl Alcohol (SBA), produced as part of the MEK process. Both fluids can be used in the manufacturing process as solvents.

Fawley also produces a range of higher olefins, versatile chemical intermediates used in any number of important industrial and consumer products. The higher olefins made at Fawley are transported to ExxonMobil's Rotterdam site for further processing into alcohols, and eventually plasticisers. Due to their hygienic performance, these plasticisers are used in the production of hospital flooring, vinyl stretch ceilings and wall coverings. Recently, the plasticisers have been used in the Madrid equivalent of the Nightingale Hospital. During the pandemic, Fawley's higher olefins production has played a crucial role in the production of PPE, including protective goggles, vinyl gloves, and personal facemasks.

Finally, Fawley is a significant contributor to ExxonMobil global production of Exxal™ 8, an alcohol used in the production of a special type of adhesive found in masks and respirators. This adhesive can also be used to attach surgical products, such as drapes and electrodes, to patients in hospitals.

Jamie said: "As we are all only too well aware, COVID-19 continues to be a massive global challenge, affecting whole populations in ways that most of us would not have predicted just over a year ago. Throughout the pandemic, ExxonMobil Fawley has remained a reliable supplier to the pharmaceutical industry, making sure that we play our part in the fight against this disease."

### You can see what is happening at Fawley and across our organisation

From time to time, ExxonMobil Fawley will experience operational events that may affect the wider community, for example increased noise or flaring. Where possible, the site will endeavour to notify residents of these events and to provide regular updates. You can find this information on [fawleyonline.org.uk](https://www.fawleyonline.org.uk). The website also gives details about the Control of Major Accidents and Hazards (COMAH) regulations.

[exxonmobil.co.uk](https://www.exxonmobil.co.uk) - Our UK website

ExxonMobil\_Fawley @ExxonMobil\_UK See our latest videos on ExxonMobil's YouTube Channel

Read ExxonMobil Perspectives for our company's views on the issues, policies, technologies and trends that are shaping the energy industry.

Visit ExxonMobil's Energy Factor, an online resource covering the cutting-edge technology and innovations that are helping to meet tomorrow's energy needs.