Descendants of the Haynes family - 30/11/15
Hi i'm looking for descendants of the Haynes family. My Grandmother was Lizzie Haynes , daughter of Mark Haynes the Sexton of Faringdon All saints Church. Lizzie had two brothers , Mark and Oliver who were killed in WW1 in France. I am looking for photographs of Lizzies first wedding in about 1910 and also of the two brothers please.
dstevenson123@btinternet.com

Nut Tree Clock - 30/11/15
Sjoerd - very interesting background to the clock, thank you, and you are right. It looks glorious!
Fiona Merrick

Re: Nut Tree Clock - 30/11/15
sound's like Trigger's broom ;), but glad it's back.
Name Supplied

BLUNDERBUSS - 30/11/15
I don't get it. If Mary Beck insists on filling her blunderbuss with toys & blasting forth, then she should at least first read the background documents to the town sign – because they contain many of the answers to the questions that she supposedly wants answers to.
Puzzled.

REFURBISHED NUT TREE CLOCK- 29/11/15
ED asks if it's the "original" refurbished clock - or a new one. Interesting question, and the answer isn't entirely straightforward. Starting from the beginning....
According to Rachel Bragg - occasional blogger and freelance photographer based in Devon ( see the interesting article http://www.sweet-images.co.uk/where-did-all-the-clocks ) the original clock is from the mid-18th century. This is a very interesting blogpost ( and spot the photo of another Faringdon clock in the same article!) but not correct. The original clock is mid-19th century. It was made by Counsell Clockmakers who were based in Faringdon - and still around making very fancy carriage clocks by hand well into the 20th century. It was of course mechanical; with a weights cabinet on the 1st floor. These weights needed pulling up daily. We now jump to the 1930s. The shop was E. Leerton & Sons - selling radios and small electrical items. Rosalie Bleetman remembers when her father David Leerton ( the grandfather of the current owner - Danny Bleetman) had the family name of LEVERTON'S added to the top of the clock, and she thinks that he also had Counsell rebuild or replace the insides. This was before WWII.
Before the bypass was built in 1978/79, the clock ( and the name sign) were continually being damaged by high vehicles as they tried to squeeze through the narrow Cornmarket. You can imagine that these knocks and bangs led to quite a high maintenance, not just external, but also on the mechanical guts of the clock, and on one of these occasions the Leerton's name was also knocked off, and wasn't put back. Hairline cracks would lead to water ingress. Not good. We can all remember the times when the clock stood still - waiting to be repaired - yet again. We now jump to just five years ago. Trevor & Donald were still pulling up the weights daily. But it was clear that the mechanical clock was on its last legs. The clockmaker (Peter Meacham from Milton-under-Wychwood) found that the insides were now not much more than a pile of rust, and beyond repair. It was at this point that it was converted to mains power - with wireless timing. Very appropriate perhaps, considering that Levertons were in the 1930s selling cutting edge wireless radios. So - for the past five years it's been a satellite-controlled electronic clock - but with an increasingly shabby face. This latest visit to Peter Meacham's has been purely cosmetic. A full spruce-up to go along with the repainting of the exterior of the building, including new gold leaf gilding - at a cost of well over £2000 . And doesn't it look absolutely splendid!
Sjoerd Vogt

Thankyou - 29/11/15
I would like to thank the kind person who found my purse in Tesco's car park on Sunday morning and handed it in. I am most grateful. I would also like to thank the checkout gentleman and service desk lady who helped me.
Barbara Brown

Faringdon Post Office - 29/11/15
Post office in faringdon is awful, most times there is only one member if staff. I do go to shrivehman, the staff are lovely & very helpful. It is such a shame. If Mc'colls can't run it proply then give the chance to some one else.
Name provided
Nut Tree Clock - 28/11/15
I think it's a new one. It looks slightly different, although it could have been polished up.
Fiona Merrick

Health Services in South Oxfordshire- do make your views clear - 28/11/15
Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group are beginning to think through what Health services are needed to cope with the massive population increase in South Oxfordshire. Good News?? Yes for Didcot, Wallingford, Abingdon and Wantage/Grove-but Faringdon hardly gets a mention, Watchfield, Stanford, Kingston Bagpuize are not mentioned at all.  We're not even shown on the map in the Scoping Document.
The reply to why is this? was 'as this project develops further thinking will start to emerge around Faringdon but it is still early stages at present.'
Please do read the document and make some comments before 15th December to Julia Stackhouse on cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net.

ED
I wrote again- Response received: I am aware we have not done justice in our thinking to Farringdon. I was keen however that we did publish something as there was already concerns about time lag. I will ask what, if anything else, we should publish in this engagement period.
Obviously we will collate all feedback and use it to inform next stages and we have stressed this is about scoping options.
Ed Mis spelling of Faringdon- not my mistake!

Clock in the Cornmarket- 28/11/15
The clock is back looking very smart. Does anyone know if it's the original one refurbished or a new clock
Ed

Town sign - 27/11/15
The Pink Pigeons must be very relieved to see how far we have strayed from the subject of what to do about the town sign. One question I would like answered is: how did they propose that the sign be funded? If by the town, then indeed there are far more worthy recipients, such as the Day Centre; if it is planned that money should again be syphoned off from what developers are obliged to contribute, then I would suggest that they have already paid for the diver, and that should be enough when there are so many other aspects of town life that could be improved by an injection of cash.
How do we get the Town and District Councils to reconsider the way they seem to have let the sign proposals go through on the nod?
Mary Beck

Festive Faringdon is tomorrow - Saturday 28 November 2015 - 27/11/15
The market square will be closed to traffic from 08:00. Diversions will be via Ferndale Street, Swan Lane & Coach Lane.
Temporary bus stops are in Park Road
There is free car parking all day.
Sally Fox

SMALL TOWN - BIG HEART - 27/11/15
I'm so pleased that Name Supplied took the time to post examples of all the many volunteers who step up to the plate and help to make the town a better, more vibrant place to live. Faringdon also has a big heart and a strong social conscience, and one that we can be equally proud of.  I'm sure this also plays an important part in regular surveys that rank us as one of the best towns for families to live. In 2004 we became the first Fairtrade Town in the South East, and the Mustard Seed (run by yet more volunteers) is held up as a shining example by other fairtrade groups around the country. Remember the incredible turnout for the MakePovertyHistory white band event in 2005 – when we put the biggest white band in the country round the top of the Folly tower? We've won national awards for our environmental efforts ( there are seventeen farms under organic stewardship within five miles of Faringdon – including Folly Hill – hence the poppies!), and the Faringdon Peace Group with over 300 supporters is one of the largest groups in the town. Christmas shoeboxes, Family Centre, Breakfast Club, Rotary, Food Bank, Refugee group, Church-supported projects both at home and abroad, the list goes on. Keep up the good work – and above all THANK YOU.
Name Supplied

Good News - 27/11/15
I would like to share a good news story about our local Martial Arts Classes in Wantage and Grove and Faringdon. Would we be able to submit this article for the next edition please?
Matt Fiddes Martial Arts (Oxfordshire) Wantage & Grove/Faringdon Teams.
Students from Matt Fiddes Mighty Max's (3-6 years) and the Junior Programme participated in the Matt Fiddes British
Championships in Swindon. Students participated in an action packed day of hand-drills kickboxing, sparring and kicking categories. Ruby Gniadek-Pitt (5) from Grove gained a silver medal in wavemaster extreme kicking and Imogen Miles (14) received a bronze medal in Handdrills. Jake Nicholls (13) received silver in sparring. Zachary New (5), Oliver Keep (5) Sam Brewis (13), Tansy Brown (8), Emilie Brown (4), Thomas Stamp (13), Joseph Lappin (8) Hannah Read (8) Joshua Jones (5) Jon Harrison (12) Nathan Harrison (10) also represented Oxfordshire at the event. Dylan Miles (12) competed for the first time in the adult categories coming 6th out of 20 adults from across Britain. Neil, of Matt Fiddes Martial Arts Oxfordshire said, "I am very proud of all the students at all of the classes for their enthusiasm and commitment to learning. The students have all developed and have become confident in their skills. Students who attended the championships did themselves and Oxfordshire proud". All those students who participated came home with medals for participation. For more information on the local schools contact Neil Miles on 07903 683880 or via email neilmiles68@yahoo.co.uk

Passing of Jo Harbour - 26/11/15
Jo bought so much comfort to many. Her Ministry work at Harnhill Centre of Christian Healing bought healing and comfort to many hurting folks. She will be sadly missed by many
Dee England

Post office - 26/11/15
The post office just needs more staff. They are doing very best at this time of year. That "P" word should be used. Not Pizza. Patience
Dee England

Sensory Garden info- 26/11/15
Thank you Mel, for the info. Best of luck with it
HT

RE: Sensory Garden.- 26/11/15
Well I personally say well done to Mel Lane and I wish you all the very best in this great and rewarding plan. The lane has long looked scruffy and unwelcoming, especially when dark. To have this Sensory Garden I fully believe it will spruce up the area and will become a great location for all manner of folk to come, stroll or just sit and contemplate life. Let's face it what is there currently is overgrown and unsightly. I note the nayser declined to have their name to the piece. Sadly there is always going to be negative folk who just can't see the bigger picture or feel it is not relevant to them so will shoot an idea down. Since moving to Faringdon over three and half years ago I have been so impressed at the warm and welcoming nature of the town and how people genuinely try to improve and build on things. This project is just an example of what makes Faringdon so lovely. Please don't spoil it for others by being so negative.
Rob Perkins

Volunteers - 26/11/15
Faringdon has a really good track record of local people, who volunteer their time and energy to improve the town and activities in the town; all of which with little or no public money. I thought it was worth mentioning some of them. They all add hugely to the quality of life for Faringdon people and the vitality of the town
The latest of these, under discussion are:
- Town Sign
- Sensory Garden
- Football Club
- New cricket pitch and pavilion
- New tennis courts and pavilion
- Skate Park
- Folly Tower and Woodland
- U3a- many interesting activities for large numbers of older people
faringdon.org since 2002
Community Bus

Faringdon Twinning Association
The History Society
Chamber of Commerce
Brownies, Guides and Scouts
Farcycles
Pump House Project
Far runners
WI
Artistic skaters
Young Farmers
Rotary
Marshall Arts
British Legion
Bowling Club
Tuesday and Wednesday walks
Bell ringing
Arts Society
Faringdon Singers
Ferndale Community Choir
Children's ukulele group

Name Supplied
I've heard that people will drive to Highworth, Shrivenham or Stanford rather than suffer the poor service at the Faringdon Post Office. This when various groups are trying to encourage more people to shop in Faringdon. I wonder if the Chamber of Commerce, the Retail group or the Town Team could influence McColls?

**Burglaries** - 26/11/15
Thames Valley Police is appealing for witnesses following two burglaries (non-dwelling and theft from a vehicle) in Faringdon. Between Saturday (21/11) and Sunday (22/11), a garage in Folly View Road and a garage in Marlborough Gardens were broken into. Offender(s) stole fishing rods and a trolley jack. Between Friday (20/11) and Monday (23/11) offender(s) stole hand tools from the back of a pick-up truck in Marines Drive. At around 7am this morning (26/11) a man was seen attempting to gain entry to a vehicle parked on a driveway in Marlborough Close. He is described as a white male, 5’8: tall, aged 35/40 years old, medium build with dark wavy hair and facial hair/stubble. He was wearing a black leather jacket, jeans and described as scruffy looking. If you see or have seen any suspicious looking people or vehicles in the area or have any information relating to this message, please call the police on the 24 hour non-emergency telephone number 101. Alternatively if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online@crimestoppers-uk.org. No personal details are taken, information is not traced or recorded and you will not go to court.

**Late night shopping evening Thurs 3rd** - 26/11/15
Does anyone know how late the shops will be open?
Local Yokel

**Car accident in 1978- can anyone help?** - 26/11/15
Have you any newspapers dating back to 1978 regarding a car crash that happened on the A420 at Pusey Woods the 25th of February 1978. The person who I am inquiring about is my dad Mr Edward Andrew Philip Davis and he lived in Chinnor Oxon. I have tried everything else but have hit a brick wall. Realy hope some one can help.
Kind regards
Spencer Davis
spncr.davis1@googlemail.com

**Town Spending ..** - 26/11/15
Before Public money is spent on NEW town projects, such as Town Sign or Sensory Garden, surely the priority should be to fund and do as much as possible to retain the services which CURRENTLY exist .. Secondly we should be trying to improve the look of the town and encouraging new business into it, making it a better place to live and work in ... Only after this is done should we be looking at NEW signs , gardens etc .. As for giving money to people to tidy their gardens, totally ridiculous and insulting to those who genuinely need money to eat or keep warm, and to the tax payer like me who would be funding it ..
Name Supplied

**Sensory Garden** - 25/11/15
May I reassure those who have commented; the project is not intended to be funded by the local authority. The sum needed will be sourced by other means (private investment, organisations providing grants for such purposes et al. e.g. The Heritage Lottery Fund, Landfill grants etc.) With regards to "operational expenditure" i.e. ongoing maintenance, this is of course very much on the agenda. Please bear in mind that the council already have an obligation to maintain the site. By planting it in a low maintenance design and ensuring a revenue stream from the planned cafe there then it will reduce the dependency long term on council funding. On the question of garnering support, I have met with specific groups to understand their requirements. One of the reasons we rarely see people in wheelchairs around, is quite simply, according to local wheelchair users - is that there is nowhere suitable for them to go. As a professional project manager, I have an obligation to the town and to my own reputation to deliver any project in a manner which considers the scope, scale, costs, risks and constraints. This project will have to go through any number of planning hurdles, all of which I understand are open to the public as meetings to enable them to make reasonable objections to as they see fit. This includes residents of Willes Close, Southampton Street, the owner of the adjacent land or indeed Tesco. So:

- No funding is to be requested from the local council
- Yes onwards maintenance is recognised and planned for
- Yes planning permission is recognised and planned for also as is also the rights of local residents or businesses to object within the usual parameters of planning objections
- Yes I have been and will continue to explore with local groups what they need from such a space and seek to include their requirements throughout.

As a final note, with recent cuts to local services, surely a project which is aimed at benefiting those likely to be hit is a good
thing? Bromsgrove Day Centre was mentioned - I spent several hours here at their invitation and all were urging me to get on with the project "before they died!" - hugely supportive in every way.

I hope this reassures those interested parties.

I welcome constructive feedback and would urge anyone who would like to talk through to contact me on meljlane@me.com.

Mel Lane

**Sensory garden/town sign.** 25/11/15

When I read about the proposed sensory garden the first thing I thought off was vandalism, I can see lots of money and a great deal of hard work being put into this well meant project, I can also see the morons of the town guffawing inanely after they get in and destroy it. My second thought was how many people would truly actually use it.

I also agree that a town sign is probably that last thing needed in the town centre, especially if it has anything to do with Berners and his quirky nature which is only admired by just a few townsfolk and the idea that people will come into the town to stand and admire it and thus shop here is quite naïve.

I know it's easy to be negative and pull down other peoples enthusiasm for such things but I tend to be a realist, both projects seem to be a little self indulgent to me.

The Bromsgrove day centre is to close, something that is actually used and desperately needed so why not put a sensory centre in there somewhere while keeping the much needed day centre going at the same time, put the money that would be needed to fund the other two projects into that, surely it could be done and something far more people in this town would benefit from.

And if you still need a sign how about putting one over the door saying "saved for the many not just the few".

Name Supplied

**Adult Social Care budget cuts & Faringdon projects** 25/11/15

Some very pertinent points made by Hilary. Sensory gardens and civic artwork are very nice and I wish the teams involved in both projects well with their ideas and good luck with finding the funds.

The cuts to the Adult Social Care budget proposed by Oxfordshire County Council look severe. If they go ahead many services that provide hugely valuable support to vulnerable members of our community will lose their funding and will struggle to survive.

The next five years will get tough as the cuts start to really take effect.

The consultation period ends 30 November 2015. Do look at the document (very hard to wade through, but worth the effort) and comment. You'll find it at: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/adult-social-care-1

At least OCC will have a record of your views, even if they pay no attention.

Julia Burn

**Sensory Garden** 25/11/15

Public consultation needs to be carried out. Have Wills Close been consulted !!!!!!!!

Folks won't use it, to far out of town.

We don't need another town sign, another consultation need doing not agreed just because a few want it.

Waste of money

Name supplied

**Town sign.** 25/11/15

Having looked at the choice of signs, my view is that the Bowler is a non-starter. Although Berners has a place in the town's history, this design over-emphasises it.

I also have my doubts about the gyratory design. It would be great fun for those developing it (which, I suspect, makes it attractive to the organisers) but I have concerns about the amount of maintenance it might require.

This leaves the shields, and of these I find the Tale of Two Follies the more interesting.

So, I go for a slightly quirky version of the conventional, 2D, design

Derek Pepper.

**Projects- Sensory Garden, Town Sign** 25/11/15

It is very difficult and unpopular to disagree with a well intentioned project which will, in principle, benefit a large number of people, particularly when those people come from disadvantaged groups in society. There are two community projects being discussed on this forum at present. There is no doubt that the sensory garden is entirely well conceived and will take up a hitherto neglected piece of land, and my remarks are in no way intended to denigrate Mel and her project.

If you conduct a survey though, and ask "Will you use the garden?" virtually everyone will say "Yes", and agree that it is a good idea, but what you need to study are the existing habits of the respondents, not their theoretically positive intentions. The project will undoubtedly be brilliantly planned and the garden beautifully designed, but how much will it really be used, bearing in mind the English weather, and the capricious nature of the users. I don't see many carers pushing their wheelchair-bound charges around Faringdon's streets at present, (yes I know that is only one group) and the existing town park is usually pretty empty.

The other question concerns maintenance. How would the ongoing maintenance be funded after the grand opening? A sensory garden will require quite a bit of maintenance and expenditure over the long term. Is it proposed that volunteers will take this on?

As for a town sign, we have plenty already, we don' t need another one. If our elected representatives really think a vanity project is necessary, there are experienced, qualified designers in the town who might like the opportunity to put forward their original designs, so why not hold an open competition?

I realise that by voicing these concerns I will appear negative and curmudgeonly, so be it. In times of plenty I wouldn't hesitate to support the garden. In the present economic climate, though, if money is available - from any source - we should be directing it at existing need.
All of that brings me to my final point. Some of you may have woken up to the fact that services are being savagely axed by Oxfordshire County Council. One of those services is day centres for children and the elderly. It’s easy to cut their small grants since the recipients rarely complain. In particular, I would like to draw attention to the fact that the Bromsgrove Day Centre in Faringdon faces closure in 2016 when it’s grant is withdrawn. For a small affordable charge the Bromsgrove day centre offers a proven and regular lifeline to frail, lonely elderly people and respite for their sometimes desperate carers. It does not have the advantage of being fashionable, or glamorous, or high profile. It is staffed by a truly dedicated team of volunteers, led by a paid employee. For a few days a week they provide transport to and from the venue, a hot home cooked meal and company. Much of this is provided at the volunteers’ own expense. Their grant is around £14,000 per year. I doubt very much whether the installation of a town sign would be cheap, and the sum is derisory when compared to the £250,000 estimate for a sensory garden.

Hilary Taylor

The Faringdon Post Office - 25/11/15

What is Faringdon’s experience of their Post Office? Myself and about 14 others stood in the queue for over 35 minutes this afternoon, for 20 of those minutes the queue did not move. And guess what, only one counter was open. When I left I asked one of the staff at the newsagent if this happened often and they said every day. Every day between 3 and 5pm there is only one window open and an enormous queue. The point is the Post Office have a monopoly, we can’t just go into the next shop, with better service and get stamps etc. The business is understaffed and badly run. What will it be like in the coming weeks as we get closer to the busiest time of the year? If you want to complain to the PO the link is http://www.postoffice.co.uk/contact-us-complaint.

Name supplied

Health Services in South Oxfordshire - 24/11/15

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group are beginning to think through what Health services are needed to cope with the massive population increase in South Oxfordshire. Good News?? Yes for Didcot, Wallingford, Abingdon and Wantage/Grove - but Faringdon hardly gets a mention, Watchfield, Stanford, Kingston Bagpuize are not mentioned at all. We’re not even shown on the map in the Scoping Document. The reply to why is this? was ‘as this project develops further thinking will start to emerge around Faringdon but it is still early stages at present.’

Please do read the document and make some comments before 15th December to Julia Stackhouse on ccsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net.

ED

Sensory Garden Project Update - 24/11/15

Just a short note to keep you up to date with progress on the Sensory Garden Project this month.
I’ve had meetings with Faringdon Day Centre at Bromsgrove, Root & Branch at Westmill, My Carer, Faringdon Community College and Old Station Nursery to gain an initial insight into anticipated usage of the site. The support has been overwhelming from all.
Access is still presenting an issue but we are working with various planning teams to try to overcome.
Tomorrow I have a meeting regarding the launch of a new funding source.
If you would like to be on an email list for news then please email meljlane@me.com. Please also contact me if you’d like to be involved in the project in any way.

With best wishes

Mel Lane

Sadlers Restaurant - 24/11/15

A group of us had dinner at Sadlers last Friday. We had a wonderful meal in beautiful surroundings. I’m sure the Christmas menu will be just as good. Looking forward to it!

Name Supplied

PIDGIN BADGES - 24/11/15

I’ve seen a few people wearing little enamel dove badges - where can you get them? Very classy. Are they something specifically to do with Faringdon? I’ve seen an orange one and pink one; does blue exist?

name supplied

ED(GW) Yes -- you can get them in the TIC; the cost is £2 I think. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, - and even pink!

Town Sign - 24/11/15

I don’t know Mary Beck so I’m not a ‘supporter’. I happen to have my own mind and don’t need to follow. I had read the ‘comprehensive background documents that have been prepared’ before commenting. They aren’t very concise but I carried on until the end, and hopefully others will.
I obviously missed the simple survey that was conducted, where would I have found it? I’ve not yet met anybody who knew about it or took part.
I’ve followed the work of the PPT since they began and I understand completely what they stand for and it’s a great group it’s just that it does appear, as with the diver, that what they want will happen whatever.
I do hope the town council have more input this time.

Name supplied

TOWN SIGN - CARBON FOOTPRINT - 24/11/15
"Name supplied" asks whether the gyratory could be powered by the wind- or solar panels charging up a battery perhaps. Interesting question; and this is something that is under investigation. Slightly disappointing perhaps - but the experts that we have so far spoken with (including a company that specialises in this kind of bespoke moving installation) are advising us that the most reliable & robust way of providing the power would be mains. Both wind and solar would be higher ongoing maintenance, prone to going wrong, and generally a bit random! However, they reassure us that the power required to provide movement is relatively low. And clearly, if an attractive addition to the market place means that more people are likely to want to shop locally, then the impact of the town sign in lowering our overall carbon footprint could be huge....

Sjoerd Vogt

Sadlers of Faringdon Christmas Menu 2015 - 23/11/15
Wild Mushroom and Oxford Blue Cappuccino
Black Pudding and Sausage Palmier
Sweet Potato and Courgette soup
Mild Brie and Cranberry Filo on Pea Shoot Salad
--
Sadlers Turkey Crown ~ Festive with all the Sides!
Beef & Guinness Pudding on Horseradish Mash
Chilli and Cumin Fillet of Pork with Nasi Goreng Potatoes
Seasoned Cod Fillet with a Crumbed Olive and Sun blush Tomato Salsa
Squash and Walnut Parmesan Strudel
--
Cinnamon and Spice Bread and Butter Brioche
Crème Brulee
Raspberry and Frangelica Brownie
Dutch Cheeses with Brood and Chutney

£24 per person to include fizz on arrival and nibbles
(small or large bookings welcome – info@sadlerscatering.co.uk 01367 240678)
REMAINING DATES AVAILABLE: 2nd, 6th lunchtime, 9th, 11th, 12th & 16th

Local Jobs - 23/11/15
Do keep an eye on the jobs page on this site. There's an interesting one on offer at the moment- working from home

Ed

Town Sign - 23/11/15
Yes it must celebrate our history- Market Charter, Civil Wars, our architecture, coaching inns, the Folly, All Saints - there is so much- probably too much for a conventional town sign or coat of arms. I think it needs to be a creative interpretation that covers as much as possible from our long history so that people notice it and go and look at it.

Resident of Faringdon for a long time

Town Sign - 23/11/15
I know we're at an early stage in selecting a town sign and that next steps are to involve the schools etc. but given that four designs have already been presented, I can see why people would think to an extent that the decision had already been made (just playing Devil's Advocate, you understand).

I'm not keen on the wacky nature of the designs and I think I'd like to see more variety in the proposed ones. I also agree that the market square already has a tribute to Lord Berners in the form of the recent Portwell Bench and Diver and given the Town Charter is in celebration of this being granted, perhaps this is an opportunity to celebrate the other elements of Faringdon which make us a well rounded, diverse and attractive town to be in?

Lord Berners, doubtless made a significant contribution to Faringdon's character but his lifetime represents 8% of the 800 years of our charter and perhaps more time needs to be spent researching other worthy contributors. A fabulous history research project for the Community Project or the local history groups, I'd say.

Community projects need a lot of goodwill and Faringdon has had its share of controversy in this area to date. This sign will last for generations so its key the community is behind this.

Mel Lane

RENEWABLE TOWN SIGN - 23/11/15
I love the rotary or giratory or whatever it's called! I can just picture it in pride of place in the market place. But (thinking of climate conference coming up in Paris next week) - will it be wind powered - or solar perhaps? LED lights twinkling in the windows?

Name supplied

MARKET PLACE TOO CLUTTERED? - 23/11/15
Mary Beck feels that the Market Place is too cluttered - and I agree with her - mostly with far too many traffic signs. My personal preference is to get rid of them all, and comprehensively apply "Living Streets" principles (no signs whatsoever, no pavements or kerbs, everything becomes shared spaces pavement...) but perhaps that's not going to happen immediately. In the meantime, I see that the proposed location for the Town Sign is in the exact spot of an existing unnecessary sign - but it will be much higher, so will actually be decluttering things slightly. In the town sign background document, there's a whole section about the choosing of the location. Extracting just a small bit of this: "It has to be prominent and central but must not pose a
hazard or impede visibility for traffic, particularly high vehicles. It should not interfere with important market place activities such as market stalls. It needs to have space around it with no high objects (trees, buildings, posts) in the immediate vicinity, so that it stands on its own and can be fully appreciated from all sides. " I think the location chosen is excellent and certainly won't look cluttered.

Name supplied.

**Town sign** - 23/11/15

We don't need to spend money on a town sign. I'm afraid those involved will go ahead with it anyway even if folks don't wish it. So those involved can say " I made that happen". Think this is about " own self importance and not what the town needs. There are areas in the Town that need an uplift much better to spend money on what town needs and not what we don't need.

Money spent on homes that some low income families don't have income to tidy up their gardens support them in looking after outside of homes.

Money well spent.

Name supplied

**TOWN SIGN - ANOTHER FOLLY?** - 23/11/15

I did have to laugh out loud . It seems that the person who gave us our most iconic landmark in 1935 can be dismissed with a perfunctory "his contribution to the local community was slight". Berners also had to overcome his fair share of small-minded claptrap and ignorance when getting the Folly built. Thank goodness he succeeded. The town sign project looks like a very healthy consultative process to me, and I suggest that Mary Beck and her supporters at least read the very comprehensive background documents that have been prepared. These make it very clear - for example - that the schools will also be involved in the next stage - when the community chooses the themes and elements that should be included; those that best describe our identity - both historical and contemporary.

Dave C

**Town sign...again.** - 22/11/15

I also agree that Faringdon is far more than Lord Berners, the Pink Pigeons have their diver which is more than enough recognition for just one person who played only a small part of this town, Robert Heber-Percy also had weird ideas but none of them are held up as the raison-detre of Faringdon's existence.

I well remember that the council had big ideas for a Millennium clock back in 1999....... as you all know the town is still waiting for that to appear, so the chance of them getting a town sign sorted out by 2018 is slim.

Surely if there is to be a sign then the whole town should have a go at designing it and the whole town allowed a vote, and a simple vote at that not one that gets ignored because it doesn't suit some. Also there could be six different ones to welcome visitors on the roadsides leading into the town allowing six townsfolk the chance of a little kudos.

Name supplied by a Faringdon resident of 63 years.

**Town sign** - 22/11/15

I have looked at the voting site. Why does the phrase "done and dusted" spring to mind? If the inhabitants of Faringdon were canvassed for their views why did nothing appear in the Folly newspaper? Why do I get the impression that what we see is all smoke and mirrors? If the council unanimously agreed to the Pink Pigeons proposal why was it not reported in the Folly? How many members does the pink pigeons trust have, outside of the council representatives? Its stated aim is to bring Long Berners to the fore, so whatever the design it will be "eccentric". Is that what we Faringdonians want?

Mary Beck

**Town Sign** - 21/11/15

Have I got it wrong? I thought the vote was only for the shape of the the sign. The elements based on Faringdon's History will be chosen later- I'm sure with input from those in the town who are interested.

I can see on the examples- Civil War, the Folly, Old Town Hall, Portwell Pump, White Horse Hill, All Saints, fossils. Can't see anything to do with the mail - Coach and Horses, Faringdon trains.

Local Yokel

**Town Sign** - 21/11/15

I do have to agree with Mary, nothing more in the town centre please. The Pink Pigeons already have their diver to celebrate Lord Berners and the beautiful buildings speak for themselves.

By definition a Town Sign is put at the side of the road to welcome people to a town and usually marks the boundary, therefore we need about 6 of them.

The voting system for this seems as confusing as the voting for the diver was, which if I remember correctly was changed after voting had started.

This time its a choice of love it, like it, it's ok or not sure. Surely a simple tick against the ones you like and a cross against the ones you don't would make more sense or is there a concern that a favourite one won't be picked but if it has lots of 'not sure's' then they'll count as a 'oh well we'll take that as a yes then'.

Faringdon is a wonderful town with a lovely market place. Anything that detracts from that will be wrong.

Name supplied

**Faringdon Sign** - 21/11/15

I cannot but agree with Mary Beck. If we need to have a town sign it would be good to have an open competition in which a more diverse view of town history is illustrated and the entrants need not go via the conduit of a Lord Berners appreciation society. While Lord Berners may have been a diverting and amusing figure, his contribution to the local community was slight
and his personal eccentricities are not really representative of Faringdon's 800-year history as a market town.

Faringdon sign - 21/11/15
I hope that, since we have plenty of time, our democratically elected town council will, having agreed that a sign is a good idea, organise some sort of competition in which the many Faringdon groups, including the schools, can participate. Might I also suggest that the market square is cluttered enough as it is. Might I further suggest that there is a lot more to Faringdon than Lord Berners, and that 800 years as a market town, and thus as a thriving community, is much more worth celebrating.
Mary Beck

25 more houses on Fernham Road P15/V2649/O - 21/11/15
Land at Fernham Road Great Coxwell. Erection of 25 dwellings with open space and associated infrastructure
Target decision date 5th February 2016
http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V2649/O

TOWN SIGN & PINK PIGEONS - 20/11/15
Mary - on behalf of the Pink Pigeons, could I just say how much we enjoyed reading your WARTIME MEMORIES (http://www.faringdon.org/uploads/1/4/7/6/14765418/childrens_wartime_memories_mary_beck.pdf) - and I would thoroughly recommend it to others if you haven't read these memories yet. This is of course also an important part of Faringdon's more recent heritage & history, so let's make sure that this is also represented in anything that celebrates our identity.
Sjoerd Vogt

TOWN SIGN - WOW! - 20/11/15
Absolutely LOVE the idea of having a stunning Town Sign in the Market Place - to celebrate our 800 years. How appropriate! Embracing our wonderfully unique identity - our distinctiveness - especially if it combines the historical (and archeological) and contemporary. And I also think the four mock-ups are in their different ways all very attractive. Well done so far! Having read the thinking behind the four options (definitely recommended - see http://www.pinkpigeons.info/TOWN_SIGN_Images.pdf) it seems clear that the giratory ticks all the boxes. I can see it now. With people looking up, fascinated as it goes round. And the next day you catch different details. Great for children too. The Great Faringdon Giratory. Could be as spectacular an attraction as the Folly Tower, but slightly more accessible and always open!
So - after Roald Dahl's BFG comes the GFG. Love it.
But - hopefully we could also put the other mock-ups to good use for other purposes? Ideas anyone?
Mairaed

Little Big Top - 20/11/15
Lovely to see the old fishmongers shop in use again. Looks like lovely things for children. Quality toys
Ed

New Sign - 20/11/15
The local authority covered all the bases with their new signage for 'The Hobble', just in case you weren't sure what it was called, as it appears to have four names.
Harry Lime

Faringdon sign - 19/11/15
I think it's about time the pink pigeons had their wings clipped.
Mary Beck

SIGN FOR FARINGDON TO CELEBRATE 800 YEARS - 19/11/15
Ah, yes. 800 years. That was when they last resurfaced the roads.
Name supplied

AMAZING NEW TOWN SIGN IN MARKET PLACE! WHAT SHOULD IT LOOK LIKE? - 18/11/15
In just 28 months time - on the 7th March 2018 (yes - put the date in your diary) - Faringdon celebrates 800 years of its Market Charter! As part of the festivities, a new Town Sign will be unveiled in the Market Place (where else?) - celebrating Faringdon and all that it represents.
What do YOU think it should look like? YOUR views matter!
At this point, we're not deciding on the details - just the general direction. What should be the general shape? Should it be 2D or 3D? Should it be stationery or moving? You may have other ideas!
Go to www.pinkpigeons.info, where you will not only find full details (Background and Process Document - very comprehensive....) and mockups with explanations, but also a link to the Voting Page!

This initial public consultation will culminate in a presentation at the Town Open Meeting on Monday 18th January. DO discuss the Town Sign with friends, family, neighbours - and get them to vote! Your vote really matters.... Here's the link again: www.pinkpigeons.info

Pink Pigeons.

**Knit Stitch Natter-** 18/11/15

I would like to let everyone know that I have changed the name of Faringdon Knit and Natter at Night to Knit Stitch Natter. This is because there is already a group in Faringdon called the Faringdon Knit and Natter. They meet at the United Church each Monday (day time). They knit for the Shoe Box Charity.

Knit Stitch Natter are a group of women who work during the day and enjoy the knitting and want to extend their social network. I hope that keeps everyone happy and we don't have to worry about which group people are talking about.

Julie Farmer

**Faringdon Library Junior Book Club,-** 16/11/15

Calling all young readers who love reading about dragons! The next meeting of Faringdon Library's Junior Book Club for 8 to 12 year-olds takes place Saturday, 21st November at the library from 10.30 to 11.15. The theme will be dragons.

Come along and bring your favourite dragon book to share with other children. We will be talking dragons, reading dragons and drawing dragons!

Annette Farr

**Hobble/Hobwell.** 16/11/15

I have made a Mistake, the Vale of White Horse Name plates read The Hobble not Hobble Path.

Bill Law.

**Hobble / Hobwell.** 15/11/15

I have observed that the footpath that runs from Southampton Street to Park Road has been given a Vale of White Horse name plates "HOBBLE PATH" at each end, but do we have the correct spelling?

I have recently looked at the 1939 registration record this refers to Hobwell Cottages, which I understood were beside the railway line and condemned and pulled down in the 1950s, when I googled Hobwell Faringdon it came up with a history record which confirmed the above about the cottages, I also spotted when the debate in 2008 about Tesco's coming to Faringdon that Tesco's boundary would end at the Hobwell.

Now I can quite understand that something written as HOBWELL when spoken with a Berkshire dialect could become HOBBLE..

Does it matter which spelling we have?

Well I'm inclined to agree with Ray Wood who had something to say on the matter a few weeks ago, that we should not in this fast changing world lose any of old Faringdon.

Bye the Bye the street name Park Road does not appear to be that old, from what I can see on the 1939 Register it was Station Road leading to the Sands.

Moving on we have been doing some Family research and in the 1880s we had ancestors that lived in RED ROW, Gravel Walk. Can any body tell us which was RED ROW.

Bill Law.

**Knit and Knatter-** 14/11/15

I agree that it is good to have a choice as to whether you knit at night or in the afternoon, but why does the new group have to name their group so similar to that of the long established Faringdon Knit and Knatter Ladies Surely the night ladies could come up with something original.

Name supplied

**Knitting Group-a suggestion -** 14/11/15

Alternative Suggestion for New Knitting Group

Can I suggest "Purls Before Wine" as a name for the new group?

Mel Lane

**South Central Ambulance Service** - 14/11/15

What is your experience of the ambulance service.?

A quick survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7YCTWZK

**Sign Petition to keep 67 and 67A buses** - 13/11/15

Residents of Stanford In The Vale and surrounding Villages between Wantage and Faringdon will be unable to travel without the use of the bus route 67 and 67A provided for by Thames Travel and paid for by Oxfordshire County Council. This is one of the major routes for local villagers and having it scrapped just for Budget Cuts will mean pensioners and other residents without use of own transport cant get out to do shopping or visit health care professionals, not to mention students of Faringdon Community College and Swindon College who use the 67 route to get to and from their studies on a weekday. Is this what we want? If not please club together and sign this petition so we can tell Oxfordshire County Council where to stick there cuts. This has also been sent to Ed Vaizey to help keep our service going. Change.org
Faringdon Knit & Natter (At Night) - 13/11/15
People will be confused as your facebook page is called simply 'Faringdon Knit & Natter' which is the exact name of the longstanding charity knitting group.
Perhaps 'Faringdon Nightime Knit & Natter' or something similar would be more appropriate?
Why call it the name of the group we already have?
It would be like setting up a new group called 'Folly Dollies'.
Name supplied

Knit and Natter - 13/11/15
I've heard of a knitting group ( elsewhere) called ‘Stitch and Bitch’
Name Supplied

Faringdon Street names - 12/11/15
Thankyou to the two people who contacted me.
Elmtree Cottages - Off London st left just after old Fish and chip shop reaching a row of cottages
Pump Alley - Off London St right, just before Folly pub (after Skinners's alley)
There was a pump at the Ferndale St end
Still looking for names of :

- The row of cottages on the left after the Gravel walk/Lechlade road roundabout- did they ever have a name?
- the row of cottages opposite the Duke of Wellington

red13car@yahoo.com

'Faringdon Knit and Natter at Night' - 12/11/15
.....is definitely us and we are part of a nationwide network of informal groups who meet to do just that. There is need for a group like this as many of us can’t meet during the day but we all enjoy knitting and want to be able to meet to share our skills.
Faringdon Knit and Natter’ are doing wonderful work and I hope no one is confused - it's great to have choices!
Name supplied

Does anyone know? - 11/11/15
The name of the alleys/lanes:

- Off London st left just after old Fish and chip shop reaching a row of cottages
- Off London St right, just before Folly pub (after Skinners's alley)

and

- The row of cottages on the left after the Gravel walk/Lechlade road roundabout- did they ever have a name?
- the row of cottages opposite the Duke of Wellington

Please post to this site or email red13car@yahoo.com

Faringdon's population - 11/11/2015
45 Households: 17 villagers. 12 smallholders. 16 slaves
When was this? Scroll down through 'Faringdon through history' to find out

Ed

War on waste. Sign petitions - 11/11/15
Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall’s campaign https://wastenotuk.com/#signup
More information on https://twitter.com/hughswaronwaste and waste not tips to reduce waste

Ed

http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-tvp-pol-area/yournh-tvp-pol-area-soxon-vowh/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n378

Faringdon Knit & Natter - 11/11/2015
How fabulous that so much wonderful and charitable work has been done by the Faringdon Knit & Natter group. They've been working hard to fill shoe boxes and raise funds for the transport of them with events, time and dedication. They've been meeting every Monday in the United Church for many many years and have helped give a brighter Christmas to people who would otherwise receive nothing.
They've also provided companionship for many people who find such pleasure meeting there.
I was therefore suprised to hear that another group has set themselves up using the same name. I know Knit and Natter is a name used by lots of groups across the UK but surely two in the same town is rather unnecessary? I understand the
longstanding group did suggest the new one pick a different name but they didn't want to. Knit and Natter At Night was used for a while but now it's just Knit and Natter.

How confusing, when the old group hold another of their fundraising events who will people think they are supporting?

I find this rather mean spirited after all the work the ladies have put in. They've kept the group going for years without the use of social media and that shouldn't go against them. It seems to me that because the original group aren't on facebook etc then they can't possibly exist!

So please, don't forget the lovely knitters in the United Church and the work they do for charity and please continue to support them.

Name Supplied.

Ferndale Community Choir- come and join us - 8/11/15

It's a good time to come and try out the choir- we've just sung at our very first performance at the Festival of Remembrance last evening, so now we'll be singing some well known favourites for a while- much more relaxed.

Do come along Wednesday 11th at Ferndale School, Bromsgrove, Only £2.50

We aim to start singing just after 7pm. The hall is open from 6.45pm

I'm sure you know you don't need any experience, or any ability to read music.

All that's needed is the desire to sing. Do give it a try, it's very spirit lifting

Louise is a super choir leader- very professional, and very encouraging

We have about 45 members altogether, with about 35 coming each week. It's a good mix of abilities and ages. And we have more than 10 men!

Let me know if you can, or just turn up

genewebb@rocketmail.com

The Faringdon Knit & Knatter Ladies- 7/11/15

The Faringdon Knit & Knatter Ladies would like to thank everyone who contributed a filled shoebox or items for the shoeboxes for the Link To Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Families and the Elderly. With your help we filled and paid the transport costs for 177 boxes.

Thank you.

Name Supplied

Your views needed- All Party Parliamentary Group on Primary Care and Public Health - 6/11/15

Managing health service demand has been perplexing and frustrating health professionals, economists and politicians for some time. Addressing this problem has largely focused on increasing funding, recruitment and developing new access points into the system, but should we do more to affect behavioural change, and concentrate on information, support and signposting?

More information http://www.pagb.co.uk/appg/inquiry.html_

Short Survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NAPPInquirySurvey

The survey needs to be completed by the end of Monday 23rd November.

NAPP

Enough is enough- Don't cut care - 6/11/15

You will be aware from the local media of the threatened cuts to social care if the Chancellor makes the savings he has indicated he will make in the Local Authority funding settlement.

We are part of a campaign to say **Enough is enough – Don’t Cut Care**. This campaign currently has a national focus, with the aim of influencing the government's spending plans. This email sets out the ways in which you can support the campaign:

Find out more about OCC’s options for making savings and respond to the consultation at https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/adult-social-care-1

1. Sign the national Age UK Don’t Cut Care petition and encourage as many other people as possible to do so – petition attached or at http://www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire/

2. Email or write to your MP outlining the impact of the potential savings on your life as a carer

3. Join a meeting of the Carers Voice Panel on **Wednesday 11th November, 1.00 – 3.00**, The Charter, Abingdon, to have your voice heard. Please RSVP so that we can accommodate you: michelleevans@carersoxfordshire.org.uk

We believe we can make a difference with this campaign if enough people get involved and show this really matters to them.

Age UK

Free parking in the Vale - 6/11/15

People in the Vale of White Horse can once again take advantage of an entire day of free parking in the run up to Christmas. Motorists will be able to park for free in Vale of White Horse District Council car parks on the following days:
Abingdon - all day on Saturday 28 November
Faringdon - all day on Saturday 28 November
Wantage - all day on Saturday 5 December.

The annual free parking tradition is provided by the district council in the run up to Christmas to encourage people to shop locally for their presents.

On the above days there’s no need to display a ticket.

Cllr Eric Batts, Cabinet Member for HR and Technical Services at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: “The free parking tradition gives people a good incentive to hunt for presents locally. The free days in the Vale also coincide with local town Christmas celebrations so there’ll be lots on in the town centres too.”

See Festival of Remembrance Concert, Friday November 6th - 5/11/15
Faringdon & District Branch of the Royal British Legion invite you to their 4th Annual FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE to be held in All Saints' Church, Faringdon, on FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2015 at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £5.00. each, are available from the

- T.I.C. Office, Corn Exchange, Faringdon, or
- J. Blake (01367 - 242277)

The evening will consist of music, singing and readings - a time of Celebration, Reflection and Remembrance.

All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal. All Saints Church

Radcot Bridge Closure - 5/11/15
When: Monday 9 November 2015 for approximately 4 weeks
Where: Radcot Bridge, between Radcot and Grafton Locks
What’s happening: Radcot Bridge repair works

The works will involve a scaffold structure that will be arranged around the bridge arch


Closed 3 weeks from 16th November

TOP TIPS FOR WINNING THE 3 LEGGED FARINGDON CHARITY RACE - 5/11/15
FROM THE WHEATSHEAF TEAM
Step 1: Look for someone who is close to your height with a similar leg length.
Step 2: If you’re right-handed, choose a left-handed partner and vice versa, so you can both utilize your stronger side
Step 3: Ensure you are well watered
Step 4: Don’t fall on your face!!!
Step 5: If none of the above work for you...JUST GO FOR IT....

This Saturday 7th November 'The Famous Faringdon 3 Legged Race’ returns to town. Great local DJ 'rod', DISCO, DRINKS, GREAT LIGHT SHOW all night at The Wheatsheaf. Top tunes to '3 leg dance' the night away. Come and join us www.facebook.com/TheWheatsheafFaringdon

Re: Faringdon Hum - 5/11/15
Somebody told me that the hum originates at the end of Park Road - it's generated when people see how much higher the price of fuel is compared with elsewhere, but I don't think that's true as the hum would only have been noticeable in the last couple of months.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Dramatic Society - 5/11/15
- hear Dave Headey talk about the forthcoming production of 'Living Together' in this weeks 'Swindon Live and Local' from Swindon 105.5. The interview is at about 1 hr 9 mins https://soundcloud.com/sean-hodgson/l-l-shaun-buswell-and-faringdon-dramatic-society
If you like the show please share.

Sean Hodgson

Re Faringdon Hum - 4/11/15
Well boys, the hum is heard all over the world. there is a website where notifications have been mapped - we could add Faringdon if you like. I googled "humming noise".

Apparently not many people can hear the hum. It's usually people over 40, and is louder indoors than out. I, of course, cannot
Re hum - 3/11/15
You could be right Grumpy Old Man as a well-travelled man it could be related to the native tongue of Faringdon and nothing more serious.
D Grenfell

Re Faringdon Hum - 2/11/15
Interesting what Mary has posted about seismic waves. I have worked and travelled all over the world, and stay with family and friends all over the UK. I have only ever heard the hum in the Faringdon area. In the past, I have heard it in my garden for a whole day, as could my neighbour.
Regards,
Grumpy Old Man

Re Hum and Town Council - 1/11/15
If only it was the Faringdon Town Council that could decide where new housing and how much of it was appropriate for Faringdon. All they can do is comment. The Vale, as planning authority, decides - and they can ignore the town council as they wish - and they do.
Our 2 Vale councillors it seems, support what is good for the Vale Council, and what is good for their political party which is not necessarily what is good for Faringdon.
Local Yokel

Ref. Hum - 1/11/15
Could it be members of the town council deciding where to dump the next new builds hum...hum...hum
Clive Barton