

News and Views February 2017

Re: Medical Centre.- 28/2/17

I recently learnt that we can no longer book routine face 2 face appointments with a GP. Unfortunately, all appointments are triaged, while acceptable for acute on the day symptoms but totally impractical otherwise. As reception are unable to allocate a time for the triage with the doctor, this can have an impact on your working day.

I hope this is only a trial situation and not a permanent arrangement.

Name supplied

The Hobble footpath.- 27/2/17

I see that walking along the Hobble path today that possibly overnight there has been wanton vandalism on the fence surrounding Tesco. The other day I noticed that the security fence around Peter Kinch and Second2none had been cut and opened up.

I sincerely hope we aren't going to see more of this as we hardly ever see a Police presence in the town.

Name Supplied

Folly and dog mess.- 26/2/17

The two ladies walking up to the Folly this morning at 9.30 (one in a turquoise jacket, the other in a dark green(I think)) you walked so far ahead of your spaniel, paying no attention to what it was doing, so you failed to see it leaving a large deposit on the Folly path, the one through the gate. I refuse to pick up mess left by lazy dog owners so instead I moved it out of the way of children and other walkers with the use of a stick! Not pleasant but I couldn't leave it where it was.

I'm afraid I didn't have the courage to run after you and ask you to return to the mess, I wasn't sure of the reaction I would have been met with.

Hopefully though somebody knows them and will pass on this message.

I saw lots of people up there this morning and many had bags with them waiting to put them in the bins on the way home, me included. What a pity that the few are happy to ruin it all.

Name Supplied.

Tesco Grants - 26/2/17

I've just spoken with Trevor Nye at Tesco. He is now the Community Coordinator for Tesco support of local organisations- grants or other sorts of support. It seems the areas for the Bags of Life grants will be changing over the next few weeks. The area boundaries will be smaller so looks as if organisations we can vote for will be much nearer to Faringdon

Good News

Gene Webb

The naming of Henry Blake Way- 26/2/17

The apologies of Mary Beck and Devil's Advocate concerning the naming of Henry Blake Way are contrite and graciously expressed but I am surprised though. I thought everyone knew that our esteemed Council have had in place for a long time the commendable policy of naming new streets and developments with names taken from the War Memorial. Sadly, there are still plenty to choose from but it is gratifying to know that these heroes are remembered in this way.

Incidentally, there are many names of war casualties that are not recorded on the Market Place Memorial probably at the request of their relatives at the time. It would be appropriate if local historians and the men's relatives would also make their names available for consideration.

Dennis Haynes

Bulbs for the Folly- 25/2/17

If anyone is digging up snowdrops or aconites I'd be more than happy to plant them at the Folly
genewebb@rocketmail.com

Gene Webb

Internet connections- 25/2/17

For some weeks now, I have had difficulty in connecting to the internet. I live on the east side of Faringdon and the problem seems to be getting worse. - Is anyone else experiencing these intermittent breaks in connection?

name supplied

Henry Blake apologies- 24/2/17

My attempt at humour in this instance, given the context is poorly judged. It also clearly demonstrates my ignorance. I would never knowingly reduce the significance of the sacrifice that many brave souls gave to our country, yet this is what I appear to have done in this instance.

Apologies

Devils advocate

Henry Blake - 24/2/17

I didn't know that, and am humbled.

Mary Beck

HENRY BLAKE- 24/2/17

Are you having a joke or do you not look on the Town War Memorial ? Henry Blake lost his life in the first world War.

William Law

ED: For some time now, Faringdon Town Council has named streets after those named on the War memorial See <http://www.faringdon.org/war-memorial.html>

Henry Blake- 23/2/17

A fictional character in MASH

Devils Advocate

Who is Henry Blake? - 23/2/17

I think we should know. Is Henry Blake Way (see Aldi leaflet) Named after the famous lighthouse keeper of Dungeness?

Mary Beck

Waitrose/Tesco- 22/2/17

As long as Faringdon and the local area benefit from any grants,I do not consider it as being sad.Maybe the Medical Centre might get something to help,seeing as they inexplicably lost their grant.

Sylvia Day

Ruby Jacks, BGI building- 22/2/17

What a dreadful state the outside of this building is in. Paint peeling off, holes in rendering, Pigeon mess.

It's an important building in the Market Square. I hope the owner has plans to improve how it looks

Name Supplied

Tesco v Waitrose - 21/2/17

And so the Tesco/Waitrose battle for our hearts and minds begins. How sad.
Mary Beck

Local jobs advertised - 21/2/17

See <http://www.faringdon.org/jobs--volunteering.html>

DAY OUT TO THE ROYAL MINT EXPERIENCE NR CARDIFF- 21/2/17

Strike your own new 12 sided £1 coin and see how money is made on a guided tour round the factory.

Interactive exhibition and historical displays

Friday 17th March 2017 Leaving Faringdon Bowls Club at 9.00 a.m. Returning at approximately 6.00 p.m.

£30.00 per person (includes admission)

- Executive coach transport
- Restaurant serving hot and cold food

To secure your place please contact Sue Martin on 01285 851300 or sue.martin@waitrose.com
Please note: This is a non-profit making trip so cancellations can only be refunded if your place is re-sold.

Tesco grants. More projects are eligible- 21/2/17

Community groups across the UK are being invited to apply for Tesco Bags of Help funding as the application criteria opens to allow for more communities to bag some cash for their project.

As well as continuing to fund the development of and activity in outdoor spaces such as allotments and community gardens, grants will now be available to fund the purchase of items such as sports kits, camping equipment, spades, litter pickers or specialised medical equipment.

Funding is also available for improvements to community buildings, for example scout or guide hut, church or village hall or sports changing rooms. Groups looking to hold seasonal events and activities such as a Christmas lights can also apply for funding through the programme.

<https://data.groundwork.org.uk/civicrm/mailling/view?reset=1&id=949>

Breaking into sheds - 21/2/17

Please be aware that it now seems to be 'break into sheds' season again! (Southampton street south)

This morning @2am we witnessed an idiot trying to break into our neighbors shed.

We managed to light the garden up, And heard the idiot fall through bushes trying to get out of our gardens!

police were called and were very prompt in attending. sadly the idiot is still on the run!

Name supplied

British Legion Remembrance Travel - 20/2/17

I am Head of Travel for the travel arm of the Royal British Legion, Remembrance Travel, and I'm currently on a mission to find every single surviving D Day veteran. The Treasury is enabling a series of free-of-charge tours for D Day veterans to return to Normandy and pay their respects to their fallen comrades. The tours are being funded by the Treasury from LIBOR fines, and will enable a D Day veteran to return with a family member and carer on a six-night tour.

The 2017 tours will take place in March, April, May and September and will give Normandy veterans - now mostly in their 90s - the chance to revisit the Normandy beaches, cemeteries and memorials. The tours will be accompanied by a medic and a guide from the Royal British Legion.

The tours will depart from London and will include Eurotunnel from Dover to Calais, accommodation, visits to Pegasus Bridge, Juno, Sword, Gold beaches, Arromanches, and war memorials, plus visits to personally specified cemeteries too.

Sadly, there is no database of D Day veterans so we're calling on the goodwill of the media and general public to spread the word. So, if you do know a D Day veteran, please do let them know about our free tours.

Normandy veterans wishing to benefit from this tour need to apply to our tour operator, Arena Travel on 01473 660800, or visit www.arenatravel.com/journeysofremembrance.

Many thanks,

Nichola Rowlands, Head of Travel, Remembrance Travel, 199 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1AA

Folly Tower and Woodland Annual Meeting- 19/2/17

Thursday 9th March The Quad, 7pm

You are all warmly invited to the Folly Meeting on Thursday, 9th March at the Quad. We had a fabulous turnout last year and are looking forward to welcoming new and old friends alike this year. The meeting is an important opportunity for us to get together and celebrate the successes of last year and build on them for the 2017 season. Come along simply to listen and share successes with fellow volunteers, to bring ideas for future development.

www.faringdonfolly.org.uk

Faringdon Town Council Updates, Successes and Plans- 19/2/17

See what they've been working on- Cinema, Tidy Team, Children's Centre, fund raising for Old Town Hall ++

Scroll down on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/?section=1>

Al-Roche Lebanese restaurant is closing - 19/2/17

Super restaurant. Lovely young couple who run it. Very sad it's closing in 3 weeks time
Name Supplied

Fund Raising for Sue Ryder Hospice - 19/2/17

Ruth Styles is fundraising for her place in the London Marathon this April, for the Sue Ryder Hospice in Nettlebed. With £1,750 to raise overall, she is having a fundraising coffee morning & sale at the Catholic Church Hall (the entrance is at the back, near Budgens car park, look for the balloons) on **Saturday 25th February 2017 (10.30-1)**. On the day: Raffle (with great local prizes supported by local companies), Tombola, Games, General Sale & Cake Stall, Games, Tea/Coffee and Cakes to have on the day. Please come and support this wonderful charity as well as having a fun morning and maybe picking up a bargain, winning a wonderful prize or just a chat and a hot drink. Everyone is welcome. :-)

Superfast Broadband - 19/2/17

11 out of 12 Cabinets in Faringdon have been converted by BT Openreach to superfast fibre broadband, with the exception of Cabinet 10 in Gloucester Street!

My name is Alistair Williamson; I am a resident in Gloucester Street.; I am a businessman based in Faringdon. I have fibre broadband in my office in Market Place but not at home in Gloucester Street.

One of my New Year's resolutions for 2017 was to bring together those in Gloucester Street to enable us to all benefit from fibre broadband; just like every other resident and business in Faringdon.

Alistair says, *'I am frustrated and disappointed, on behalf of myself and my 89 neighbours in Gloucester Street, who don't currently have access to superfast fibre broadband. I find this is extremely limiting for both my personal and business use. It is also totally unfair as 11 out of the*

12 BT Cabinets in Faringdon have already been converted with the exception of Cabinet 10 in the Town Centre.'

Lobbying

I have been in regular contact with Ed Vaizey – our MP and Bill Murphy – Managing Director of next generation access for BT for a number of years, about this problem. I have tried to persuade them to get Cabinet 10 in Gloucester Street, Faringdon, converted to fibre broadband; unfortunately, none of my efforts so far have produced the desired result.

I have setup a website www.cab10.co.uk so that the 89 property owners in Gloucester Street can register their interest in a Community Fibre Partnership to convert Cabinet 10 to superfast fibre broadband.

Alistair Williamson

VWHDC District Clean up- 18/2/17

The press release says *'Following a successful trial in 2016, the council is allocating £80,000 per year to carry out a deep cleanse of the district to ensure public areas are as clean and tidy as possible. The council will also continue to pay £25,000 per year for the next three years to ensure grass verges in urban areas can be cut at least once a year.'*

My guess is they will only do areas reported to them- so we could help by reporting where the dirty streets are via email: admin.vale@biffa.co.uk or phone 03000 610610 or

via <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> (on here you can see problems already reported and if they've been fixed)

The VWHDC website says

- town centres are cleaned once a day and mechanically swept once a week
- town centre car parks are cleaned three times a week
- outer town areas are cleaned once a week and mechanically swept once a month
- large villages are cleaned on a rotation basis
- small villages are cleaned on request

Re: Southampton St and other developments- 18/2/17

I don't know who the developers are but suspect that you are right about extending the planning permission. This is probably because they, and all the other developments, have been unable to continue as Thames Water needed to upgrade their sewage and water systems. They are currently doing this so I think we're about to see a major increase in the number of builders in Faringdon.

Green Witch

Southampton St Tennis Courts - 18/2/17

Every time I walk past the old tennis courts, I think what an eyesore. They started putting the road in and then nothing for months. There is a couple of mounds of rubble, even the heras fencing looks a mess as it's been pushed about.

Can anyone shed any light (and who the developer is), I am guessing they did just the road bit so they can extend the planning for a few years (like the development of flats on Park Road)

Name supplied

Folly Path- 17/2/17

At last the tarmac path to the Folly has been cleaned by VWHDC (I first asked them at the end of October). The mud and detritus on the path made it slippery underfoot, especially in wet and icy weather.

I'm now hoping that those who are not very conscientious about bagging dog poo (and binning it) will notice the clean path and take much more care- here and in the woodland.

Gene Webb

Friend of the Folly

New GP Contract- 17/2/17

See [latest bulletin](#)

Items which may be of interest include:

- Information about the 2017-18 GP contract which comes into effect on 1st April 2017
- New resources for patients about using the online facilities now available at all GP practices, including access to information in their medical records
- Opportunities for patients to be involved in research projects and advisory panels
- and more.....

See [_http://www.napp.org.uk/latestbulletins.html](http://www.napp.org.uk/latestbulletins.html) for earlier bulletins

VWHDC Budget commits millions to Vale communities

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2017/2017-02/budget-commits-millions-vale-communities>

But not to Faringdon

Ed

Windows/listed buildings.- 15/2/17

Interesting subject.

Not all buildings in a conservation area are listed, so it should be no problem to repair with modern building materials sympathetic in style and appearance to the general surroundings. Just out of interest though, do people in listed buildings not have modern bathrooms and kitchens, boilers and sanitation or are they obliged [and proud] to have period features such as chamber pots, spits over their open fires, stone hot-water bottles or warming pans for their beds (as of course no central heating) and outside privies? Just wondering...as I have yet to see any of my friends in their listed buildings still with 18th or even 19th century 'mod cons'.

Name Supplied

Lilian's Bakery - 14/2/17

I agree with the previous post regarding Lilian's Bakery shop. The bread is AMAZING...definitely no comparison to the steamed rubbish from Hovis and Warburtons etc...

I can't comment on the sandwiches, but as she uses her own breads, I'm sure with the filling of your choice they would be very tasty.

Crusty topped rolls, cottage loaves, wholegrain loaves...the choice in Lilian's is a tough one!

I have also had the delight of tasting the flapjacks....de-lish!

And very decent portion sizes at a decent price.

Lilian has been trading in Faringdon for over 40 years...now that tells you something!

Well done Lils!

Name supplied

Windows (again) - 14/2/17

As the owner of a listed building, I strongly advise talking to the Conservation Officer at the VoWHDC before doing anything. The only things that don't require consent are genuine like-for-like repairs. Replacing wood single-glazed units with wood double-glazed ones requires consent, however good it is. uPVC is unlikely to be approved (and nor should it in my opinion - how is plastic in keeping with a centuries-old building?). Even if you 'get away' with it, you'll run into problems if/when you come to sell. You'll only be able to sell to someone who either decides they don't care and are willing to take on the risk of getting hit with the fine (responsibility for unauthorised alterations is passed on with ownership of the house), or take out an insurance policy against any future problems.

Old buildings are lovely, but also draughty, high-maintenance and (at times) a bit difficult to live in. If uPVC is your thing, you're probably better off with a newer house!

Name supplied

London St Baker - 13/2/17

I went into the Bakers shop in London street last week after what must be quite a few years since the last time. The reason being I have to go out of my way to get there. I would like to say that Lilian must be the hardest working woman in Faringdon and the bread is excellent. After not having it for many moons I can really taste the difference from the pap sold in all the supermarkets.

Needless to say I will be using the bakers more often now and thanks again to Lilian.

Name supplied

'COTSWOLD AIRPORT AVIATION SCHOLARSHIP 2017' CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY- 13/2/17

YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS GLOS, WILTS, OXON & BERKS MUST APPLY BEFORE 19TH MARCH FOR THE CHANCE OF WINNING A PLACE...

Cotswold Airport is delighted to be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of its hugely successful '**Cotswold Airport Aviation Scholarship**', which launched back in 2007. This unique industry scholarship programme has changed the lives of many young people over its ten year history, seeing scholars embarking on fantastic careers in the world of aviation, from engineering to commercial flying (*press case studies available*). The programme was founded by Cotswold Airport owner, Ronan Harvey, an ex-RAF engineer, aviation expert and incredibly successful entrepreneur, who wanted to open up the broad and exciting world of aviation career opportunities to young people from the local area.

To mark the ten year anniversary, the scholarship programme has been significantly enhanced, in particular with the addition of a generous sponsorship package from Gulf Aviation. This new sponsor partnership has enabled the programme to run over 10 days, rather than the original 8; and will allow scholars to officially log 10 hours flying time, an increase of 3 to 4 extra hours. In addition there will also be exciting new site visits including a day at Bristol International Airport and a day spent learning with CAV Academy learning all about drone flying. Full details of the programme will be released in the Spring.

The organisers have also taken the decision to move the Aviation Scholarship from its previous Easter holiday dates to the Summer holiday to avoid the pressure on those students who are under pressure to study for GCSE's in the Easter break; as well as opening up the application catchment area to include Berkshire. The new dates for 2017 are 31 July to 11 August (weekdays only).

Students from Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, and now Berkshire, can apply. Applicants must be 14 to 18 years of age on 19th March 2017.

Cotswold Airport is also delighted to announce that Cotswold Outdoor will be sponsoring the scholar's branded jackets for the second year running. The fantastic pro-lite softshell jacket, personalised with the Cotswold Airport logo, Cotswold Outdoor logo and the scholar's names

embroidered onto the front proved to be a godsend for the youngsters with the unpredictable weather and change in temperature at altitude!

Applications can be submitted online at www.cotswoldairport.com. Applications close on 19th March 2017.

Windows- 13/2/17

Additional facts, not alternative. "Alternative facts" are what supporters of Donald Trump disseminate. [Comment for amusement only] LOL
name supplied

Parking - 13/2/17

I saw the problems saturday in goodlake it could have been a bigger problem if emergency services were required.the only way to stop this happening is double yellow lines along the road and put into the responsibility of the council to oversee.

J.S.

Windows- 12/2/17

I would just like to add some alternative facts to the last commenter on this subject. If a building is listed, then the whole building, inside and out, is listed. Putting PVC windows as a replacement like for like to wooden ones, seems unlikley to pass consent, which is required. There is good guidance and telephone support all about the rules in this area of building work, available on the Vale website, and checking which buildings are listed can be accessed at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> . Interestingly, failure to adhere to listed building rules, is a criminal, rather than civil offense. Owning a listed building is a joy which carries its own responsibilities.

Name Supplied

Windows- 12/2/17

Interesting points about windows. The rules governing listed buildings are that you should replace like with like - e.g. wood where wood exists. Not every building in the conservation area is a listed building, nor is every frontage of particular historic interest. UPVC has been dramatically improved over the years to offer many styles and infinite variety of shapes. If a building is of great historic significance or rarity, then yes there is case for preservation; but in a conservation area surely the idea is to preserve the overall character and appearance of a place, not financially cripple home owners with needlessly expensive maintenance. Surely even in these [apparently] straightened times we have a conservation officer who could advise on sympathetic maintenance of buildings which have a visual impact in the area, so that improvements harmonise instead of looking downright ugly. No need to waste money prosecuting folks for non-compliance.

name supplied

Re: Sensible Parking - 11/2/17

The Sewage disposal tanker couldn't get through the cars parked on both sides of the road in Goodlake Avenue today (Saturday). The Black VW Polo was the culprit!! Lets hope nobody needs an ambulance or the fire service!!

Name supplied

TESCO FARINGDON SERVES UP A TREAT FOR LOCAL PEOPLE AT TEA PARTY- 11/2/17

Residents of all ages are to be given the chance to get together for a community tea party this Sunday between 3pm and 5pm at TPHP. Thanks to the generosity of Tesco's Faringdon store. TPHP in Swan Lane is to hold the event as part of its work to provide a wide range of community activities for local people of all ages and abilities.

The food and refreshments for the tea party are to be provided by the Tesco store on Park Road.

Entertainment courtesy of our own DJ Shaun Godfrey. Tesco store manager Guy Bexon and Community Champion Trevor Nye will be on hand to help serve up the tea, coffee, cold drinks, cakes, fruit and sandwiches. Guy Bexon said: "The donation is part of the store's commitment to support local charities and community groups and we are delighted to be able to help in this way".

Tickets from Lou Smith on 01367 242142 Or at info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk

£6 per person

Funds will go towards 'The Pump House Project'

Sensible parking - 11/2/17

As per the title this doesn't happen in Faringdon. Trying to get to Pye Street today and difficult driving conditions and utterly ridiculous parking. Goodlake Avenue is not like Marlborough High Street! Its narrow and even more so when people park opposite an already parked car!

Saw the Hermes lorry give up and him having to move his parcels by hand. Come on people use some sense, and those that should enforce parking restrictions; do something.

I dread to think of the delay if a blue light emergency were to try to get through.

So please people, park sensibly and with thought for others.

Name supplied

The Steeds Planning application - 10/2/17

Described as 'reserved matters following outline planning consent for 200 houses'

Covers appearance, layout, landscaping +++

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P17/V0118/RM>

Consultation ends 7/3/17

Re: Windows- 10/2/17

As far as I know replacement windows in the conservation area are subject to Planning Permission. About 4/5 years ago I complained to the conservation officer at the District Council about uPVC windows being installed in a listed building. He agreed with me but stated that the DC didn't have the funds to do anything about it. I very much doubt that anything has improved in the meantime and they will only do something if it is totally outrageous and blatant.

Green Witch

Windows...- 9/2/17

A conservation area exists along the mains streets and in the town centre. I have no objection to sensitively chosen replacement windows, in this day and age they are sensible, and need very little maintenance. Modern building materials are a viable alternative to many expensive repair options. But - for goodness sake can our conservation department at least advise on the abomination of ugly, wrongly proportioned windows right on the main street into the town? I've just seen a totally out-of-keeping example newly installed towards the top end of London Street and it is monstrous. Window panes the wrong way up (presumably to save a few pounds) and it looks ridiculous. Faringdon could be an attractive little place with a modicum of care.

Town planners where are you when we need you??

Name supplied

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD- 9/2/17

Are you or do you know of a young adult aged between 18 and 25 who may be interested in taking part in our Rotary Youth Leadership Award? The course takes place at a specially adapted centre in the Snowdonia National Park, North Wales.

The week long course is about developing qualities of leadership, team working, initiative, communication and problem solving including activities such as abseiling, navigation, canoeing, sailing, high ropes. Faringdon Rotary have sponsored one or two participants for the past few

years who have returned full of confidence having had an amazing and fun experience. This is a fantastic opportunity to have fun, learn leadership skills and impress future employers/universities. The experience will look great on the young person's CV or UCAS application and can help towards the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. The next programme takes place from 22 – 29 July 2017. Candidates must have reached 18 years of age on the first day of the course.

To find out more or if you know anyone who might be interested please message us on Facebook, visit our website or contact Tim Cowling 01367 810281 email: cowling@chrltd.freeseve.co.uk Faringdon & District Rotary Club can be found at: www.facebook.com/faringdon.rotary Website: www.faringdonrotaryclub.co.uk

LOOKING FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR A COMMUNITY PROJECT OR EVENT?- 9/2/17

Are you a community group or individual based Faringdon or local villages looking for funding assistance for a project or event?

Enter Faringdon & District Rotary's Dragons Den?

Full details and application form from: www.faringdonrotaryclub.org or telephone: 07866 556506.

Closing date for applications is 28th February 2017.

Saturday, 18th March FARINGDON FAIR FARE FAYRE!- 8/2/17

Faringdon Market Place 10.00 till 1.00pm.

Come and join in the fun with fair trade market stalls selling foods, crafts, handmade cards, fair-trade baking and more...

Fairtrade refreshments, films and activities in the Old Town Hall.

For more information call into the Mustard Seed fair trade shop 19, Market Place, Faringdon, or go to the website: www.mustardseed.org.uk

For more information and offers of help please contact Karen: 01367-241707 or email karen@vogt.org.uk

Jobs and Classified ads - 7/2/17

Hope you're keeping an eye on <http://www.faringdon.org/jobs--volunteering.html> and [For Sale/wanted items](#).

I update these pages as soon as someone sends me something to post.

Ed

Nut Tree - Much Missed- 7/2/17

Shops can't cater for everyone. I too miss the Nut Tree. I miss their humour, their local knowledge, their handbags, their card selection, their mugs and cushions and their jewellery. I miss the fact that they worked hard, together with their lovely team of ladies to keep the shop going even when rents soared.

The traditional High Street is dying and has been for years. People need shops offering goods and services which are hard to buy online or at out of town stores. That's why you see so many coffee shops, hairdressers and barbers. And, dare I say it...charity shops full of all the rubbish we've bought online and now don't want.

What could you sell that would fit that category that we don't already have? Musical instruments, a thrift shop, haberdashery (fabric, wool), antiques/junk, fixers of kettles and toasters, vinyl records....?

We've got some great shops. Instead of moaning about the empty ones we should be working out a solution to help local people open their own businesses in them or sharing premises with other fledgling businesses.

Wouldn't it be good if someone had a great idea for a business but didn't quite know if it would work, had a 3 month basic rent of a premises to properly test if it would work...? Groups like the Faringdon Business Group and/or Chamber of Commerce could support and mentor them during

the 3 months.

Just needs the landlords to agree I suppose... Surely a premises with a business in it paying a reduced rent for 3 months and then gradually increasing to market rates over 12 months is better than having your premises empty?

Mel Lane

Pump House Project Winter Newsletter- 6/2/17

http://media.wix.com/ugd/aa9dc5_38adc7957cff4df5afff3cd348b7c95e.pdf

The Great British Spring Clean- 6/2/17

Faringdon Town Council invite you to join a Community Litter Pick on Sunday 5th March 2-5pm.

Meet at The Old Town Hall, equipment provided (but extra grabbers would be helpful).

Any ideas of areas that need a tidy email rebekah@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01367 240281

The Nut Tree - 6/2/17

The Nut tree had an excellent range of goods and nowhere now in Faringdon is there such a good selection of greeting cards. There was always a friendly welcome from Trevor and Donald - I miss them and their shop.

Margaret Barker

Empty shops- 6/2/17

What were the Nut Tree, Kwiksave and the hairdressers next to Davis DIY- all empty Any news as to what they are to become?

Ed

The Nut Tree - 6/2/17

I loved the nut tree, some unusual gifts, some expensive and more than I would spend, but plenty of choice, cards and jewellery. It offered a different selection than the other modern shops. We need a selection of shops in town,

Name supplied

Waitrose again- 6/2/17

I find it very interesting that Waitrose stirs up so much controversy. Will there be the same controversy when Aldi opens as that will be much more of a threat to Budgens/Tesco's I expect. I agree the internal design of the Waitrose leaves a lot to be desired. I have no idea why there is a coffee shop in what is supposed to be a food store, especially with Costa next door. However When all the green space opposite from Esso is covered by more poor housing from Bloor these shops will be very convenient for their owners. I doubt in physical terms if Costcutter is much further from the centre than Waitrose. As has been said if you don't like Waitrose don't shop there. It is your choice. It would seem from early indications that many people do. I have seen what they have and doubt that Waitrose will be much competition for Pat Thomas or Rob the Cheese. Did all the fuss over Tesco having a path to the town centre increase the footfall? I guess not.

Owen Brazell

The Nut Tree - 6/2/17

I thought the Nut Tree was a great shop- one of the best non food shops in Faringdon. Pity it's no longer there.

Name Supplied

The Nut Tree - 5/2/17

Tesco's didn't cause the downfall of the Nut Tree, it was whoever the stock buyer of the business was, it was expensive and not current, nothing to draw people in. Emma Bridgewater is everywhere, the company has flooded the market with the stuff, almost getting to the point of buy one get one free, Jane Hogbin, Caroline Zoob, these are the names that draw people in, the buyer should have gone to the country living fair to pick up the latest tips and see what customers really want and buy.

I know that running any business is the hardest it has ever been, but those that do survive offer their customers items that are very different from the shop next door, general trade buying will never make a business thrive no matter what other shops take up residence.

Name Supplied.

The Nut Tree - 5/2/17

Sorry Trevor but your shop was so old fashioned, cards and gifts were not current in the market place, people preferring to shop out of town or online to buy quirky gifts and cards you really needed to keep up with current trends, your shop was lagging behind the times..sorry to say. If Waitrose had moved into Budgens people still wouldn't have used your shop just in and out of the car park, Just one shop will not bring people into this town. The gift shop in London street seem to have got it right and are thriving, perhaps it is something to do with pricing. Trevor please don't think I am being over critical, in this climate i certainly wouldn't want to try and run a shop, but I will always visit and buy from a shop that is keeping up with the latest pottery, gifts, etc., online shopping seems to be cheaper.

Name supplied.

Faringdon's out-of-town shopping - 5/2/17

I agree that the new Waitrose is in the wrong place- if it is intended for local people rather than A420 commuter traffic. Developing the 4&20 site for retail was obviously going to put a further nail in the coffin of the town centre and add to traffic problems at the end of Park Road. It was not in the interests of the town.

This site was allocated for B1/B2 use in the Neighbourhood Plan, yet Faringdon Council did not oppose the planning application for retail...

Name supplied

Footfall in Faringdon - 5/2/17

So many things affect footfall. In the 1970s, when supermarket businesses began, and peoples shopping habits changed, Faringdon's population has more than doubled,

A higher population doesn't seem to have helped the small business- I guess because more people work (probably out of town), greater car ownership, more difficulty parking, seemingly a reluctance to walk far, the desire and now habit of doing all food shopping in one place and at pretty much at any time of the day or night, online shopping - and probably more. It is a mystery to me though how some shops still thrive. I guess not all can be destination/niche shops. Very hard to be a small retail outlet in todays world.

Name Supplied

For Trevor formerly of the Nut Tree - 5/2/17

From where I live near Goodlake Avenue area, there is an easy walk to the town and to Tesco, Screwfix and the other units on the industrial estate. Going tother way its a five minute walk to the Health Centre as that is easier than trying to park. Waitrose, no chance. Costa, never had one so shan't miss that.

Now if Waitrose was in the town as it should have been then the footfall would have been greater so more chance of businesses like yours was to thrive. The cost of rent, business rates and the other costs must be crippling for some of those in town. For a small town like Faringdon to thrive, it

needs a lot more help from local, regional and national government. No chance there then. Sorry to see a shop like yours close, but people are fickle and its their choice where they spend. Why hasn't this little town got free parking ALL day rather than 2 hours. After all that, wish you the best whatever you get up to next.

Colin Eddy

Petition to reduce starting age for bowel cancer screening- 5/2/17

To reduce screening age for bowel cancer from 60 to 50

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/181670>

To Colin Eddy- 5/2/17

If the council had allowed Waitrose to come to town they would not have had to go to the outskirts pulling people from the town centre ,you talk about independents to suffer, we had a shop in town for 12 years it wasn't Waitrose fault it was the council allowing Tesco to develop on the edge of town.

Shop in these boutique shops,they need customers, to stay open. I had a shop in town for 12 year's, so please don't tell be about footfall .we would still be there if it was viable.

Trevor Wynn

Waitrose- 5/2/17

Why have they put a coffee machine in the centre of isle whilst people getting coffee 2 trollies can't move. Also coffee shop What a waste of space.

First day self check out one customer put items through back into basket then went off without paying. No staff to help folks. Nightmare.

Extended shop you get at a garage

First visit and not again

Back to tesco I went

Name supplied

Waitrose - 5/2/17

So glad Waitrose is in town. Budgens and Teacos, do people really shop there. Its about time this town got a decent shop or two.

Name Supplied

Re: Waitrose! Who needs it?- 5/2/17

I do! It's about choice and I object to being described as posh just because I like to go to Waitrose as well as Budgens and Tesco!

Name supplied

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ACTING?- 5/2/17

Our next planned production will be 'My Friend Miss Flint' - a comedy by Donald Churchill and Peter Yeldham.

READING of the play on THURSDAY 9th February.

AUDITIONS on THURSDAY 16th February.

Both held at the United Church Faringdon between 8:00 and 10:00pm.

We are seeking a cast of 6 - ideally 3 male and 3 female.It's a funny play and will be great fun to do.

The performances will be at Buscot House Theatre on: Wed 10th, Thurs 11th, Fri 12th & Sat 13th MAY 2017.

Rehearsals will start on Monday 27th February and are every Monday & Thursday evening through March & April into early MAY.We'd love to see you at the read through & auditions.

<http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk/index.html>

Waitrose! Who needs it? - 4/2/17

We have Budgens, Costcutter and of course Tesco. Don't really need this out of town store for those too posh to shop in our Town stores. Enough empty stores in town already and cannot see those going to this "upmarket" corner shop coming INTO town to spend on our boutique shops. Just means the traffic on Park Road will get even worse.

Colin Eddy

High Court grants permission for Judicial Review.- 4/2/17

Mrs Justice Lang DBE has ruled that my application for Judicial Review "merits full consideration" in the High Court. My claim challenges the Vale of White Horse District Council's decision to adopt Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, on the grounds that the Plan fails to meet the Basic Conditions.

For the latest update on the campaign to Protect Wicklesham Quarry from Development, click on the link. <https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-sajiv-javid-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development/u/19279412>

Anna Hoare

Waitrose - 3/2/17

Lovely to see Waitrose open yesterday. With regard to the vouchers & offers, it was refreshing to leave a supermarket without additional paper vouchers, which usually just end up as rubbish! Plenty of shelf offers for customers to choose from.

Name supplied

Re. - Waitrose.- 3/2/17

Popped along around 11am. Car park was full. Cars queued up. We drove round for ten minutes, still couldn't park, so left. Hopefully it will be a bit quieter next time we visit, although the Aldi car park looks fairly small.

Regards mark

Waitrose parking - 2/2/17

It was nice of the Waitrose management to tell their staff to park on the road outside Folly Park this morning.

Paul Mowat

Re Waitrose: - 2/2/17

On a whim I stopped by the opening at 7 as just about to drive past. There was not a huge turnout but then it was an odd time and day to open as people have work and other things to get to. I was impressed with the layout and decor but a little disappointed there was no vouchers, offers or giveaways like Tesco had done when they opened. I guess if you are in the market for blagging handouts you are not posh enough to shop at Waitrose. Roll on Aldi ;)

Name Supplied

Waitrose, Aldi - 2/2/17

Waitrose opens today and Aldi on March 3rd

Wicklesham Quarry - Update- 2/2/17

For the latest news on the campaign to Protect Wicklesham Quarry from Development, click on the link below. In response to the application for Judicial Review of the Vale's decision to adopt Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan, the District Council's lawyer's have stated that the policy to 'safeguard' Wicklesham Quarry for B2/ B8 industrial use could not take effect for six years- after the Restoration and 5 year Aftercare Scheme have taken place.

Oxfordshire County Council has served Grundon Ltd with a Breach of Conditions Notice for failing to restore Wicklesham Quarry. The new deadline is 30th June 2017. Damage to the ponds that must be preserved as Priority Habitat under the Restoration Scheme is currently under investigation as wildlife crime.

Please send any questions or comments to protectwicklesham@gmail.com.

<https://www.change.org/p/faringdon-town-council-the-vale-of-white-horse-district-council-and-secretary-of-state-sajiv-javid-protect-wicklesham-quarry-from-development/u/19240451>

Anna Hoare