

**Family singing Les Mis- with a difference-** 31/3/20

It will make you smile

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nf4XxnL4IPk&feature=youtu.be>

Ed

**Highworth Link- Online -** 29/3/20

Due to coronavirus the Highworth Link has had to move online. To receive your copy please email: [editor@highworthlink.co.uk](mailto:editor@highworthlink.co.uk) and I will email you a copy. The Link will also be available to view online at <https://highworthlink.co.uk/> from Tuesday 31st March

**Covid-19 scams from Thames Valley Police -** 29/3/20

The majority of reports are related to [online shopping](#) scams where people have ordered protective face masks, hand sanitiser and other products, which have never arrived. Other frauds being reported include [ticket fraud](#), [romance fraud](#), [charity fraud](#) and [lender loan fraud](#)

Protection advice Detailed counter fraud advice is available online, including from [Scamsmart](#), [ActionFraud](#), [CIFAS](#), [TakeFive](#), [Citizens Advice](#), [Trading Standards](#) and the [National Cyber Security Centre](#).

Reporting to Action Fraud can be done online at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling 0300 123 2040. To report offers of financial assistance from HMRC contact [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk).

**Guinness world record attempt-** 28/3/20

The Old Station Nursery is trying to collect more than 30,000.00 pom poms to make the longest pompom caterpillar. - see [pompom\\_poster.jpg](#)

Pompoms can be any size or colour. The current record is 29312

The deadline is 3rd July and adjudication is 17th July

[faringdon@theoldstationnursery.co.uk](mailto:faringdon@theoldstationnursery.co.uk)

**Faringdon Baptist Church online meeting -** 28/3/20

Whilst it is impossible for us to gather for our Sunday morning service we are still able to meet together online. If you have the zoom app you will be very welcome to join us at 10.30 Sunday 29th March.

Please click on the link below to join the service:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/885396058?pwd=ZDI5cXFxVXZJajRqYndLV21UTVJNdz09>

We will go live just before 10.30.

Zoom is at: [zoom.us/sign-up](https://zoom.us/sign-up) PlayStore or App store

Do feel free to join us.

We can even offer coffee or tea (in your own home!) You are very welcome.

Paul Gray

**Changes to Waste services- from VWHDC -** 26/3/20

The waste team's well-tested service disruption plan is now in place.

Our waste contractor, Biffa, has suffered some staff shortages due to illness and self-isolation but is managing this by redeploying staff and using agency drivers.

However, with new crew members unfamiliar with the routes and in some cases fewer staff, it's likely that on occasions, crews might not be able to complete all of their daily rounds and so some bins might not be emptied on their usual collection day. We empty 200,000 bins every week and so even a moderate level of disruption to our usual staffing can cause delays.

The advice for residents is as follows:

- if the bins in your street are not emptied, please leave them out for up to three days (including weekends) and we'll try to catch up. If still not emptied, bring them back in and we will empty them on the next planned collection day.

We are working with Biffa to prioritise critical waste services. To help us with this plan we have suspended some non-essential services, including new bulky waste bookings, new garden waste subscriptions and investigating abandoned vehicles.

- We urge people to sort their waste carefully - food in food waste bins, rubbish in black bins and clean, dry, loose recycling in their green recycling bins.
- We're also recommending residents wash their hands before and after taking the bins out to practice good hygiene for themselves and our bin crews.
- We will prioritise food, rubbish and clinical waste collections and some elements of street cleansing, including emptying litter bins.

We may have to suspend garden waste services so we can focus on essential waste collections, as other councils have, if this is the case, we will let everyone know through our social media sites and council websites.

#### **Message from Chief Constable Thames Valley Police - 25/3/20**

To view the video, please visit the Thames Valley Police [YouTube channel](#) or click the following link: <https://youtu.be/VIUZREEmj-w>

#### **Faringdon Viral Kindness - 25/3/20**

[Website with information and contacts](#)

#### **Active Communities - 25/3/20**

During these unprecedented times, our service may not be running as normal so we have to think differently on how to get residents more active. Never has there been a more important time to look after our Physical and Mental well-being so our officers have been thinking and planning on how we can support everyone over this period

We have put together a helpful [info-graphic](#) to show the importance of being active at home including some [well-being tips](#), benefits and links for free exercises at home!

Keep a look out on our website as more information and links will be put up on here including some of our local instructor's online classes:

Please let us know of any more online classes you know about too!

Many Thanks

Ashley Chapman

Active Communities Officer

Vale of White Horse District Council <https://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/vale-of-white-horse>

Direct Line: 01235 422219

Mobile: 07717714477

#### **Help for people self isolating - 24/3/20**

There is a voluntary service for people who are self-isolating, [Faringdon Viral Kindness](#). See the leaflet on Poster Board for details and phone numbers to call. The service is live from Friday 27th.

Gerry Flynn

#### **Folly Tower will remain closed - 24/3/20**

For some weeks we have been considering what to do with our planned Folly open days. It should come as no surprise to you all that, in line with the rest of the UK, we plan to close the Tower for open days until further notice. We also plan to cancel all of our private bookings.

We will review this as time goes by but it seems it will be for at least 4 months, maybe much longer. Looking ahead, if we are able to get back to our normal Sunday open days we could think about opening every Sunday rather than twice a month.

As you know, we would normally turn off the folly light by the end of this month. However, Peter White has suggested that we keep it on through these troubled times and I'm sure that it will be much appreciated by residents. Of course, it will be from dusk to about midnight but we think it would still a lovely gesture.

Thank you to you all for volunteering for Folly duties and we will be in touch with more information in due course. From all of the Folly Team - Please take care and be safe.

[www.faringdonfolly.org.uk](http://www.faringdonfolly.org.uk)

#### **Faringdon Library refurbishment - 20/3/20**

I asked Oxford CC

*I understand that a plan now exists on the refurbishment and development of Faringdon Library- using s106 moneys from 2013 housing developments. Please let me know where I can find out the detail of this and the intended timescale for the work. There was also some thought given to the refurbishment of rooms above the library. If this is not within the scope of the library service, would you tell me who to contact.*

The reply :

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the proposed refurbishment of Faringdon Library. I can confirm that the Library Service is in the process of drawing up the a design brief for the refurbishment of the library. This brief is based in part on the feedback received from library users in a survey held at the end of last year. Once a proposal is drawn up we will be undertaking a wider community consultation as part of the planning process and we will be engaging with as many members of the community as possible in order to ensure that all opinions are heard and where possible accommodated.

We would also welcome comments on the possible use of the rooms upstairs and I can confirm this is something that the Library Service is considering, but there are some restrictions and complications due to accessibility, cost and the limitations of the listed building status.

We would very much welcome your input and any help you can give to publicising the proposal once it is complete to let people know about this exciting development in Faringdon. We have no fixed timescale for the work but I can confirm that it is a priority within the Library Service for 2020.

Oxford Library Service

Ed: If you have any ideas about the upstairs rooms contact [Graham.White@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Graham.White@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

My understanding is the expectation that a lift will be necessary, and this would be very expensive.

### **South of Park Road development-** 19/3/20

Considerable s106 monies come to Faringdon via this development. As well as funding usual stuff like street signs, road junctions, waste collection there is money for

- New Primary School
- Public transport
- Cycle paths
- Sport and Leisure
- GP surgery
- Pump House

See the details on

[Implemented by Oxford County Council- transport, cycle paths, education](#)

[Implemented by VWHDC- waste, sport and leisure, GP surgery, Pump House](#)

Full s106 agreements can be found

on: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=Section106List&DEPT=ALL&PARISH=GFA&Submit=Search>

### **The new Wantage Leisure Centre has been cancelled permanently-** 19/3/20

#### **Proposed new leisure centre between Grove and Wantage formally cancelled due to lack of funds**

Vale of White Horse District Council has formally agreed that all work on a proposed new leisure centre between Grove and Wantage will now come to an end, as it is still unable to raise the £18.8 million the centre was expected to cost.

The project has been paused since September 2018 while the council waited on confirmation from the government on its intentions for future council funding. Cash for the leisure centre was then removed from the council's budget in February 2019.

It is now clear to the council that it is not going to be possible to raise the necessary funding, which is why the project has now been formally terminated.

The council had identified £5.9 million of funding for the centre to be raised from developers building houses in the Vale, £1.7 million of which has already been received. A significant proportion of the remaining costs were due to be financed from the New Homes Bonus grant funding from the government, but the future of this funding stream has remained uncertain following government announcements in 2018 of its intention to replace the scheme. Details of how the government believes any replacement might work or how much money it might generate for areas receiving high numbers of new houses like the Vale are yet to materialise.

Cllr Andy Crawford, Cabinet Member for Finance at the Vale, said: "We set our budget in February to stabilise the council's long-term finances following years of cuts in government funding and a continued lack of clarity from the government on future funding. As a council whose finances are heavily reliant on an uncertain funding stream, it is almost impossible for us to invest in large infrastructure projects at this time."

Councillors at the Vale are intending to develop and introduce a new *Active Communities Strategy*, which will identify ways of providing leisure activities in the heart of local communities both in Grove and Wantage and across the district.

It will also include an assessment of what facilities can be provided making full use of the funding that has already been or is due to be raised from housing developers.

Councillor Helen Pighills, Cabinet Member for Community Services at Vale of the White Horse District Council, said: "By focussing on local and community-based leisure delivery we are aiming to help our residents keep their carbon emissions down and making the services we provide more accessible. It's better to walk or cycle to locally provided activities."

Cllr Pighills added: "Where possible, we will aim to make sure housing developers' contributions for leisure stay in the communities affected by housing to develop leisure projects locally and to expand and transform elements of existing leisure centres, rather than being taken away to pay for leisure centres in other communities."

[Ed The planning application has been withdrawn](#)

*Hopefully this will mean that the e£230k s106 money ( from Coxwell Road new estates) once earmarked by VWHDC for Wantage, will be spent in Faringdon.*

### **Offer of help -** 19/3/20

Hello, I am writing to enquire whether there is a voluntary service being set up to help the elderly and vulnerable

during the Covid-19 pandemic. I am able to offer some volunteering and would like to know where to apply.  
Thank you.  
Nick

### **Faringdon Country Market 20-03-20** - 19/3/20

Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, we have had to cancel the market until further notice. We will let you know, as soon as possible, when we can re-open.

### **Exercise -good for health-** 19/3/20

Exercise is crucial to good health. 'Sitting is the new smoking', so whilst you are isolating yourselves at home, use the opportunity to develop a daily exercise routine.

We developed 3 simple exercise regimes at the Great Western Hospital, and share them now as a starting point for your home exercises. There is something for everyone.

- Level 1 - 2 minutes sitting exercises - video link and **leaflet** <https://www.gwh.nhs.uk/wards-and-services/a-to-z/rheumatology/videos/>
- Level 2 - 10 minutes simple standing and walking exercises -**leaflet**
- Level 3 - 20 minutes progressive resistance exercise - **leaflet**

These exercises have been tried and tested on patients of all ages and abilities. People felt better, healthier, and stronger.

Now is the best time to create your own exercise habit.

From Great Western Hospital, Swindon

### **Photos of Faringdon** - 18/3/20

I am the webmaster for the Highworth Historical Society and thought you might be interested to know that I have just completed our new website. It now includes a collection of old postcards of Faringdon which your members might find of interest.

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

Regards,

Paul Newton-Smith

HHS Webmaster

### **Some Good News for Faringdon.** - 18/3/20

We understand that Omar at Costcutter in Folly View Road is hoping to set up a delivery service for at-risk customers who might not find it easy to do food shopping etc. while the current restrictions are in force. You would need to have to live in Faringdon, to have an email address and the ability to pay on delivery by credit card. Your shopping would be brought to your door.

Details should be appearing on Facebook also. Thank you, Omar.

Dorothy Garrett

### **Help available?** - 18/3/20

Are there any people starting groups to help the vulnerable in Faringdon at this difficult time?

John Morton

### **Neighbour support during Coronavirus** - 14/3/20

Not everyone is on Facebook or Twitter or Instagram, but if you are reading this online, consider those who can't use social media.

Have you or can you set up a communications tree, can you set up a contact list with your neighbours and local friends to check in with each other in case any of you self-isolate or need some help. Have a support network around yourself but also look out for including others around you too.

Who could you ask to help you? Who are you aware of who may not be in a position to ask?

Take care.

Adam Swallow

### **Free Play at the United Church** - 14/3/20

The club is free to attend. Children 6 and under a parent needs to stay with them at the club.

We aim to provide a safe environment for children to make friends, pursue their interests, discover their strengths and use their creativity The club is open to the whole family. There are board games and jigsaws. We have a sensory den with light up items, squashy balls and other textures for age 5+. Other sensory play includes sand with other textured materials added to it. There are skittles and bean bag targets. Painting, other crafts will vary. We are hoping that the children and parents will give us ideas of what sort of things they would like to do so that we can make sure there is something for all ages. Adults can enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and read a newspaper. There is water, squash, and fruit juice for the kids. Fruit and cake is also available. The club will develop over time around the ideas that come from those using the club

2nd and 4th Saturdays. 2pm- 4pm  
Contact Tracy [lidd.t@hotmail.com](mailto:lidd.t@hotmail.com)

#### **Craft Emporium opens** - 13/3/20

I'm Natasha from Craft Emporium Faringdon.

We have our grand opening on the 19th March at the Portwell Angel Cellar from 10am to 2:30pm.

Hoping people will join us we will have a raffle and then each purchase will receive a raffle ticket to win a £20 spend in the shop

#### **Faringdon Cycle Park and Cycle Training needs admin help.**- 11/3/20

Do you have an hour or two to help with this valuable community project?

eg Answering emails, contacting trainers

Contact David via [cycle@farcycles.org.uk](mailto:cycle@farcycles.org.uk)

#### **On street Parking enforcement-** 10/3/20

[From Vale Councillor facebook page](#)

We've been working with the county and other district councils to explore civil parking enforcement, so we can transfer powers to enforce on-street parking rules from the police to the Vale Council and take action.

The initial feasibility study is now complete and we aim to get the agreement of all councils by June this year.

We know you're all impatient for us to end the blight of dangerous parking, but it takes a while to go through the whole process, including a 20 week turnaround on sign off by government. If we can get agreement from the other district councils by June we'll see wardens back on our streets by the end of 2021.

David Grant, Bethia Thomas.

VWHDC Councillors for Faringdon

#### **Information and displays. Housing- Park Road** - 6/3/20

If you wish to know more about the development in the South of Park Road come to the Public Information meeting.

It will be held on the 11th of March at 6 PM in the Pump House.

VWHDC planning officers will be there. Plans will be on display.

FTC

#### **Faringdon Bowling Club-** 6/3/20

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 summer season starting at the end of April. 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 07851 875818

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

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

#### **Faringdon Folly newspaper** - 6/3/20

I was thwarted in my attempt to buy a Faringdon Folly this month (for some reason I didn't get one in February) to be told it ceased trading in January. This is a pity, though perhaps not unexpected given the general reduction in newspaper buying. The (second) recent cover price rise to 80p also might have given pause for thought before buying a copy. It's sad to see it go after more than 25 years.

Peter Smith

#### **Faringdon Health Festival 13 June 2020** - 24/2/20

Announcing the 13 June Faringdon Health Festival

This summer there's going to be a fantastic community-led Faringdon Health Festival showcasing the many ways we can keep ourselves healthy. This free, major, town-centre event will have stalls, demonstrations, club and group activities – including singing and dancing, advice services, info desks, taster sessions and even demonstrations by

the emergency services. And all organised by a team of local people, the Health Centre's Patient Group, NHS support, and invaluable help from our Town Council.

So highlight Saturday 13 June in your diary now and please let us know of any clubs, groups, businesses or other activities which would really benefit from being part of our town's first major health festival. Phone Sally Thurston on 01367 240 281 or email [office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) with any suggestions or contacts.

Our website [www.faringdonhealthfestival.weebly.com](http://www.faringdonhealthfestival.weebly.com) will be live shortly and our Facebook page is up and active. See poster

#### **Faringdon Parking - 23/2/2020**

Glad to see some action is going to be taken against illegal parking. Swan Lane. Is a nightmare with vehicles parked on double yellow lines on the bend and opposite other vehicles outside the Pump House. Let's hope it is not all talk and the perpetrators are dealt with.

London Street is another notorious black spot. A few hefty fines should do the trick

Frank Sheehan

#### **Faringdon parking - 23/2/20**

So Faringdon is about to have parking enforcement, well I think we will believe it when we see it.

It's no point having double yellow lines or notices, if there is nobody about to enforce them. Canada Lane, London Street, Coxwell road, to name a few, all of these are now a one way streets, and Canada Lane, twice a day, is a no go area due to irresponsible parking, and kids from the primary school running out into the road.

Why hasn't parking permits been introduced. This must be the way to go, and would stop people coming into the town from elsewhere, parking on the streets (free) and taking public transport to either Swindon or Oxford.

Let's see if anything happens.....somehow I doubt it.

Name supplied.

#### **Parking enforcement in Faringdon - 21/2/20**

Following concerns raised by local residents Thames Valley Police is increasing the level of enforcement to deal with illegal parking in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

The District Councils have both publicly stated their intention to apply to decriminalise parking across the area. This is one of the very few areas of the country that has not already done so, and across the Thames Valley police area they are the only two districts that do not have either decriminalised parking or make a contribution to support the police in their enforcement work.

Decriminalisation would mean that responsibility for enforcing on-street parking restrictions, such as double-yellow lines, would fall to the council rather than simply being a matter for the police.

In response to concerns from the public this issue has been taken up by Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, and raised with both the local area commander and the Chief Constable. The outcome has been increased targeted enforcement by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) as an interim measure while the councils go through the legal processes to take on responsibility for parking themselves....[read more](#)

Matthew Barber. Deputy Police Commissioner

#### **Cash for Watchfield Village Hall refurb- 21/2/20**

See <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2020/2020-02/watchfield-receives-over-%C2%A3250000-improve-recreation-ground-and-village-hall>

Funded through housing developer contributions.

#### **Great Coxwell Park- 16/2/20**

Has the basketball court at Great Coxwell Park been fixed?

Charlie S

#### **FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR 18 to 25 YEAR OLDS - 14/2/20**

TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS ENJOYING 7 DAYS IN THE WILDS OF NORTH WALES ON A YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE

FREE for successful applicants

The next adventure takes place 18th to 25th July 2020

Will you take on the challenge?

For more information or to be considered for a place, message us on: [facebook.com/faringdon.rotary](https://www.facebook.com/faringdon.rotary) or contact Jodie Whittaker

email: [jodie\\_melissa81@hotmail.com](mailto:jodie_melissa81@hotmail.com)

Applicants to be 18 years of age by the first day of the course.

#### **Faringdon Singers invite you to their Spring Concert- 12/2/20**

Saturday 28th March All Saints Church, Faringdon

7.30pm. Free Entry

Music from Haydn's Creation

- Conductor: Terence Carter.

- Organist : Roy Woodhams.
- Soloists:
- Martha Woodhams – Soprano
- Jonathan Todd – Tenor
- Benjamin Beurklian-Carter – Baritone

Followed by refreshments.

Free entry with donations in aid of 'Adventure Plus', running adventure holidays for children in a Christian environment in Clanfield

More details from Carl Oberman: 01367-820230, [carloberman123@btinternet.com](mailto:carloberman123@btinternet.com)  
[www.faringdonsingers.org.uk](http://www.faringdonsingers.org.uk) .

### **SENIOR CITIZENS' TEA PARTY - 11/2/20**

The Faringdon & District Rotary Club annual Senior Citizens' Tea Party will take place this year on Saturday 18th 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, before 4th April, contact Tim Gerry on 01367 241596.

### **Building works near Aldi - 9/2/20**

Does anyone know what is being built on the Waitrose and Aldi site in faringdon  
thank you

Nicky Hallam

*ED '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.'*

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/V2469/DIS>

### **Oxford Playhouse- volunteer ushers wanted - 8/2/20**

From someone who knows- this is a great voluntary job. Easy, everyone very friendly- and you get to see the performance

<https://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/about-us/job-vacancies/volunteer-ushers/>

ED

### **District Councillor Surgeries- 8/2/20**

A number of opportunities each month to talk to our District Councillors, Bethia Thomas and David Grant - The Library, the Pump House Project, mornings and evenings.

[See poster with dates](#)

### **Food Bank - 8/2/20**

There appears to be some confusion regarding the Food Bank, and we wish to address this.

The Food Bank is now a "Walk In" model, and is open two mornings a week, Mondays and Wednesdays 10.00 am until Noon.

We are located in the Town Council offices (Pump House, Market Square), and anyone who requires help with food will need to be referred from the agencies who have the vouchers. Please phone 07795086644 for further information.

Name Supplied.

### **COMMUNITY LITTER PICK - 6/2/20**

#### **Sat March 28th**

10:00- 14:00 OLD TOWN HALL FARINGDON

- 10:00 Sign in, pick up equipment, leaflets guides and maps
- 10:15 Volunteers set off to designated areas
- 13:45 Volunteers return to Old Town Hall . Volunteers return all equipment and sign off.

Coffee and tea provided

For more information write to [Marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Marzia@faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 01367 240 281

### **Litter Meetings- 6/2/20**

Encouraging response from VWHDC:

*"Thank you for your email. We have been in the process of trying to secure a spot in Faringdon for one of our events, but unfortunately could not confirm it in time for the publication of our press release ahead of the first event yesterday .*

*Good news - now we have. We will be at the Faringdon Farmers Market on the morning of Tuesday 3 March. Might you be able to come and see us then? If not perhaps you could help spread the word of our event.*

*Many thanks*

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils"

Name Supplied

### **VWHDC Litter enforcement event in Faringdon- 5/2/20**

The date has just been decided - Tuesday 3rd March.

Well done Bethia (our District Councillor) for making it happen

### **Re Council officers tackle litter- 3/2/20**

A number of people from Faringdon have asked 'why (not for the first time) our town is not to benefit from an event which is supposed to benefit and involve ALL Council Tax payers? It's not as if there is no littering problem here in Faringdon.'

No response forthcoming from VWHDC, but FTC has said 'I have requested banners for Faringdon and our ward councillor has made enquiries about plans to visit Faringdon. The Vale are hoping to visit all towns and large villages and definitely plan to come to Faringdon in the near future  
I have also copied in the District Ward Councillors and I will include it in the Town Councillors correspondence box so they are all aware of your email'

### **New family club - 3/2/20**

At Faringdon United Church we are launching a new family club called the 2 & 4 club on 29th Feb from 2pm -4pm. The club will then continue on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. The club is free to attend. As the club grows we are hoping that children and parents will bring ideas of what activities they would want the club to include. Initially we will be offering games, board games, art, crafts, and refreshments. Come and join us for the whole session or pop in for a short time. The choice is yours.

[See poster](#)

### **Council Officers tackle litter - 31/1/20**

Waste enforcement officers from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are heading out to a series of events starting next week, where they will meet the public to talk about littering. They have also put together a top ten list of excuses given to them from people caught in the act.

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2020/2020-01/officers-take-streets-tackle-litter>

These range from "I couldn't see a bin" to "There are no signs about not littering". There'll be no excuse about not seeing the signs as the councils have produced new banners to be put up in town centres where litter enforcement patrols are being carried out.

From 4 February officers will be out across the districts talking about the work they do tackling litter and fly-tips and how members of the public can report offences and help with investigations.

Residents can meet the team tackling littering at:

- Thame Market on 4 February 8.45am – 2.15pm
- Wallingford Market 7 February 11am – 1pm
- Henley Market Place 13 February 11am – 1pm
- Didcot at Cornerstone 21 February 11am – 1pm
- Wantage at The Beacon 28 February 11am – 1pm
- Abingdon Market Place 6 March 11am -1pm

*ED: No date for Faringdon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

### **Budgens site redevelopment P20/V0013/FUL- 28/1/20**

Redevelopment of an existing redundant site for mixed-use residential and retail development including the provision of parking, refuse and cycle storage and associated works following partial demolition of the existing retail unit.

[Link to VWHDC planning application](#)

End Consultation Period 20th February 2020

Target Decision Date 18th March 2020

- Refurbishment of the existing redundant retail store at the ground floor into flexible retail floor space.
- Conversion of first floor areas into a duplex residential dwelling;
- Building an additional storey to create continuous built line and include an extra duplex flat;
- Refurbishment of 2 no.existing residential dwellings;
- Building 3 town houses at the rear of the site;
- Provision of parking spaces;
- Bin store area for commercial and residential use

### **MacMillan Cancer Information and Support Bus - 24/1/20**

will be at the Faringdon Tesco Extra on Wednesday 29th January  
10 am until 4 pm.

### **FotoFaringdon - Do you remember it?- 23/1/20**

In 1999/2000 over 20 local people photographed every house and building in Faringdon to celebrate the millennium. There was an exhibition in All Saints and CDs were produced for people to buy. The CDs don't work on modern PCs, but Ian Lee has updated the code so now all the photos can be viewed online. See <http://www.fdahs.org.uk/fotofaringdon2000/>  
What a splendid project, and so good that it can be enjoyed again by local people.

### **Announcing the 13 June Faringdon HealthFest- 23/1/20**

This summer there's going to be a fantastic community-led festival showcasing the many ways we can keep ourselves healthy. This major Faringdon town-centre event will have stalls, demonstrations, club and group activities – including singing and dancing, advice services, info desks and even emergency services demonstrations. And all organised by a team of local people and the Patient Group, with NHS support, and invaluable help from our Town Council.

So highlight Saturday 13 June in your diary now and please let us know of any clubs, groups, businesses or other activities which would really benefit from being part of our town's first major health festival. Phone Emily Norton on 01367 870 665 or email her [bemilynorton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bemilynorton@yahoo.co.uk) now with any suggestions or contacts. And watch out for Team HealthFest's upcoming Facebook page.

### **Your views wanted- 23/1/20**

Oxfordshire County Council would like to hear your views on smoking and local stop smoking services in Oxfordshire. Whether you are a smoker, have never smoked or an ex-smoker we are interested in your opinions. This survey will take around 10 minutes to complete. Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire - your responses are important to us and will help to us plan how we reduce the number of people who start and continue to smoke in Oxfordshire. The survey closes on Friday 14 February.

[To take part in the survey see here](#)

### **Ferndale Community Choir- 19/1/20**

Wednesdays 7.15 – 8.45 pm during term time

Catholic Church Hall, rear access

£5 per session.

Male and female singers welcome. No auditions, no previous experience needed.

Musical director: Louise Woodgate, professional singer and singing teacher.

Louise will be introducing a wide repertoire ranging from musical theatre, classical, pop, folk, through to jazz

The main aim is to enjoy singing.

For further information call 07900 682 366 or [louisejwoodgate@gmail.com](mailto:louisejwoodgate@gmail.com)

### **Singing in Wanborough- every month - 17/1/20**

I am part of a Natural Voice Choir leading team along with Kate Rowe, Darren Sweeney & Sarah Owen.

We're now in our 10th year of running accessible, community a cappella singing workshops and teach songs from many different genres: pop to folk, gospel & world music.

We teach everything by ear in glorious 4 part harmony & so no one needs to read music.

By having 4 leaders we can teach parts concurrently & therefore can be singing whole songs with you in fabulous harmony within minutes.

We love to get as many people connecting through singing as we can and I'm contacting you regarding our one-off singing workshops. We're absolutely not competition for your choir. We would simply like to offer a new singing experience to your members.

We very much view the opportunity to do what we do as another way to spread the good news about singing in general in a way that benefits local groups & at our events we make sure we promote as many local choirs in the area as possible - so we'd love to have some of your choir/event flyers to display on the day.

[Here are the dates](#)

Vicky

### **Faringdon library- development - 17/1/20**

Extract from Judith Heathcoat's( as our County Councillor) latest report to Faringdon Town Council  
*At the beginning of December I met with OCC officers from the Customer Services, Sheena our librarian, and three representatives of the Faringdon Library Action Group to discuss the plans for renovating the library using S106 monies. There have been several meetings already. I am, as a County Councillor, obviously fully aware of the S106 monies for the Faringdon Division. I initiated discussions with officers at County Hall earlier this year during June to see how the monies for the Faringdon Library £128k could be used beneficially to ensure that the library should become a flexible space not only for library users but for the communities of the Faringdon Division. There have been meetings during the summer, the autumn and more recently on 3rd December. Planning is underway for some exciting improvement and refurbishment works at Faringdon Library. These works will be funded by Section 106 money which is available due to the large amount of development in the town over the past few years.*

- Although the library staff have several ideas, we do need to hear from existing customers and FLAG about the sort of things they would like to see in a refurbished facility as an initial consultation. In late January, Oxfordshire County Council will start the process of selecting a library design company to work with us in preparing some proposals, and to run a community engagement event so that the residents of Faringdon can have their say in the design. It is important that the "voice" of Faringdon and the surrounding villages is heard – a wider consultation will be initiated once a design concept is secured. However, talks with the library staff and volunteers and the Faringdon Library Associates Group (FLAG) about the refurbishment will continue and residents can provide their thoughts via a feedback form at the library or to [farington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:farington.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk).

I am currently in discussion with officers with regard to the use of S106 monies for social services for adults in Faringdon. Once I have definitive news to relay I will of course advise.

Next Full Town Council meeting is 22/1/20, when this report will be presented for discussion  
 ED: The s106 money for libraries and social care arises from the developments in 2012/2013. The Social care sum is over £100k

#### **Application for tables and chairs in the Market Place** - 17/1/20

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/V3292/FUL#exactline>

Out side the Crown and Portwell, and along the 'back wall' of the Market Place- Coffee Shop, Stay Grounded etc

#### **Has anyone lost a ladies bicycle** - 16/1/2020

- one was left propped up by the electricity sub station in Bryan Way for over a week, it is now in the garage to protect it from weather damage.

[gamma1354@gmail.com](mailto:gamma1354@gmail.com)

#### **Welcome to the first Active Communities newsletter of the decade!** - 16/1/2020

It must be January as we have a load of new activities and events to tell you about!

Our latest 55+ [activity brochure is ready to view](#)

We also are looking for new activity leaders for new and existing activities, see our flyer below for more details.

Events coming up:

##### **Xplorer Family Events:**

Wantage Memorial Park, Monday 17 January, 10am - 12noon.

For more details on this event go to our [Facebook event page](#), keep a look out on our Facebook page for more events.

##### **FREE Functional Fitness MOT Tests:**

Strength, balance and flexibility assessments, health and wellbeing advice and activity information suited for those 55+.

Wootton Community Centre, 16 January 10am - 12noon

Stanford in the Vale Village Hall, 10 February 9.30am - 11.30am

Harwell Village Hall, 13 March 10am - 12am

Contact [Aled.newton@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Aled.newton@southandvale.gov.uk) to book

##### **FREE Diabetes Events:**

An informal and friendly Diabetes education event, for more information and to book click on the link for each event

Wantage - Friday 20 March, 1.30pm - 3.30pm [book here](#)

Faringdon - Thursday 26 March, 9.30am - 11.30am [book here](#)

Botley - Friday 27 March, 9.30am - 11.30am [book here](#)

Please look at all our highlighted activities below or for a full list visit [our website](#)

Ashley Chapman

Active Communities Officer

Vale of White Horse District Council

#### **The Library are hoping to hold a regular LEGO club in 2020** - 16/1/20

If you have any spare LEGO, please bring it along to the library

Thank you

Faringdon Library

#### **Pye poem** - 14/1/20

The painting wouldn't be "Storm on the Ganges" would it? This is the only one I could see with a rainbow (iris) in it.  
 Mary Beck

### **Can anyone help?**- 13/1/20

I have a scrap book which belonged to my 3 x great grandfather James Sargant Storer (well known artist, etcher of his day).

The scrapbook has various cuttings pasted in to it.

In his scrapbook is a poem by Henry James Pye which says it was written to George III at the desire of Hodges the painter to inscribe under a print engraved from a picture of his.

I have the poem, though don't know what the picture would have been.

I have transcribed the poem as best I can (the writing is not easy) and it starts "Now thru the twined clouds the struggling beams, Of bursting light their golden radiance throw" [Here is the poem](#)

I can't find this listed against any of Pyes known poems and wonder if I have something unknown here, that would be of interest.

Please forward this to any relevant people.

Many thanks

Pat

[willowhoney63@gmail.com](mailto:willowhoney63@gmail.com)

### **Orafric Jewellers - MASSIVE STOCK CLEARANCE - 13/1/20**

UP TO 50% OFF EVERYTHING!!

All Semi-Precious Stones, Pearls, Amber, Silver, Gold and more.

Only available while stock last.

Opening Time: 10:00-15:30 WED-SAT

Tel: 01367 244615

4A Market Place Faringdon

### **Winter Warmth campaign.** - 11/1/20

This campaign will help vulnerable Oxfordshire residents to stay independent, safe and well in their homes and will be running from the middle of January and running indefinitely.

Housing can affect your physical and mental health, especially if people can't find the help they need.

After speaking with numerous services, we have identified and have developed a much easier way to get in touch.

A single point of contact has been created, where residents (or carers) can make a referral to the most appropriate organisation based on postcodes, to get the help they need.

The information is on [the link to the referral page \(www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs\)](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs)

Oxfordshire County Council

### **Land in Canada Lane** - 9/1/20

There are no guarantees, but, there are no applications for planning permission at the moment. The land is outside of the development boundary so is unlikely to get planning permission if applied for.

Greenwich

### **Youth Challenge Oxfordshire**- 6/1/20

I am from a charity called Youth Challenge Oxfordshire, We are looking for young people to join our Faringdon group starting in January 2020 at The Pump House Project.

If you, or someone you know is looking for a new challenge, join us for our next Faringdon group. You will take part in an exciting 15-month programme including workshops, skills based activities, a residential weekend away to Youlbury Camp and a life-changing trip to volunteer with the Nasio Trust Charity in Kenya.

We are looking for young people aged 14-21, who face challenges such as pressures of social media, bullying, mental health issues and/or peer influence to take unnecessary risks to join our group.

The group starts in January and will run every Thursday evening (term time only).

Please email [kat@yocoonline](mailto:kat@yocoonline) for a referral form or visit our website. [www.yoco.online](http://www.yoco.online)

### **Land in Canada Lane** - 5/1/2020

I was wondering if any one was able to tell me or even reassure me, that the land behind the cottages on Canada Lane Faringdon will be build upon in the near future?

Thank you.

Name Supplied

### **Faringdon Museum - Lord Berners** - 2/1/20

Come and visit our new Lord Berners exhibition in the Faringdon Museum. The museum is located in Information Centre, Pump House, Market Place, Faringdon.

Open 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am to 1pm Saturdays. FREE ENTRY

The exhibition is a fun interpretation of Lord Berner's life and works.

There is also a permanent display that gives a history of our fascinating Town.

[Exhibition pictures on Faringdon Town Council website](#)

**Five 2020 Community awards- 2/1/20**

See <http://faringdowntowncouncil.gov.uk/community-awards-2020/>

Deadline for nominations 1/2/20