

**Lechlade Road** - 31/3/18

The new road surface on the Lechlade road is brilliant, but why oh why did they have to put those stupid humps back in, It can't be for traffic calming because vehicles still drive through there too fast.  
Name supplied

**TalkTalk-** 29/3/17

Have other Talk Talk users in Faringdon had internet and telephone issues on Tuesday and Wednesday this week?  
Name supplied

**False rumours** - 29/3/18

The Cobblers and the Toy Shop in the Cornmarket are NOT closing  
Ed

**News from the White Horse Medical Practice-** 27/3/18

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>

**Carpenter wanted** - 25/3/18

Does anyone know a good carpenter in faringdon?  
Many thanks  
[Annabelle.lilly@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Annabelle.lilly@hotmail.co.uk)

**FARINGDON 'SAVE OUR COMMUNITY' EVENT** - 23/3/18

Support a local business, enjoy a good 'ole natter face to face and hear from someone who has been there and done, what we as a community, are hoping to achieve in Faringdon. What's not to like?

- Date: Tues 17th April
- Time: 6.45pm
- Cost: £2 (inc. first coffee/tea)

GUEST SPEAKER: Former BBC journalist Iain Nicholson is a town centres specialist who has worked on a number of projects and initiatives in towns, including Wantage. Iain has kindly offered to speak at this event so we can learn from his experiences.

Jane, owner of Stay Grounded in the Market Place, has kindly agreed to open especially for the event and is providing her delicious coffee and tea at a set price of \*£2 (payment on the door) - depending on your 'usual' that's a huge discount!

Places are limited to 25 max. and will be offered on a first come, first served on the night. So please arrive early to avoid disappointment.

The event will finish promptly at 9pm.

Please spread the word with anyone not on Facebook.

\*Applies to first drink only.

[See poster](#)

**Community Litter Pick** - 21/3/18

7th April 2018

2-5pm Meet at The Old Town Hall

further details please email [rebekah@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:rebekah@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk)

See [poster board](#)

**New Noticeboard in Market Square** - 21/3/18

Have you seen the new noticeboard in the Market Square, near Marriotts. 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. See if you can find them.

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.

**Litter on Folly Park View** - 19/3/18

On Saturday I chatted to a man who was clearing weeds and rubbish from the circular footpath that goes from Southhampton Street to the NHS surgery. He said that everywhere is such a mess that he had decided to start on improving the environment and hoped the idea may spread. I hate all the litter that is dropped around the town so decided to try to help.

I live on the Folly Park View estate so I will be putting up notices in the estate notice boards to see if anyone would join with me to make a start on picking up litter on the estate. Faringdon is a lovely town and this estate is quite nice too and it is a great shame that litter, dog poo bags and mess spoil everywhere. Councils are underfunded these days and do not have the money to do everything so let us have a go ourselves.

if interested phone Mary on 01367 242410.

**Faringdon Refill- A Zero Waste Wholefood Coop** - 19/3/18

I know a lot of people are concerned about ways to reduce plastic waste.

There's a group of us in the process of setting up a refill stall/pop up shop in Faringdon selling loose wholefoods (eg, pasta, rice, cereal).

If anyone would like to be involved in the project, you would be welcome to join our

group [https://www.facebook.com/groups/515167168884312/?fref=gs&dti=2215583620&hc\\_location=group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/515167168884312/?fref=gs&dti=2215583620&hc_location=group)

Helen Brown

### **Anyone know John Vine?** - 18/3/18

In the 1970's my sport was judo. My instructor was John Vine from Faringdon. I believe John had cine film of me competing and I would love to be able to show these to my grandchildren. I lost touch with John and his family (wife Bette and daughter Sue) many years ago and not sure if they are even alive now, but if anybody knows the whereabouts of these films, even if they have been destroyed, I would love to know. Thank you. My surname was Lacey. [foxcllem45@aol.com](mailto:foxcllem45@aol.com)  
Rowena Fox

### **Getting the word out about your event-** 16/3/18

I've just come across [Whats On advisor website](#) - just enter details of your event- free. I put Folly Tower Open days on a number of these sort of sites- no idea which is best- but the support guy for this one is noticeably responsive.  
Ed

### **Budgens-** 16/3/18

An indoor market is a good idea- with affordable rent for small businesses it could work- as long as whoever owns the building gets enough income. Seems highly likely that Faringdon will never have the selection of individual shops it once had- society has changed too much- online shopping, we expect good prices and wide selection, working women, eating ready meals and takeaways. Another thought- when Carters extended the shop in the 1970s, they added the warehouse type building on the back. I guess this is not a valuable part of the building, but it does sit on what could possibly be a valuable site for redevelopment.  
Local Yokel

### **Budgens etc-** 15/3/18

A nice idea, to turn it into an indoor market. (though I did wonder whether the co-op would take it on, as they did in Bampton). I think we have to accept that Faringdon will not be a shopping hub - it seems to be going the same way as other small towns in that department. Stanford used to have lots of shops too, in the olden days.

I do think we could do more to encourage visitors, though, especially in stressing the history of the town rather than any more barminess. It used to be a very busy coaching town - perhaps the hotels would help in bigging this up to encourage people to stay there. As so many shops are closing I would like to suggest that the Information Centre is moved back into a shop and made more welcoming. I have met visitors to the town who did not know there was an information centre!

And what about the Pump House, while we are about it - a historic building with nothing to say what it is, or what goes on there. Faringdon is unique architecturally, having some Cotswold-type buildings and some in the Vale style. One person stopped me to ask where the colourful houses were - he must have heard of them from somewhere.

Congratulations on the whole page article on the Folly in this week's Oxford Times. We ought to give more thought to publicising things like events. Perhaps we could think of more events other than pop music to draw visitors in. How about an event which would be unique to Faringdon - a moaning competition. We could have two types, both of which would consist of people competing to moan for one minute without repetition or hesitation, but one type would be for contestants who were happy to give their names, and one for people who could give false names as long as they dressed up and wore a mask.

Mary Beck

### **Faringdon** - 15/3/18

I doubt very much that Faringdon will die. Over the years since it was awarded its charter it has changed and changed again. We no longer sell sheep in the market place. The town will just evolve.  
Green Witch

### **Pop up Concert** - 15/3/18

Wednesday 21st March The Catholic Church Marlborough St Faringdon SN7 7JE.

Doors open 7.15pm (drinks available)

Concert starts 8pm.

#### **Performances by:**

- Ferndale Choir
- The Half Penny Bridge Singers
- Peter and Liz Cowdrey (piano and violin)
- Louise Woodgate and Philp Blacker (sax), Geoff Smith (piano) Max Young and more....

Free entry. Donations for Ferndale Choir concerts

### **Budgens and afterwards** - 15/3/18

I've been a regular at Budgens, even years before it was Budgens, and will miss having a town centre grocery shop. I've no idea who owns the building, or what they intend for the site, but I wonder if there's any mileage in turning it into an indoor market. I had in mind a food market, perhaps with local producers renting stalls along side specialist food sellers. Perhaps the farmers' market movement might be interested in exploring the idea. The town centre is getting sidelined. A covered market might help.

John King

### **Vale vision** - 15/3/18

We have just had a flyer through the door headed 'Vale Vision' produced by the conservatives.

Item 3 is headed 'supporting our market towns' and shows a photograph of Faringdon town centre.

With Faringdon town centre closing down very fast, and with the growth of supermarket giants on the edge of town, I would be interested to know what support and help they have given to local small traders and businesses for them to be able to continue to trade.

My view is, not very much, unless of course you need a haircut, then you are spoilt for choice.

Name and address supplied.

### Lechlade Road Closure - 15/3/18

Rather than "idiotic" as hysterically described by "Name and address supplied" 13/3, I would think the decision to resurface during the night is a sensible one. When Church Street was closed at night for resurfacing, the residents were full of praise for the quick, efficient and quiet way the work was carried out. As "Name supplied" points out in a later posting "How else is the work to be done?"

Yet another example of News and Views being used to hurl abuse and then hiding behind a nom-de-plum. I'm surprised our esteemed editor allows it.

Dennis Haynes

### Health Centre finally gets extension funding- 15/3/18

At long last the Health Centre has been given the top-up money needed for the £1/4m expansion of the consulting and treatment space to cope with Faringdon's rapid growth. There will be considerable disruption while the contractors completely rebuild the main entrance, which means the left YELLOW and right BLUE side doors will become the temporary entrances through till August. See details below.

Dr Gavin Bartholomew, one of the Practice's senior partners, said "We are absolutely delighted that we can at last re-develop our building to meet the health needs of the area's rapidly growing population. Not only will we move the Reception desk into the main entrance but will have space for two more doctors and two more nurses. My fellow partners and all the 60+ people who work here are hugely grateful for all the pressure put on the NHS, particularly by our patients, the Patient Group and local politicians."

### Main entrance closed

The main entrance to the Health Centre will be closed during the building work from now through to August. All patients and visitors will have to use either the Yellow entrance on the left, or the Blue one at the right side of the building. When you phone for an appointment you will be told which entrance to use. This is important because, for a while, there will be no internal access between the Blue and Yellow wings.

The front of the building will also be partly fenced off for the builders, so look out for the large Yellow or Blue signs directing you safely to the correct door. The Health Centre apologises for this disruption but hopes everyone will understand that such major alterations inevitably mean some inconvenience for a while. An info leaflet is available at Reception – Yellow door.

One other disruption will be the loss of parking space while the builders are on site. Caroline Beaney, the Practice Manager asks "If you're bringing someone in for an appointment and would normally wait in the car park till they're finished it would be a great help please if you can park up nearby – at a supermarket perhaps – till their pick-up time."

### Empty shops - 14/3/18

It is a shame to see many empty shops in the town center and possibly more when Budgens and the bank shut. Now heard plans that a hotel is being built up near the 420 if that happens then I assume it will may take away custom from the accommodation offered in the town bars, so more possible threats of closure. It seems like someone is trying to shutdown business in the town center completely with no thought of encouraging community which has always been strong in this town. I suppose the only meeting places in the future will be the charity shops and Barbers and even then in some you will have to make an appointment. Sorry if this post sounds so negative but just the feeling I got this morning when walking around and I thought I would share.

Happy days

Simon Brookes

### Re: Lechlade Road closure- 14/3/18

I agree this might be annoying, but when exactly do you suggest they do it instead?, doing it during the night is going to inconvenience far less people than closing it during the day or having temporary traffic lights for days on end.

I'd happily have Park Road shut every night for a fortnight if they would fill in some of the craters down there.

ACCESS: limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

Name Supplied

### Lechlade Road closure - 14/3/18

So the Lechlade road is to be closed for 4 nights. There are several issues relating to this closure, these include the fact that Canada Lane is the only road on and off the housing estate, therefore what access to the estate do residents have when leaving early or returning late from work. Also there sheltered housing and a care home on the estate. Ambulances are in attendance continually, day and night, what is going to happen to these.

I have telephoned the number displayed, and spoke to someone who admitted she knew nothing about it, but would get somebody to phone back who does know about it.

Needless to say nobody bothered to phone back.

I suggest that everybody on the estate phones this number and let their feelings known, although I doubt that the nobody at the council will have the courtesy to return your call.

This is an idiotic closure that will cause many problems, and the decision has been made by somebody who has no idea of the problems this will cause.

Name and address supplied.

### Oxfordshire Bereavement support group - 14/3/18

Event: Every 2nd and 4th Monday of a month, Late Spring,

The Small Hall, Faringdon United Church, 10.30am-12pm, Free,

Age UK Oxfordshire Bereavement Support Group offering coffee and cake and the opportunity to meet with others who understand.

Contact Sian Whitlock 07827 235 448 or email [latespring@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:latespring@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

### Temporary Road Closures in Faringdon coming up shortly.- 12/3/18

**Market Place Bus Lane. The bus stop will be closed. Temporary stops are available for Swindon outside the Fire station and for Oxford opposite the Fire station:**

<http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/bus-lane-closed-17-3-18-8am-to-3pm/>

**Lechlade Road will be closed for 3 nights from 26.3.2018 for resurfacing:**

<http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/lechlade-road-closure-starting-on-26-march-2018-for-4-nights/>

**Ferndale Street will be closed for 3 days from 23.4.2018:**

<http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/ttro-t5408-road-closure-at-faringdon-ferndale-street-notice/>

**Planning requested for a hotel and shops on the edge of Faringdon-** 11/3/18

Erection of mixed-use three storey building comprising Class A1 retail store at ground floor level and Class C1 hotel at first and second floor, together

with car parking, access, servicing, landscaping and associated works

74 bedrooms, 142 parking spaces, 70 staff

Open for comments before

5/4/18, <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P18/V0442/FUL#exactline>

Decision in May 2018

**Memories of the Folly** - 10/3/18

Faringdon Dramatic Society are putting together a production to celebrate 800 years of Faringdon market charter.

Part of this production will be about The Folly.

We would like to hear your stories about events and memories connected with The Folly.

It would be lovely if these personal memories could be from old and young people, so please ask your parents, grandparents and children.

Please do not post here, but email [webmaster@faringdondramatic.orguk](mailto:webmaster@faringdondramatic.orguk)

We will let you know if your story is used.

Thank you, and we look forward to reading about your memories.

**ROTARY CLUB'S DRAGONS' DEN** - 10/3/18

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](http://www.faringdonrotaryclub.org) Or telephone Rtn Alan Hall: 07807 534701

**The British Red Cross are appealing for help with store and house to house collections in Faringdon to support local services.-**

\_10/3/18

Can you donate 2 hours to collect on 19th May to help raise money for Red Cross Week?

Money raised on will go towards Red Cross services in Oxfordshire, such as the support at home service, which helps people at home after a stay in hospital, emergency response, and the wheelchair loan service for people who have lost their mobility due to accidents or illness.

If you collect for just one or two hours, you could make a real difference to someone who needs the support of The Red Cross after finding themselves in crisis.

We have a collection planned in Faringdon on the 19 May, with other dates in May across Oxfordshire.

If you are able to help or would like more information please contact Samantha Snelus on 01908 578 323 or email [ssnelus@redcross.org.uk](mailto:ssnelus@redcross.org.uk)

**Recommend a block paving company?** - 10/3/18

Hi. Can anyone please recommend a local block pave driveway company who they have used.

Regards Mark

[markturbolunnon@gmail.com](mailto:markturbolunnon@gmail.com)

**Services and Bell ringers at All Saints Church** - 10/3/18

The Bell ringers have been ringing bells on a Sunday evening service for 38 years . No service no Bell ringers, robed choir gone no organist  
What will become of All Saints in the future.

It's about time the congregation was listened to.

Name supplied

**Accounts apprentice wanted** - 6/3/18

Does anyone know of a school/college leaver who would like a job as an accounts apprentice? I work for a global marketing agency in East Hendred and this position is open now. Would suit school/college leaver looking to start a financial/accounting career. We also have number of other vacancies for experienced marketing professionals. All/any replies to this site and we can share details from there. Thanks.

[rphilpott@themarketingpractice.com](mailto:rphilpott@themarketingpractice.com)

**Faringdon's future** - 6/3/18

I can't think of anything more ironic than celebrating the 800 th anniversary of the Royal Charter allowing Faringdon to establish a market , at the time of the news that the last food shop in the town is closing in 3 weeks...this will is the final act in the end of Faringdon as a market town.

Does anyone care ???

Name supplied

**Praise to Faringdon shops-** 6/3/18

So we have just had a bad weather spell but we must give credit and praise to the staff in shops that managed to stay open in the town center who did not cry Wolf! Well done to the friendly and cheerfull staff in all the shops and pubs that braved the weather to keep things running that's what makes community spirit and we should hold on to when Budgens does close and hopefully another similar shop will take its place.

**G Williams**

**800th Anniversary of Faringdon Town Market Charter.-** 5/3/18

Come down to the market place tomorrow to help us celebrate

9am - 1pm - lots of stalls, activities, organizations, bell ringing, singing, tea, coffee and pizza

### **Faringdon Folly Trust Progress meeting and AGM- 5/3/18**

Thursday 8th March

Jubilee Room, Pump House, 7pm- 9pm

Come along and we'll tell you about progress in 2017 and our exciting plans for 2018.

Your ideas and suggestions will be very welcome

Contact [genewebb@rocketmail.com](mailto:genewebb@rocketmail.com) for more information

### **Folly fund raising- 4/3/18**

We've had over £1000 of donations now- thankyou everyone.

We realised a few weeks ago that the Gift Aid was not offered. It took Just Giving a while to sort it out- but now it has been. You'll know I'm sure that we get an additional 25% for donations that are Gift Aided, so it was very important.

Please do make a donation ( and Gift Aid). This will help the volunteers to do the necessary work to preserve the Tower and continue to maintain and develop the lovely woodland.

If you don't like using Just Giving go to [www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/donate.html](http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk/donate.html) to find other ways to send your contribution and more information about the work that is needed.

Thankyou very much

Gene Webb

### **Budgens- 3/3/18**

The store will close 28th March and is being handed back to Tiensa and Co., It seems that this company is insolvent so the building will then be handed back to the bank.

Name Supplied

### **Budgens - 3/3/18**

Sad to hear the demise of yet another shop in Faringdon, yes it is true by the end of the month the shop will close.

I am more sad for the staff that work there, they are always friendly and helpful and you can have a laugh and joke with them if you actually take the time to talk to them get to know them. I truly hope they all find jobs as quick as possible.

Hopefully the shop will be taken up by another retailer though somehow I doubt it as the domino effect of shop closures seems to be unstoppable, I fear many more shops in town will shut their doors for good well before summer gets here.

Jim Horton.

### **Regarding the post office- 3/3/18**

Please be advised the post office had IT technical issues and was up and running 2 hours later perhaps instead of moaning on social websites and speak to the staff that work there who will try and assist you with any queries there is too much of this sort of moaning going on but if you were happier going elsewhere than that's fine

Name supplied

### **Budgens - 2/3/18**

I've just heard that Budgens is to close. True? Anyone know any more?

Ed

### **Faringdon's Market Charter- 1/3/18**

For information and pictures of the actual (800 year old) charter documents scroll down [Faringdon through history](#)

Ed

### **Community Litter Pick cancelled - 1/3/18**

Due to the weather forecast we have decided to cancel the litter pick this Saturday. We will organise another date in the near future. Please keep an eye on our website and social media pages and sign up to our mailing list to get updates on events, cinema listings and FTC newsletter. To sign up click the link below

<http://faringdowntowncouncil.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe...>

### **The Faringdon Farcycles need your help! - 1/3/18**

They wish to create a safe cycling area for children and adult improvers on unused land at the Folly Sports Park. This is a fantastic opportunity for children and adults to gain confidence in their cycling abilities whilst in a safe environment.

Please help by taking this short survey to share your views, it should only take one minute to complete. The more responses the better! <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/78XCXZ3>

For more info about the project please visit: <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/proposed-cycle-park-at-folly-park-by-farcycles/>

Thank you

### **Re: ATM machine in the Market Place- 1/3/18**

Everyone should be aware that the Town Council and even the District Council have no control over commercial decisions, if businesses wish to cease trading in Faringdon there is nothing a local authority can do about it much as they would like to.

Name supplied

### **Faringdon Bowling Club- 1/3/18**

Some people reading this article might be surprised to discover that Faringdon has a Bowling Club let alone that it has been in the town since 1911. Tucked away behind houses in Gravel Walk the club has been in its present picturesque location since 1964. Possibly the town's best kept secret.

Contrary to popular belief the sport of bowls is not an old man's game. It is, in fact, a sport for people of all ages and abilities. It is a very social game played in a friendly atmosphere and provides an ideal opportunity to meet new people. It is also a great way to keep fit whilst doing gentle exercise.

If you are interested in having a go we offer taster sessions every Friday evening during the outdoor season. This year these will start on **20th, April from 6pm.**

We provide free coaching and use of equipment. You just need to wear flat soled shoes.

As well as outdoor bowling we also offer Short Mat Bowls, indoors, during the winter months when the green is closed. There is also a ladies' keep fit class that meets every Thursday morning. Other social events include fortnightly Coffee Mornings on a Tuesday, monthly Sunday Lunches, Skittles Evenings, Race Nights and Quiz Nights as well as organised coach trips to places of interest.

Every Friday night is Club Night when you can enjoy a drink at the bar and catch up with other members. The bar opens at 7:30pm.

We also hire out the clubhouse for private functions providing catering as well as the bar facility at competitive prices.

As you can see we have a lot to offer. For more information please contact the Club Secretary, Trevor Durrant, on 01793 330564

or [trevor.durrant1@ntlworld.com](mailto:trevor.durrant1@ntlworld.com)

***Hope to see you soon!***