

News and Views May 2016

Meat hung 45 days- 31/5/16

Hi Dave R. They only supply direct to top end restaurants, I am afraid. I get mine as I know the owner.

You can however purchase meat of equal quality a bit further afield at the farm Shop at Q Gardens, at Milton Hill. Their meat is similarly aged and comes from their own farm. My work colleagues rave about the quality, in particular their Rump steak.

Regards

Grumpy Old Man

Wantage Community Hospital - 31/5/16

Our local community hospital is due to close in the summer due to legionella bacteria in its no-doubt aged plumbing system. However, if people want it to re-open once the problem's sorted, then please sign the online petition. This is an important local facility, & once it's gone it's gone... It would be a nice little saving for the health authority, but at the expense of local people.

Almost 4,000 people have signed already- but we can easily double that by spreading the word. <https://www.change.org/p/nhs-oxfordshire-save-wantage-community-hospital>

Anna Hoare

Opinion wanted- posters- 31/5/16

I've changed the [Whats on Calendar](#) page to include posters. What do you think? Does this work better?

Depending what feedback I get, I would remove the [Poster page](#)

Ed

Skatepark litter - 31/5/16

Just been walking my dog past the skatepark near the cricket and tennis area, and it's come to my attention that there seems to be growing amounts of litter each day i walk past it.

I believe it is cause for concern and there are empty cans and bottles that a dog could chew and choke on or the younger population to injure themselves on.

Granted there are signs to tell them to put litter in bins but it doesn't seem to be having an effect - most likely because the people who are littering have no idea of the consequences their actions can induce.

I would appreciate it if a strong hand were to take hold of the situation accordingly to the issue of litter as not only is it a recreational area, i believe it to be an area that's supposed to be aesthetically pleasing.

Ollie Mills

Ed: You can report litter to Vale Council via [fixmystreet](#)

Regent Cinema.- 29/5/16

Shaun the Sheep 2nd June

Queen 10th June

Les Choristes 17th June

Have a look at the [posters](#) for details

Free Parking June 11th Queens Birthday

Parking in district council car parks in the Vale of White Horse will be free on Saturday 11 June. Around the country people will be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday and to mark the occasion the Vale of White Horse District Council is offering free parking in all its off-street car parks in Abingdon, Faringdon and Wantage.

There are a number of events happening in the towns on Saturday 11 June to celebrate the Queen's birthday. Allowing people to park for free will mean they can spend time enjoying the events, and visiting local shops and cafes, without having to worry about extra cost of paying to park.

On this bonus free day motorists will not have to display a ticket when they park.
VWHDC

Friday 3rd June EU Referendum Hustings- 28/5/16

7pm Corn Exchange

Ed Vaisey (MP) - 'stay in Europe'

Jonathan Russell (local accountant) 'leave Europe'

No charge. Drinks and refreshments

[Facebook page](#)

Business Expo 16 July 2016 in the Corn Exchange- 28/5/16

During the Faringdon Business Expo I would like to have a station that advertises existing jobs available in Faringdon and businesses looking for apprenticeships. What do you think? Do you have a job you would like to fill or are you looking for an apprentice?

Please contact me if you have a job vacancy or are looking for an apprentice.

Julie Farmer

Julie@mypavirtualservices.com

Dear Name Supplied- 28/5/16

I don't know when the inspection was carried out and I don't know who wrote up the report but there are lots of things about Pat Thomas Butchers that I do know.

1. They care about their Business and would not work in the way that has been described in the Score on the Doors.

2. You may have thought it was your duty to inform everyone that the standard had gone down. Peter and Tara and the staff work to a high standard, they pride themselves on the Quality of their meat and the conditions they work in.

3. The beef is hung for the required number of days in a cold room. The Pork, Lamb and Chickens are also stored in a cold room. For cold room read refrigerated.

The Volunteer Inn would not attract all their customers if they too were as bad as the report seem to think.

I am proud of Peter and Tara so instead of signing Old Faringdonian as usual I will sign Ann Strowger.

Butchers- 27/5/16

I've tried to find the inspection report that rated it so low- no joy. I did find an [87 page doc on guidance for local authority inspectors](#). Pat Thomas butchers is well regarded for the quality of the meat and the service. It is possible to ask for a reinspection- perhaps this would be a good idea.

Name Supplied

Butchers- 27/5/16

I have never contributed to this site before, although I love reading it, but feel strongly enough about the slur on our wonderful butchers that I had to contribute my two pennyworth. I buy all my meat from Pete and have done so for years. It is consistently fabulous and Pete and his staff are unfailingly kind and helpful. Having seen on some other posts why scores can be low, I would urge people to take no notice and continue, as I shall, to buy meat from Pete - long may he continue as one of the greatest assets of our town.

Elizabeth Calman

re- Scores on the Doors- 27/5/16

While we use (and will be pleased to continue to use) Pat Thomas, I wonder if Grumpy would kindly let us know "the local farm" where we can purchase "properly" aged beef - i.e. 45 days?

Dave R.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- 27/5/16

Community Volunteers for Saturdays 9.30-1.00 and Friday evenings 5.00-7.00

Community Library Volunteers are a fundamental part of the team that supports the day-to-day operation of the library. The role includes:

- keeping the library stock tidy and attractively displayed
- helping customers to find and choose books
- helping customers to use self-service and the public computers

community Library Volunteers are recruited and timetabled by the library/volunteer group

Talk to Sheena, the Library Manager

Apply online for community volunteer Saturdays and Fridays

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/becoming-community-library-volunteer>

Rhyme Time Leaders

Rhyme times are a gentle supportive and fun first activity which introduces nursery rhymes and songs for parents to interact with their baby

This role would involve a half hour, 10.30-11.00 on a Friday, once a month on a shared rota with our other Leaders

Talk to Sheena, the Library Manager

Apply online for rhyme time volunteer

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/publicsite/volunteering>

re- Scores on the Doors.- 27/5/16

The local Farm where I purchase my beef from, hang their meet for up to 45 days, which is well beyond the recommended maximum of 28 days. As a world traveller, It is without doubt the best beef I have eaten anywhere.

Scores on the doors?- pah!.

Regards

Grumpy Old Man

re-Plans for Badbury Hill - 27/5/16

are they still planning on charging to park there?. We go there as a family quite regularly and paying to park would certainly curtail our use. I expect many people will park on the road instead, creating a dangerous situation.

Regards Mark

Re Pat Thomas -27/5/16

Personally I am job gobsnacked at this report and just don't understand how it can be so bad. One star is really worrying. Has any one tried to get the view from the butchers and see what went so wrong? As lovely as all the staff are with young children to feed I just don't feel confident using meat from the butcher until we know more and they have taken steps to redress the problems.

Name Supplied

Pat Thomas - 26/5/16

I like the way no one is sticking up for The Volunteer! I guess that's not as much of a surprise as the butchers.

To add my two penneth to the discussion, just because you aren't getting sick it doesn't mean the hygiene is good. I could make you a sandwich, drop it on the floor, sneeze on the filling and let my neighbours cats lick it. It wouldn't make you ill but is it hygienic and would you eat it if you knew that? The answer is no.

They scored poor. The report doesn't say why, but they did. They scored poorly on hygiene and according to the report there appears to be little confidence in the management.

The swindon curry place mentioned by someone else is a case in point. A random check, similar to the butchers and they closed it down due to human fecal matter on kitchen equipment (It's all over the internet. The story, not fecal matter)

No customers had reported being sick.

Obviously the butchers didn't have such problems but a low score is a warning sign.

It doesn't matter if the owner is a nice guy, provides good service or you've never been ill.

Poor hygiene is poor hygiene. Fact.

This has been an eye opener to me and my mind is made up. It's Budgens sausages from now until they improve to at least a 3.

Or until the new Waitrose opens next year.

Jo

Pat Thomas - 26/5/16

Having recently left Faringdon I have to say you don't know how lucky you are to have Pete in town, they work from an old building with tiles from the 1800 ,all the years we lived in Faringdon we never had any problems. I did Donalds 85 birthday and when We did Macmillans cocktail event he let me have the fillet steak for free .

please realise you have a treasure .take my word .where we live now we would murder for some one like him.

Trevor Wynn

Butchers. - 26/5/16

I have bought all my meat from Pat. Thomas's for the last 11 years and have found it to be invariably excellent. There has never been the slightest problem with it and you know where it has come from. Over this time I have had many compliments about the quality of

the meat from family and friends and as far as I know no one else has ever had a problem. The staff are always helpful and pleasant whether you are buying a lot or a little. Long may it continue.

Pam. Walsh

Plans for Badbury Hill - 26/5/16

The application also covers moving the car park further away from the ancient hill fort, laying a more robust surface on the car park and installing dog waste bins.

The National Trust is keen to help and encourage people to get out into the countryside. This is why we're providing facilities like children's natural play areas and cycle trails, which help get local families get outdoors and active in a safe, traffic-free green space. Equally important is looking after the natural and historic environment of Badbury Hill and the people that visit.

We withdrew the original planning application, giving us time to listen to the opinions and suggestions of local people and Badbury Hill walkers and cyclists. Following this consultation, we've made a few changes to the original plans. They include:

- Reducing the trails by approx. 1km
- Reducing the number of places where cycle trails cross footpaths
- Replacing red extreme trail loops with smaller technical features for skills development
- Re-routing the family route away from the tenant access track

The planning application, we're told, should be available for everyone to see at the Vale of the White Horse District Council offices and website <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/find-application/planning-application-register> from 25 May.

If you're as excited as we are about this project and want to help ensure these family cycle trails will soon be available for all to use, we would be grateful if you could leave a comment showing your support of the planning application. Or if you have any questions you'd like answered first, please contact us on buscotandcoleshill@nationaltrust.org.uk

For more details on the planned cycle trails at Badbury Hill, go to our website <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/badbury-hill>

The Q&A link at the bottom of the page gives detailed information.

And keep up to date via our Facebook page: Badbury Hill

NT <https://www.facebook.com/Badbury-Hill-NT-1037887842928553/>

Pat Thomas- 26/5/16

This is a great butcher- a good example that a shop with great goods, service and staff can flourish in Faringdon

Local Yokel

Scores on the Doors - 26/5/16

A friend of mine not in this area has to have these checks too and had a low score. Reason? the paper work that should have been sent before an inspection had not been sent and therefore could not be completed, even though the premises were up to a high standard they were given a low score. the paperwork came through three weeks later. It is not all about the products, premises and cleanliness.

Name supplied

Re Pat Thomas - Food Hygiene rating - 26/5/16

Regarding the Food Hygiene rating system – I have seen many businesses fall foul of this rating system, often because they haven't 'moved with the times' in what is perceived best practice.

Often it can be something as minor as not recording temperature checks in fridges/freezers etc. It is not that they are not checked, it is just that the 'old' way of thinking is that "I've checked it, it is OK, nothing to worry about - so I'll get on with serving my customers". 'Modern' (auditable to make it easier for others) means you have to write it down to prove you have checked it (although you might not check it but just write it down – however the 'auditors' are happy with that, as you have a 'record').

A more realistic test is to ask this question: Faringdon is a small knit community – if Pat Thomas had been poisoning people 'Willy Nilly' because of his 'atrocious' Food Hygiene practices, the stories would have spread like wildfire (along with a variety of vomiting bugs). Not very good for his business. This, as far as I am aware, has never been the case – surely a much more accurate reflection of his abilities than a little green sticker?

Name Supplied

Scores on the Doors - an alternative view - 26/5/16

Several years ago when I ran The Bobbin, I scored very low on the Environmental Health Scores on the Doors thing. When I requested a meeting to explain their scoring, it was down to how I'd printed the menu.

I'll explain. I was serving venison carpaccio without stating it was pretty much raw meat on the menu (I thought that was obvious) and also the chocolate mousse was made from scratch using fresh eggs (as well as Belgian chocolate) and I hadn't printed that on the menu which could have caused a risk to say, pregnant women who shouldn't eat raw or undercooked egg. It was suggested I used pasteurised egg from a carton which to me defeated the object so I removed both the mousse and the venison from the menu entirely in a huff.

Just because a business scores low, it doesn't necessarily mean their premises is crawling with cockroaches. It could be entirely unrelated to hygiene and relate to theoretical risk.... There isn't a day goes by when I don't thank my lucky stars for being able to return to my previous occupation and also not a day goes by when I don't value our retailers for striving. Until the day I'm hospitalised, foaming at the mouth, I will continue to trust my own instincts, my own palette and my own experience. Scores on the Doors be damned!

Mel Lane

Pat Thomas- 26/5/16

You shouldn't worry about the hygiene rating at Pat Thomas (which was from an inspection in February this year). As you said yourself: you have bought all your meat there for many years and never had any problems.

The Food Hygiene Inspections and subsequent ratings awarded are well intentioned in that they are designed to minimise the possibility of people getting food poisoning from shops, restaurants etc. but they make no allowance for the professionalism and experience of the staff. A top London restaurant has recently had its rating slashed because it was prepared to serve burgers cooked rare to its customers. Done properly, using high quality ingredients, this is perfectly safe, but it doesn't meet the FSA guidelines so they got downgraded.

Trust your own judgement and ask yourself do you feel confident in the people at Pat Thomas, particularly Peter Sharps? I know I do! The business, which has been in existence for over fifty years, it is run very professionally, the meat is high quality and local and the service is excellent. I'd hate to see Pat Thomas go out of business because customers thought it was unsafe to shop there. Quite the opposite – I'll be buying more meat in support.

Eat meat for Pete!

Folly Man

Pat Thomas butchers- 25/5/16

I am so upset to read the hygiene rating of Pat Thomas.

We have bought all our meat there for many years, never having any problems - quite the opposite, the meat is fantastic. However I now have a big dilemma - I really want to continue to support our local butcher and the lovely people who run it, but I would never normally consider shopping in a place with such a low hygiene rating.

I would very much like to hear what they are doing to regain an acceptable hygiene rating as quickly as possible so that we don't lose such a valuable local business.

Name supplied

Re- Steeds Farm, Fernham Rd.- 25/5/16

With all these houses being built (only when the sewage works can cope with all the extra waste and water!!), where are all the children going to School?. There doesn't seem to be any sign of the new Primary School (which was supposed to be built this year). The Schools are already overcrowded, with my own children being taught in portacabins. It would be nice if someone from the council could let people know what's going on, every now and then. Perhaps a quarterly update bulletin on this site from them would be an idea.

Regards,

Grumpy Old Man.

Friday 3rd June EU Referendum Hustings- 25/5/16

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Jonathan Russell (local accountant) 'leave Europe'

No charge. Drinks and refreshmen

Re: scores- 25/5/16

Thanks for the link didn't even know that existed...I'll read that with interest .

Thanks Allan

Re: Scores on the Doors- 25/5/16

With regards to my initial story about the Butchers and Pub...

I would just like to clarify that I have never purchased anything from the Butchers and have only been in the Volunteer once.

I am of an age brought up purchasing from supermarkets and have never visited a butchers in my life. I do however visit pubs on a regular basis!

My post was meant to bring to attention a local story which is of interest.

I found this info after a conversation with co-workers about a Curry house in Swindon that had been closed due to poor hygiene. After hearing the horror story I Googled "Faringdon food hygiene" and read a story about the Butchers that was published in the Oxford Mail recently.

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/14375465.SCORES_ON_THE_DOORS__The_latest_fo_od_hygiene_ratings_for_food_outlets_around_Oxfordshire/

I then went to the Scores on Doors website - link supplied by the Editor in a previous comment.

I'm not sure how many Faringdon people read this website but I'm sure it will be of interest to those that visit these and other low scoring places. There were plenty of 2 and 3 scoring establishments too.

Name Supplied

An EU Referendum Debate- 25/5/16

Friday 3rd June 2016 at 7pm The Corn Exchange, Faringdon

FOR REMAIN – The Honourable Ed Vaizey MP for Wantage and Minister of State for Culture, Communications & Creative Industries

The Right Honourable Baroness Royall of Blaisdon PC and former leader of the House of Lords

FOR LEAVE – Jonathan Russell, chartered accountant, accredited mediator and past president of the UK200 Group.

Charles Crawford CMG, former British diplomat and ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Poland, speechwriter and communications consultant

FREE ENTRY, NO ticket required – Refreshments available.

Contact 07971 512794 for further details

Organised by Faringdon Chamber of Commerce and Faringdon Peace Group

200 houses. The Steeds given permission - 25/5/16

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P15/V1934/O>

Re: Scores on the doors comment - 25/5/16

Could the contributor please add the web address where the info came from as I would be interested to see how this investigation was carried out and what protocol was used ...I'm sure you can supply this info for all to see as it may affect my decision to buy from this

retaileror to take a different direction if the info is not substantiated.....your call?...also please (if you are confident that your info source is genuine) give us a your experience from buying products from the retailerwhilst I am sure your comments are genuine it always pay to have the word ***** in the back of your mindplease respond in the manner this post is intended as my purchasing profile is based on local retailers who have strict measured high standards for animal welfare and excellent customer service that goes above and beyondplease substantiate your info by way of recognised and agree industry sources

Cheers Allan ...

ED: See Food Standard Agency and Scores on the Doors

Bra Bank - 24/5/16

The White Horse Medical Practice now has a bra bank. Please recycle your old bras. The money raised goes to Action Against Breast Cancer, a charity raising money for vital research. The bra bank is a large pink and black box and is in the waiting room, or hand them in at reception.

Thanks.

90 Homes on Fernham Road- 24/5/16

Looking at this response from our Town Council to the District Council I assume the District Council will push this through and pass the planning application no matter what.

Do these people actually know where this is and the extra traffic involved, not to mention the noise for home owners being so close to the bypass. We live a little way from the road but the noise is very noticeable. No amount of soundproofing will save these homes.

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/dynamic_serve.jsp?ID=563729607&CODE=E D4948724AED14A1B89A20B6FD0FE335

Name Supplied

Scores on the Doors - 24/5/16

Just thought I'd like to make everyone aware that Pat Thomas Butchers and The Volunteer both score extremely badly on the "Scores on the Doors" website for food standards and hygiene.

Both score only 1 out of 5. These are the only places in Faringdon that score this badly. To put this into perspective, the run down clubhouse in Tuckers Park scores 4 out of 5!

Name Supplied

Medivet Faringdon is awarded internationally-recognised Cat Friendly Clinic status- 24/5/16

Local veterinary clinic Medivet Faringdon on Coxwell Road has achieved accreditation as a Cat Friendly Clinic (CFC). The CFC programme has been developed by the International Society of Feline Medicine, the veterinary division of the leading feline charity International Cat Care and aims to promote well-being and high standards of care for all cats visiting or being hospitalised in a veterinary clinic.

Under the programme, a clinic has to prove rigorous adherence to a set of criteria which includes provision of facilities and demonstration of staff activities and attitudes aimed at reducing stress in cats, both as in-patients and out-patients. The criteria includes having separate dog and cat waiting areas, feline-friendly hospitalisation cages, and veterinary equipment specifically for treating cats. Most importantly, staff are trained in approaching

and handling cats sensitively and respectfully, and in maintaining high standards of veterinary care, including continuing to update their knowledge of feline medicine as new treatments and information become available.

Polly Noviss, the clinic's head nurse and Cat Advocate, was proud to receive silver accreditation, "We wanted to make sure that a trip to see our vets was as stress-free an experience as possible for our cat patients and their owners. Cats can get very anxious when taken out of their usual environment, and this can make it's owners reluctant to seek veterinary attention when their cat needs it. By undertaking Cat Friendly Clinic accreditation, we've committed to delivering high standards of cat care, with compassion and expertise."

The International Society of Feline Medicine launched the Cat Friendly Clinic initiative three years ago, to encourage veterinary practices everywhere to make best efforts to improve the welfare of cats in their care. The programme advises practices on how to make their environment as welcoming to cats as possible, as well as providing support in staff training, handling techniques and cat-specific client care.

Cat owners can find out more about International Cat Care and the Cat Friendly Clinic initiative at www.catfriendlyclinic.org.

Medivet Faringdon's website can be found at www.medivet.co.uk.

Parking- 22/5/16

To Lazy ::

As I understand it the upper end of London Street is a single yellow line with signage that allows drivers to park between certain hours .. People park half on the path , and although this is not ideal for pedestrians , the path is still usable ..

There is of course a path on the other side of the road which is never parked on , so people with prams or indeed yourself could walk on the other side of the road with no issues .. And as you are a keen photographer you would get better pictures from that side too !!!

I do agree with you that parking on the double yellows at the lower end of London Street is both illegal and unnecessary , and also dangerous ..

Name Supplied

Tuckers park play area - 21/5/16

I have just got back from a week away with our boys and thought I would take them down to Tuckers park to try the new play equipment. Sadly as fab as it looks there is still fencing all around it.

I thought it was due to be finished end of April? It's now near the end of May. Does anyone know when it will be complete and signed off?

Additionally is there any grant or funds to tidy up and spruce up the main playground accessed from good lake avenue (not sure of the parks name). The equipment there is getting old and tatty.

Rob.

Back to illegal parking - 21/5/16

To:Lazy

I believe the tickets are for statistical purposes to monitor the carpark usage, the number plate is in order that we don't pass our ticket over to someone else. Not that it works as the kids that congregate there find it amusing to print off lots of tickets for "fun".

Personally I find that the fact that you can only park there for a maximum of 3 hours a bit of a bind.

Please send your photos to faringdonhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Our local police have said they will take action if we do this.

Green Witch

Re. Illegal parking - 21/5/16

Its funny you say there have been no incidences of illegal parking. I discovered that if you park for a few minutes in the 2 hour free carpark without taking time to enter your number plate for a redundant reason, other than to get a ticket at the back of budgens. Then the nice council employees get one for you at a cost of 30 pounds.

Guilty as charged but as i drove out and round through town in my minor state of frustration i took photos of

1. Parking on double yellows in london street.

Normal, But then opposite the folly pub

2. the people who live there avoid the parking on the road problem by cunningly parking entirely on the pavement such that pedestrians walk in the road instead. Incidentally i was bumped into by a car reversing onto the pavement there while out walking the dog. Never noticed me. An accident that could be much worse next time...

3. Out side the butchers others found an alternative solution and just double parked for a few minutes.

4. Round the back of town by the church path another person chose to not only use the pavement but also double yellows at the sharp corner making it impossible to see round.

But, Dont worry i calmed down and didnt post my photos... i did learn a valuable lesson to save me money in the future. In faringdon you dont use the 2 hours free parking with the risk of a parking fine. Its far more convenient to park on street, off street or anywhere in between. No one minds as we all do it, no one complains and presumably the responsible authorities dont use their eyes any more, they sit in offices waiting for emails to process.

I love faringdon!!

Lazy Parker

Hedge on Park Road- 20/5/16

I made some enquiries. Have been told ' *the hedge is not being removed except a small section to widen the entrance to meet Highways regulations. It is hoarding being erected in front of the hedge to meet Health & Safety requirements.*'

Ed

Up to 90 TaylorWimpey houses on Fernham Road - 20/5/16

Maybe you missed the exhibition yesterday. If you do, you can see the outline proposal and how to comment here <https://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/proposed-developments/england/oxfordshire/faringdon/fernham-road>

Hedge on Park road- 20/5/16

Nice wall or fence going up. Much better than hedge
Dee England

Bedding Plants- Park Road- 20/5/16

Super plants and hanging baskets for sale along Park Road (Corner of Marlborough Gardens and Park Road, opposite Tesco)
Healthy Plants, great prices
Local Yokel

Potholes- 19/5/16

I reported potholes in Marlborough st via [fixmystreet](#) a couple of days ago. Here is the response:

A site visit was made & these defects were raised & have now been repaired. Marlborough street is with our asset team to consider a resurfacing scheme. Kind Regards, OCC,RXS.
Name Supplied

Work has started on left hand side of Park Road, by the roundabout.- 19/05/16

I notice that it looks as though they are putting up a new fence. I hope this does not mean they will pull out the hedge that was beautifully laid a couple of years ago.

Update: I have been talking to one of the workman at the roundabout, it looks like they are going to remove the hedge.

I cannot understand why. I don't suppose there is anything we can do about it now?
Monica Graham

Clubs, organisation and business directories on this site - 16/5/16

Please check your club/business information on this site. Maybe the contact information has changed.

If you don't feature here, do send information
Ed

Hooray! - 12/5/16

Sheffords Bakery is open again
Welcome back Lilian
Name Supplied

Services for Disabled Children- have your say by 9th June - 12/5/16

Oxfordshire County Council will be recommissioning services for disabled children from April 2017 to include community short breaks (holiday playschemes, after- school activities and youth groups), short break overnights (respite) at Viking House and Sycamore and the Children's Home at Summerfield.

We would appreciate your views on services for disabled children and their families in Oxfordshire and our proposal for these services from April 2017.

To have your say, please click on the link below. Please respond by 9th June 2016. <http://digitalforgood.org/occ-survey>

If you would like to respond in another way please contact Karen Leverett on 07881 268213 or email karen.leverett@oxfordshire.gov.uk

We want to reach as many people as possible and would be grateful if you would share this email widely. Thank you in advance for your help.

- [Participate in this consultation](#)

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group

Citizens Advice (CAB) Every Wednesday in Faringdon- 11/5/16

The CAB are in the Faringdon Information Centre, The Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon

Every Wednesday morning.

Areas of Advice: Benefits, work, debt & money, relationships, housing, law & rights, discrimination, tax, healthcare and education.

Look on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> for more subjects

You can see an advisor between 10-11am. Phone 01367 242191 or just pop in.

KELMSCOTT CRAFT FAIRS & MORRIS MEMORIAL HALL EXHIBITION - 11/5/16

Please call at the Morris Memorial Hall on a Wednesday afternoon to enjoy our craft fair, outdoor second hand book sale (weather permitting) and exhibition. Our craft fair presents a wide range of original, hand crafted goods and we are also delighted to continue our presentation of the history of the Arts & Crafts, Grade II Listed Morris Memorial Hall through our long running and recently extended exhibition.

These events are free and are held in the Morris Memorial Hall, Kelmscott, GL7 3HG, each Wednesday, from the 18th May to 26th October inclusive, from 12 noon until 5pm. All monies raised support the hall, a registered charity.

If you need further information, please visit our new

website www.morrismemorialhall.org.uk or telephone 01367 253103.

Re- Leisure Centre expansion- 11/5/16

"The additional space and new equipment will mean that up to 50 more customers will be able to use the gym at any time".

Are they going to expand the parking as well, as we often find the car park is already full when we take our children swimming.

Regards

Grumpy Old Man

Traffic Orders- 10/5/16

It seems that some of the parking restrictions in Faringdon are unenforceable as the condition of the yellow lines are not clear, or signage is needed.

Keep an eye out and report via [Fix my Street](#)- there are examples on there where Oxfordshire County Council have taken action.

Name Supplied

Illegal parking - 11/5/16

At the recent Town Meeting, Sgt Ryan James (Faringdon station sergeant) said that they did not receive any/many reports of illegal parking from Faringdon people.

He said if we reported them, the police would take action.

I rang 101 to get some information, and was told:

- Call 101, at the time you see the vehicle illegal parked and causing an obstruction. The police would find the owner and ask them to move the vehicle, or if not possible at that time, make contact at a later time.
- I was also told that you could email faringdonnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. This would go to our neighbourhood policing team for action. You can attach a photo to the email.

Why don't we try it, and see if it makes a difference?

Local Yokel

Tesco Bag of Help grants. Applications deadline 3/6/16 at noon - 10/5/16

<http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/Pages/large-grants-tes>

Faringdon's Blackbird Day – sing a song of sixpence!- 10/5/16

On Saturday May 21st Faringdon is celebrating Blackbird Day, an annual arts event and market, which celebrates the town's historical link to the famous nursery rhyme 'Sing a Song of Sixpence', which was allegedly written for Henry James Pye (1745-1813), Faringdon's very own Poet Laureate.

According to several accounts, Pye's poetry was often subject to mixed reviews, and his birthday ode to King George III was so bizarrely florid that a literary critic of the time lampooned his poetry and punned his name in the now popular nursery rhyme containing the lines "...four and twenty blackbirds, baked in a pie".

Blackbird Day ensures that this connection is not lost, marking an important part of Faringdon's history as well as celebrating its position as a rural market town.

In previous years Lesley Holdship, food writer and owner of Faringdon delicatessen *Hare in the Woods*, offered market goers the opportunity to sample authentic Blackbird Pie.

"Believe it or not it is a traditional dish, using rook and pigeon and other meats to make a cold game pie. These days we may not find these ingredients as appetising as we once did, but it is part of our rural history."

Although the ingredients for this dish are difficult to come by, organisers hope to be making another Blackbird Pie for the market this year, as well as celebrating a range of rural arts and crafts, alongside a market full of fresh local produce and gifts.

Throughout the market, the Town Team and community groups including the Pump House Project, and Junior Rotarians, the Rotakids, will be running competitions, craft activities and events for the family to celebrate Faringdon's history and link to the Blackbird and the famous nursery rhyme.

The Blackbird Day Market and celebrations form a part of the Town Team's calendar of Saturday Markets that are held right throughout the year, on the third Saturday of every month, between 10.00am and 1.00pm in the Marketplace.

More information:

Bethia Thomas, Faringdon Town Team bethiathomas@gmail.com 07906 821680

Jeanette Howse, Faringdon Market Coordinator Jeanette.howse@btinternet.com 0777 1967633

White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre set for substantial £1.7million gym extension- 10/5/16

Visitors to the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre in Abingdon are set to benefit from a major programme of investment, which will see the current gym substantially extended, new state-of-the-art fitness equipment installed and a new crèche area created.

The new gym space, which will be extended by 290sqm, will boast £136,000 worth of new kit. This will include the latest Technogym 'Excite' equipment comprising treadmills, recline bikes, crossovers and synchro machines - offering a full cardiovascular workout. The additional space and new equipment will mean that up to 50 more customers will be able to use the gym at any time.

In addition, all fitness equipment currently located in the existing gym will be replaced and upgraded thanks to a further £246,000 investment.

A new outdoor crèche area is also planned, devised to give young children more space in which to play, while their carers are using the leisure centre's other facilities.

The gym changing rooms will be refurbished with the introduction of new showers, toilets, wash basins, lockers, paintwork and lighting. The main entrance to the building will also be improved thanks to the installation of an impressive new canopy, while public art will also be installed throughout centre.

The roof of the extended gym area will be an environmentally friendly 'Green Roof' featuring plants and vegetation to absorb any rain water that falls on the new building.

The £1.7million improvements are being funded by Vale of the White Horse District Council and GLL, which operates the council's Better leisure centres.

The work is due to start on Sunday 15 May and is expected to be completed just in time for Christmas.

Cllr Charlotte Dickson, Cabinet Member for Leisure at Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "We're very keen to ensure our leisure centres provide residents with the best experience and facilities possible. This £1.7million investment from the Vale and GLL will make a huge difference for people visiting the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, especially those using the gym. There will be much more room and new equipment meaning many more people can be accommodated at peak times."

Ben Whaymand, Partnership Manager GLL, said "The White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre is a fantastic community facility. The work comes at an exciting time when we are investing £1.7m by extending the existing gym, and introducing state-of-the-art fitness

equipment, and adding benefit to their membership."

FARINGDON RESIDENTS INVITED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON TAYLOR WIMPEY HOMES PLANS- 10/5/16

Leading housebuilder Taylor Wimpey is inviting people in Faringdon, Oxfordshire, to have their say on proposals for a new residential development on the edge of the town.

The developer is currently drawing up outline plans for a development of up to 90 new high-quality homes on land to the east of Fernham Road, together with public open space and associated access and infrastructure.

Further information about the proposals will be available to view during a public exhibition to be held at the Corn Exchange in Gloucester Street, Faringdon, on Thursday 19 May between 3pm and 8pm.

The public consultation event will give local residents, businesses, community groups and other interested parties the chance to find out more about the scheme and discuss the plans with the Taylor Wimpey project team.

Comments received from those who attend the event will help to shape the development proposals before an outline planning application is finalised for submission to Vale of White Horse District Council in due course.

Steven Neal, Senior Planning Manager for Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire, says: "We're always keen to give local people the chance to have their say on development plans for their area – and this is why we are inviting the Faringdon community to find out more about our outline proposals for a new residential development off Fernham Road.

"We are confident that this scheme will provide an attractive development of high-quality homes to meet a range of requirements and provide much-needed housing for local people on a sustainable and accessible site.

"Anyone who comes along to the public exhibition on Thursday 19 May will be able to speak to members of our project team to find out more about our proposals, and also provide their feedback.

"The comments we receive will help us develop and refine the emerging scheme – ensuring that our application is in line with the community's aspirations and priorities and addresses any local issues and concerns wherever possible."

The land being proposed for development covers a total area of 4 hectares (9.9 acres) and is located east of Fernham Road and immediately north of the A420.

To the north-west of the site, planning permission has recently been granted for a small development of 10 homes off Fernham Road, while a separate planning application has also been submitted by another developer for up to 380 new homes on land to the north-east of the Taylor Wimpey site. This is currently being considered by Vale of White Horse District Council.

Taylor Wimpey is seeking outline planning permission for up to 90 new homes and public open space with access from Fernham Road. Detailed matters such as property design, final layout, building materials and landscaping would be dealt with via a future reserved matters planning application if outline permission is granted.

Taylor Wimpey's public exhibition for the outline proposals is taking place at the **Corn Exchange in Gloucester Street, Faringdon, SN7 7JA, on Thursday 19 May between 3pm and 8pm, and all are welcome.**

Those who are unable to attend will be able to access the information displayed at the event and submit their comments online at www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/fernham-road from Thursday 19 May onwards, with public feedback accepted on the proposals until Thursday 2 June.

Wanted, Copies of Photographs, Faringdon and District during the war time.- 9/5/16
Iso photo's of people at the time in Uniform with Names.

The photo's are for a Remembrance Exhibition to be held in November leading up to Remembrance Sunday in the Town Hall, Faringdon.

Attached is an Example, 1945 Faringdon Market place with an Emergency Water tank in front of Lloyds Bank (courtesy of the Book Wantage, Faringdon & the Vale in Old Photo's) Also has anybody any Photo's of the Prisoner War Camp (I belief Italian Prisoners of War) at the Top of Southampton Street.

Faringdon Secondary Modern School used the buildings as Class rooms after the War (I had lessons up the Huts) Photo's when School Class rooms will help.

Also does anybody happen to know of somebody reasonable local who owns a Willy's Jeep ?

Bill Law,

Fernham Road planning application.- 9/5/16

Having received a letter advising me of a planning application for 90 more homes at the very furthest point of Fernham Road I was quite amazed.

Possibly one of the narrowest roads in the town, a dead end in fact, so lets say at least two cars per household using this road in and out.

With an application for 10 more next to Fernham Gate already agreed and another 25 possibly on the the other side of the road we could be looking at another 250+ cars trying to negotiate this road and get out onto Coxwell Road or as lots of people do now, use Folly View Road and Marlborough Gardens to try and get to the town centre or out of the town. One of the reasons people objected to Humpty Hill was the extra traffic but at least Highworth Road leads somewhere!

I do hope the Town Council and District Council look very seriously at this application and use a bit of common sense.

Due to the Community College and Leisure Centre this is quite possibly the busiest road in the town, add around 300 more cars and we are looking at massive problems.

I think anybody living along Fernham Road, Leamington Drive, Folly View Road and Marlborough Gardens should check out the application.

There will be an exhibition in the Corn Exchange on May 19th 3pm-8pm.

Name Supplied.

Parking - 9/5/16

I think the suggestion of relocating works traffic a very reasonable suggestion and surprised it has not been considered before. I wonder if that also includes the camper vans that sit around all week and not used apart from a couple of times a year! The council should consider this option for starters and then look at the next stage I also agree if cars / vans parked on the zoned areas they should be clamped as these lines have been put down for safety more than anything else and just shows utter disregard to traffic regulations.

Ken Taylor

Fred Hunt- 8/5/16

So sorry to hear about Fred a life long friend from childhood

"One of the Old Faringdonians"

Iris and Dennis Haynes

Save Wantage Hospital - 8/5/16

Wantage Community Hospital is scheduled to close in the summer because of Legionella bacteria in the water system.

The NHS trust will not confirm the hospital will re-open after the repairs. Improvements have been made on this building recently and my fear is that the 'private' and very expensive care home next door will absorb the building

The hospital was built from local fundraising and donations, it belongs to the people.

Vote now: https://www.change.org/p/nhs-oxfordshire-save-wantage-community-hospital?recruiter=110730405&utm_campaign=signature_receipt_fb_dialog&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=share_petition

Gloucester street and other parking.- 7/5/16

I do so agree with the post vis a vis working vans being allowed to park on Gloucester street, the owners of these vehicles surely can't live in the street so must park them up and then walk to the council houses where they obviously live.

I personally find it so difficult parking my Bentley, which of course takes up two spaces but is so much more easy on the eye and is aesthetically pleasing to walk past when one is meandering.

There should be a field outside of town for these carbuncles of the combustion engine perhaps even out as far as Goosey, there seems to be a huge village green that's not being used and well out of sight of Gloucester street residents.

Lady Constance DeCoverlette DFS.QVC B&Q and Bar.

Fred Hunt - 6/5/16

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Fred Hunt, known by many through his work at Eagle Coaches and then Faringdon Motorparts, and via his affiliation with the Royal British Legion and many other groups and organisations in Faringdon over his 83 years.

He is survived by his wife Freda, son Ivor and granddaughters Philippa and Elizabeth.

Funeral 19/05/16 12pm, South Oxfordshire Crematorium.

Family flowers only.

Please consider donating to the Royal British Legion &/ Crohn's and Colitis UK instead via <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/fredhunt> or G&L Evans funeral directors.

Philippa Hunt

Things to do in and around Faringdon - 6/5/16

Do have an occasional look at the [Whats On Calendar](#) on this site. It's pretty much the best place to find out about events and activities in and around Faringdon.

I've created a [page for posters](#) too- so if you have an event as well as sending me the text, send me a poster (jpg) too.

Ed

Gloucester street and other street parking,- 6/5/16

Surely it would help ease the parking if the works vans were kept elsewhere during the evenings and weekends, they can take up to 2 spaces.

The council should consider an allocated parking area for this.

That would be a start for the residents of the streets, then look at the parking restricted zoned areas thats quite simple parking ticket. As for charging residents to park in their own street why not include an extra charge in their council tax. As for the car parks around the town it is not very often you see them full so do not have such a high price charge.

Jez

Thursday voting- 5/5/16

How are we supposed to vote when we have had no information .

Name supplied

Post Office Euros- 4/5/16

I have used the Post office on several occasions for Foreign Currency ..

I always ORDER the currency online using the Post Office online currency service , which

allows me to choose the Post office and collection date of my choice ..
It is easy to use and costs nothing and I don't have any problems ..
I would highly recommend trying it next time .. Dean Suckling

Singing- daytime- every Wednesday - 4/5/16

Informal Singing group. No solos, no auditions. Just singing for the fun of it.
Every Wednesday, 11.45, Pump House Project
[More information](#)

***** MATINEE CLUB FILM TODAY ***** - 4/5/16

"The Lady In The Van" (12A)

Weds 4th May, Corn Exchange, Faringdon

Doors 12.30, film 1pm

FREE tea/coffee ... and a biscuit!

Film duration approx 1 hour 40 mins

TICKETS £4 on the door

Faringdon Regent Cinema bringing people together!

(2 Hours FREE parking in town - Budgens or Gloucester St Car Parks)

Enquiries: 01367 242191

Post Office - 3/5/16

The difference between the Post office and Boots is Boots are respectful and always apologise for delay and always smile and chat.

Post office again never have Euros or only 5 notes pointless. Post office make excuses when having 2 staff that one needs to do other things behind desk. I would have though the front desk is the most important.

One can't blame minimum wage if they want a job then unfortunately like millions of others they should be happy to have a job. They knew the wage and terms when applying for job. If folks are finding a times no queues then many have gone elsewhere.

Carterton post office in Asda is brill and always helpful and don't need big glass windows Faringdon get those big glass windows out so more interaction

Name supplied

Cowslip seeds and snowdrops for the Folly - 2/5/16

I've had some success in getting cowslips to grow at the Folly- but more are needed.

They'll self seed over time, but I thought maybe if anyone has cowslips in their garden, they would collect the seed to scatter at the Folly.

Cowslip seeds need a period of cold to break dormancy (I put them in the fridge for a time).In the Autumn scatter them on the sunny side of the folly (towards White Horse Hill and Faringdon)

I'm happy to do the scattering- if you would collect the seed. THANKYOU

We were given some snowdrops last year and they flowered this year, but once again, more are needed to get them established. If you have any snowdrop plants you are digging out of your garden, please do get in touch.

Gene Webb

genewebb@rocketmail.com

Faringdon Post Office- 2/5/16

We HAD a wonderful, purpose-built, dedicated Post Office in Faringdon, which was well-staffed and a pleasure to use.

When it moved across the road, which I strongly opposed, we were told it would become part of a 'modern' store with varied retail offer. I wonder how many people would describe it that way?

Now, Post Office staff are on the minimum wage, with equipment that they say doesn't work & understandably dissatisfied customers. No wonder there's a high turnover of staff.

Bring back Faringdon's REAL Post Office!

Anna Hoare

BUSCOT RUN - 5k & 10k Sunday 3rd July 2016 - 2/5/16

The annual Buscot Run organised by Faringdon Rotary will take place this year on Sunday 3rd July in the beautiful setting of Buscot Park whilst the park is closed by kind permission of Lord Faringdon.

Run over 5k and 10k the course has been accurately measured using GPS and runs right past the front door of Buscot House, through formal parkland, woods and around open fields on a mix of gravel and tarmac. Water stations will be at strategic locations. The 5k race will start at 9.30am and the 10k at 10.30am.

Whether you're a serious runner or just jog for enjoyment, if you would like to enrol for either race, you can register with PayPal on our

website: www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk For further details call Roddy Benson 01367 243864.

All proceeds go to our charity projects, most of which are local.