

Faringdon in Bloom 2019 - 28/2/19

Faringdon in Bloom 2019 is set to be a fun and exciting competition and free to enter. Categories will include best large garden, best small garden, best allotment, best business floral display, best business hanging basket, best wildlife garden, best patio garden, best new garden, Joy to the community and best junior miniature garden.

Judging will take place on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of June 2019. If you would like to take part simply download an application form from Faringdon Town Council website or collect a form from the Information Centre in the Pump House.

Winners will receive engraved trophies, and certificates will be given for Highly Commended achievements in each category. We look forward to seeing all this year's entries. Faringdon Town Council

<http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/faringdon-in-bloom/>

Thurs 28th- Community Bus- no service- 27/2/19

Still waiting to be repaired

Community Bus service discontinued until Thurs 28th- 22/2/19

The FCB is out of order until at least Wednesday of next week due to the passenger door being inoperable and therefore unsafe for passenger transport. The earliest it can be fixed is Wednesday. Apologies for the inconvenience to our passengers. Normal service will be resumed when the door has been fixed - hopefully Thursday (28th).

Litter Pick Sat 23rd Feb - 21/2/19

We are planning a one hour litter pick on Saturday 23rd Feb from 3-4 pm. Meet at 17 Coxwell Road, and we should be finished in time for cream tea and the rugby.

Top of Highworth Road is our target.

Please bring litter picker if you have one, protective gloves (gardening gloves work well) and hi viz gilets

Lyn and David Williamson

RIP Faringdon- 17/2/19

Having lived in Faringdon all my 45 life, Faringdon was a nice small town to live in with nice small shops and Tuesday market stalls and friendly faces, Now it's just a dead quiet town place with countless knock up houses springing up all over. No employment schools bursting full and new residents traveling to Oxford or Swindon for there place of work as they either moved from Oxford or Swindon to live here!!

Not good for climate change or environment and don't give anything back to the community.. The good old old days of Faringdon have gone rip.

Re: Tesco meat and fish counter- 16/2/19

I personally don't see the problem when there is a fabulous team working at Pat Thomas Butchers in town. They provide quality meats a great service and have been there a heck of lot longer than Tesco. Granted they don't do fresh fish.

The tescos do pretty well and will still do well there as all the staff are friendly and welcoming so closing a non profitable section is not going to stop customers.

Support your local butchers and whilst actually in the town itself stop for a coffee or something.

Rob

Tesco meat and fish counter - 14/2/19

We learnt today from the very helpful and friendly lady who runs the Tesco Faringdon fresh meat and fish counter that it will be closing soon after Easter as part of Tesco's cost-cutting strategy. This is unwelcome news for those of us who are regular (and frequent) buyers of fresh meat and fish.

By closing it, Tesco are removing perhaps the only Unique Selling Point the store has in comparison with the other two Faringdon supermarkets. It's also a facility where one gets personal and knowledgeable service. Apparently, it makes a loss but this ignores that fact that its existence brings people into the store who then buy other things. The counter should be considered a real asset even as a 'loss leader'. We don't know what to do about this other than contacting Tesco (we'll start with local management) and see what response we get.

Maybe others could do something similar? It would be such a pity to lose this!

Peter and Elizabeth Smith

Queen's Arms photo - 13/2/19

Ref. The posting asking for photographs of the Queen's Arms:

There's a photograph of the Queen's Arms on another page of the site

(<http://www.faringdon.org/faringdon-pubs.html>).

Tony Tarry

2019 Questionnaire for children and young people in Oxfordshire - 12/2/19

...please tell us how supported you feel by the services you use.

Voxy (Voice of Oxfordshire's Youth) and the **Children's Trust Board** would like feedback from all children and young people in Oxfordshire, aged 8 - 18 and up to 25 with additional needs, about how supported they feel by the services they use.

Services include: schools/colleges, youth clubs, social workers, job clubs, health services etc. - but could be any services that provide help and support, or affect your life in some way.

'Be Supported' is one of the 4 focus areas of the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2018 – 2021, which is sponsored by the Children's Trust and has been developed through discussion with partners including asking children and young people what is important to them.

[More information and link to survey](#)

Oxfordshire CC

Vasectomy survey -12/2/19

You may be aware that Oxfordshire CCG is considering two options for the future provision of the NHS vasectomy service:

- decommission the service completely;
- retain the service, but introduce eligibility criteria.

OCCG has now launched a six week 'engagement' to seek views on these proposals.

The link to more information and the online survey is below- you might need to register on Talking Health if you've not already done so.

The survey has just started and will finish on Friday 8 March. The process will include two focus groups (10 per group), Richard would like a rep from each Locality (possibly the Forum Chair) to attend a group and help with the running of the group. He would also welcome suggestions as to suitable venues for the focus groups - should be easy to access and centrally situated, as he plans to invite people with learning or physical disabilities, carers, men's groups, etc. Please let me know a.s.a.p. if you'd like to be

involved in a focus group.

See the link below for further information.

<https://consultoxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/Vasectomy/consultationHome>

Council Elections this May- 11/2/19

I've heard that neither Roger Cox or Mohinder Kainth, our VWHDC councillors, are standing at the election in May. I wonder who is to stand for the conservative party- or any other party for that matter

Name Supplied

The Queens Arms - 10/2/19

We recently moved into the house on Coxwell Street that used to be the piano shop, prior to that The Pink Elephant and earlier than that, The Queens arms.

We know a bit about it's two later incarnations but would love to know what the house was like as The Queens Arms, who ran it and lived here, when that pub closed and what it looked like. Does anyone have an old photo of it?

Look forward to hearing any memories and stories.

Name Supplied

Leisure Centre improvements - 9/2/19

Extract from Roger Cox's report to FTC

Faringdon Leisure Centre. *The cabinet at its meeting on 18 January 2019 approved the appointment of a suitable contractor via delegated authority to the head of community services in conjunction with the cabinet member for community services. This appointment would be made if the tendered sum was within the approved budget of £177,500 and the works comply with the required specification. The project will involve the refurbishment of the wet side changing facilities, shower facilities, lockers, steel frameworks and sauna/steam areas. Utilising Section 106 monies for this purpose will ensure that the Council continues to invest in its capital assets without the need to draw on its own capital budget. It is anticipated that work will start in April.*

The s106 agreements funding this work arises from:-

- S106 12V42 - Development of Land Opposite Shrivenham Hundred Business Park - £35,391.89
- S106 13V01 – Land South of Faringdon Road, Southmoor - £14,723.01
- S106 13V25 - Cowan's Camp Depot, Watchfield- £42,357.85
- S106 15V23 - Land to rear of Station Road Uffington- £13,307.30
- S106 16V15 - Land off Field Close, Kingston Bagpuize - £71,734.04

Ed

Faringdon defibrillator map - 7/2/19

[Here's a copy](#)

I think the committee are looking for places to display them. Maybe you could put one up somewhere.

Contact faringdonpad@gmail.com

FARINGDON FOLLY STAR - 7/2/19

- not just for Christmas but for all the dark nights since. Thank you Peter White and Folly Volunteers for this welcoming beacon along the A420, and the glimpses of the Star that you get from many spots in the town - real winter cheer!

Pam de Wit

Faringdon Grammar School - 7/2/19

Did you go to this school, or know someone who did? I'm gathering information about it from the start in 1920s until the comprehensive system came in.

Do have a look at <http://www.faringdon.org/the-elms.html>

Would love to hear memories, photos- maybe the grounds, the classrooms+++

Thanks very much

Gene

Become a councillor - 6/2/19

FARINGDON TOWN COUNCIL is calling on residents, passionate about their community to stand in the local elections in 2019. What do councillors do?

Councillors are the champions of their community and give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes. Becoming a councillor will allow you to make a real difference in your community by engaging with residents, local groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on which services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved locally to ensure the services are meeting your community's needs.

<http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/become-a-councillor/>

The Faringdon PAD Committee AGM - 5/2/19

.....will be taking place on Wednesday 6th February at a re-arranged location - Faringdon Tennis Club - Folly Sports Park - Stanford Road Faringdon at 8.00pm.

The committee consists of a group of local volunteers who support and assist with the installation, support for funding and the education of our community in the use of AED's (Defibrillators), that can save the lives of those who suffer a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Over 90.000 citizens in the UK suffer a cardiac arrest in 'out of hospital' situations and many could be saved from the 'shock' from an AED when available in the local community and before an ambulance arrives.

With the help of local funds we have been able to produce a map and information concerning the location of Public Access Defibrillators in Faringdon - If you would be interested in supporting or placing a PAD in your area of Faringdon then please come and talk to us or make contact using the details below.

As Chair of this committee and committed Community First Responder (SCAS) Faringdon and District Team, I invite any interested parties to attend our AGM, hear of our work and future plans and if you wish, to join us in our work on behalf of the Faringdon Community. You only need to have an interest - no medical skills or knowledge required!

Please contact me - Malcolm Gee -

malcolm@the5gees.plus.com or faringdonpad@gmail.com M: 07796 572752 for further information.

FURTHER SUPPORT - Please place your Blue tokens in the Faringdon Tesco 'bags of help' box marked AEDDONATE to assist us in fundraising towards the purchase and support of local community Defibrillators.

Thank you

Malcolm Gee

re- TV reception.- 5/2/19

I wonder if a change to the Mobile phone signal may be interfering with your TV reception. There has been an increase in the signal strength as we live on the edge of Faringdon and can now get a 4G phone signal, which before very recently was unavailable.

Regards

Grumpy Old Man

Re: TV Reception:- 5/2/19

Firstly you need to have a high enough pole with which to have your arial on and have it pointing towards Oxford as this will be the best Freeview signal to pickup.

Secondly there has been a few changes but the key thing is don't let your device Autotune as you will get a mixed set of results and it not work correctly.

To really get it right do a full automatic tune with the arial unplugged to begin with. This is to make sure nothing is still getting picked up. Save that list of 0 channels and 0 radio stations.

Next plug in the arial and then select Manual tuning (You will need to check your device guide on where to get this).

The manual channels you will want to search are:

41, 44, 29, 37, 31 and then for the HD you want 47 and 55.

Save the results and you should then be all good to go.

There is no major changes due for a little bit now other than minor changes which won't require a retune.

Finally please note that when you retune you will lose any scheduled reminders or planned recordings so you will need to reset them once you have your channels all tuned in.

Hope that helps

Rob.

TV Reception- 5/2/19

Talking to neighbours, we are all receiving a very poor reception when watching tv through the arial.

What has happened to the reception in the last month or so. What has changed with the tv signal. Until then, we have had no problems whatsoever in watching tv in rooms that are not served by the sky box, but now it's almost impossible.

Who is responsible for this change, and can anything be done to improve the reception.

Name supplied.

The Gloucester Street Closure, 11th - 15th February.- 4/2/19

Spoke with Thames Water this morning. Is there provision for displaced parking? "No".

This will close the car park then? "No you will still be able to get to it".

Fine, but then you will be stuck there for the week, as it's a one way Street — unless you are planning a two way exemption?

'Ah, but have you seen the diversion map?" I replied that I had and it allows for through traffic only, not residential access.

What access arrangements have been planned for Residents? "Er, don't know, let me have your details and I will get back to you."

then later in the day

Just heard from Thames Water, Gloucester Street will become two-way up to the library and car park.

Happy days! Mike.

The Elms- Faringdon Grammar School for Girls - 4/2/19

I'm in the process of creating a section on the Faringdon Community website about The Elms

See <http://www.faringdon.org/the-elms.html> hopefully this will be of interest and jog your memory

Would you help?

- Photos of memorabilia- prefect badges, hats, uniform, posture girdle++
- Pictures of the grounds, buildings, class rooms and the wonderful Cedar of Lebanon
- Full names of Miss A Grizel Bell and Miss Osborne?
- School rules
- memories

I don't have much about the pre Miss Towns era- so if anyone can remember anything of interest that would be great

I look forward to hearing from you genewebb@rocketmail.com

Problem with emails to this site - 3/2/19

I have just discovered that some (but not all) of your emails have been sent to my Yahoo Bulk folder. I have no idea why, but will be investigating. In the meantime, if you haven't had your post actioned apologies!! I will be checking the Bulk folder until I know it's sorted.
Gene

SENIOR CITIZENS' TEA PARTY - 3/2/19

The Faringdon & District Rotary Club annual Senior Citizens' Tea Party will take place this year on Saturday 6th April 3pm 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 contact Tim Gerry on 01367 241596.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD - 3/2/19

Are you or do you know of a young adult aged between 18 and 25 who might 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. There is no cost to candidates as they are met by Faringdon Rotary Club. 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 20 – 27 July 2019. 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 Rotarian Stuart Spencer telephone: 07980 446110

email: scs1@live.co.uk Faringdon & District Rotary Club can be found at: www.facebook.com/faringdon.rotary Website: www.faringdonrotaryclub.org

Street Lights - 3/2/19

If most of the street lights in Faringdon are not being fixed for many months do we still have to pay for that part of our council tax?

Lansdown Road is in complete darkness

Jill De-bank

Ed: I'm sure you've done this- but just in case. Report it via:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/street-maintenance-z/street-lighting>

Re: Petrol prices in Faringdon. - 3/2/19

It is sad to say that is a topic that comes up many times both here and on the Faringdon Facebook page. The garage claim they price match to BP and BP are always going to be pricey in that location. I do remember a time when it was the cheapest and people would flock to Faringdon to fill up there. The problem is though that people do stop and fill up and it staggers me as to why they do? Whilst they continue to use it the garage will not change. In short you have to accept people like to waste money. Accept it and just go elsewhere for your fuel. It is not great but nothing is going to stop them soon.

Name Supplied

Fuel prices in and around Faringdon are a joke - 3/2/19

Totally agree with Grumpy old man. I am also known as that but with justification. I have not used the local garages for years, they charge what they like and get away with it. I always fill up in Swindon and save 15p a litre. Also how can they charge 1-38.9 whats that all about nobody else pays for anything with a point 9, how do they get away with that.

Name supplied.

Ghost town, - 3/2/19

with all the shops and pubs etc closed down in Faringdon it's become a ghost town and it's sad to see. Mind you there are hundreds of new houses going up. Problem with that is where are all the amenities for them all? Town planners you are in the wrong job it's no good expanding with out proper infrastructure.

Name supplied

VOLUNTEERS wanted - 1/2/19

If you like chatting, playing games or helping people, then you might be the person we are looking for to support our work at Faringdon Day Centre.

The Centre is a friendly meeting place for older people, providing a range of activities as well as a freshly-cooked lunch. We need additional regular volunteers for a couple of hours each Monday or Thursday morning, staying over lunchtime if possible.

We can guarantee an enjoyable morning with great company at the same time as helping some of our elderly residents.

Call our Supervisor Annamaria on 07523 116 918 and she would be delighted to give you more information.