

Faringdon Follies- 29/4/18

A production covering the history of Faringdon and the dramatic society. It's full of songs, poems, sketches and plays all about Faringdon and of course the Folly tower Tickets are on sale online now and in the Gifted Magpie by the end of the week. We hope it will be a really fun evening so get your tickets very soon. See you there.

See poster

[Faringdon Dramatic Society](#) website

Houses Fernham Road.- 29/4/18

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P18/V0963/SCR>

It seems the application for houses at the end of Fernham Road is about to go ahead. No mention of the houses already agreed down there, Fernham Gate 2 and the ones in the beautiful orchard. It's already such a busy road but apparently OCC have done a traffic survey and there isn't an issue.

However the only traffic survey I've seen took part during the school summer holiday! If that is the case then it's very crafty.

Name Supplied

Town Council Spring Newsletter - 28/4/18

<https://mailchi.mp/360835099128/spring-newsletter?e=700f79bdd3>

Have you say Town Meeting and Community awards 21/5/18 [see poster](#)

Cheese & Wine Evening at Ferendune Court. Tuesday 8th May- 28/4/18

6.30pm-7.30pm

Do you have any spare time to be a 'Friend of Ferendune'? They desperately need help taking residents on trips, help with any events or even gardening. No huge commitment - just the odd bit of time when you are free. Come along and find out more.

Contact: Michael 01367 244267

Faringdon Rocks - 26/4/18

Faringdon Rocks- a super project- such fun in so many ways. However may I ask that hiders and seekers avoid the planted areas at the Folly. The young shrubs (in shelters) are still vulnerable and because we've cleared some areas there are lots of woodland flowers beginning to appear- please don't tread on them. Please do keep to the paths. Thankyou

Gene Webb

Friend of the Folly

ROTARY CLUB'S DRAGONS' DEN- 25/4/18

Are you a community group or individual based Faringdon or local villages looking for funding assistance for a project or event? Why not enter Faringdon & District Rotary's Dragons' Den? Criteria for judging applications will include: local need and support for the activity/facility, long-term sustainable benefit, how local people will benefit, how many people will benefit, helping socially excluded people to take part in community activities, value for money.

Full details and application form from: www.faringdonrotaryclub.org Or telephone Rtn Alan Hall: 07807 534701 Closing date for applications Friday 4th May 2018

Remember the Neighbourhood Plan? - 15/4/18

[This is the list of wants/don't wants from residents in 2012](#). It was the first step in creating a Neighbourhood Plan

Successful Record Fair- 25/4/18

Enormous thanks to DJ Citizen Cane and the people of Faringdon who enjoyed the sunshine at African Children's Fund's Record Fair in Faringdon Market Place on Saturday 21st April. We had a fantastic day with over £370 of records sold together with more vinyl donations.

If you missed out, we'll be holding another in Grove on 12th May!

AI Cane in action

Tamsyn Wymer

All Stars Cricket Programme for 5-8 year olds - 25/4/18

Buscot Park Cricket Club will be running an eight week long All Stars cricket introductory course for children 5-8 years old, from 5.00-5.45pm, starting on Friday 11th May.

All Stars Cricket gives children the chance to play, learn great skills and meet new friends.

The price includes includes a personalised t-shirt, bat, ball, cap, activity book and backpack.

The programme will involve skills like throwing, catching, hitting a ball and teamwork in a fun and safe environment.

Buscot Park Cricket Club is a family friendly club.

To book, please go to <https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars> and click on the link to Buscot Park Cricket Club

For more information contact Mike Heasman (Buscot Park Cricket Club General Secretary and All Stars Cricket Administrator) at buscotparkccsec@gmail.com

Pump House Project - 25/4/18

More details of these activities can be found on <http://www.thepumphouseproject.co.uk/whatson>

- **Information drop in @ Pump House** 1st Wednesday of each month – 0930-1100.
- **Singing for fun @ Pump House** every Wednesday (term time only) 1145-1245. £2 per session.
- **IT gadget drop-ins @ Pump House** – 1st Wednesday of each month 0930-1130.
- **Dementia Oxfordshire @ Pump House** – 1st & 3rd Monday of each month 1030-1200.

Report street cleanliness issues - 24/4/18

A number of our streets don't look as if they've been cleaned for a long time. The main issue appeared to be small detritus- cigarette ends, mud (in which weeds take root), and grit (sometimes from salting the pavements). It looked to me that although big litter is picked, sweeping of the pavements needs much more effort.

I have been told that the weekly inspection mainly focussed on reported areas (insufficient time to look at more places)

So lets point out the areas that need attention. She said either use [fixmystreet](#) (you need to choose Street Cleanliness from the drop down list, then reports go to both Biffa and Waste team in VWHDC) or email admin.vale@biffa.co.uk

If after a reasonable period of time the issue has not been dealt with report to VWHDC Waste Team waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk

The contract with Biffa is specified in terms of standards to be met ([Code of Practice, 2006](#)) rather than How they should clean the streets.

The standards vary (and the time to rectify) depending on whether deemed high intensity (Market Sq and streets around) or low intensity(other streets)

There's more [detail on this document](#)

If you live in an area designated as 'low intensity' I suspect the only way you can get cleanliness improved is by reporting it

I find it irritating that we have to do this to get our streets up to standard. On the other hand we can't expect VWHDC to know everything about what needs to be done.

Any suggestions about what we could do as town residents to improve the level of cleanliness ?
Ed

Building work has started at the Health Centre- 21/4/18

Please note that the main entrance to the Health Centre will be closed for essential building work through to August. All patients and visitors will have to use either the Yellow entrance on the left, or the Blue one on the right side of the building.

When you phone for an appointment we will tell you which entrance to use. This is important because, for a while, there will be no internal access between the Blue and Yellow wings. (*Look out for the big yellow and blue posters that list which side the drs and nurses will be*)

The front of the building will also be partly fenced off for the builders.

Please look out for the large Yellow or Blue signs directing you safely to the correct door.

Several parking spaces will be out of use so please park locally if you are dropping someone off and collecting them later.

The Health Centre apologises for this disruption. We hope everyone will understand that such major alterations inevitably mean some inconvenience for a while.

Spring Newsletter from White Horse Practice- 18/4/18

Lots to read- Building changes, evening and weekend appointments, online diagnosis, screening and more - all in the Spring 2018 newsletter <http://www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk/news--your-views.html>

Folly Tower open this Sunday- 14/4/18

11am- 5pm

[The Folly is on facebook](#)-a good way to keep up with what goes on- you won't be inundated with emails

Potholes, street cleanliness reports again- 13/4/18

This site gets about 3000 page views each day and about 500 unique visitors per day. If just 10% of those people reported a pothole and/or a pavement that needed attention a couple of times a week together we should get some significant action.

Hope you'll give it a go.

I understand there is a fixmystreet app- I've not tried it yet- maybe one of you have? Any good?
Ed

I liked this - 13/4/18

Quote from Milton Friedman in 2004

There are four ways in which you can spend money:

- You can spend your own money on yourself. When you do that, then you really watch out what you're doing, and try to get the most for your money.
- Then you can spend your own money on someone else. For example I buy a birthday present for someone. Then I'm not so careful about the content of the present, but I'm very careful about the cost
- Then I can spend somebody else's money on myself. If I spend someone else's money on myself, then I'm sure going to have a good lunch

- Finally. I can spend someone else's money on somebody else. I'm not concerned how much it is, and I'm not concerned what I get
 - And that's government. And that's close to 40% of our national income

Snippets from the FTC Council meeting 11/4 - 13/4/18

- The National Trust have appealed against the decision for cycle tracks in Badbury Clump. The Secretary of State will decide
- Faringdon Hares project sounds fun. Launch date is 18/5 (I think). The Cotswold Hare trail is launched (I think) 27/5
- Coach park signs (Near Waitrose) have been put up. Not sure if anyone has contacted the coach companies.
- VWHDC support for Saturday Markets has ceased. Markets will continue as planned for this year run by FTC staff. This is just for the short term. If Saturday markets are to continue another way is needed.
- The Place (Childrens Centre) likely to start early May. All day Thurs in the Pump House and other sessions at other times and places round town.
- A Resident spoke about illegal parking
- Police spoke about a spike in burglaries. Said they had no resource to do anything about illegal parking, except on an ad hoc basis.
- FTC are planning to spend £500 (106 money) on flower beds in the car park. First, discussion with VWHDC car parks team is needed to ensure that this does not mean ongoing care is the responsibility of FTC

Ed

Report street cleanliness issues - 12/4/18

This week I walked round the old town with the person who inspects our streets for cleanliness. The main issue appeared to be small detritus- cigarette ends, mud (in which weeds take root), and grit (sometimes from salting the pavements). It looked to me that although big litter is picked, sweeping of the pavements needs much more effort.

I was also told that her weekly inspection mainly focussed on reported areas (insufficient time to look at more places)

So lets point out the areas that need attention. She said either use [fixmystreet](#) (reports go to both Biffa and Waste team inVWHDC) or email admin.vale@biffa.co.uk

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can't expect VWHDC to know everything about what needs to be done.
Any suggestions about what we could do as town residents to improve the level of cleanliness ?
Ed

Report potholes - 12/4/18

Extract from County Councillors report

POTHOLE FUND BOOSTED TO REPAIR ROADS AFTER WINTER DAMAGE

Central Government has announced that local roads badly affected by recent winter weather will benefit from a further £100 million to help repair any potholes and other storm damage, Transport Secretary Chris Grayling announced on 26 March. Nationally, this money will help repair almost 2 million potholes as well as help protect the roads from any future severe weather. This is on top of the £75 million in government funding already given to councils from the Pothole Action Fund this year, as well as the additional £46 million boost for highways authorities announced just before Christmas. Around 7 million potholes across the UK will be filled due to this money, announced in the 2016 Budget. Oxfordshire's share of these funds comes to nearly £3m.

Let's help them by reporting potholes via [Fixmystreet](#)

You can see reported potholes on a map

If a pothole has been outlined with paint it has already been inspected by our team and programmed to be fixed, so you don't need to report it.

Ed

This website- 10/4/18

I was getting some spam emails through the contact form, so I have installed 'captcha' I'm told it only appears if it thinks you're spam. I'm hoping it knows all of you are not spam

Ed

Faringdon Town Centre is dying on its feet - 10/4/18

.....and yes, I've signed the petition.

I believe, though, a local museum is unlikely to attract visitors, however well meant that feature may be. There is very little of sufficient interest here to justify it.

Visitors are attracted by the visual impact of a place, its amenities in the shape of pretty shops, eating places and so on. Of course we are on the edge of the Cotswolds, but not quite close enough; Burford etc. provide too much competition.

What could have been a very good, although small, exhibition space exists at the Old Town Hall. As an exhibition space it was RUINED by the inclusion of the two display cupboards on the largest wall in the room, so whoever approved that should have taken more advice. It might be a gesture to remove these display cupboards and use the OTH as an exhibition space again. Properly marketed, that could be a real asset.

Another idea that might be considered is the use of the Catholic Church as a concert venue. Maybe the provision one way or another of a decent piano (Church willing) would over time enable the build-up of an audience. The Catholic Church is by far the best (acoustically speaking) place for small recitals/concerts in the town. The Corn exchange although refurbished is too large for this.

Smartening up the town centre with a sympathetic over-all colour scheme might also help. Maybe - just maybe, the site behind the library will become available again as a supermarket possibility, but I'm not holding my breath. The suggestion to have a supermarket there was the single most sensible idea for regeneration that I've heard since I've been in Faringdon (since 1969) and

chatting to many of the shopkeepers at the time, they agreed.

Hilary Taylor

Petition- Make sure the Budgens site is used to benefit Faringdon - 10/4/18

As our elected representatives, you will be well aware that **many of Faringdon's residents and business owners are very concerned about the decline in the Town Centre**, especially with the loss of its banks and only supermarket.

We have some tremendous assets in the immediate vicinity of the town. The Folly and its woodland for a start. Considering that forty years ago the tower was bricked up, and is now open twice a month during the summer, no-one can deny that the Folly Trust have done an amazing job. People travel from all over Oxfordshire, and beyond, for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon. Their children play in the quirky woodland, they climb the tower, take in the spectacular views, read the information boards about the area and how the tower came to be built.

And yet.. very few of these visitors venture into Faringdon. Beyond having a pub lunch there's nothing to keep them there. Nor is there very much to draw them back on the 340 or so days of the year when the Folly isn't open.

Looking at neighbouring towns of roughly the same size, they mostly have some non-commercial feature to attract and hold visitors. Wantage has the Vale and Downland Museum and walks along Letcombe Brook. Lechlade has the Thames Path. You can walk along the Windrush at Witney and Burford when you're tired of shopping.

Faringdon is lacking a natural (or even man-made) feature close to the town centre. The Folly? Yes, but it's a good hike up there and not ideal for the casual visitor. Faringdon House, grounds and lake would be ideal, but sadly there's not much chance of that in the foreseeable future.....

[.....read on and sign the petition](#)

Litter-pickers - 9/4/18

Congratulations and well done to the litter pickers. Not a pleasant job, I am sure, but something which makes Faringdon more attractive in a quiet way!

Mary Beck

First World war memories - 9/4/18

Can anyone tell me if there were any local documented memories for the First World War from the people who lived locally during the time? I've read the excellent collection of memories from World War 2 by Mary Beck on Faringdon.org but can't locate anything else yet I'm sure I've read something a few years ago. Can anyone point us in the right direction? We want to incorporate as much as we can into the Sensory Garden project and need to get it right. You can contact me at meljlane@me.com

Many thanks

Mel Lane

Project Manager - Faringdon Sensory Garden Project

[www.faringdonsensorygarden.co.uk](http://faringdonsensorygarden.co.uk)

Community Litter Pick- lots of people- 8/4/18

75 people!! Read about it on

<http://faringdontowncouncil.gov.uk/tidier-faringdon/>

New Noticeboard in Market Square - 7/4/18

Have you seen the new noticeboard in the Market Square, near Marriots. On one side there is a lovely picture of the Folly which hopefully will be seen by visitors to Faringdon and on the other side a timeline of key events in Faringdon's history. The posters are set in a frame of artistic laser cut steel silhouettes of the main buildings in Faringdon with adjoining panels with motifs relating to

the Folly and the town. These include animals, birds and trees found on Folly Hill and the star and flag that sit on top of the Folly Tower. Joel Francis (Faringdon) designed both posters. <http://www.redskycreative-epublishing.co/>

Karen Vogt designed the art work for the frame

The noticeboard was funded from an Arts fund from housing developers and the Tesco Bags of life grant fund. Karen Vogt designed the art work.

[See picture](#)

Planning application to excavate sand from Folly Hill - 6/4/18

Don't panic- it was refused in 1987

[See the article in the paper](#)

Please do 'like' the [Folly facebook page](#) to keep up to date

Ed

Grants for Community groups from VWHDC - 6/4/18

See <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/community-advice-and-support/grants>

Dentistry survey - 6/4/18

Healthwatch Oxfordshire are running a survey to find out people's views and experience of **NHS dentistry** across Oxfordshire.

Do you use a dentist? Have you had trouble finding an NHS dentist? Do you never go? What's the service like in your area?

Let us know your views on NHS Dentistry across Oxfordshire, by filling in our short survey at the link below.

<https://healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/filling-the-gaps-your-views-on-nhs-dentistry-in-oxfordshire/>

Notes from FTC Communities and Partnerships meeting 4/4/18 - 5/4/18

1 The Place (Children's centre) will be up and running very soon

2 There is now a defibrillator at the Fire Station

3 Faringdon Day Centre. (Keith Thrower)

OCC (Oxfordshire County Council) have cut funding and closed a number of Day Centres (including Oakwood)

A transition grant has been awarded to Faringdon Day Centre (Bromsgrove) and this, with payments from those who attend (based on minimum 12 people per session, Mon, Thurs) , grants from Tesco, Waitrose, Faringdon United Charities and Rotary will be sufficient for the coming year. Around £21000 pa is needed.

- Transport for severely disabled people continues to be problematic.
- Volunteers are needed- Drivers and at the Day centre sessions

4 OCC has an innovation fund. £100k is available across the County. Open for applications April - June. Payment in September. No further information available (or found later on OCC website)

5 VWHDC was planning to allocate 106 money from the Highworth Road development to the Wantage Day Centre. FTC have pointed out there is a Day Centre in Faringdon as they didn't appear to know.

6 A Youth Challenge project (14yrs-26) involving community events and citizenship is about to be announced

7 A policy document on how Groups in the town can apply for funding Youth projects has been agreed

8 A community engagement policy for this committee is to be defined

9 A public meeting is to be arranged to tell residents what has been achieved over recent

years, and what is still to be done. The aim will be to form action groups to take forward as many projects as possible.

10 Regent Cinema. Issues with the Cinema and projection equipment have been resolved.

- Special screenings are provided for residents of Ferendune, the Memory clinic and the Day Centre.
- An outdoor cinema event via Skylive is planned
- Projection equipment in the Corn Exchange can be hired . (though due to licensing restrictions not to show films or TV productions)
- The cinema is thriving

11 Many more votes than previous years have been received for the Community Awards project. Winners to be announced at the Town Meeting in May.

12 A tapestry to commemorate 800 years since the Market Charter is being created. It will be hung in the Corn Exchange.

13 Faringdon Dramatic Society is producing a performance to celebrate the 800 Market Charter and 70 years of the Dramatic Society. It will cover the history of Faringdon and will be held at Buscot Park theatre.

- Performances 13-16 June, with a private showing on 12th June.
- It is now problematic for the Drama group to use the Junior School
- A 'black box' style performance venue is much needed

14 For information

- Litter Pick 7 April
- Civic Service 8th April
- Chilli Market 14 April
- Faringdon in Bloom 23/6, 24/6
- Spring newsletter nearly ready
- Request for an outdoor gym is being investigated
- There will be a film showing of the Royal Wedding
- Seats are needed outside Aldi and Waitrose
- Link to the nativity video is available- soon on FTC website
- The Hare trail is progressing
- Town Meeting 21/5/18

Ed

Faringdon Nativity - 4/4/18

The video for the Faringdon Town Nativity is ready and available for viewing at the below link □
<http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/nativity-video-is-here/>

Record Fair - 4/4/18

African Children's Fund, 11 Market Square, Faringdon, SN7 7HL

21st April 2018 09:00-17:00

Free entry

Due to popular demand, we're celebrating the vinyl revival by bringing our Record Fair to Faringdon on Saturday 21st April. We will have hundreds of records for sale on the day, ranging from soul to pop and folk to classical, in 7", 12" and LP formats.

What's more, Citizen Cane has promised to pop along and spin a few tunes to create a party atmosphere!

Invite your friends and make sure you're there early to get your pick of the pops!

01367 244480

SUMMER HOCKEY IN FARINGDON.- 4/4/18

Keep fit over the summer with Hockey training in Faringdon.

We plan to meet weekly from May to September and run fun training sessions for about 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

No previous experience needed and we can provide sticks and balls as well.

Spread the news and bring a friend or two as well.

Please e-mail, text or call to register your interest.

neil.mantle@btinternet.com

07740 938096

A thought just crossed my mind (no it wasn't a long journey).- 3/4/18

Just popped into McColls to post a letter (not for the faint hearted), firstly after getting through the door I couldn't go further into the shop as there was a long queue of people across the doorway waiting to be served at the front counter.

Once through that queue I joined the next queue for the post office bit, several shoppers breaking into our little band of patient stalwarts trying to buy magazines, some even standing there actually reading the contents of their chosen mag, (I know disgraceful behaviour isn't it) some were also trying to look at packaging and bubble wrap on the other side of the aisle, we small band of post office users almost linked arms to stop the intruders but to no avail our ranks were broken into on several occasions.

Eventually I was served by friendly PO staff and my effort to leave the store was just as time consuming and tedious as trying to get in. Boxes were in the way on the floor, shoppers looking at greetings cards/wine/chocolates/toys blocked the way I managed to swerve around and in my now panicked state of mind(I loathe mazes) I could see the light coming in through the doors.....only once again having to run the gauntlet of getting through the queue across the exit, the glaring eyes bore into my head as I excused my way through them I managed to exit....phew!

Now, as McColls seem to want be all things to all shoppers, newspaper shop, grocery shop, post office, toy shop and off licence wouldn't it make sense for them to take over what was the Budgens store, surely it could be all spread out to make shopping in there more enjoyable, the post office could be a much more staff and customer friendly place (seeing as we have to use the post office as a bank soon it could be so much better) either that or for pity's sake de clutter the existing store, everywhere in there is log jammed by either other shoppers or poorly thought out shelving and stands all serving as a hazard, as it is at the moment the layout just doesn't make anyone want to voluntarily go in and shop. We use it because we have to, not because we want to.

Name supplied

WANTED By Faringdon Bowling Club- 3/4/18

Ladies and Men of all ages to play Lawn Bowls in a friendly atmosphere. No previous experience needed as free coaching is available.

Other activities include weekly ladies Keep Fit class, fortnightly Coffee Mornings, monthly Sunday lunches, regular social evenings and weekly Friday Club Night with bar available.

Why not come along to one of our Friday evening bowls taster sessions starting 20th, April. Bowls is a great way to make new friends and to keep fit

For more information please contact the Membership Secretary, Trevor Durrant, on 01793 330564 or email trevor.durrant1@ntlworld.com

Faringdon Bowling Club Gravel Walk, Faringdon, SN7 7JN

Tel: 01367 242649

Lost- bunch of keys - 1/4/18

The keys were lost early Easter sunday morning in the Coxwell Rd./Street, Park Road, Marlborough Gardens, Costcutter area.

If found please hand them in to Gary at Costcutters.

Thankyou