

News and Views March 2017

Town Meeting Monday 10th April- 31/3/17

Corn Exchange 7.30 pm

Come and hear about Town Council activities and from other groups in the town.

There's opportunity to have your say

Agenda and minutes of last meeting can be found on <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/notice-town-meeting-10th-april-2017/>

Everyone welcome

CVS Service - 31/3/17

I used to use Second2None for vehicle servicing but now use CVS around by Howdens on the same road as Travis Perkins.

I changed cars to a VAG group car and David at CVS is VAG trained. My wife hd a bad experience at Second2None when a wheel wasn't fully tightened up after some work.

All 5 of the cars that used to go to Bob now go to David and he is a lot cheaper and more importantly does a good job.

Had a problem with my lights the other day and even though he was busy it was done. Last week another problem and again no problem even though he is on his own at the moment. CVS do a good job and cheaper.

Just thought I would give it some balance.

Colin Eddy

Recommended Computer Services from Raoul at Quidne -IT- 31/3/17

Both I and my computer are well past our 'Best before Dates' but as I constantly tell my wife that is no reason to get rid of either of us.

Unfortunately my old favourites Vista and Windows Mail have had their day so Raoul (Quidne-It) replaced them with Windows 7 and Windows Live Mail . Splendid job !

I won't mention the charge because I suspect there is a special rather low 'Pathetic Pensioner ' price. Raoul can be contacted on 0845 4675087 or Raoul@quidne-it.com

Name Supplied

Free Compost Giveaway- 30/3/17

Come and join us to fill your box, bag or container with locally produced compost for free – and don't forget your shovel.

A maximum of 4 containers per person will be applied.

- Saturday 13 May 9.00am – 11.00am Old South Oxfordshire District Council Car Park, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED
- Sunday 14 May 9.00am – 11.00am Rye Farm Car Park, Culham Road, Abingdon OX14 3NN

Pick up Kitchen caddies and liners

50% of Compost bins- now £10

Free recycling goodies

Who's kidding who?- 29/3/17

Yesterday I filled my car with diesel in Carterton at £1 14p per litre.

The same fuel costs £1 28p at the garage in Faringdon.

14 pence a litre dearer, That's why people shop etc out of Faringdon town. You would have to be daft not to.

Name supplied

Sunday 2nd July 2017 BUSCOT RUN - 5k & 10k- 28/3/17

The annual Buscot Run organised by Faringdon Rotary will take place this year on Sunday 2nd 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.

Second 2 None to the Rescue...again - 26/3/17

I am very disabled so a punctured tyre was much more than the minor irritation it would be to someone without my problems..

I sent for the RAC, they fitted the spare and drove the car to Second 2 None in Park Road. So thank you RAC splendid service.

The puncture was repaired and the wheel refitted. The car was then returned to me. Terrific sevice as usual from Bob and his team and the cost was, to say the least, very reasonable.

Their number 01367 243567

Name Supplied

Retirement of Joy Blake Organist at All Saints Church - 24/3/17

After 40 years voluntary service as organist at All Saints Joy is to retire. Her last service is 23rd April. Please can any choir members passed or present join in this last service.

With her retirement the Choir is also being disbanded. No more robed singers tradition gone
In's it place a New group is being formed.

Tradition also gone from the church is Christingle service. The children and Adults loved this service.

New service sheets service shorter

Don't need bibles or hymn books. All screens and paper

Name supplied

GP APPOINTMENTS- 24/3/17

I agree with everything the previous post said about the new system of GP appointments. I also contacted the surgery and have got an appointment with my chosen doctor on a day and time that suited me. It certainly works for me anyway.

Suzy

Wicklesham fossils- 24/3/17

I've only just seen in the Oxford Times that there is to be an exhibition of Wicklesham fossils in the Old Town Hall tomorrow morning.

Oxfordshire Geology Trust's

Fossil event in the Old Town Hall on 10.30 am to 12.30 pm

Mary Beck

Better Oxfordshire unitary bid officially submitted to government- 24/3/17

This is a significant moment for the communities of Oxfordshire

You can see details on our website by clicking [this link](#)

Fernham Fields - 23/3/17

The ironically named Faringdon Fields, which is a field being buried under buildings, roads and tarmac. I realise that planning permission has been granted however I am concerned to see that the hedges are currently being destroyed. Why do the hedges have to be destroyed and are they entitled to do this?

Joan Morris

Sunday 9th April- 23/3/17

Five bell ringers from All Saints Faringdon gave their lives for King and Country in the First World War.

Before the Churches Together in Faringdon united service the ringers will attempt a quarter peal in honour of the Richings brothers 100 years after the death of Percy on HMS Azelea, off Crete on 7th April 1917. His younger brother Frederick had died in hospital on 12th February 1915.

We hope those hearing the bells between 5.30 and 6.30 will remember with gratitude the Richings and their family.
Jon Chamberlain

Court dates set for full hearing: Wicklesham's test case for localism.- 23/3/178

The Judicial Review of Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan will take place on 14th and 15th June 2017 in the High Court. Our case raises issues that so far have not been tested by the courts. The planning system should ensure Wicklesham Quarry SSSI very high levels of protection:

- * it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest of international importance;
- * it lies outside the urban settlement of Faringdon in open countryside, in the National Character Area of the Midvale Ridge;
- * it hosts UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat and European Protected Species;
- * it forms part of West Oxfordshire Heights Conservation Target Area, an ecological network of habitats and species identified for protection and restoration under Oxfordshire's Biodiversity Action Plan.
- * It has planning conditions that require its restoration to agricultural use, in accordance with its surroundings.

For all these reasons, it is the very last place a responsible local authority would choose to put an industrial estate! Wicklesham Quarry is now a test case for the Localism Act.

For the recent update follow the link: 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/19740743

sELFie Doors Project- 22/3/17

The Pump House Project, Faringdon, Oxfordshire is inviting the whole community and surrounding towns and villages to take part in an extraordinary event, to turn Faringdon into a place of sparkle and wonder by creating their very own family focussed Elf or Fairy door. The examples above have been submitted by our very keen volunteers!

All the sELFie Doors will magically re-appear during the Faringdon summer music festival 'Folly Fest' 28-30 July; and form The sELFie Door Trail throughout the town, through the woods and up the iconic Folly Tower. Everyone is invited to find and follow the trail to see what the Elves and Fairies have been up to! There will be themed craft workshops on the day of the launch and celebrations will end at the Elf and Fairy Dance.

The project so far: Our template doors went on sale in March and are selling out almost as fast as we can make them. For those in need of a little inspiration or practical help to make their sELFie Door we are running community craft DIY workshops in May and June. Flyers have been distributed around the town and many local group, schools and businesses are getting stuck in.

Our main event, The sELFie Door Trail will be a mass installation of tiny elf and fairy doors throughout the town, through the woods and up the iconic Folly Tower, to be launched at 'Folly Fest' 28-30 July. Fairy and Elf performers will feature throughout the day and will guide visitors on their exploration of the magical world that has been created. Then its back to the Pump House for the Elf and Fairy Dance! For interviews: Contact Lucy Brown, Project Co-ordinator on 07900 800657 or email info@thepumphouseproject.co.uk

For more details visit www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk The Pump House Project, The Pump House Swan Lane, Faringdon, SN7 7AF

Folly Fest: Faringdon annual summer music festival, 28-30 July, 2017. www.follyfest.co.uk

For details of current event and updates on sELFie Doors please follow our page www.facebook.com/ThePumpHouseProject

Supported by: The project has been generously supported by Tesco and Howdens Joinery, Faringdon.

All proceeds support The Pump House Project Charity (Number 1151905)

GP appointments - 22/3/17

For the first time in aeons I needed to make a non-urgent appointment with a GP, so had to use the new triage system. I did this with some trepidation due to all the negative comments on this site. The phone was answered immediately, I gave very vague symptoms to the receptionist (if you politely told them would rather not share this info with them, I suspect this would probably be fine) and within 1.5 hours I was chatting to a doctor. They agreed I needed to be checked out 'in the flesh' and have booked me in for Friday with my preferred GP. Considering the last time I attempted to book an appointment the earliest I could be seen was over 10 days away it seems that this new system is a considerable improvement.

Anyone who believes that before this was brought in they would be able to see their chosen GP for a non-urgent appointment within 72 hours is deluding themselves. And if this system keeps more urgent appointments free, surely that's a good thing?

Faringdon has had a population explosion and the GP surgery (like the schools, roads etc) is struggling to cope. This seems like a sensible and workable solution - and one that's been in place at my parent's GP in Birmingham for over a year. It is certainly not peculiar to Faringdon.

Generally speaking, people fear change, but lambasting the doctors for trying to find a solution (the old system most definitely was not working) will not help. We should all give ourselves a bit of time to get used to it and thank our lucky stars that we still have a free GP service.

From my experience, it seems to work fine but then I generally prefer not to have to see my GP at all!

Name supplied

Re Council Tax 2017/2018 - 21/3/17

Having phoned Capita who handle the Council Tax for VOWH and then the Finance Department it seems that the calculation of the percentage change in the element for social care (the subject of the comment on 16 March) has to be presented in this form as a result of Government legislation, even though the true percentage change for this element from 2016-2017 is not 3% but around 155%. It's a 2% levy in 2016-2017 and an additional 3% in 2017-2018.

We are referred in the VOWH Council Tax Bill to the County Council website for an explanation but as of 21 March their explanation leaflet was apparently still in preparation, even though the bills are out.

Name supplied

RE: Medical Centre - 21/3/17

While the triage system is the preferred system for the GP's, giving them total control over patient access to health care. It actually frustrates many patients who would like to have a choice of appointments that meet their needs. Not everyone wishes to inform the receptionist of their symptoms at point of booking a triage, discuss them in front of colleagues at work or family members at home over the phone.

I hope the medical centre re-thinks & finds a way to offer a choice for the public it serves.

Name Supplied

Another recommendation for Adrian Davey- 20/3/17

For the last two years my 12foot high hedge has been sadly neglected so seeing Mary Beck's praise for Adrian Davey I asked him to give me an estimate for the TLC it really needed. A cold calling chap had already offered to do the job....I declined his offer. Adrian's estimate was 50% less than the cold calling chap's.and it was completed this morning in torrential rain. The cost was 25% less than the estimate and I am delighted with the result and the price. So if you have a landscaping or gardening job contact Adrian Davey on 0747 005 6871.or Email:-

: mail@watercraftmanagement.com . I don't think you'll be disappointed

HGM

Faringdon Greetings Cards on Sale at the Tourist Information office - 18/3/17

See them on <http://www.thorntonsbooks.co.uk/Faringdon%20Postcards.html>

Boogie Me Gig - 17/3/17

Boogie Me are playing a rare local gig at The Pump House Project in Swan Lane on Saturday 1st April 2017, 8pm. Admission £5 (and bring your dancing shoes!).

Pay on the door

Proceeds to "The Pump House Project" and "Target Ovarian Cancer"

Car Parking- 17/3/17

Does anybody know who owns this car? It's been parked right across the pavement on Fernham Road. There is no dropped kerb there and even if there was I don't think people, wheelchairs, buggies should have to be in the road. There is no pavement on the other side of the road anyway.

The road is wide enough for it to have parked there so why it is up on the path I don't know.

There is no space on the path at all for anybody to squeeze by.

I understand this sort of incident can be reported on the 101 non emergency number or online. I haven't done that but if I see the same car there again I won't hesitate.

Please tell the owner if you know him/her, although to be honest I doubt they'll worry if they feel it's ok to park like this in the first place.

Name Supplied.

Re: Medical Centre- 17/3/17

Just wanted to say in London you have an app for your GP and you can see instantly who is available when (no receptionist needed).

And you can get a checkup within 7 days. this is in London one of the most crowded places in the UK.

I do hope the GP sorts things out soon especially now they own the whole building (The one in London is smaller than Faringdon's too). As it seems crazy that they can't cope with a small town when their are practices in London who are coping just fine.

James Campbell

FOLLY TOWER GETS BOOST FROM TESCO FARINGDON STORE- 16/3/17

A charity which runs and maintains Faringdon's iconic Folly Tower is to benefit from a £500 donation and ongoing support from the town's Tesco store.

Faringdon Folly Tower Trust visited the store on Park Road to receive the cheque, which will be used to fund the repainting of the tower's Belvedere Room and to buy flowers for the grounds.

Several colleagues from Tesco will also be involved in a spring clean in the woodland surrounding the tower.

This unique 100ft tower is Faringdon's icon and is hailed as **Britain's finest 20th century Folly Tower and one of the most important follies in Britain.**

It is run by a charity and volunteers and is open from April to October, getting nearly 3,000 visitors each year.

The Tesco store is supporting the charity as part of its commitment to help local community groups and good causes and the support has been co-ordinated by store community champion Trevor Nye.

Store Manager Guy Bexon said: "Everyone in Faringdon knows Folly Tower and most people have spent a fun day out at the tower, the work the Trust does to repair and maintain it is greatly appreciated. We wanted to show our thanks by helping out and contributing in this way."

Eddie Williams, chair of the friends of the Folly Tower, said: "We're delighted to receive this donation from Tesco.

"The Folly Tower maintains the spirit of the great eccentric, Lord Berners, and the 4 acres of woodland are the only accessible parkland for people locally to walk in
"We don't receive any funding so every penny we have to raise by hiring the rooms and securing grants."

Council Tax 2017/2018 - 16/3/17

The County Council precept to fund adult social care for our property has risen from £41 to £105. This is shown as an increase of 3%. Did I miss too many maths lessons when I was at school?

David Hughes

The coffee shop - 15/3/17

I was at the last event at the Lebanese Restaurant and they told me that it is being replaced by a Greek restaurant
Name Supplied

New housing and restaurants - 14/3/17

Whilst I have no problem with the new developments being built around the outskirts of the town I am slightly concerned how this is going to impact Faringdon itself. Are the schools going to be able to cope with the influx of children?

Also the Thai restaurant has closed, and the Lebanese is closing...I was wondering if the council could approach a chain restaurant such as pizza express or something similar which would provide a good family restaurant; of which there will surely be a demand for. Other than Sudbury house which is expensive the only other restaurant is La bobina which we love but is always packed! Otherwise the town only really has pub food.

Many thanks.

Kate Norgrove

Senior Citizens' Party- 14/3/17

The Faringdon & District Rotary Club annual Senior Citizens' Party will take place this year on Saturday 8th April at Faringdon Community College.

We will be delivering invitations in good time as usual to all those on our list and transport will be provided for those who need it. Numbers are limited by venue capacity so if you know of a family member, neighbour or friend who is not on the list and would like to attend, please, as soon as possible, contact Sandra Langford 01367 242456 or Sue Hatton on 01367 240458

Information about Drs appointments - 14/03/17

The White Horse Medical Practice is doing everything it can to cope with the increased volume of requests for appointments. To help us sustain a safe, caring and responsive service for our patients we have introduced a patient centred triage or assessment system.

'Triage' simply means that we screen patients to decide how urgently they need to be seen. Some may need to be seen very urgently – within just a few minutes – while others may quite safely wait, either to see a doctor of their choice, or to book an appointment that fits with their week's schedule.

Telephone triage was recently introduced to achieve this and has already been found to work well, by both patients and staff. Every patient ringing for a doctor's appointment will be called back promptly by one of the GPs or a nurse practitioner who will assess the level of urgency of their problem. It is important that patients keep their mobile phones with them and switched on, so that the clinician can contact them easily. If you are at work and can only be called back in your lunch break, please ask; this can be arranged.

We can see patients almost immediately if their problem is so urgent it would be unsafe to wait. Most patients will be seen within a few days. If a patient prefers to wait for a specific GP or to book a future appointment this can be done too; up to a month ahead following discussion with a GP. The system allows for continuity of care, so that if you need to see the same GP for the same medical problem, this can be arranged.

We are not blocking appointments, we are simply making sure that all patients are booked with the appropriate level of urgency or need to see the clinician best able to meet their current problem.

The appointment process is more complex now that traditional GP work is carried out by other professionals such as opticians, nurses, pharmacists and physiotherapists. By making the first, and every conversation with our patients count, triage ensures that each of them will be seen by the right clinician first time, regardless of whether the appointment request is routine or urgent.

This system has reduced the waiting time for routine appointments from over three weeks to under one week and many patients now have their need dealt with on the same day that they contact us. This has also helped to reduce the number of non-attendances at the surgery.

We appreciate that this is a new process: we are continually reviewing its effectiveness and welcome feedback both positive and negative.

There is a national initiative to move to more telephone work and more triaging of appointments, so we are not alone in this approach, even if other local practices have different systems.

The White Horse Medical Practice

Morris Dancing with a difference!- 13/3/17

Armaleggan Border Morris will be performing in Faringdon town square on Saturday 18th March, 7.30pm, to celebrate the upcoming spring equinox when day and night are equal as winter finally turns to spring. Join us for music, stick bashing, beer and song.

Please share with those you think may be interested, the more the merrier - particularly when we get to the joining in dances when everyone can have a go and experience the magic of the morris!

Mo Millar

Local Plan Part 2 - 10/3/17

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2017/2017-03/residents-invited-comment-vale-white-horse-local-plan-part-two>

Hedge ripped out!- 9/3/17

It is bad enough having hundreds more houses being built on Faringdon's green spaces, but I noticed today that about 80 metres of hedgerow have been ripped out on the western side of Coxwell Road, on a site that is now owned I believe by Belway Homes.

Name supplied

Neighbourhood policing alert - 9/3/17

Road Safety, Aggravated burglary, Faringdon, Assault, Rural crime

[See this News letter](#)

Tonight: Folly Tower and Woodland Annual Meeting Thursday 9th March- 9/3/17

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

New street Cleaner - 9/3/17

I've just had a chat with Mick, our new (Biffa) street cleaner. Very cheery chap and sounds as if he'll do a good job. Let's all welcome him/show appreciation

Ed

£5 for a months swimming over 60s - 9/3/17

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2017/2017-03/over-60s-can-swim-whole-month-just-%C2%A35>

Double Yellow lines - 9/3/17

Double yellows lines on the Highworth road and London street are totally ignored why?

It seems that the only place in Faringdon to get a ticket is in one of the car parks.

Robin Ashdown

A420 survey- 8/3/17

Many congratulations to the men surveying the A420 near Longworth. Safe, professional and minimum inconvenience to motorists. Well done

Peter Lawson-Smith

Lost Keys- 8/3/17

I have lost some keys at tuckers park or marines drive . Please can you post to see if anyone has found them.

Mandy Gordon

Garden help - 7/3/17

I have just found a gem called Adrian Davey (mail@watercraftmanagement.com). He installed my new pond pump but he also does landscaping, gardening etc.

A very nice man.

Mary Beck

TESCO FARINGDON ANNOUNCES 12-MONTHS OF SUPPORT FOR THE PUMP HOUSE PROJECT- 7/3/17

A charity which provides a host of activities and help for the people of Faringdon is benefiting from a range of support from the town's Tesco store.

The Pump House Project is a registered charity which relies on fundraising and donations to sustain its work with the

local community. Around 450 people take part in its clubs and activities each week.

The Tesco store on Park Road is supporting the charity on Swan Lane as part of its commitment to help local community groups and good causes.

Martyn Webb, Services Manager, Terry Brownsey, Fresh Food Manager and Trevor Nye, Community Champion presented the charity with a cheque for £500 to help fund the activities provided at the project

The store is providing healthy snacks and drinks for the twice monthly Under 5s Disco Dots sessions for the next 12 months. Disco dots is a fun and active way to start your week ,for information on disco dots and other activities at The Pump House Project www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk .

Tesco also supported a community tea party held at The Pump House Project by providing the food and refreshments.

Store Manager Guy Bexon said: "We have a commitment to support local charities and groups and we are delighted to be able to help The Pump House Project. We have been incredibly impressed with the work the project does and its role at the very heart of the community, supporting local people of all ages and abilities."

Lou Smith Project Manager for The Pump House Project said: "We are exceptionally grateful for the amount of support and generosity that Tesco is giving to The Pump House Project. "I have always liked the ethos of 'every little helps' and in our particular case that couldn't be more true."

Tesco Ltd

Lost brooch - 7/3/17

Lost- a small bow shaped marcasite brooch on my way walking from Beech Close to the town on Friday 3rd March. Although not valuable I would be most grateful if anyone finding it would contact this website.

Name supplied.

Money for groups and charities - 7/3/17

Faringdon & District Rotary Club have money to give away to local groups, fundraisers and charities. If you think we may be able to help your group, or your charity work, then please visit our web page for an application form for our up coming Dragons Den: <http://rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=535>

Please share with others who you think may benefit.

Community Litter Pick - 6/3/17

Great turnout yesterday, despite the weather. 30-ish people I think. Faringdon Town Council's pickup truck was full by the end of the afternoon. You can see some pictures

on <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=faringdon%20town%20council%20%26%20information%20centre>

Great that FTC organised this and so many people helped. Wouldn't it be good if having litter free streets and roads deterred people from dropping litter/throwing it out of car windows.

Ed

Pump House Project (TPHP) - 6/3/17

Read the [Spring Newsletter](#) and find out what has been going on at TPHP. A wide range of activities for children, parents, adults, from singing, dancing, crafts, Citizens advice. What a great place.

Spring Flowers for the Folly- 5/3/17

Someone kindly responded to my request for aconites(thankyou)- they've now been planted at the Folly. There is plenty of room for more- snowdrops as well, so if you've a few clumps you are willing to give us, that would be great. We've bought woodland spring bulbs in the past, but they take years to form clumps and therefore a good show.

More mature clumps will create a good show next year

Thanks

Gene Webb

AmEgos Theatre presents Sweeney Todd - 4/3/17

Wednesday 5th April to Saturday 8th April

King Alfred's Academy Theatre, Portway, Wantage, OX12 8BY

Tickets are £12

The victim of an injustice that robbed him of his wife and child, Sweeney Todd exacts a terrible revenge on society... disposing of his customers in a truly gruesome way, aided and abetted by his landlady, Mrs Lovett.

First seen in London in 1980 this dark, bitter, comic musical has been revived many times and always thrills the audiences.

Get your tickets now. Sweeney's waiting...

For more information please visit www.amegostheatre.com

Organisational changes to Oxfordshire Councils. One Oxfordshire - 4/3/17

Councils agree proposal for A new council for a Better Oxfordshire

A new proposal for better local government for Oxfordshire is published today offering real power and influence to every local community

You can see details on our website by clicking [this link](#)

NOTIFICATION OF A PRIVATE FIREWORK DISPLAY @ SUDBURY HOUSE- 3/3/17

Please be aware that there will be a private four minute firework display at 20.30 on Saturday 4th March @ Sudbury House as part of a wedding celebration.

Do you want to see how the new 12-sided £1 coin is made?- 3/3/17

Join the Bowls Club on day out to the Royal Mint Experience in Cardiff

Friday 17th March

Depart Faringdon 9.00am. Return approx 6.00pm. £30 per person

* Executive coach transport

* Restaurant serving hot & cold food

Bookings: Sue Martin 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)

There has been a recent rise of prank calls within Thames Valley. - 3/3/17

The calls are pre-recorded generated responses giving the impression that recipients are actually speaking directly to someone.

The calls are not all the same. However one of the main scenarios has been described as an angry Scottish man claiming you are stealing his Wi-Fi.

Sometimes there is a mobile phone number showing and other times the number is withheld.

It appears that these calls are predominantly targeting elderly and young people and can cause alarm and distress to the call taker.

We urge people to take the following advice:

- Anyone with particular concerns can contact us on our Police non-emergency number 101. Otherwise ignore the call.
- You can contact your local phone provider who may be able to put a block on these types of calls.
- If you are getting calls at night you could put your phone on night mode or switch it off.

Thames Valley Police

Medical Practice- 2/3/17

As an older member of the community I am used to making an appointment and seeing the GP of my choice who knew me and my long term medical problems. It is strange not to be able to do this.

BUT since November I have had several problems that I needed to see a GP and having contacted the surgery I was called back within 2 hours and then saw a GP during the afternoon and treated. So this system does work for urgent problems and I suspect cuts out those who may abuse the system.

If you want an appointment you phone or call in, the receptionist will take details and the GP of your choice will call you back to make an appointment. Not ideal and not what we are used to.

Too many patients, with numbers due to increase with more houses being built. If you are unhappy contact your MP and local councillors. We should not have more residents without the infrastructure, schools roads and Medical practices.

Name supplied.

Re. Phone Scam.- 2/3/17

Yes, the "Windows Computer fault" is a very old scam that has been happening for quite a few years. My elderly father in-law was conned out of quite a sum of money about three or four years ago. We now have a fantastic BT phone that is set so it doesn't accept any overseas, 0800, number withheld, etc. phone calls. Our sometimes, 20 a day cold calling and scam calls has gone to zero. For those plagued by calls they don't wish to receive , I thoroughly recommend it.

Regards Grumpy Old Man

Phone scam? - 2/3/17

It might have just been a one off but this morning I had an 'out of area' phone call. The man on the other end wanted to 'talk to me about my windows computer'. He clearly wanted me to log on and no doubt would have preceded to ask me to give out personal or financial details. I told him I didn't have a windows computer (I do really!) at which point he hung up! .please warn any vulnerable or elderly people to ignore such calls to avoid being scammed.

Name Supplied

Re: Medical Centre - 1/3/17

A single appointment system does not suit all & certainly doesn't meet the needs of all. A symptom which may be troubling someone who works or has commitments could be left for longer than necessary simply due to the affects of an unmanageable appointment system on their everyday life. All surgeries have their fair number of patients with life style diseases & patients who abuse the system but they should be dealt with individually instead of inconveniencing all patients.

At present the appointment system is not fit for purpose.

Name supplied

Faringdon Folly Tower and Woodland Meeting on 9th March - 1/3/17

6.45pm for 7pm in the Quad Tea and Coffee Rooms (Old Barclays Bank, next to the Bell Hotel)

Please join us to hear about the excellent progress we made last year, and hear about our exciting plans for this year as we prepare to open the Tower again starting on Sunday 2nd of April, 11.00am till 5.00pm, then 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month till end of October.

Eddie Williams

Medical Centre - 1/3/17

On the face of it, the appointments situation for White Horse Medical Practice does seem poor. I note that "The Practice was recently inspected by the Care Quality Commission and received a rating of good, which is an excellent result" That CQC inspection was over a year ago. (24th Feb 2016)

This is reproduced from the current WHMP web site:

"APPOINTMENTS

Owing to a huge increase in demand over the previous few weeks, combined with one of our GP's being absent due to illness, the wait for a routine appointment is more than three weeks. The number of patients on our triage call back list has risen to over 150 per day on most days. In order to try to return to a wait of about a week for an appointment and to ensure that those patients requiring more urgent medical help are seen, we will not be booking any further routine GP appointments."

Hearsay suggests that the lack of appointments was supposed to continue until mid January – now it is the end of February. I cannot be alone in wondering why Faringdon has seen such an unprecedented increase in the demand for appointments when in the surrounding area there seems less of a problem. Are we in the grip of some localised epidemic, or a population explosion; maybe we have the most demanding patients in the locality. Or does our local practice not have adequate insurance for locum/extra staff cover in the event of a doctor's extended illness? While having every sympathy for our medical practitioners' woes, the present arrangement is hardly fair to their patients.

Friends from Abingdon and Oxford don't appear to be experiencing such problems.

Look on any practice website for the surrounding villages and you will see how we compare:

Lechlade - appointments normally be made on the same of following day, or booked up to 6 wks in advance.

<http://www.lechlademedicalcentre.co.uk/making-appointments.aspx>

Burford - Routine appointments (15 minute consultations) available <http://www.burfordsurgery.co.uk/>

Elm Tree Surgery Shrivenham - routine appointments available <http://www.elmtreesurgery.co.uk/making-appointments.aspx>

Church Street Wantage - routine appointments available <http://wantagechurchstreet.co.uk/>

Bampton Medical Practice - routine appointments available <http://www.bamptonmedicalpractice.co.uk/>
name supplied

Tesco Community - 1/3/17

As Gene Webb has said earlier I have taken over the role of Charity coordinator with Tesco Faringdon. If anyone would like to chat with me please do.A good day is Monday when I work 10.00 till 19.00.

I will be posting a couple of Community work Tesco has done over the last month.

Trevor Nye

