

Re: IHT e-Petition - 27/2/07

Perhaps the e-signers of this petition would like to suggest how the IHT lost would be offset - higher income tax, VAT or council tax perhaps? (Or maybe by scrapping recycling schemes since everybody moans about them.....)

I for one do not agree with a petition requesting that the poor living should subsidise the rich dead!

Name supplied

On the subject of recycling - 25/2/07

I'm not sure the finger should be pointed directly at the recycling operators - I have witnessed some of the 'youth' of Faringdon on their evening walkabouts and nightly mischief making sessions upsetting the contents of our green bins, throwing the lids around and generally causing chaos etc.

On the subject of mischief making 'they' seem rather preoccupied with throwing themselves off the scaffolding on Gloucester Street, and throwing things at passers by for the time being.

We have just painted our green boxes, 'stolen from' - perhaps that might embarrass folk into returning them should they too go walkabout!!!

Elsie

Rubbish ! -25/2/07

In West Swindon after a visit from the bin men collecting recyclables or general rubbish there is hardly ever any leftover mess.

Householders are provided with a free smart wheelie bin which must be left in an easily accessible position but that isn't too much of a hardship. So why can their binmen leave a nice tidy environment and Faringdon's can't? It could be because their bins are only emptied every other week, they must not contain more than 4 bags and the lid must be fully closed. In Faringdon there is a weekly collection and you are allowed to put out unlimited bags, which are sometimes torn, and almost ANYTHING will be taken away.

In addition you have a local tip where the helpful staff give the impression that they enjoy sorting through rubbish.

Your binmen may not be perfect but they could be a great deal worse and I know what I am talking about!!
Harold Steptoe

HIYA HARRY. - 25/2/07

Well, I have given you a misspelled word for you to feel superior about, as agreed in our rules of engagement (How to put people in their place, Book 4, revised 1999, page 7, paragraph 4, available from Faringdon Online Publishing, £29.99.).

It seems that this time around you have chosen to be the victim, a role you play so well, my friend, so let games commence. My opening salvo is this, If your nature didn't lead you to trample everyone in your path that cannot spell, or is not able to be grammatically correct, with vindictive glee, you might just be tolerable.

kindest regards,
Jim Horton.

RE: RE: Work Pride - 25/2/07

I agree with you but, Have you seen the speed at which the recycling men work at, I suggest its a little less to do with work pride on their part and more to do with a lack of time given to them to do their job to a decent standard by their employers.

Perhaps extra staff, vehicles and funding are required in the long term. or maybe a follow up vehicle

I suggest we help them out by dividing our rubbish further so they don't have to sort it at the wagon. Perhaps if we do that they could help us by not throwing our boxes around the street when there done, spewing any left overs around with them.

Mark

RE: Work Pride?? - 24/2/07

I quite agree. We are getting fed up having to go out and pick up all the recycling the gangs drop in our road.

This is usually an assortment of plastics, broken glass (do they go out of their way to smash the glass on the road), tin can lids etc. It's so bad now that we are considering boycotting the scheme completely.

All we ask is that they take a bit of pride in what they do and pick up what they drop.

Is it too much to ask?

Annoyed

Jim/Harry Identity - 23/2/07

In July 2006 I posed the same question as "confused of Faringdon" about the relationship between Jim and Harry.

At the time there was another suggestion that they are both a wicked invention of the Editors who resurrect them periodically when the site appears to be getting too serious for too long. As far as is known they (if indeed there are two them) have never come to blows because it is very obvious that while one of them is a belligerent troublemaker and the other is a patient friendly type it is impossible to decide which one is which.

Whatever the truth of the matter the occasional bit of friction does the site no harm. In fact I would be interested to hear if anyone knows of any locally produced site which can match this one for information or entertainment. Doubting Thomas

Town Councillors wanted - 23/2/07

If you are passionate about our Town and how it is run and would like to take part in the decision making process you would be a perfect candidate for the Town Council.

Applications for potential councillors are now under way - if we have more than 14 people standing we will need to have an election, something that we have not had for a number of years!

If you are interested please contact June Rennie, Town Clerk, at the Town Council Offices in The Corn Exchange on 01367 240281.

PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS TOWN A DEMOCRACY!! ITS YOUR TOWN, YOU HAVE A VOICE!!

Name supplied

Odds and Ends Update -23/2/07

1. 18 Coxwell Road. The first phase of this development will be installing the access road and that will be fairly soon. The main work will begin in mid summer. So I am told.

2. I think The Folly Star is now extinguished .so for the last time this year...Thank you Peter

3. The e-petition against the Inheritance Tax has attracted over 91,000 signatures so far and has another month to run. If you're interested go to <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/ihcrusade> and register your displeasure.

Probably no-one will take any notice but it will make you feel better.

HGM

Work pride ?? - 23/2/07

Just picked up my green recycling bin from the front of the house. Instead of replacing the lid, or at least putting it in the bin, the collectors kindly threw it onto some daffodills that had been growing.

Work pride eh!!

Grumpy

THAR'S RITE ON FORM HARRY -22/2/07

I knew, just like a hornets nest, if I poked you hard enough with a barbed stick you would come out buzzing.
Of course this cannot be a battle of wits between you and I, as I never pick on an unharmed man!
Jim Horton

Confused of Faringdon - 22/2/07

Now I'm confused! Are Harry and Jim one and the same perhaps?!
Name supplied

What Happened to the Real Jim Horton? -20/2/07

At first I thought the message had really come from Jim.
But when I looked more closely I could see it wasn't him.
The childish challenge fooled me for it was just his style.
And the pointless "Yah Boo" attitude did fool me for a while.
But then I had another look and knew it was a fake
Lots of words, but unlike Jim's, not even one mistake.

Harry

WHERE'S HARRY? -20/2/07

Harry, it all looks like it needs livening up, are you coming out to play? I have not had a good argument for ages. Any subject you like, what role would you like?.
It surely must be your turn to be the antagonist.

What about this proposed tax to drive a car into the centre of Faringdon?
Having the Christmas light all year round up at the Folly?

We owe it to the "Ladies of the site"
See you at break time.
Jim Horton
Ed: Yes Harry - where are you?

FAF Writing Comp? - 19/2/07

Have just been on the FAF blog and there's mention of a writing competition but no details.
Does anyone know what it's all about?
Name Supplied

Increased Flickering -18/2/07

Thanks to Talking Points, for helping us raise the profile of Flickr in Faringdon.
Since my posting here last Monday the group has nearly doubled in size from 10 to 19, which is brilliant.

There's plenty of room for more people who take photos to join.
The virtual group is planning to meet up soon, so take a closer look at www.flickr.com/groups/faringdon/ and dive into the photo pool.
Al Cane

Madd Mayfest - 18/2/07

M.a.D.D. Mayfest is opening it's festival this year with a concert by The Soothsayers in the Market square.
Friday 4th May 9pm
Sam Prince

Road Pricing - 14/2/07

The idea of tracking every vehicle at all times is sinister and wrong. Road pricing is already here with the high level of taxation on fuel. The more you travel - the more tax you pay.

The proposed new road pricing and travel tax will be an unfair tax on those who live apart from families and poorer people who will not be able to afford the high monthly costs.

You have until the 20th of February to add your name to a petition (currently running at over a million people). If there are not enough signatures against this then this Government will impose this on everyone.

The government's proposal to introduce road pricing will mean you having to purchase a tracking device for your car and paying a monthly bill to use it. The tracking device will cost about £200 and in a recent study by the BBC, the lowest monthly bill was £28 for a rural florist and £194 for a delivery driver. A non working mother who used the car to take the kids to school paid £86 in one month.

On top of this massive increase in tax, you will be TRACKED!!!!. Somebody will know where you are at all times. A George Orwellian 1984 Big Brother scenario will be a reality. They will also know how fast you have been going, so even if you accidentally creep over a speed limit in time you can probably expect a Notice of Intended Prosecution with your monthly bill.

If you care about our freedom and stopping the constant bashing of the car driver, please sign the petition on No 10's new website (link below) and encourage as many other people as possible to add their names to the list. <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/traveltax>

Name Supplied

Just Faffing About! - 13/2/07

Some might think that Faffing about is simply wasting time,
but in fact in sunny Faringdon to FAF is simply divine!
To FAF round here is lots of fun - music,dance and beer
Yes you've guessed, by FAF I mean the Arts Festival is near!

The end of the week, a balmy night and what is there to do?
Come join the festive market place and have a drink (or two!...)
The stage is up, the bands are ready and music (not too loud!)
Fills the air and permeates the ears of the awaiting crowd!

Friday night goes down a treat - the planning was not in vain.
Saturday comes, we've all recharged and come back to do it again!
This time children run about, there's dancing shows and clowns,
Faces painted, spirits up, there are no tears and frowns!

'So what's the reason for this rhyme?' I hear you readers say!
Well volunteers are what we need (I'm sorry we can't pay!)
So if you're free to lend a hand, either now or on the day
Pick up the phone, give Julie a call - act now please don't delay!

Anon (For obvious reasons - I won't give up the day job!)

Faringdon Arts Festival will run on July 6th,7th and 8th.
If you are able to lend us a hand we'd love to hear from you!
Contact Julie Farmer 01367 246003 or email at julie@mypabusiness.com

MADD - 13/2/07

As part of this years M.A.D.D. May Fest Saturday night (5th May), at the Junior school, it will be made available for local musicians to take centre stage,preceeding Faringdon's KIFF.

Slots for the night are limited.

Please contact Sam or Hilary on 01367-243806. sam@nprince.fslife.co.uk

TOWN CENTRE "IMPROVEMENTS" -13/2/07

Has anyone else noticed thealarming dip in the road or pothole (if you prefer it) right slap in the middle of the narrowest bit of the "improved" town centre - the carriageway between the Nut Tree and Bargain Centre ? I wonder for how many weeks the traffic flow will be disrupted while this obviously botched piece of road is repaired ?

Perhaps someone from the Town/District/CountyCouncil would like to put us all in the know about when this is to be fixed and how long it will take.

While I am on, congratulations to whoever it was who removed the ridiculous anti-nuclear poster which was displayed prominently a column of the old town hall last Saturday. Obviously, like me, the person concerned was tired of having the political views of the few forced fed down his/her throat.

Peter Hawkins

Roadworks last year - responses - 13/2/07

regarding london street road works last year they started in january and finished march I hope that helps
Denise Palmer

Melanie, i can't remember when the work took place but it was at the beginning of the year as it was cold. You could ask in the barber shop as I remember that they were mightily miffed by the whole thing.

Ray

Ed: Thanks both of you

Flickering Faringdon -12/2/07

Just to let readers know that there are now 10 local photographers in the Faringdon and District Flickr group.

For the uninitiated Flickr is a free to join photo sharing on line service, hosted by Yahoo. The Faringdon group was formed by Ivor Hunt last November,(and he administers it) and now has well over 250 photos on it, all from the local area, and growing by the day.

There are many photos of last week's snow scenes on it, taken by at least three of its members. The beauty of it is that it is free to join, easy to use, but you do need a camera and a broadband connection, and you can leave a comment on any photo you see.

Every conceivable subject on the planet is represented somewhere within it.

To go straight to the Faringdon bit of it, go to www.flickr.com/groups/faringdon/

Anyone with a camera is invited to join or just have a look.

I must stress that Flickr is not elitist and doesn't differentiate between happy snapper and professional.

Al Cane (one of the 10)

Waste watchers - 12/2/07

On the 10th March Faringdon Waste Watchers will be co-ordinating another Swap Shop to build on the success of last year's event - it's a great opportunity to get rid of all your unwanted clutter on the principle of 'One man's meat...', and help reduce the amount that Faringdon sends for landfill - if you see anything you want just take it! If you need them, green balloons advertising your participation will be available from Andy, please call 241289 for details. -- or find out more on 24/2/07, Old Town Hall, 9.30am - 12.30 CAG info on

www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk:80/

Andy

Ed: Where is it? What do I do with Green balloons?

Faringdon Arts Fest - 12/2/07

Have you seen this blog spot.

Go have a look <http://www.faf07.blogspot.com/>

Name supplied

London St Roadworks - when? - 12/2/07

Can anyone tell us when the major work to London Street was undertaken in 2006 approximately?

The reason I need to know is because a lorry diverted itself down Ferndale street and has damaged our wall. In order to claim on our insurance we need to report it to the police but we need to know when it happened to do so.

Can anyone help?

I tried phoned the Highways agency in Oxford but they were all out.

Melanie Lane

Lost watch - 11/2/07

Watch lost outside Faringdon Baptist Church in Bromsgrove, Sunday 11th February.

I'd be so grateful for its return - of sentimental value.

Thanks Sarah

07795 034 843

A UK First:Faringdon First - 10/2/07

I'm delighted to have my 'Framed Poetry' for sale on the internet by Le Ruepress.com

I'm also hoping to draw attention to the courses starting up at the Community College on the 19th Feb.

Do you have an interest in Creative Writing? Contact the College for details.

Or take a look at my 'Framed Poetry' in the window of the Trevor Wynn ('Nut Tree') in Faringdon.

The owner is a Chamber of Commerce member and keen to promote the town, as we all are.

<http://linktiles.com?tile=641>

Cleveland W. Gibson

Young artists - congrats - 9/2/07

My only excuse is that I was so busy enjoying the lights, Christmas tree and all that Faringdon has to offer over the Festive Season that I didn't get round to this before.

I guess it's never too late to applaud the young talent in Faringdon and, of course, those who encourage its development.

So, congratulations to the budding artists and to Paul for displaying their drawings in the window of Harpers Estate Agents for the third year running.

Sheila.

PS If any pupils of Faringdon's schools wants to design a poster for the Arts Festival, go to

www.faf07.blogspot.com to register your interest. (You might want to tell your teacher about it too!)

The Firebird. -9/2/07

Apt name for a cold night.

A few comments from people who were at the Corn Exchange. "Beautiful and heart warming on a cold eve.

Thank you- will be back when you are".

Really enjoyable show, enchanted us all.

Please come back to Faringdon again". " I liked it so so so so so so MUCH, it was really cool"

There are many more comments but I would like to say it was a pleasure to be involved with the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre Company and look forward to the next time.

A very professional performance.

Sam and Hilary (M.A.D.D.)

Maps of Faringdon - 8/2/07

Hopefully most of you will still have the free map of the town- distributed last year.
We had quite a few printed, and have some spare ones.
Has anyone any ideas of how these could be used??

Maybe schools could make use of a few - to support a project based around Faringdon. Similarly brownies, cubs may be interested.
But that is the limit of my ideas!!

Anyone got any more?

Gene Webb

"Free" Christmas Lights -8/2/07

Ray's comments about the Peter White v Council in-fighting are understandable but he misunderstands the situation.

This website doesn't make business decisions. All it does, and does very well, is provide a forum for differing views.

It is obvious that most of the decision makers who really have the good of the community as a priority now take into account the opinions expressed here though it is equally obvious that some still adopt an outdated patronising attitude.

As far as discussion about the financial background to Peter's contribution is concerned I personally enjoy the bickering. I assume that we never get the full story but am not too bothered as long as we continue to benefit each year.
HGM

Operations Controller wanted - 7/2/07

Simplyicons are looking to recruit a full-time Operations Co-ordinator.
Based in Faringdon, this is a new position within a growing company. The role would ideally suit someone with previous experience of Operations, order processing or co-ordination. Really someone who is used to prioritising and problem solving within an office environment. They would also be responsible for the day to day running of the office as well as liaising with customers (at all levels) and suppliers.

MS Office is essential.

This is an exciting role within an enthusiastic team who are expanding to meet demand.

To apply please send your CV to info@simplyicons.com or for further details call Paula on 0845 859 8000.

Happy Snapping - 6/2/07

I have just noticed that the Vale of the White Horse District Council are holding a Photographic Competition which has the theme 'Beauty and Blight'.

The competition aims to capture images of the beauty or the blight of the Vale, or a combination of the two.

There are four categories Primary School, Secondary School, Adults and Groups and the closing date is 16th Feb.

I thought some of TP readers might enjoy this opportunity to capture Faringdon's beauty and blight (I can just imagine the photo's of the latter if TP is anything to go by!).

The poetry competition found lots of talented poets - perhaps we also have lots of talented photographers too?!
Further details here: http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/council_news/news0012.asp
Happy snapping!
Anna

With regard to these free Christmas lights -6/2/07

As laudable as Pete White's offer is, I don't think a forum on a community website is the best place to make a business decision. If he wants to give Faringdon free Christmas lights then surely he should put in a tender like anyone else wanting to do business with the council? That way the council can weigh up his proposal against the existing arrangement and then make a rational decision.

At the moment it seems (to me at least) that there is some personal animosity between Mr White and various councillors and making the offer here is a way to playing to the public gallery.

I think it would be great to get free lights that were as good or better than this year's (which were excellent) and thus spend the money on something else.

I just don't think this is the place to make the decision.

Thanks

Ray

Cars magazine - 6/2/07

I have 2 largish bundles from 1974 and 1976 - not in pristine condition, but not bad

Any suggestions as to where I might find out their worth?

Gene Webb

Something new? Something different? -5/2/07

Why not try an evening short course or workshop at Faringdon Community College?

Digital Photography for Beginners – 5 weeks

An Introduction to Acting (for adults) – 5 weeks

Scrapbooking – 5 weeks

Cookery for You – 5 weeks

Modern Medicines – 1 session

Food Additives – 1 session

What More Can my Computer Do? – 1 session

COST £25 for 5 week session / £5 for 1 session

Week beginning 19th February 2007 - on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Log on to the school website: www.faringdon-cc.oxon.sch.uk , under adult learning and lifestyle for more information . .

or Email: jd0051@faringdon-cc.oxon.sch.uk

xmas lights -4/2/07

I think Pete white's offer is great because the good causes in Faringdon will benefit.

It will also keep the money local, if you have a group or charity in the area that will benefit from this, then why not put your name forward on this website, then maybe the council will take notice.

Name supplied

Faringdon Arts Festival & the Faringdon Community Action Group recycling initiative Swap Shop and recycling - 4/2/07

In his post Andy Hayter mentioned another year dedicated to Re-using, Reducing and Recycling - and swap shops - well there could be a really grateful recipient of recycling - The July Faringdon Arts Festival

They need a lot of help to be able to put on an important historical display of Antique Needlework tools, workboxes and textiles - but to do this they need to find suitable display cases - see this month's Folly on Page 15 ref the exhibition and also the festival blog at <http://faf07.blogspot.com/2007/01/needlepoint-exhibition.html>

So... Before you throw away those velvet curtains (Needed to line display boxes & provide a nice backdrop to displays) - or auntie's glass doored china cabinet or even your Austin Powers 1970's glass fronted bookcase/cocktail cabinet - we "may" be able to adapt it & recycle it - Wouldn't it be great if we managed to put on this exhibition without buying or destroying new resources -

WE could even put up a sign - Yes we KNOW the display cabinets don't match - BUT they are not meant to - In the spirit of the original creators of these exhibits we are attempting to make do, mend & borrow too!!

So.....If you are an antiques dealer or car booter expert - do you have one of those glass lidded tabletop displays we can borrow to display tiny precious items?

Are you an ace DIY'er or carpenter or picture frame maker - can you help us turn unwanted and unloved junk into a secure way of displaying these beautiful items?

Are you an electrician that can help fit lighting into these display cases?

Can you fit locks to cabinets? Or do you have some spare padlocks?

If we find some donated items do you have a van or estate car to help move it to or around Faringdon from the donor?

Do you have some storage space available where these recycled treasures can be stored pre and post makeover before they are used for the exhibition?

PLEASE contact 07847 106577 or 01367 24155 or 0845 859 1720 with any donations of potentially suitable display cabinets - or e mail us via faringdon@nostalgianeedlework.info

many thanks
Nostalgia Needlework

Health Walk scheme a reality for Faringdon & Shrivenham -3/2/07

Residents in Faringdon and Shrivenham have welcomed the idea of having a Health Walk scheme. This was demonstrated by the number of calls that have been received on the subject and the very good turn out at the Public Meeting and Taster walk that was held in the Pump House on 25th January. Local Public Health Manager, Anne Ambler, gave a brief overview of the health benefits of taking more physical activity and stressed the importance of reversing the trend of inactivity and becoming fitter and healthier, thus stemming the tide of medical conditions such as coronary heart disease and type 2 diabetes which are often preventable. This was followed by a bracing walk around Faringdon in the beautiful Winter sun which everyone enjoyed.

Health Walk schemes rely on local people coming forward and volunteering to lead walks for other people, a role which is both fun and surprisingly satisfying. The walks are very safe for people who have done little or no activity recently, or those who are recovering from an illness or operation. The reason why they are so safe is because there are 2 leaders on every walk and they receive training to ensure that they know how to tailor the walk for different people and enable everyone to enjoy the activity.

We would now like to recruit further volunteer leaders to enable this scheme to start off and continue with a flourish.

To build on the enthusiasm of residents in Faringdon and Shrivenham we have arranged a training session for potential walk leaders on **Thursday 1st March, starting at 9.30am** and finishing at 3pm. Undertaking the walk leader training does not commit walkers to lead the walks, but it is hoped that many may go on to do so.

Please contact Brian Conroy, 01993 704007, or Anne Ambler, 01235 205588, if you would also like to attend. A nice lunch will be provided and also there will be a walk in the afternoon starting from outside the Tourist Information Office, which anyone would be most welcome to come to.

Petty Crime - 3/2/07

Victim of a strange petty crime on Friday.

Door bell rang about 8.30pm and no one there.

Neither was the door bell push. It had been ripped off the door and someone no doubt nearby; then kept ringing it. We had a radio type of door bell so all we had to do was switch it off.

But why steal a door bell push?.

Havent bothered to report it as see no mileage in it.

Colin Eddy

DEATH TAX -3/2/07

There is a petition on the Downing Street website asking that the Inheritance Tax should be scrapped.

It might not do any good but it can't do any harm so if you feel like adding to it have a look at the website or just go to <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/ihcrusade>

Hopeless optimist

Ed: Done!! but not holding my breath!

Pianist wanted - 31/1/07

I know of lots of people in Faringdon who would love to sing for pleasure - people who may not be able to read music and who want something recreational rather than serious singing - a sort of community choir.

I know of one musician who is prepared to get involved, but she'd like someone to play the piano, while she directs.

It won't be a week in week out sort of thing - perhaps 2 lots of 6/8 weeks in the Autumn and Jan- March- not the summer

Faringdon has many many musicians - is there someone who would like to get involved??

Gene Webb

DJing and MCing -30/1/07

When Stephen Day moves to glorious Faringdon I would be glad to hear from him.

Could he contact me on allan.oconnor@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

And if there is anyone who would like to trim the hedge at the front of the Cromwell Centre I would also like hear from them.

Allan O'Connor

Writers Group - 29/1/07

I have now made contact about a Writing Group.

Rather surprised at what happened to those who were members of a writing group some time ago, as advertised in the 'Faringdon What's On'.

Any writers or poets still left in Faringdon?

I wonder... <http://linktiles.com?tile=641>

Cleve Gibson

Writers Group - 29/1/07

Hi, I'm interested in joining a local Writer's group, but I'm not hugely computer savi and haven't managed to make contact online.

Could anyone give me contact details, or could the Ed send my contact detail on?

Thanks for helping.

Sarah Fuller

Ed: sent to Cleve Gibson

ROOFERS -29/1/07

Anyone have any recommendations for good roofers out there?

I have a flat roof that needs replacing and can't find anyone who wants to take the job on. Is a ground floor extension roof.

Also, need the back of my house repointing.
Would be great to get done at the same time if possible.
Any help would be gratefully received.
Thanks Sue

Lasting lights - 26/1/07

I think Peters proving that his lamp bulbs last longer than the Town Councils.
Charlie Harman

Award winning Enterprise Gateway - 26/1/07

Congratulations to the Faringdon Enterprise Gateway, who have just won another award in recognition of their hard work.

In 2006 the Enterprise Gateway was awarded PROUSE STATUES for their support in helping women in Business. This week they received an award from the Oxfordshire Education Business Partnership as Investors in Education. David North the Gateway Director and Jane Haynes the Gateway Co-ordinator went to collect the award.

Well done and congratulations to you both, for all your hard work in making the Enterprise Gateway a success and the flagship of all Gateways. Without such organisations as the Gateway new and young business could struggle to find the support that you generously provide for FREE.

Faringdon has a lot to thank you for.
As a shameless advert, anyone thinking about setting up a business or needs business advice contact David or Jane on 0845 458 3080 or visit the website at www.faringdongateway.co.uk
Julie Farmer myPA Busienss Ltd

New to Faringdon - 25/1/07

Mr & Mrs M
I moved to Faringdon in July 2006 from Didcot and have to say that I really love living here.
Everyone is really friendly - people actually acknowledge you on the street!
There are some good shops, restaurants and pubs too! I'd say look forward to moving and enjoy everything the town has to offer!
Sue

PETER PANIC -25/1/07

Last seen going off to Never-Never land to sort out a nasty ticking of a clock, if you need to contact him, it's third star on the right, and carry straight on to morning, hope this helps.
Tink xx

DJing and MCing for Youth - 25/1/07

Hello all,
my partner and I are soon to move to Faringdon from the even more backwater town of Didcot.
I have to say that the youth culture that you experience in Faringdon is no different and no greater in problems to that in Didcot. The only way to help stop the vandalism etc is to give young people a place to go (the new youth club should help) and something to do.

I've been working in a voluntary capacity with a youth project in Didcot for over year now getting Young People into DJing and MCing. The project has been made a success by getting young people who would be deemed a

"nuisance" off the streets for a night and channeling their efforts into something more rewarding.

I'm not suggesting that a project like this will resolve all of Faringdon's problems but it may well help give a night's respite to the town as a whole.

If the organizers of the Youth Club read this and wish to implement something like this I would be happy to help out and give some advice once I'm settled into Faringdon life.

Stephen Day

Ed: Welcome to Faringdon and thank you for your offer of help. The County Youth worker who has made the Youth Club possible is Allan O'Connor

Corn Exchange - Sound Proofing - 25/1/07

I've just heard that FTC have budgeted £16k for the sound proofing of the Corn Exchange, but whether it is done depends on discussions with VWHDC about the terms and conditions of the lease

Gene Webb

Peter where are you ? - 24/1/07

I know that Santa Claus exists because the mince pie and carrot which I left out for him disappeared. I am not too sure about the Tooth Fairy or the Easter Bunny.

I have always believed that anyone leaving their decorations up after Twelfth Night will be taken away by the Fairies and much as I enjoy the Folly Star which is still giving pleasure to Faringdonians I am a bit concerned about Peter White. Gene said she saw him on the 13th.

The Town decorations were splendid this year but I would hate to think that next Christmas, when we will need Peter again, he is reported as missing.

Has anyone else seen him recently?

Worried

Town Meeting 22/1 - 24/2/07

Many people attended - I would guess about 60, made up mostly of fire fighters and live music supporters - usually there are fewer than 10 members of the public at these meetings

I didn't stay for all of it, but the 2 subjects I did hear were a presentation from the Fire Service and the sound proofing issue in the Corn Exchange.

Fire Service

It seems there has been about 40% of occasions when the second appliance in Faringdon has not been used due to lack of crew. Each appliance costs £250,000, so it is unacceptable that they should not be fully utilised. The fire service are looking at a number of possibilities - recruiting more crew, asking existing crew to commit more hours, moving the 2nd appliance to Wantage.

If Faringdon is to keep the second appliance, then more retained (part time) crew are needed.

[Read the consultation document and comment online](#)

Corn Exchange

The discussion was about whether the Council should budget £20k to soundproof the Corn Exchange windows, so that live music may continue.

It should be noted that the Corn Exchange belongs to VWHDC, and until the sound issues recently, discussion about the lease conditions between FTC and VWHDC were taking place. There is currently no lease

Options put forward by Town Council

1 No sound proofing, use the building for anything except live music. Discos probably OK

2 Install sound proofing, cost of £20k for initial work. No guarantees that this will resolve the sound issues, and there will be no further complaints

3 Choose not to lease the Corn Exchange from VWHDC, and move Council offices to Pump Rooms. It is not known what VWHDC would do with the building.

4 Consider franchising the hall operation to local music promoters, who would take on licensing and sound proofing costs

The vote was as indicated in the post below. FTC indicated that this would not necessarily mean that they would decide to soundproof the hall

Further information

FTC are obliged to budget £5k pa to build a maintenance fund for the Corn Exchange
One councillor said that the draft lease indicated that if FTC, having formally leased the building, decided not to continue the lease, FTC (us!!) would be obliged to redecorate and renew the floor on termination.
The Corn Exchange needs updating - the cloakrooms(are they hygienic??), the bar, the decor (that's my view)
FTC have spent many £'000s on the Pump House, and it is underused(the Mayor's words). There is space for FTC to move their offices there
VWHDC run the cash office, and this is under threat of closure
The Junior School governors may not be willing for their hall to be used more frequently than once a month

My View

It's a tricky one - the live music in Faringdon and it's spin offs, is wonderful.--it must continue. It and the Festivals have transformed the vitality of the town
But the Corn Exchange, our only community hall, is unsuitable for some events- Faringdon Dramatics. It is in much need of updating- it is not up market enough to be used for private functions- so there is much more money to spend
What we really need is a purpose built community hall/performance venue- but where could it go? Where would the money come from?

I like the idea of developing the Junior School hall to become a community hall - maybe build a greenroom and bar. It is a publicly owned building, but I guess if the education authority and the governors don't want it to happen, then it won't. It just seems to make sense - school buildings are mostly only used for 30ish weeks of the year, and seldom in the evenings by the school.
Towns the size of Faringdon can't sustain 1 of everything - so we need to be imaginative and cooperative to make the most of what we have.

Thoughts anyone?

I think FTC were to make the decision Wed 24/1
Gene Webb

Car Parking -23/1/07

Why should Budgens be to blame for the ticket machines?? It has been pointed out before that the carpark is maintained by the council.

Of Mels £7.50 I'd guess that about 30% of that is Budgens mark up so they have around £2.50 to pay for wages, electricity, gas, telephone charges, buildings insurance, employees insurance, pension funds, tax, national insurance, rates and all the other costs in running a business. That is why there is a minimum of £10.00!!! Do people think that if you give a shop say, £7.50, that this is ALL profit???

I also thought it was common knowledge that you can park anywhere in Faringdon as there is no policing of the car parking because of lack of resources. Therefore, why not just stop outside Bugdens, placing your hazard lights on so not to cause an accident, run in, do your shopping and return to your car. This way, you need not pay for parking, there is no local police presence to worry about, the response time from Wantage police is about 20 minutes and you can stop the boy racers from speeding too by gridlocking Faringdon, excellent!!!!
Max Packing

Corn Exchange - Town Meeting -22/1/07

I'd just like to say a big thank you to Steve Leniec and Siobhan Vinall for their support, great preparation and presentation at tonight's Town Meeting and to all of you who attended.
Option 2 to support the funding of the secondary double glazing received 53 votes, the other 3 options polled 2 votes between them.

The Town Council still need to approve this spend but with such overwhelming support, this surely won't be an issue?
Dave Porter

Car Parking Again -22/1/07

Further to last year's postings about the despised tight-fisted parking ticket machine at the council car park near Budgens - I went there this morning just to pick up a pint of milk on my way back from Oxford. Making sure I obtained a receipt so Budgens could give me my 40p back I went into the shop. Got milk, bread, cheese and a paper and went to the checkout to be informed that I couldn't have a refund unless I spent £10. I'd spent £7.50
I'm going to the garage for emergency supplies in future.
Mel Lane

Christmas Lights reply to Gene Webb - 21/1/07

As Chair of Faringdon Retailer Group we are in the process with the council of replacing all none working christmas lights. When testing individually they seemed to work when all switched on others failed to but rather than getting into all this maybe you can come into Presentations and discuss or maybe other interested parties can and actually find out the correct facts!

Denise Palmer

Ed: I have no interest in Christmas lights(bah humbug) - but I did comment on the lack of response to Peter Whites generous offer(3/1/07). It is he you need to make contact with and encourage his involvement - as an experienced electrician, he could probably diagnose the problem as well as provide a solution

New to Faringdon - 21/1/07

My Wife and I are moving to Faringdon in March/April. We have stayed over to get a feel of the place and had a walk around the Folly, ate out at the lovely Market restaurant, had drinks in the pubs and stayed in the Bell all of which were very good indeed.

We think the place is beautiful and everybody seems very friendly.

I was wondering if there are any other good or bad points you may want to share with us, the ONLY thing we can find as a bad point may be parking, but we realise it's a busy little town.

Is there any parking spaces for rent or is there a car park that will provide parking near by, or is there anybody who lives in the Gloucester Street area who can tell us how they cope with parking?

Any info will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks!

Mr&Mrs M.

Ed: Welcome!! You can buy a permit for £100 pa for the Gloucester St carpark. See

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/transport_and_streets/parking/parkingpermits.asp

I think Faringdon is a good place to live - but we do have our share of litter, dog mess, yobbish behaviour

Youth Centre - 19/1/07

At a meeting of the Planning and Regulations Committee (County Council) approved the change of use for the Cromwell Centre to become a youth centre.

We will occupy the building in the next 4 weeks although some repair and refurbishment is required and will take several months to complete before we fully open.

Young people from the town were fundamental in securing the necessary approval and this is their success.

Allan O'Connor

Youthworker

Please support Council Meeting 22/1/07 - 19/1/07

Further to Dave Porter's rallying cry to support the town council meeting next Monday...please also note that there are well deserving causes that benefit from fund raising gigs held in the Corn Exchange.

Failure to resolve the Corn Exchange sound reduction plan will have a knock on effect throughout the whole community - please support!
Name supplied

Re: Important Planning Application 18/01/07 - 19/1/07

I have tried to access VWHDC online planning system several times, particularly for more info on the Coxwell Road development, which I understand includes proposals to change the road layout, but I'm having some difficulty.

The site invites me to go to menu on the site but it doesn't exist!

I recently tried to access the Bloor Homes application and after several failed attempts discovered that access could be achieved only by reversing the information provided in VWHDC letter to properties on the boundaries of the site, and then only by completing one of the two required fields. It would appear that VWHDC are not making it as easy to view these planning proposals as they would have us believe.

Hang in there and after half a dozen e-mails to the address on the site, you might manage to access the information you want to look at. Of course, you could go to the council offices (if you're not at work 9-12.30am weekdays) and wade through boxes of papers...

Personally, I'm quite happy with Bloor Homes proposal, having taken the trouble to visit their exhibition in the Pump House, but would like to know more about Winslow House, Coxwell Road development. However, I understand from informed sources that there is no obligation on the developers to stick with their proposed plan (or perhaps no planning dept 'policing'?) once planning permission has been granted. Can this be true? Am I just being paranoid here?

Click on the link given on this site, and maybe you can get closer to the nitty-gritty than I have managed. But then this computer stuff is all a bit beyond the grasp of this pensioner.

If I attend the meeting on 23 January at the Corn Exchange will I be able to object to the Coxwell Road development? Will it make any difference? If 1 or 2 people can stop live music in the Corn Exchange, what are the chances that protests exceeding this magic number of 2 can stop or change development proposals?

I think we should be told!

Name supplied

Ed: Click the link, <http://planning.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/publicaccess/default.aspx>, choose planning from menu on the left, then application search, then enter the computer application reference (shown on item 18/1), or the Alternative reference number if you know it - usually starting with GFA for Faringdon application - you can see plans and application docs

Portwell Bar Quiz - 18/1/07

Paul Cornell has come up with a great fun quiz idea, and at his request I am delighted to administer it. Around the end of this month I'll be sending out a list of 40-or-so questions relating to the year ahead. For example, in which month (if any) will England win their next test match? Or how many more speed bumps will be introduced to the town this year?

Quiz entrants then make their predictions in response to each question.

The entry fee will be £5 per entry. More than one entry will be allowed per person, but at £5 per entry. 25% of the funds will be awarded to the winner at 31st December 2007, 15% to second place, and 10% to third.

50% of the funds will be donated to the Jacob Robinson fund, raising much-needed monies for the John Radcliffe Children's Unit which saved young Jacob's life last year. Jacob lives in Faringdon.

I'll send out results and current standings at least monthly.

Please let me know by Sunday 28th January if you would like to enter, and forward this to anyone you think may be interested

Martin Phillips.
portwellbar@aol.com

Environmental Study - 18/1/07

I have heard that Bloor Homes have done a detailed environmental study of Faringdon - presumably to make sure the new buildings are in keeping with the style of the town, and that natural habitats are not destroyed(maybe)- I don't really know as I haven't seen it yet.

It is weighty I believe - but available for you all to see in Faringdon Council offices
Gene Webb

Important Planning Applications - 18/1/07

Town Council's Planning & Highways Committee is due to consider two major planning applications at its next scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, 23 January 2007 at 7.15 pm in the Corn Exchange.**

The first application is the Bloor Homes development off Park Road (Appn ref 06/01939/OUT) and the other is for a proposed development of 40 dwellings on the land adjoining Coxwell House and Winslow House, Coxwell Road, Faringdon. (Appn ref 06/01928/OUT)

A representative from Bloor Homes will be present on the night.
All council meetings are open to the public to be present.

Both sets of plans are available for scrutiny in Faringdon at either the District Council's local office or the town council office between 9.00am -12.30pm. or you can use [VWHDCs online planning system](#) to see the associated documents or make a comment, using the application references above.

Hilary Sherman
Deputy clerk to Faringdon Town Council

Faringdon Arts Festival -17/1/07

Check out our blogspot for updates about exhibitions and events planned for the 2007 Faringdon Arts Festival
<http://faf07.blogspot.com/>

CAG Meeting time - correction

It's **20.15**, 24/1/07, 18 Fernham Road
See entry dated 14/1/07 for more details

Corn Exchange -16/1/07

If you care about the future of the Corn Exchange as a live music venue and a venue for Wedding receptions, 21sts, 40ths and parties etc., please attend the town council meeting next Monday 22nd Jan 7:30pm at the venue itself.

On the agenda, the funding for the secondary glazing to reduce noise leakage.
This will secure the future of the building, which is, of course, the centre of this fantastic community.
Dave Porter

Youth Centre - 16/1/07

Well done to Alan & Jackie for helping the youth of faringdon get a youth centre
it will be amazing when it is all finished and we finally have somewhere to go. Thanks for taking me to oxford to the meeting Alan !!!

Some youth in this town have lived here a long time and been moaning and complaining about nothing to do and i am so happy that we finally do. i hear we are havin more houses built in faringdon so it will be an amazing opportunity to meet and make those people feel welcome!

Thanks again to everyone that has taken part in trying to get the youth centre its amazing !
Ella Williams x
and i am sure that Grace bouwers who is the chair person of the committee will think the same x x Get well soon hunni x

Youth Center YES -16/1/07

I would also like to thank all the people who have supported us in so many ways. As a Youth Support Worker and resident of Faringdon I thank you, and all the young people of Faringdon for backing us.

Jackie Williams

Phones and ink collection - 16/1/07

Faringdon First Responders are collecting old mobile phones & ink cartridges for South Central Ambulance Service League of Friends.

The LOF fundraise to provide the Ambulance Service and First Responders with a huge amount of necessary equipment and resources. Without the LOF and local fund raising and donations Faringdon First Responders would not exist.

Your empty ink cartridges and old mobile 'phones are worth a lot on money and that money will be put to excellent use.

There are three recycling boxes in the town; the Bargain Centre, the Chemist and the Leisure Centre.

We are extremely grateful to the people who have already used these recycling boxes..... please keep them coming!

Thank you.

Sarah Oliver

Faringdon First Responders

Congrats! -16/1/07

Great news about the Youth Club! Perhaps Faringdon's musicians and youth can get together to make the town event more vibrant than it started to become in 2005/6

Mark Harrison

Music in the Corn Exchange ... -16/1/07

There is another option that has not yet been explored:

Mediation. This would cost almost nothing, introduce a level of fairness and is the RECOMMENDED WAY FORWARD on the VWHDC's own website! (see

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/pollution/pollution_control_-_noise/)

Mark Harrison

Well done - 16/1/07

well done jackie and alan on the securing the youthcentre.

mandy evans

Youth Club - 16/1/07

To Allan O'Connor and all the hard work everyone has put in to getting the Youth Club. Well done.

It's great news for Faringdon and our Youth.

If the Faringdon Area Project can help in anyway please let us know.

Well done to you all.

Julie Farmer

A Youth Club in Faringdon - YES - 16/1/07

After 4 years of looking and 11 months of negotiating, at 3.30 on the 15th Jan, the County Council Planning and Regulation Committee approved the application to turn the empty Cromwell Centre on Highworth Road into a youth centre.

I would like to thank all who supported the scheme and particularly those who supported me in the last few months when despair began to set in. Those who deserve particular mention are local County Councillor Judith

Heathcoat and local young person Ella Williams who stood up before the committee and successfully made our case.

I would also like to thank another local young person- Grace Bouwers, who has campaigned for the Cromwell Centre from the start but was too ill to attend the meeting today.
Get well soon Grace.

There will be a period for the paperwork to be finalised before we move in and then we will fundraise and refurbish the centre before opening some time in the summer.

All those who offered to help should now beware!! especially Graham.
Allan O'Connor (Youth Worker)

Ed: Great news Allan- do use this site for calls of help of any sort - and of course to let us know when the club will open

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN MAY. - 15/5/07

Not sure if the post on 13th counts as editorial comment or not, however on the basis that it wasn't in italics I will assume that it was the editors personal opinion.

Firstly all 14 places will be vacant and fought for regardless of retirements. I sincerely hope that there will be an election, however if there isn't as last time the candidates who put themselves forward for election are elected unopposed not co opted. I think that I was one of the last to actually be elected to the council in a by election 12 years ago!

I would urge correspondents to stand, grappling with the challenges we face and making a difference for our community is important.

The down side is that "name supplied" anonymity is not allowed and we are ultimately accountable for our actions. It can be frustrating to see volunteer town councillors blamed for just about everything when our other salaried representatives seem to escape unscathed no matter what the Vale and County inflict on us. But hey we wouldn't put ourselves forward if we didn't have thick skins!

So come on Gene, you were prepared to stand for District last time, what about standing for town this time and setting an example which other .orgers can follow.

Steve Leniec

Ed: Just trying to drum up support. But it's not for me - be glad -I'd be nothing but trouble!!

STATUS QUO UNSATISFACTORY. - 15/1/07

It would be electoral suicide to Clash with the Status Quo appreciation society whilst trying to reach the Nirvana of a New Order in the town.

Now that would be a line up to test the secondary double glazing!!

Steve Leniec

(Live music appreciation society)

Youth Club- well done - 15/1/07

Let me be one of the first to congratulate Alan, Jackie and their team for all the hard work they put in to securing the youth centre.

I was very pleased to hear that the go ahead has finally been given for the cromwell centre and look forward to my invite to the official opening
well done all

Graham Cook

STATUS QUO, UNSATISFACTORY? - 15/1/07

Shame on you Mr Leniec, I think you are wrong in your last post concerning the brilliant band Status Quo.

We at the Faringdon Status Quo Appreciation Society think that after rocking all over the world, having them play at the Corn Exchange would in fact be very satisfactory.

Yours, extremely disgruntled,
Francis Rossie.

Corn Exchange Sound Test - 15/1/07

Firstly, I'd like to acknowledge Steve Leniec's reasoned and fair approach to this debate and his attempts to reach a resolution. However, there does seem to be an air of unfairness in this whole saga.

Last Tuesday's "test" was, in my view, completely biased. Why? Because at the end of it we ended up with a level of sound that merely appeased ONE person.

Now there is talk of spending £20,000 on secondary glazing that in Steve's own words could result in "no absolute guarantee that any future complaints over noise would not be upheld."

Why, oh why is consideration being given to spend so much money on a building that belongs to someone else simply on the basis that that ONE person finds the sound level slightly disturbing?

I make no apology for saying this but this is wrong, wrong wrong!
What happened to the compromise we all sought?

David Reynolds

CORN EXCHANGE SOUND TEST - 14/1/07

Thank you to everyone who took part in the sound test on Tuesday evening, the results will help Council to take an informed decision on the future use of the building. Martin Waymark's post gives a fair account of the proceedings and the decision process that will follow. The only meeting he has missed out being **Finance on Thursday 18th January** which will in effect set the provisional budget for the whole Council including Venues.

As promised before Christmas I have placed an agenda item for the **Town meeting on 22nd January** to enable residents to voice their opinion on the options facing Council. This will be posted with the agenda for the meeting on the Council notice board on Monday, however to enable residents to prepare their thoughts and provide feed back I will post it here.

"Corn Exchange future options.

The Town Council as tenant has yet to agree a lease for the use of the building with it's Landlord, the Vale of White Horse District Council. Following complaints about the level of noise escaping the building during live music events the Council has explored a range of possible options for the future of the building. Because the decision taken will have a fundamental impact on the future use of the building by the town it is appropriate to allow residents to express their view.

Options:

1. Continue to operate at a reduced noise level which excludes almost all live music, but should allow most discos and other community events to continue. Cost: significant loss of income and loss of a live music venue.

2. Install sound containment measures as outlined in the Noise Consultants report. Allow live music performances subject to conditions on timing and the use of the noise limiter. Cost: £20,000 for initial work offset by additional income generated, however there can be no absolute guarantee that any future complaints over noise would not be upheld.

3. Hand the building back to the VWHDC and move the Council offices to the Pump rooms. Cost: Probable loss of a live music venue and community building unless VWHDC decide to run the hall themselves. Town council would have to balance this against savings on precept, the move to the Pump rooms would incur some initial costs.

4. Consider franchising the hall operation to local music promoters who would then take on responsibility for licensing and any work which may be needed to operate as a live venue. Cost: Possible income from franchise

set against potential grant applications for soundproofing and possible loss of the hall for community events.

These options or variations of them do not necessarily exclude any other proposals which may come to light during our deliberations over the future of the hall. Council recognises that a live music venue is a vital component of the vibrant music and arts scene in the town. The question we face is whether this building can be adapted to meet that aim or would precept money be more appropriately spent on another project?"

No doubt posting this will stimulate debate which I welcome, however the main forum will be the public meeting on 22nd January where all councillors will hear your views. Some of you will be disappointed that the "Casino" option has not featured in Council deliberations! I think my opinions are known on the subject and I feel that we must take a clear unequivocal decision now in order to move forward. If we miss this chance it will effectively be another year before anything other than the current unsatisfactory status quo can be considered.

Please come along to the meeting on the 22nd, everyone will have a chance to air their views.

Steve Leniec

Ed: Hopefully each option will be costed/projected (income and expenditure) to help take a considered view- even though of course, it's not just about cost

The Faringdon Community Action Group - 14/1/07

CAG will be starting another year dedicated to Re-using, Reducing and Recycling with a meeting on 24th January at 18 Fernham Road, 20.15 to plan events for the coming year.

We plan to hold another Swap Shop in the next few weeks, so make sure you hold on to anything that would otherwise go to landfill, and this year we'll be trying to involve more of the town than last year's 'pilot'.

Come along on the 24th to find out how you can help, or if you're just curious to see what's involved in a CAG. We look forward to seeing lots of you.

Andy Hayter

More buses for Faringdon?? - 14/1/07

I've heard it said that when the 400+ houses are built, this will take us to another level for bus services - and there will be 3 buses per hour between Oxford and Swindon

Let's hope so

I can feel the bus pass being well used!!

Gene Webb

Christmas Lights - 13/1/07

Happened to see Peter White in town today - he told me that not one member of the Town Council has contacted him about his generous offer to put up our Christmas lights FOR FREE.

Extract from 'Christmas Lights 3/1/07'

"So I would like to make this offer from my company, Faringdon Electrical Services, who would be prepared to install Faringdon's 2007 Christmas lights free of charge, subject to agreement, and the Town Council agreeing to donate the estimated £5,000.00 fee they are paying the existing contractor for installing the Christmas lights(which are still not working correctly) to local good causes which otherwise would not have benefited"

I can't believe that FTC will not be interested in this offer - it is an opportunity to spend the £5k on worthwhile things for residents and groups in the town.

Hopefully someone from FTC will contact Peter before the Budget/Precept meeting on 22/1 or at least respond to this site so that everyone can know what is to happen.

Gene Webb

Town Council Elections in May? - 13/1/07

I have heard that quite a few councillors are not intending to stand for another term(from May 2007)

Wouldn't it be great if enough people decided to stand so that for the first time for years(10?? 15??) we had a proper election so that councillors were voted in, rather than co opted as they have been for so long

No doubt we'll soon hear some encouraging words from the Council, as it makes an effort to get people to come forward
Gene Webb

Recycling Christmas Cards -12/1/07

Thankyou Martin. If I can't find anything in Faringdon I'll take you up on your kind offer and drop my cards into the Portwell Bar for you to take to work on Monday.

This seems like a much more sensible option than driving to the nearest Tesco.

Perhaps other residents will do the same.

Sheila

Faringdon Youth Centre- offer of help - 11/1/07

Allan, Jackie and all at the youth centre have our complete support from the Army Cadets

I believe that the only thing stopping the youth centre going ahead at present is the lack of pavement on that side of the road & the cost that comes with it but im sure with the amount af ground workers within Faringdon this should not be a problem

If the council are worried about the cost I'm quite willing to give up my free time to help build this path myself & I'm sure the builders of faringdon would all so do the same & donate the materials needed for this small job.

You have our support If there is anything we can do give me a call

Graham Cook

Ed: What a fantastic offer, Graham. I could probably get a few 60+ friends to help too!!

Allan, is this something the County would be willing to accept? How can we make it happen??

Corn Exchange Sound Test -11/01/07

The sound check took place on Tuesday evening this week with Kiff providing the music and various observers, including members of the Venues Committee, taking sound level readings inside and outside the Corn Exchange and at the homes of two of the Gloucester Street residents who had previously lodged complaints. The proceedings were chaired by Siobhan Vinall, chair of the Venues Committee.

The Vale's Environmental Health department declined to participate as they felt any involvement could potentially compromise their impartiality if any further complaints were received in the future.

Music was played at a range of levels to try to determine an acceptable compromise that would allow a band to perform without causing undue disturbance to the residents. Each time, the noise limiter was reset to ensure it would cut out at the agreed level in the hall.

While both residents were willing to agree to a level for the noise limiter that was slightly higher than currently set, this was not sufficient to allow a full band to perform at a satisfactory level (a view shared by other musicians present). This means that despite the best efforts of all involved, **amplified live music is still not possible in the Corn Exchange as things currently stand.**

The information gathered on sound levels and the responses of the residents present will now be used to support an application to the Town Council (and probably the Vale) for funds to install secondary glazing on all windows in the Corn Exchange. **The Venues Committee will be meeting on Tuesday 16th at the Corn Exchange to consider this, together with a report from an independent sound consultant.**

Any recommendations will then be presented at the public meeting on Jan 22nd, when the various council sub-committees will present their proposals for the 2007/08 budget to Faringdon residents, before being considered at the **Town Council precept meeting on Jan 24th.**

Amongst other factors, the Council will undoubtedly be considering local support for continued usage of the Corn Exchange as a venue for live music when weighing up whether to include the request for funding in their precept.

Those with an interest in this should therefore try to attend the meetings on **16th, 22nd and 24th, which are all open to the public.**

Martin Waymark

Recycle Christmas Cards - 11/1/07

At my office in London we have a charity recycling point for Christmas cards.

Hopefully there is a local charity organising something, but if not I'll be glad to take them to London if you drop them into The Portwell Bar.

Martin Phillips

faringdon youth centre.10/1/07

please can the people of the town get behind Allan, Jackie and all the young people trying their hardest to secure the cormwell centre for a youth centre.

at the moment the situation is in the balance what allan and Jackie need is our support.

This is our best chance to help the youth of the town get their centre. so why don't we all email Allan and show our backing.

there is a lot of complaining about the youth and the problems of the youth now we have an answer to the problem.

so come on faringdon get writing. because the bigger the voice the better the chance of success.

a friend

Ed: Hope you don't mind Allan - I've provided your email address faringdon.youth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Army Cadets -10/1/07

The Army cadets have been looking for the past few years to move location to Faringdon without success.

Does anyone know if there would be room at the Folly park for a couple of porta cabins? or if there is any land that would be suitable ?

The Army cadets offer 12-18 year olds the opportunity to do something different.

They can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh awards & gain a BTEC in public services (4 grade a GCSE) adventure training, sports, weekends away and two weeks annual camp.

If you are interested in joining the army cadets please come along on a monday night from 1930Hrs-2130Hrs we are located next to the collage nursery at watchfield

Come along and have some fun

Graham Cook

Corn Exchange sound test? - 9/1/07

Does anyone know if the sound test has been conducted at the Corn Exchange yet?

Ray

BT Online Bill users Beware. - 9/1/07

My daughter and I use BT online billing.

A check of both accounts shows that during slightly different periods in November 2006 all our calls have been duplicated and presumably charged for twice.

I'm still waiting for an explanation from BT !
Name supplied

Bizarre! -8/1/07

Now you're talking. What a weird town.

Perhaps it's the people with four heads, one for each hairdressing establishment or is it the restaurant for rats that never opens?

Perhaps it's the bulb planting mayor in Civil War costume or even the headless ghost in the churchyard or maybe even the mysterious Faringdon yodeller.

Or could it be the traps in Talking Points laid out for gullible people to fall into?

Do we live in the Faringdon Triangle, where strange things happen?

Come back soon Robert Quanton and make it even more strange, what can you bring to the bizarre party?

Frank Lee Strange

Recycle Christmas Cards - 8/1/07

Is there a recycling point anywhere in Faringdon for Christmas cards, or do I consign them to a green box?

Sheila

Bizarre Faringdon - 6/1/07

now to be fair faringdon is truly one of THE MOST BIZARRE places i have ever experienced in my entire life!

i spent one weekend there whilst working away from home and i can safely say I SO WILL BE COMING BACK!!!!!!

Robert Quanton

Ed: Why Bizarre - do tell us!

Calling all jobs!! -4/1/07

My partner and I are both in the Army and have both reached the rank of Sergeant - we bring home a joint yearly salary of £65,000.

We've travelled extensively with the Army to places like Cyprus, Dubai, Barcelona, Canada, Oman, Norway, Iceland and of course Iraq and Afghanistan - we have earned 11 medals between us.

You too could achieve this - so please stop joyriding, drugtaking and beating up poor kebab shop men (you know who you are!) and pop into an Army careers office - take some pride in your appearance and yourself, it's better than being on the dole!!!

Name and address withheld for security reasons.

BASS /KEYBOARD PLAYER WANTED. -4/1/07

Myself, Emma, Graham and Nigel are looking for a bass and keyboard player, first gig is in March, so you will have to be fairly competent to complete the line up.

The music style is pop/rock, (Free, Bad Company, Brian Addams ect) if you are interested, or may know someone that is, then contact me on, HORTON@hortonsn77ug.fslife.co.uk.

Nice place to live - 4/1/07

I would also like to welcome the soon-to-be Faringdonian.

Regardless of what is posted here about roaming gangs of thugs and boy racers, this town is basically very sedate. I've lived here 14 months now (having lived in London, Luton and Manchester) and can highly recommend it.

It does need a few more things (better bus service, somewhere for the kids to go in the evening, a few more shops and the Corn Exchange sorted out), but it is a nice place to live with a lot of people working to maintain and improve its vibrancy.

Ray

SING AWAY STRESS - 4/1/07

The Pump House, Faringdon. 8pm - 9.15pm. £5/£3 per session (Tues9th January and for the following 3 weeks)

Come along and discover an enjoyable stress release activity...

No ability to sing or read music required!

Exercises include structured breathing & vocal release...

Learn to produce stressless sound...

Sing some simple rounds and harmony songs from around the world... And more importantly ENJOY yourself.

For further information & to book, contact Nina on 0777 262 2102, E: eastervoices@naturalvoice.net

Christmas Lights - 4/1/07

What a treat the Christmas lights have been this year.

Well done and thanks to all concerned.

Loads of visitors have commented on how great the centre of Faringdon looks.

Name supplied

Welcome to the New Faringdonian.-3/1/07

First of all Welcome and if you are prepared to keep on offering your comments to this website you're doubly welcome. But I feel you ought to have a bit of background before you condemn the moaners and complainers.

A few years ago, in fact pre-Faringdon.org, too much power was in the hands of too few people. I suppose meetings which decided what went on in the town were theoretically open to public scrutiny but in fact very few people knew, or even cared, what happened. We just accepted that THEY, whoever THEY were, knew what they were doing and naively assumed that it would always be in our best interests.

That situation ceased when our Eds became tired of good works and dog walking and decided to start this site.

Now there can be very little chance of private meetings in smoke filled rooms because there is always someone who will spot and pounce on any dodgy decisions. There will always be arguments but the 'Moaners and Complainers' have become a vital part of our democratic system here in Fun Filled Faringdon.

You have the opportunity to bring a refreshing new view of our little squabbles so don't be shy..

For example what do you think of our Parking, Town Centre, Christmas Lights, Music Scene, Folly Park ? We'll be interested in your comments.

HGM

To Name Supplied -3/1/07

If you wish to have a go at particular individuals by name, (names you know because they have had the courage to supply them) at least have the GOOD MANNERS to supply yours!

If you are not polite enough to do so, you should find something else to do with your time other than hurling personal insults around!

Trish Reynolds

FOR THOSE WHO TAKE THEMSELVES FAR TO SERIOUSLY, MAY THE FARCE BE WITH YOU -3/1/07

Number one. There is no Casino, it was a joke to lighten up the posts before Christmas, can you not see that?, everyone else did.

Number two, Trish Reynolds, Stu Lusher, try reading the posts that got up your nose again, only this time with your tongue firmly in your cheek as the writer did, (aged 37).

Try to remember in future that not everything on here needs a contrary position to be taken, just a sense of humour, it's all about shade, not everything in life is black and white, surely it's the same here, if every post was only concerned about the gloomier side of Faringdon it would soon become stale and boring.

So for those of you living on the dark side, lighten up!

Name supplied

Well done people of Faringdon. -3/1/07

More shops closing down.

When will we learn that if we don't support our local stores they can't survive - and we all then have to pay to drive out of town everytime we want something.

Rumour has it that at least one of the pet shops is going and our outdoor clothing shop. Ok - maybe two pet shops wasn't a good idea but I doubt very much that the other one can continue for long. Why do people want to line the pockets of these huge Petsmart/PetsAtHome type places ?. The staff have little knowledge of animals, they certainly don't know your pet (which the Faringdon staff often do) and the prices you pay are higher because of the overheads.

The Outdoor shop and the Petshops in our town - you'd have to look far and wide to find more helpful people.

So now more empty shops in Faringdon - to be filled eventually with what ?.

More charity shops ?.

Name supplied

Don't moan, don't complain - 2/1/07

Just a comment from an outsider soon to become a Faringdonian.

Don't moan, don't complain, just ensure you realise that you live in a special place.

There are some scary towns out there.

Thank God Faringdon is not one of them.

Name Supplied

Ed: Lots of us really like living here - hope you will too

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS -3/1/07

As we are now in a New Year, and we all like to start afresh and try to make the new year better than the one we have left behind, we would like to make the following offer to Faringdon and Faringdon Town Council regarding Christmas lights.

As you may have read, Steve Leniec and I have said a few words on the subject of Christmas lights, and I feel that what we need now is action, not words.

So I would like to make this offer from my company, Faringdon Electrical Services, who would be prepared to install Faringdon's 2007 Christmas lights free of charge, subject to agreement, and the Town Council agreeing to donate the estimated £5,000.00 fee they are paying the existing contractor for installing the Christmas lights(which are still not working correctly) to local good causes which otherwise would not have benefited.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we look forward to a reply from the Town Council.

Peter White

Crowdy's?? - 3/1/07

Does anyone know if Crowdys of Regal way is still in business & how to get hold of them?

Martin Shaw

Marlow

Ed: I tried the number on this site - unobtainable - sorry

Casino! Music! - 1/1/07

I have just taken my periodic look through the notes and seen the writer of the compliant about the Casino and music in the Corn exchange.

This writer is clearly the selfish and miserable type that gives 'old soldiers' a bad name. Plenty of others fought and died in order to give - freedom that also includes the right of enjoyment both in music and a 'casino'. Most happen to be more open minded about the needs of a local community and not their own selfish wants and needs.

Towns like Faringdon have always held dances and played music in their town halls and long may they continue to do so. This is what freedom we serve to maintain - not to insist on Cromwellian restrictions and sanctions!

In the case of another of his tirades, I am a soldier, I have been and served in wars like my father and grandfather and like them like a good dance and party as they did, even in their old age. I grew up in a town like this and I fully support our local bands having a chance to play to a local audience and to help keep our youth entertained - better than have them drinking and fighting when they are bored. If this bloke wants quiet maybe he should have used a bit of gumption and made the not too blindingly obvious assumption that a town hall might be used for entertainment and not just craft fairs.

Perhaps there might be a monastery or house in the back end of beyond where he can get the quiet and isolation he clearly craves.

Oh and I am not afraid to have my name published when I want to say something about the town!

Stu Lusher

Harry having a pop at DA - 30/04/07

...surely not!

I think that Harry would be pleased at the response from Devil's Advocate (may we call him DA ?) and Pimpernel (may we call him Pimp ?) because it is more than possible that he also enjoys 'stirring it' His defence of Mr Hickmore (may we call him Hick ?) isn't very convincing and I don't think he has even convinced himself. His suggestion that ten years in a job implies it was a job well done lacks credibility when you remember that Tony Blair has been running this country for the same period
As to being a prospective Councillor he might believe, as do I, that a person's inability to do a job doesn't stop him from offering helpful advice (otherwise gynaecologists would all have to be women)
Keep the comments coming. They often brighten an otherwise boring day.

Name Supplied

HARRY KARI - 30/04/07

Please don't be unkind to Harry. He is far too busy being a spellchecker for this site, and playing Harry Lime in the local newspaper to be a Cllr.
Harry old sparring partner, defending the indefensible is a definite shot in the foot, hardly a vote winner if you did stand for election,

Still, you would have at least twenty votes, albeit pseudonyms, to start you on your way,.
Time to up your medication me thinks old buddy old pal.

Jim Horton

DA Replies.....29/04/07

Harry, not sure if you are having a pop at me or not. However for the record I have never had a pop at someone personally, though I may have raised a debate once or twice about someones viewpoint. I am pretty naughty and often seek to take an alternative viewpoint just for the sheer hell of it.
You wouldn't happen to be Mr H by any chance. ?

Devils Advocate

Council Positions - 29/04/07

He has so many positions- well Harry the idea that Councillor Hickmore has so many positions - so he must be doing something right is well - er laughable.

These positions in general are there for the asking.

We can't even raise enough people to be Councillors let alone make it an achievement.

What do you say to being Councillor Mitchell and then in time you too might enjoy 20 "positions" - proposed by Pimpernel, any seconds published:

pimpernel

Selective memory syndrome! - 28/4/07

Other interesting comments from Cllr Hickmore... At a public meeting Cllr. Hickmore denounced me and my colleagues as "selfish" for staging the 15 Minute Club on a Sunday night.

What seemed to have slipped his mind was that HE was one of the original group of councillors who sanctioned it in the first place! Selective memory? Cllr. Hickmore keeps banging on about doing the best for the town, how about he starts directing his attention to doing the best for the PEOPLE of the town!

David Reynolds

TO BE OR NOT TO BE. . . ANONYMOUS - 27/04/07

I have always defended the Name Supplied and Pseudonym brigade on this site, indeed, being a shy and modest person, I have used over twenty aliases myself .

But, here it comes, I believe that when anyone feels the necessity to attack someone by name they should not be afraid to say who they are or at least use a false name which gives an indication of their persona. For example I guess that Devil's Advocate has a permanent sly grin on his, or could it be her, face and that Pimpernel may have a bad case of acne.

In defence of Mr Hickmore I would point out that we put him there and because very few people want to do his job he will presumably stay there. He has been a councillor for over ten years and held almost 20 positions so he must be doing something right. I'm sure he cannot enjoy his reputation for acting as if he thinks he always knows what's best for Faringdon.

Harry G Mitchell

Re: Election Flyer - 26/04/07

I agree with you about the flyer - Mr. Hickmore even claims on the Town Council site success in stopping The Post Office moving into Dillons - Doh - Wot planet's he on?

pimpernel

Performance Venue - 27/4/07

A group of local residents are in the early stages of putting together a proposal for a new substantial dedicated performance venue for Faringdon.

The venue will be designed for live music and drama events as well as having recording, rehearsal and other function facilities.

We are keen to hear from anyone/groups/schools etc. who would be interested in using the venue, what for and how often. In the first instance please email me at david@reynolds46.fsnet.co.uk and I will send you a short questionnaire for completion.

Many thanks

David Reynolds

Big Brother...really doesn't care that much, honestly - 27/4/07

...Oh dear! Conspiracy theories!

What I'd like to know about the cloak and dagger world of "Name Supplied" is who are "they"?, where is this so-called "database"?

And moreover what mischievous evil do you suppose "they" will do with all this information anyway?

Have you something to hide, "Name Supplied"?

David Reynolds

Election Flyer - 26/04/07

I have just been handed a flyer for Alan Hickmore and Steve Leniec who are in the middle of campaigning for the next elections. Not sure if they want to be Town Councillors or District Councillors, their leaflet isn't very obvious; however their manifesto make interesting reading.

How can Alan say he is being guided by what the Town wants when it was him that insisted that the Corn Exchange be closed for live music. Indeed he even went as far as telling those involved in the 15 minute club that the club would be revived over his dead body. Successfully campaigned for affordable housing in every new development??

Excuse me, this is a National Government requirement of any NEW BUILDS not just the ones in Faringdon.

name supplied

CCTV - 26/04/07

Dear Devils Advocate,

I am sure your opinion on the criminal element is admirable, however as a law abiding member of the Faringdon Community I do not see why my whereabouts and what I am doing each and every minute of the day should be monitored.

If I chose to go on big brother than that is my choice, but to but CCTV in town where I don't have a choice is outrageous, voyeuristic and an intrusion into my personal life.

In addition, to put CCTV to 'catch criminals' seems a bit of waste of my taxes, I seem to remember paying for our police force to catch all criminals. I may live in an idealistic world, but would I get my money back if this project went ahead.

Julie Farmer

Thanks - 26/04/07

Thanks for the update, Steve.

Ray

CCTV - 26/04/07

I'm all for CCTV, if you play by the rules then there is nothing to worry about.

Also, at birth DNA samples should be taken from all, and a national data base set up.

I'm getting increasingly naffed off with this human rights mumbo jumbo. Criminals are criminals, they should not have human rights.

If you are law abiding then what's the problem.

Now theres a thought. I look forward to a good slating by all you human right wrongs.

Devils Advocate

Regarding Voting Data. - 26/04/07

I too have wondered why my electoral registration number is written onto the counterfoil of my ballot paper when I vote. In fact when I vote next week, I was intending to ask the officer in charge for an explanation, and reason for this. I am sure there will be a reasonable explanation.....

Grumpy

B.B....26/04/07

Just to stir the Big Brother debate up a little more (how good to see Talking Points coming alive again!)...how does everyone feel about the prospect of CCTV coming to Faringdon? Would this be a good thing or a bad thing?! (This is only theoretical, at least for the time being!)

Anna

Big Brother is watching us - 25/04/07

In response to the "voting data" post, I applaud you for your suspicions and an awakening to the bigger picture that is really going on in 2007.

Of course they know who you vote for...to think otherwise is very naive.

I think you would be horrified at what information is held about each individual on a database in the UK. The question is, are you happy about that, and what are you going to do about it if you are not happy about it. If people in the UK truly feel that they are living in a democracy that can be influenced by ticking a box on a ballot sheet then think again.

The reality is akin to George Orwell's "Big Brother" and Patrick McGoohans "The Prisoner". Come on people WAKE UP!!!!

name supplied

Corn Exchange - 25/04/07

I will endeavour to provide a concise update on the current position for anyone interested who was unable to attend the Town meeting on Tuesday.

The Town Council has precepted money to install secondary glazing in the Corn Exchange and made it clear that this work will proceed once the lease issues are resolved with the Vale. We had optimistically hoped to resolve things and have the work done before the end of April!

The draft lease proposed a 7 year term and onerous reparations at the end of the term. Council takes the view that if we are to invest large sums in a building owned by the Vale we need the security of a longer term. In order to move things on we arranged a meeting with the Vales Chief Executive (Terry Stock) which was attended by our Town Clerk, Siobhan Vinall and myself representing the town and Roger Cox as local district councillor.

This meeting seemed very positive with 25 year terms being discussed along with an equitable split on repair liability. The Vale's legal officer had also provided positive suggestions on lease issues.

Our next meeting with the Vale's officer responsible for Property has set things back as he is not prepared to recommend a term of more than 15 years and would prefer 10.

It was made clear that the Vale will seek a 50/50 split on repair costs with the town bearing 100% of the cost of any "improvements". It was also made clear that no decision would be taken until after the Vale elections (May 3rd) and that a review of the Vale's property portfolio was being conducted for consideration by the new council. Your town councillors will be doing all we can to resolve the outstanding issues as quickly as possible.

It is my personal opinion that once we have a written undertaking on acceptable terms for the lease from the Vale we can go ahead. I appreciate that the delay is frustrating for both bands and audience but at the moment it is out of our hands and we have to await the outcome of the elections.

Steve Leniec

African Children's Fund - 25/04/07

The African Children's Fund has opened a new shop in Lechlade. It is purely a bookshop and called "The BookCave" if anybody could spare a few hours to help us run the shop or help with administration you would be made very welcome. But please come and browse in the book cave we have something for everybody. Telephone 01367 244480 or 01367 253003

African Children's Fund

Sponsored Stroll - 25/0

4/07 The Porridge Club is inviting people to take part in a family afternoon, by having a Sponsored 3 mile stroll. This really is a family event for all to take part including the dog and ending with a picnic in Folly Park. Please contact Alison on 01367 244480 for a sponsor form and further details. The Spring Raffle draw will also take place after the walk so don't forget to come and buy your tickets. Everybody would be welcome, I look forward to seeing you. Alison Moore

Alison moore

Don't miss out on Kiff!!! - 25/04/07

The current Kiff line-up are embarking on their farewell tour this year. If you would like to join in the celebration, we can be seen at the following public events:

May 5th - MADD at the Junior School, Faringdon

June 30th - Party in the Park, Tuckers Park, Faringdon

July 7th - Charney Bassett Village Farewell gig - October

13th - Pre School at the Junior School, Faringdon

We would like to thank all the people who have supported us and have made the last 10 years such fun. If any

vocalist is interested in taking Kiff on a new musical journey, please contact Dave Porter on 240586 or Mark Kiff on 243147

Dave Porter

Fifteen Minute Club Acoustic Evening – Sunday 13th May 25/04/07

The first Fifteen Minute Club acoustic event will take place on Sunday 13th May from 7.30 pm at The Portwell Bar. This is an experimental format, in which the only amplification allowed will be a microphone (provided). Artists can turn up on the evening, book their 15 minute slot, and sing/play whatever they like (except drums!), but with a twist – one number must be a cover of anything by The Beatles. If successful, we'll run this on a monthly basis with a different artist to cover each month, chosen by the previous month's audience.

Martin Phillips

Voting Data - 25/04/07

It's very nearly Polling Day and as ever I shall be trotting down to the Corn Exchange to place my vote. I also expect that, as ever, I'll return home with the same concern about the voting process as I always do. Usually by that point it's too late to do anything about it so this year I am getting this off my chest prior to the event and hope that someone may be able to give me some answers!

In 1872, Gladstone introduced the Ballot Act, which required that British general elections to Parliament and local government election use the secret ballot. I believe, unless I am very much mistaken, that my right to vote in a secret remains. Why then, can someone please explain, is my electoral registration number handwritten onto the counterfoil of my ballot paper?

It seems apparent to me that someone does accumulate this data and distribute it to the relevant political parties as I have only ever received doorstep visits from the candidates I have voted for in the past. What would happen if I refused to allow this number to be written on - does my vote become invalid? Surely this is all wrong?!

name supplied

Ladies Wednesdays - 25/04/07

Firstly, I apologise to Name Supplied for apparently not replying to their request for an update. Secondly, I can confirm that Jim's description of events is not entirely correct. David's little blue suit was not badly stained at all. The trial day was well attended, and I'm pleased to announce that by popular demand a 10% discount will be offered to all ladies who come along without a fella to The Portwell Bistro on a Wednesday lunchtime or evening until the end of May. Telephone 01367 243888 for bookings. Finally, it's so good to see the site up and running again. Unaware of the technical hitch, I was starting to have this awful thought that nothing was going on in Faringdon.....

Martin Phillips

Thanks, Jane - 24/04/07

. Unfortunately I could not make it yesterday, but it sounds as if the issue is moving at glacial speed. name published:
Ray

Re: Soundproofing - 25/04/07

Ray, did you come to the Town Meeting this evening? The answer is too long for this site. If you were unable to attend ask someone who did. But, basically, it will be done but there are other issues.

Jane Boulton

Faringdon Health Walks - They're FREE!! - 24/04/07

Yes, it's true, I was accompanied by my two granddaughters aged 3 and 5 who helped me round the route. They loved every minute of it, especially trying to keep up with Nick the dog, and his lady owner. We meet every Wednesday at 10.30am outside the Bell Hotel, followed by tea/coffee in the Bell. In addition to the standard one-mile circular walk and have now added an optional two-mile route up Folly Hill and through Folly Park. We have about 20 regular walkers, including a mother and toddler, and hope that even more walkers will join us - we can cope with all levels of fitness.

Eddie Williams

Corn Exchange soundproofing - 24/04/07

Can anyone tell me whether the council agreed to secondary glaze the Corn Exchange, or is the place now out of bounds for anything bar craft fairs?
Ray

WHAT HAPPENED.... AN UPDATE. (Ladies' special) - 23/04/07

Well, it was all getting very exciting prior to the "Ladies of the Site" running off with the advertising revenue to South America.

I was having my Dicky dry cleaned, Martin was offering a discount to the ladies, and was becoming a little over staffed, David was getting his little blue suit pressed (and starting up yet another band I'm not playing drums in, not that I am bitter you understand, called the Chippendales). Even Paul was thinking of writing an hour long special along the lines of - 'the Ladies Night, was in fact a ploy by an evil race of women attempting to take over the minds and bodies of the Faringdon males, then turn them into slaves to do all the work on their planet, Venus', (he always writes far fetched stuff, very creative though, I really did enjoy the "Rose's Father" episode, it really was one of the best ones).

Then it all went wrong. Martin was knocked over in the rush and ended up concussed and bloodied, David was left sobbing sitting crossed legged on the floor, his little blue suit was ripped and badly stained, Paul had his quill bent and was forced to talk like a Dalek all evening, Impregnate! Impregnate! was his mournful cry, or at least that's what it sounded like. And as for me, well I was dragged off home because I am not allowed to play with the big boys. Still we all agreed, a good time was had by all and that we will all do it again soon, hopefully, even Harry will come out to play!

Jim Horton

Welcome Back Ladies - 22/04/07

You were sorely missed. Now perhaps Eddie will tell us how easy he found the latest Faringdon Walkabout as there is a strong rumour that he had to be helped around the course by his two grand-children.
HGM

Condolences - 22/04/07

Sincere condolences to the family of our dear friend Abbie Diamond who passed away on Friday 13 April. Abbie was a regular at the 15 minute club before she became too ill to perform. We all missed her presence and will continue to do so. The funeral service will take place at 11am on Wednesday 25 April at the Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon. Please do not send flowers, but if you wish to make a donation to Prospect House Hospice, Wroughton or to Macmillan Cancer Care it will be most welcome. Contact G&L Evans, Faringdon or Highworth for more information.
Name supplied

Were the Ladies Lonely?? - 22/04/07

What happened ? So what happened at the Portwell Ladies Dinner? I asked Martin for news but got no reply and the suspense is getting to me. Did David wear the blue dress or did he opt for the pink one ? What did Jim do to entertain the Ladies or would it offend my delicate ears ? Someone must know !... Is there any truth in the rumour that all the participants have been refused permission by our intrepid leader, Mrs Blair's husband, to sell

their stories to the Faringdon Folly ?
Name Supplied

Wanted - please - 17/4/07

Books, Toys, DVDs, Clothes, Bric a brac for a Giant Jumble Sale In aid of Parkinson's Disease and Riding for the disabled.
Tel: 01367 241753, 240130, 242117

Annual Town Meeting - 13/4/07

The Parish of Great Faringdon in the County of Oxfordshire

NOTICE OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TUESDAY 24th APRIL 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Corn Exchange, Faringdon

AGENDA 1. Mayor's Opening Address

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 22nd January 2007

4. Matters Arising

5. The following reports will normally be in the form of a written report and will be discussed only if townspeople have questions or comments.

Reports from Town Council Committee Chairmen

(a) Finance

(b) Corn Exchange & Social

(c) Recreation & Open Spaces

(d) Planning & Highways

Reports from Tucker's Recreation Ground Trust and Faringdon War Memorial Trust

County Councillor's Report

District Councillors' Reports

Reports from Local Organisations

6. Public Speaking Time and General Discussion

Dated: 12th April 2007

Signed: Cllr. J.C.W. Gillman Town Mayor

PLEASE NOTE : THIS IS A MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF FARINGDON, NOT A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ALL ELECTORS ARE WELCOME, AND MAY SPEAK AND VOTE ON ANY MATTER DETAILED IN THE ABOVE AGENDA

The first Health Walk - well attended - 4/4/07

We had 16 walkers today with a wide range of abilities, including a mum and toddler, which for our first outing was fantastic!

We met outside the Bell and did our 1-mile walk, then had tea/coffee in the Bell and a good chat

WE now have a schedule for meeting **every Wednesday at the Bell Hotel in the Market Place to leave at 10.30** (first timers may want to turn up at 10.20am to complete our questionnaire).

We hope even more walkers will join us - we can cope with all levels of fitness

Eddie Williams

NB: There will be a 2 mile option on 18th April

Computer Desk - anyone want one- costs nothing? - 9/4/07

I know this is not the place to advertise such things - but as one of the editors , I thought I would.!!

The desk is light wood effect, place for a tower, printer and scanner. Approx 4' * 2'4"

Needs dismantling- and to be gone by 12/4/07

Ring me if you're interested

Gene Webb

01367 242222

www.maddfaringdon.co.uk - 30/3/07

MADD Mayfest now has its own website
<http://www.maddfaringdon.co.uk/>

'all@fcc' - Adult Learning and Lifestyle courses - 30/3/07
at Faringdon Community College.

Please go to website (www.faringdon-cc.oxon.sch.uk) to view the adult courses available for next term - April to July 2007 or [open this flyer](#)
Enrolment forms available on this website.

Is it wise for Jim to get that dry-cleaned? - 30/3/07

I also wonder why he felt the need. Was it covered in fluff and full of creases?
There we go.
Paul Cornell
Check out my blog at: <http://paulcornell.blogspot.com/>

Ladies Night - 28/3/07

Too bad you can't make it Jim!
I'll be along to the Portwell with the other Chippendales about 10 after our rehearsal!
;-)
David Reynolds

MARTIN, I'M SMARTING.. - 27/3/07

The cost us chaps now have to pay to Martin to wait on table during Ladies night has reached such figures that unfortunately I have to pull out of bidding.
I am very upset about this, as I have just had my Dicky dried cleaned!!!
Jim Horton

Moving to Faringdon - 27/3/07

I might be moving to Faringdon, can anyone recommend to me anyway of meeting new friends of my age group early 50's ouch!!, I love to cook, go to the Cinema and read..

I have three yorkshire terriers as well, love making them gorgeous jumpers and have send a lot for charity to raise money..
I would love to make new friends and have a lovely social life in the community.
Kindest regards
Christine

Ladies Lunch/Dinner -27/3/07

Jim, of course you can come, especially if you wear your Andy Pandy outfit to compliment David's.
Be warned though, I've heard a nasty rumour that Harry will be hanging around outside in his hoodie....
Martin Phillips

It just gets better at the Portwell Lunch -26/3/07

I think Martin will be able to make a profit on his generous offer to the ladies on Wednesday because a lot of people will happily go along and pay the full price of a meal in order to see what Mr Horton intends to do to please them.
The mind boggles !
Secret Admirer

Re Global Warming and the North facing cow -26/3/07

Maybe the person sitting at the south end was a non-smoking milk extraction operative (aka as a cattle

herdsperson)

While on the question of methane gas producing materials, if people can be fined for allowing their dogs to foul the footpaths, why is it that horse riders are immune from the same kind of punishment for permitting their mounts to poop all over the highways, causing hazards to motorists particularly on wet days

Name Supplied

FARINGDON ARTISTIC SKATERS - 26/3/07

Results of the Novice British Championships held at Newton Aycliffe over the weekend.

Novice Boys Figures 1st Richard Whitlock Faringdon, 2nd Nathaniel Williams Faringdon, 3rd James Campbell Faringdon, 5th Torn Brown

Faringdon Novice Boys Free

1st Nathaniel Williams Faringdon, 4th Richard Whitlock Faringdon, 5th James Campbell Faringdon, 6th Torin Brown Faringdon

OVERALL CHAMPION Nathaniel Williams, 2nd Richard Whitlock

NOVICE GIRLS Sarah Walker 2nd overall, Sophie Barradell 10th

NOVICE DANCE 1ST 2nd and 3rd FARINGDON

Prelim Competition Geogie Howe 2nd Figures 1st Free

OVERALL CHAMPION Hollie Fidler 4th Figures 4th Free and 4th overall Tamara Williams 6th overall

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR SKATERS

Dee England

Re. Ladies who lunch - 26/3/07

Martin, What a kind offer. Sorry I won't be around.

Dare I suggest a mixed 'singles' night?

I'm not proposing speed dating 'cos there are some of us not looking for dates (there's another thought!) but intelligent male company wouldn't go amiss now and then.

And I'm sure Judith would like it.

Sheila

Ladies that lunch - 26/3/07

To my secret admirer (clearly you've never actually seen me!) I'm intrigued....the blue outfit with the little white buttons?....Now which one would that be?

David Reynolds

PS Jim, steady, I asked first!

Faringdon Cricket Club Nets all Welcome - 25/3/07

To kick off the new season Faringdon Cricket Club are having their first net at Faringdon Leisure centre on Sunday 1st April @ 10am to 12pm.

New members are very welcome and their first net is free!

For Further details contact Tim Thurston 01367 241320 or just turn up on the day.

Ref Faringdon Dating/Ladies Dinner - 25/3/07

Judith, as per the other messages, you are definitely not the only one out there. I also recently separated and moved here alone, feeling pretty crap about life but excited by the potential of a new life here. I absolutely understand what you say about feeling lost but I have to say that the few people I have met so far have been really friendly and welcoming.

Teresa's suggestions sound great - perhaps worth a try? It was fantastic to see so many people out and about for the French market today (and SMILING!) - made me realise how important it is just to get out and BE!

Well, can't make this Wednesday unfortunately but personally would be up for a drink/ get-together with anyone who fancies crawling out during the week to seek a glass of wine, good company and perhaps a few laughs thrown in for good measure! Never been to the Portwell but looks fun.
Name Supplied

LADIES WOT LUNCH.- 25/3/07

Can I come to please, usually I don't like to beg, but on this occasion.....
Jim Horton

French Market - 25/3/07

Just had a most enjoyable time wondering around the French Market in the square today.
Congratulations and let's hope there will be similar events again at similar times so that the majority of us who work or go to school can go to them.
Rachel

Messages for David - 24/3/07

And I thought you were a happily married man David!
Name Supplied

Well Hellooo David
Soooo pleased you intend joining the Ladies Who Lunch. Could you wear the blue outfit with the little white buttons...again ?
Secret Admirer

David - you tart!!
Anna

Ladies Lunch/Dinner - 24/3/07

Perhaps gentlemen should be charged 15% extra? (Only joking!)
Unusually, all of my male staff have made themselves available to work that day....
Martin Phillips

Ladies lunch- I'll come - 23/3/07

Martin,
Forget the gentleman's lunch/dinner, can I just come along to the ladies event?!!!!
Much more fun!
David Reynolds

Ladies Lunch/Dinner - 23/3/07

Being extremely grateful for (and somewhat humbled by) the recent references to The Portwell Bar & Bistro, and after reading the comments from Judith, Teresa, et al, I would like to offer an invitation to the ladies (single or attached) in and around Faringdon to dine at The Portwell Bistro on **Wednesday 28th March**, and enjoy a 15% discount on all food and drink for those who come along without a fella!

Tables may be booked in advance on 01367 243888, and seating times are between 11.00 and 14.30 for lunch, and between 18.00 and 21.45 for dinner.

Gentlemen - would you be interested in something similar for yourselves?
Please let me know on PortwellBar@aol.com.

Martin Phillips

Ed: Good idea Martin. You may want to offer the option of a bigish table for those that come on their own, or just with 1 other- given the spirit is friendliness and meeting people.

Health Walks - 23/2/07

Health walks have now been organised in Faringdon.

A health walk is a short, circular walk to encourage people to take some exercise. Walks are usually 1 or 2 miles long. There is no charge to join the walks.

I am pleased to say that following a very successful public meeting and taster health walk, several Faringdon residents have now undertaken the Volunteer walk leader training and Walks are due to start each Wednesday from April 4th 2007 from outside The Bell, at 10.30am.

Walkers will be able to remain at the Bell afterwards for tea/coffee and chat.

Further information from Eddie Williams 01367 241142 or edchriswilliams@aol.com

Best wishes,

Brian Conroy Community Development Officer Oxfordshire County Council Social & Community Services

Planning & Partnerships Community Development Team

PO Box 23, Witney, OX28 4WG

01993 704007 Fax: 01993 704007

brian.conroy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

GLOBAL WARMING WARNING -23/3/07

Trivial Pursuits Addict mentions the problem of Global Warming caused by cows. If he/she felt it necessary to raise the subject (I find it rather unsavoury) he/she should have mentioned that the offending gas is Methane also known as Marsh Gas which is highly inflammable.

I cannot understand why any normal person should spend time near the Northern extremity of a South facing cow but anyone doing so, for whatever reason, should never expose a naked flame.

Name Supplied

Faringdon Dating - 23/3/07

Judith, there's something for everyone in Faringdon (well, adults anyway). Look at what's listed here on the 'What's on' page. Check out local newspapers including the free ones. Cast an eye over the notice boards in Budgens and outside the Corn Exchange. Go to the Portwell Bar on music or Quiz Night, even if you don't take part - then go on another occasion and you'll recognise some of the faces!

Join in - there are so many organisations/groups that welcome new members (you can leave after one 'visit' if you don't feel comfortable)

Oh, and most of the women I know are too busy working and/or enjoying themselves to look for a partner - go online and let someone find you!

Hope to see you somewhere soon.

Name Supplied

Ref Faringdon Dating -22/3/07

Judith I understand your feelings of being lost and vulnerable when you move to a new town - I moved here from Sussex on April Fools Day 2004 and was really worried about leaving 40+ yrs of friends etc behind BUT it gets better!!! The people here are lovely - REAL Community spirit and for such a small town a lot going on -Make sure you go to the MADD Fest in May, The Arts Festival in July, Quiz nights at the Portwell, ANY live music events, In fact just go out!! Before you find a fella find some friends here first..... I have to admit I found my new partner via one of the on line dating sites - and my opening approach to him was "I am new here - just moved - Just how far is SN14 from SN7" Well 3 yrs later I am still in SN7 and he is SN14 but things are brilliant.

What this town needs is a different sort of networking group - A variation on FAF (Faringdon Arts Festival) - for us gurlies just to get a wider circle of female friends ... whether we have partners are not...FAF = FAB & FIFTY, FOXY & FORTY, FLIRTY & FTHIRTY - The Sexy and Sixty yr olds already have their University of the 3rd Age to meet new friends - so us under 60's need something - perhaps an informal meet up once a month at the Portwell Mid Week - Just an idea?

Teresa

FARINGDON DATING - 22/3/07

I have just moved into Faringdon, and was wondering if there was a local dating agency. Recently separated from my partner, and moving into a unfamiliar town I feel a little vulnerable and lost.

I know there are a lot of clubs in the area, but I am not the clubbing type, and as I have found out, there are a lot of pubs as well, but I am not really into them either. Perhaps this site could help me.
Judith.

London Street - 22/3/07

I have heard a rumour that London Street is to become a gated road,(From Barkers shop to the old Stanford road turn) and that the closure due to happen soon is a trial run, has anyone else heard the same?

Personally, I think it to be an excellent idea, it is after all part of old Faringdon, and as such should be protected.

Vehicles constantly going up and down must be damaging the very fabric of the buildings.

Making it a residents parking only area would improve it considerably, and ensuring more money for the residents should they wish to sell their property in the future.

Tonia Jameson.

Grass Guzzlers not Gas Guzzlers - 21/3/07

Evidently 4% of green house gases come from the back end of cows.not just 4 x 4s

So why am I interested?

Well I'm not really, as I don't own either, but some cow or big car owners might be..and this site is often educational as well as entertaining.

Trivial Pursuits Addict

Report IT- online - 19/3/07

Did you know that you can report any problem to the council- (well ones that are their responsibility!!) -from the comfort of home.

You don't have to wait for a phone to be answered, and wonder if anything will be done.

Just click on this [Oxfordshire Gateway Link](#) and fill in the form - whether it's dirty streets, potholes, lighting, abandoned cars, graffiti, dead animals ++++++. You will get a receipt of your email, and presumably(I am still waiting) someone will email you with the action taken - that's what I have asked them to do.

It makes it very easy to tell them where action is needed

Gene Webb

Fantastic Fund Raiser - 19/3/07

A fundraiser for Uffington Primary School and Tom Brown's School Museum, an evening of 'Shamrock and Roll' was a well organised, thoroughly enjoyable event held in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall on St. Patrick's night. Good food, drink, decorations and a lively appreciative audience of the incomparable music from Cooper Black. Surely this must be the best live music for people of all ages in the Vale (if not beyond).

OK it's a 'covers' band, but it features violin and mandolin (and I could swear I heard a didgeridoo) and Simon Stafford's wonderful voice. The songs may not be original, but the arrangements make them their own.

They had feet tapping, hands clapping and audience dancing the night away.

If you get a chance to see this band (and I hope they'll be at the Arts Festival - but that's a long time to wait!) cancel all other plans.

They are FANTASTIC

Name Supplied

TIC to close? - 19/3/07

heard a rumour that The Town Council are planning to close The Community Tourist & Information Office.

Anyone else heard that?

Name Supplied

Portwell Bistro - now open - 18/3/07

It is now fully open from 11.00 to 14.30 and from 18.00 to 21.45, **seven** days per week.

I was lucky enough to go to one of the trial nights - the food was excellent and the service attentive and friendly. Another 'Portwell asset' for Faringdon- good luck with it Martin

The number is/will be 01367 243888.

Gene Webb

May Election Ploy? - 18/3/07

Is this just a May Election Ploy ?

A year ago members of the Rylstone and District WI made a nude calendar which has aroused the interest of an enterprising Film Company. These ladies aged between 45 and 60 are not the only group who are prepared to "show it as it is " and their efforts have raised quite a few admiring comments as well as over £330,000 for Leukaemia Research but is there any truth in the rumour that our Town Council intends to follow their lead? I assume any money raised would be put to good use such as reducing our Council Tax and I suppose I would buy, though not necessarily display, one of their calendars as it is for a good cause but I can't help thinking I'd prefer to pay the extra tax..

Nevertheless if it is true I'll vote for them in May...

Lady Godiva ?.. YES ! Faringdon Town Council.I'M NOT SO SURE !

Peeping Tom

Funfair? - 18/3/07

any truth in the rumour that there is going to be a funfair in the grounds of Faringdon House.

One way to pay for the Poll Tax I suppose.

Name supplied

Dove Lodge...Boring ? - 16/3/07

"Visually jarring, boring featureless box". Why so coy Hilary.? Why don't you tell us what you really think?

I can't understand why so many people are taking so much interest in a roof of blue tiles on the way to Clanfield. Get a life!

It is obvious that positioned as it is facing, indeed shouting at, the traffic it will eventually be revealed as a large Billboard. Rumour has it that MacDonald's and the Labour Party (AKA Comic Relief) have made tentative offers to use the space though adding floodlights has been refused owing to the possibility of causing accidents. Name supplied

Dove Lodge Again - 16/3/07

Hilary's less than complimentary comments about Dove Lodge interested me because, before it became a burnt out shell, I passed the place 2 or 3 times a week.

My first reaction was "What's rattled her cage?" So I decided to take a look and I have just got home. On my many journeys past Dove Lodge I never noticed what it was called..in fact I never noticed it at all..It was just another quaint Cotswold type cottage blending into an area sprinkled with Cotswolds type buildings.

Today I noticed it and I am sure that many people heading towards Radcot will also. I am not sure that I, Hilary or anyone else is entitled to criticise what kind of roof a person chooses to put on his home and I must assume that a Listed-Buildings-Person has approved the blue slate topping.

However as it has become the current topic for TPs I have to say it doesn't appeal to me.

HGM

Dove Lodge. -16/3/07

Sadly the original 'quaint, individual and attractive property' was destroyed by a gas explosion. Fortunately no one was killed.

Would it have been better to leave the ruins? Perhaps some might find those less visually jarring' - personally I found it simply sad to see a beautiful cottage sitting empty and vandalised.

Like I said before - glad to see it back on it's feet and having a new lease of life!

I don't agree that architecture these days is dumbed down - I think architects have made huge steps these days when you compare recent buildings to the sort of things that went up in the 60's and 70's. It may not be to everyone's taste but I guess that's the beauty of individuality!

What jars me far more than the blue tiles on Dove Lodge is how a beautiful town like Faringdon could ever have welcomed the monstrous houses built in the Lees (and if you live there I am humbly sorry and do not wish to cause offence - nothing personal just think those buildings are hideous!) I also have concerns about some of the shop frontages in town as many of these are not 'in keeping' and this should be addressed.

All I think Dove Lodge needs though is a few years to develop some moss and lose it's 'newness' and a happy family to enjoy it (safely) once more!

Anna

Dove Lodge - 16/03/07

I too am very pleased that Dove Lodge has been restored but don't feel that the restoration is in sympathy with the remains of the house. I pass this house regularly and the windows, bargeboards and roof look incongruous. It jars every time.

Joan

Dove Lodge - 16/03/07

I do not agree that the restoration of Dove Lodge is sympathetic.

The interior has been, quite reasonably, modernised and extended.

My quarrel is with the exterior appearance of the house, and with the principle involved.

Prior to its destruction, the roof was in keeping visually with the rest of the building and the porch was a good example of the kind of quirky individualism which gives our countryside and townscapes interest and attractiveness, and defines differences in style, natural materials and social history from one area of the country to another.

Nowadays such individualism is rare, and much of what exists is being swept away in the name of standardisation and economy.

Dove Lodge has been reduced from a quaint, individual, and attractive property to a visually jarring, boring, featureless box. It is an example of the penny pinching 'dumbing down' of architecture. What is the point of a listed buildings policy if no one bothers to adhere to it.?

Hilary Taylor

Folly Park Access road - 15/3/07

Does anybody know when the driveway to the Folly Park will be suitable for cars and not just 4x4's ?. Even pedestrians need climbing equipment.

It was only a short time ago that money was spent filling some of the potholes in.....lasted all of five minutes.

This isn't just the start of the road where the nursery clearance has begun, this is the main park entrance - and a terrible advertisement for Faringdon.

Name Supplied

Ed: There was a time when the access road was owned by someone other than VWHDC - with no responsibility to maintain it in a suitable condition - this may still be the case

Dove Lodge - 15/3/07

I agree, it's lovely to see it rebuilt. Nothing worse than seeing the ruins of a property destroyed by fire. It does appear to be very similar to the original and I hope that whoever owns/lives there will be very happy.
Name supplied

STOP PRESS - Free Seminar on Smoking Controls tomorrow - 15/3/07

Officers from the Vale District Council will be at the June Rennie Room, Pump House, Faringdon Town Square tomorrow, Friday 16th March, between 12.30pm and 1.30pm to speak about the smoking controls which come into effect on 1st July.

If you are running a business, looking after a place where people work, or just interested to find out more WE STILL HAVE SOME PLACES LEFT.

Call 01235 540375 for more information.

Lunch Provided.

Name supplied

Dove Lodge - 15/3/07

I know this is like fuel to the fire but I would just like to speak up in support of the reconstruction on Dove Lodge - I am really pleased to see that it has been rebuilt and by the look of Hilary's pictures it's a very close replica of what was there originally - yes the roof is different and the gabled porch is not as ornate, but it looks a pretty sympathetic rebuild to me?(and no I don't own it, and nor do I know who does!)

I do understand that planning irregularities cause great distress to some people and fully agree that these should be looked into but I also think there are probably much worse examples of disregard to Listed Building regulations than has occurred in this example...I await the response to this with baited breath!

PS so glad to see some life come back to Talking Points - where's everyone been?!

Name Supplied

Moonlight stroll - 15/3/07

I am Charities Manager for the Help An Oxfordshire charity that today with the help of Fox FM has launched the Oxford Moonlight Stroll event set for **June 30th** in support of Sobell House Hospice and Help An Oxfordshire Child.

The Oxford Moonlight Stroll is a 9 and half mile walk through the streets of Oxford on the evening of June the 30th. Limited to 1000 people we hope to raise £100K on one night.

Further details are at <http://www.foxfm.co.uk:80/Article.asp?id=351314> (including an information leaflet and registration form)

Many thanks

Nick Streeter Fox FM - Help An Oxfordshire Child

Brush House Pony Road Oxford

www.foxfm.co.uk/charity

Re: french market -14/3/07

Can anyone volunteer what the programme is for the french market? Its only a couple of weeks away and there is precious little information around and can't understand why it isn't being widely promoted.

This is an ideal opportunity to get our wonderful town some real exposure, or are we keeping it all to ourselves?

Times, stalls, attraction information all welcome.

Lets hope the sun shines!

Name Supplied

Ed: There is a poster outside the Tourist Info office which indicates that the Chamber of Commerce are the organisers.

Dove Lodge -14/03/07

Just out of interest, here are the before and after photos of Dove Lodge, Radcot Road.



This is the cottage (left) before it

was burnt down, circa 2001



and after restoration in 2007



As you will see the roof was originally stone tiles.
Here is the English Heritage Listing :

"GREAT FARINGDON RADCOT ROAD SU 29 NE 1/6 Dove Lodge - - II c.1840 former lodge to Faringdon House. Coursed rubble with ashlar dressings. One storey with stone tiled roof and central chimney of 4 grouped octagonal stone shafts. Gable ended with 3-sided stone splayed bay window with stone tiled roof. South front 3-window range with large picturesque timber gabled porch with ornamental barge-boards and twisted wood columns. Tudor arched doorway. 2-light stone mullioned window each side. Lower plain stone north wing".

Hilary Taylor

Council Tax - 13/3/07

Notice of Council Tax Another year passes, and another year for residents of Faringdon to subsidise the rest of the Vale, without exception.

Then again, we do have the best facilities, the best police presence, the best swimming pool (if you are seal and enjoy iced water), the best Roads, the cleanest footpaths, the best music venue, the list is endless.

Dont get me wrong, I love Faringdon, I just dont see why we have to pay so much more than the rest of the Vale to live here.

Devils Advocate.

Ed: It's because of the Faringdon Town Council expenditure- Pump House costs largely

Dove Lodge - 13/3/07

Regarding Dove Lodge on the Radcot road; before it was badly damaged by fire many years ago, it had a thatched roof.

I understand some "well to do" owns it or has bought the lease on it.

Surely it should have had the roof rethatched?

Name supplied

Listed building planning anomalies - 13/3/07

Could anyone explain to me the illogicality of the planning authority regarding alterations to listed buildings? Dove Lodge, Radcot Road, which was burnt down and has recently been restored, is a grade II listed building. I see that the cotswold stone roofing tiles have been replaced with totally unsuitable blue slates.

Planning permission for alterations to listed buildings seem totally arbitrary - for instance;

The owner of No 40 London Street (not listed) was obliged to replace an incongruous and not original shop window frontage when the house was modernised, while No. 71 London Street has had its front door replaced with a window, ruining the appearance of the three (67, 69, 71) C19 grade II listed town houses with identical frontages and doors. What can be done about these negligent decisions? Or doesnt our built heritage matter any more?

name supplied

Faringdon Health Walks- Walking your way to Health! - 13/3/07

There's no doubt about it walking is good for you. Under the 'Walking the Way to Health' initiative

(www.whi.org.uk) Faringdon now has team of trained volunteer walk leaders to organise and lead FREE weekly walks of approximately one mile for those wishing to improve their health and general well-being.

Good reasons to start walking

For health: walking strengthens the heart, bones and muscles, helps to control weight and lower blood pressure.

For wealth: walking is free and can enrich life in many ways.

For happiness: walking improves mood, helps combat depression and reduces stress.

The first walk on Wednesday 4th April 2007 is a circular walk of just over one mile starting from outside The Bell Hotel in the Market Place at 10.30am. At the end of the walk we have arranged for tea/coffee to be available for purchase at The Bell Hotel.

Please arrive 10 minutes beforehand to complete a brief questionnaire.

No pre-booking is required - just come along with sensible shoes and a waterproof jacket.

However, if you need any further information please contact: Eddie on 01367 241142 or Joan 01367 242970 (evenings only) Or email edchriswilliams@aol.com

Adult learning Taster Sessions - 13/3/07

all@fcc - adult learning & lifestyle at Faringdon Community College

Look around the town in shops, library, council offices, dentists, opticians, etc., for the flyer which gives details of Adult Learning.

Or log on to the [Faringdon Community College Website](#) or look in [This sites's Whats On](#)

Contact Janet Deane

email: jd0051@faringdon-cc.oxon.sch.uk

Call in person at Reception, Faringdon Community College or [go to their website](#)

Collect an Enrolment Form from the Charity Shop next to the Corn Exchange

IHT - 10/307

Name Supplied 27/2/07 implies that many services might come to a grinding halt if the Inheritance Tax was abolished. Needless to say I don't agree (but I admit I admired his/her phrase about the living poor subsidising the rich dead).

Others may agree with Name Supplied but so far about 112,000 have indicated that they disagree by signing the petition asking for inheritance tax to be abolished.

If you feel that you should be able to leave all and not just 60% of your already heavily taxed savings to your nearest and dearest you have until 30/4/07 to voice your opinion at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/ihtrcrusade> .

Our much-respected Ed doesn't think a protest will do much good..but it might make you feel you are doing something.

HGM

Ed; It's worth a try- no action at all isn't a solution!

Brown wheelie bins - 9/8/07

I find it sad that we Faringdonians have to pay for the Brown wheelie bin, especially when the recycle box system is free and you can have 2 or 3 boxes.

When people I talk to from other counties get there's provided free,

also if we had wheelie bins for all normal rubbish their would be little chance of waste being left behind. we need to concentrate on recycling as much as possible, so come on Councillors do something about this!!!

John Hignett

M.A.D.D.rigal singing from the Folly Tower. - 8/3/07

With the Folly singers. On Monday 7th May morning as part of the M.a.D.d. Mayfest.

Approx time 9am, Breakfast on the hill.

A chance to enter the first Faringdon Combat Golf Competition and win a hundred pounds.
For details contact Sam or Hilary 01367-243806. sam@nprince.fslife.co.uk

FAP Meeting - 6/3/07

The Faringdon Area Project will be holding Forum meeting on the 15 March 2007 at Brunel House, Volunteer Way, Faringdon at 7pm.
If you would like to attend this meeting please come along or contact Julie Farmer on 01367 246003.

London Street Closed again - 4/3/07

Ive noticed London Street is closed again! from 5th March.
Any ideas why - Im unable to find any road closure on VWHDC web site.

Whilst on the subject - The pavements around town are in an appalling condition. But what can you expect when people insist on parking their vehicles on the pavement?
Name supplied

Chewing Gum +++ - 3/3/07

Having heard the rather depressing facts about the costs of removing chewing gum and the like from our streets, I wonder if there was anything that could be done to clear-up the appalling mess outside Budgens, or better still, stop folk making their little gummy deposits; but I guess it doesn't stop there - what about making take-away owners responsible for clearing up the food and paper debris that ends up outside their shops (no names mentioned but I'd love to shame a few of them), and those folk who drop their cigarette butts, and let their dogs p... and sh... the length and breadth of our streets - I think I need a drink!!!!!!
Elsie

Did you hear the nightingale? -1/3/07

Last Friday, 23 February at about 11.30pm, my wife and I were returning home with a group of friends and we saw and heard what looked and sounded like a nightingale.
It was in the tree at the junction of Coxwell Street and Park Road. Apparently they don't normally arrive until April. Could this be one of the few benefits of global warming?

Did anyone else hear it?

You can learn about nightingales and hear their bird song by going to British Garden Birds website-
<http://www.garden-birds.co.uk/birds/nightingale.htm>
Eddie

Madd Mayfest - 1/3/07

I would like to thank all the bands who have come forward to support the M.A.D.D. Mayfest on Saturday night 5th May.
We have a fantastic line-up and a great night will be had by all.
Sam.M.A.D.D.

Censorship ? - 30/05/07

Never ! I am concerned that Jim is worried I might have some of his postings removed from this website. It is not my responsibility to try to educate him but on this point I am happy to enlighten him in order to stop him losing sleep.

The article denigrating the Post Office Staff was not removed because of what I wrote. It was removed because the Editors happened to agree with what I wrote. There is a subtle difference which he may not appreciate. So Jim can relax and continue amusing us in his own inimitable fashion though I do think he may owe Gene and Hil an apology for implying that I, or anyone else, might have the power to dictate their editorial policy.

HGM

Ed: No worries Jim

KISS - 1/6/07

...and there's me thinking KISS is one of the best live band's I've ever seen!
David Reynolds

CENSORSHIP. - 30/05/07

Oh dear, now I really am worried.

In future when HGM doesn't like what I have to say does that mean my posting's will be "removed"? We have all put rubbish on here, Harry included, mostly to lighten things up after a boring period, or when the site dries up all together, hence the poetry competition last year, which I may add he also didn't like and made his views very clear, but despite the negative attitude went ahead, was a fun thing to do, and put life back into the site.

I personally like the posts that stir up a debate, far better than some planning application diatribe surely. This site is a little diamond for Faringdon, and like a diamond it has many facets, stupid, boring, pompous, informative, sometimes even sad (I hope you are doing well Judith)

The "idiot" posts always get their comeuppance and get firmly put in their place by fellow posters. I really am not sure I like one person to moan and something gets removed, remember the same thing happened at the Corn Exchange over the sound levels, and that wasn't fair was it? I like the staff in the post office, I have always found them helpful, I also like Budgens, the staff there are also friendly and helpful, more than can be said for some customers that go there, ok it's not Asda, but imagine the town without it, or without a Post Office come to that.

I am a great believer in being grateful for what we have, and not whinge about what we haven't got. Thankfully we now have a few idiots that have left their own village's to live here, let them have their say, I'm sure they will be shown the errors of their ways by the jury.

Jim Horton

KISS - 31/5/07

Now that the attack on the Post Office Staff has been withdrawn some of the subsequent postings are meaningless to new viewers but KISS's stance on too flowery language is still worth publicising.

The aim of K.I.S.S is summed up in their motto "Simple language for Simple people" and K.I.S.S is an acronym (word formed from the first letters of other words) for Keep It Simple, Stupid !. As a member of KISS I feel it is my task to explain HGM's message dated 30/5/07 for it is a little too obscure (not easily understood by persons of limited intelligence) for some and his tendency to use gobbledeygook (a form of words favoured by officialdom to hide the real meaning of a message) is not encouraged by KISS

His message was a sincere defence of the Post Office Staff but he has ignored one of KISS's main beliefs

which is that the responsibility for ensuring a message is understood belongs to the sender not the recipient (the person who gets the message)

His first sentence requires clarification as he uses satire (sarcastic comment) to encourage readers to carry on reading. He does not really believe an item is stupid because HE doesn't agree with it nor does he believe an item is irritating because HE doesn't like it.

By the phrase "enantiomorphic conversationalists" he simply means that people tend to respond to rudeness with rudeness and in his later assertion (positive statement) he implies (means) that he also is "polite,witty,charming and helpful." (this may or may not be true)

Unfortunately our website, with a list of members, has been withdrawn as a Google Search for KISS found too many sites not considered suitable for children (under the age of 18) and members have now been told to withhold their names from forums such as this.

Name supplied

Post Office Staff - 31/5/07

I think I agree with HGM about the Post Office Staff if he means he thinks they are not rude,charmless etc but where and why does he find such long winded phrases.

Hasn't he heard of the old saying " call a spade a spade not a digging implement"

If he has a mobile phone he must spend a fortune on Text Messages.

BABS(Back to Basics)

Budgens - 30/5/07

Thankyou to "a local resident" for reminding us that Budgens is a "convenience store". We have these at the "On the Run" at the Esso garage and the "Folly Stores", both of which are excellent at being what they are.

Trouble is that we need a proper shop that people who have been at work all day can buy bread, milk, fruit and veggies in. While they have to go to other towns to buy when they are working 9-5 they also do their other shopping there. So Faringdon loses out retail-wise on all counts.

I've been trying to categorise Budgens policy for years and had decided on "Spar Shop mentality".

Convenience Store just about sums up the management attitude to their customers who they are not serving.

To ameliorate this despite the shortcomings, their staff are accomodating, friendly and helpful and they ARE open for longer hours than is reasonably economical, some of our other retail shops could take lessons from them.

Jane Boulton

(Head above parapet again)

Post Office Staff - 30/5/07

HGM, you took the words right out of my mouth.

Devils Advocate

Enantiomorphic Conversationalists. - 30/5/07

The editors allow almost any comments on this site as a result of which there are some really stupid and irritating postings (i.e. postings which I don't agree with or like). But I think the comments about the post office staff should never have seen the light of day. Like so many people who have to deal with the public the staff at Dillons are probably enantiomorphic conversationalists which, as most people know, means that they reflect the attitude of the people they are speaking to.

I personally always find them polite,witty,charming and helpful.

If Gene and Hil feel they must allow such criticism they should insist that the complainant is not allowed the privilege of hiding behind the "Name Supplied " signature

HGM

Post Office- charm needed? - 29/5/07

This post has now been removed

Dear Mr Young - 28/5/07

I am so sorry you didn't have a great visit to the town. It is a lovely town and, as others have pointed out, thriving and at times lively with events.

I am unable to comment about the public conveniences, but I am qualified to comment about Budgens. It gets a lot of stick, but, essentially is a convenience store.

Orders for stock go to a central warehouse, and unfortunately do not always come back to the local store the way they went in to central ordering! This is why some things run out and others appear!

Budgens also have now started to sell paninis, either for you to heat yourself, or you take it to the deli and the lovely people there will heat it in about 5 mins. They also make up baguettes fresh now, too, for (I think) £2.50.

The staff are doing their best - they are, for the most part, friendly, diligent, and helpful. You can get most things in the shop (ok, not always bread on a Sunday!) as well as a few obscure items (Polish food, Scotch pies) and new customers and locals are treated the same - welcomed.

Come back Mr Young and see.
A local resident

Local Gardeners can you help? - 26/5/07

Are you cutting down and disposing of any Thorny bushes eg Rose or Bramble.
The thornier the better.

If you are and would be prepared to deliver in Faringdon, we have a use for it.

Please contact 01367 242775

Many thanks.

Name Supplied

Ed: I'm intrigued - what on earth are you going to use them for?

Dear Mr Young - 25/5/07

Thank you for visiting our community website and leaving your comments about our town. It is credit to the two very dedicated ladies who run this site voluntarily that people are able to air their views whether positive or negative and it is good to see that visitors to the town feel just as able to contribute as those residing here.

As an organisation dedicated to seeing Faringdon become even more vibrant and thriving than it is now, we feel compelled to respond to your comments about your disappointing visit.

We are very sorry to hear that you had such a poor first impression of the town and wish to reassure you that this is far from the views usually represented by our visitors. Faringdon has for the last five years fought very hard to improve and ensure that we are a progressive community. We were one of the first towns to undertake a Health check which highlighted a number of projects that aimed to address the town's deficiencies in every area from environment to economy.

Many of these projects have now been instigated and completed.

We are about to revisit the Health check to see what else can be done to improve the town and we can assure you that your comments will be taken on board, as will those of all our local people and businesses.

Faringdon's progressive approach to tackling its issues has received international acclaim. We are very proud of our community's achievements and have seen first hand how the town has revitalised as a result.

We have a huge amount of talent within the town and a lot of people pumping a lot of energy into a number of projects. Throughout the year we have a number of events in the town centre which sees the whole community

come together.

MADD May Fest was a recent success;

the fourth Faringdon Arts Festival will take place on 6th, 7th, 8th July;

Party in the Park is taking place at Tucker's Park on 30th June and Festive Faringdon will be held at the beginning of December.

These are just a few of the events which sees the town buzzing with energy. We thoroughly recommend that you revisit Faringdon during one of these events and perhaps you will have a more realistic impression of what the town is all about!

Julie Farmer and Anna Marlow Faringdon Area Project

CCTV - 25/5/07

Just thought I would stick my 2 pence worth in. The debate is an important one and one which is healthy to have. Personally, the fact that Mr Readhead (who may be a high ranking policeman) has given a view, for whatever reason, is only one persons view, and not overriding nor carved in stone. It is irrelevant whether he is a policeman, a high court judge or another pillar of society (nurse, teacher, dustman etc).

I seem to recall that Iraq had the capability to strike with nuclear weapons within 30 minutes, based on the views of the highest ranking officials of two great nations. As we all now know they were spot on, not.

Now don't get me wrong, I have the greatest regard for the police force, I just don't think that a policemans view is any more valid than joe public.

Personally, I thought that offering a view that Mr Readhead may have had some underlying reason for making his comments due to a misfortune was quite valid and if not amusing. I don't think that the author deserved to be dismissed in quite the fashion he/she was.

Oh well, everyone to his own. I must be going soft in my old age.

Devils Advocate.

PS - Budgens is what it is, it does the job OK. If you think it doesn't you have a choice, don't shop there.

Response re sad Faringdon ++ - 24/5/07

Really sad to read that Rod Young had such a dreary visit to Faringdon - personally I think the town is a beautiful place to visit and the churchyard looks stunning whatever the length of grass!

It's a shame to slate the town because of one quiet day but I don't suppose we can expect everyone to love us!

As for feeling smug and pleased with myself - I don't think so, just trying to have a sense of humour, you should try it sometime Citizen Smith?!

I thought signing off as 'Wooden Spoon' might just give the oh so subtle hint that I'm here to stir, not represent any particular view point but never mind, fun has clearly left this space and Orwellian paranoia has taken a deadly grip.

What a sorry state of affairs - I guess I'll just return to the kitchen drawer.

Wooden Spoon Faringdon

In reply to the wooden spoon posting - 24/5/07

How pleased with yourself you must have been to have unearthed the other camera story about Ian Readhead, and no doubt you felt rather smug attempting to justify why the deputy chief constable may have objections to the increase of cameras in the UK.

There is however a major flaw with your comeback posting - the issue I was bringing to reader's attention was that of CCTV surveillance and not traffic "Gatso" speed cameras. Just in case you are not aware of the difference, traffic speed cameras are there to make huge amounts of revenue for the police and CCTV cameras

are used for crime prevention and detection.

Now, had Mr Readhead been caught on CCTV committing a criminal offence, then yes you would then expect him to have a "bugbear" about CCTV cameras, but the case you refer to was in relation to traffic speed cameras, and so the two stories are not related as much as you would like them to be to discredit his remarks. So no, the debate doesn't continue.

Nice try though!

Citizen Smith (formerly known as name supplied)

To Mr Rod Young - 24/5/07

I find it very difficult to defend our lovely town.

If you had gone to one of the pubs or hotels you would have found food (including baguettes) for less than a fiver. Just because you're in a licensed premises does not force you to drink alcohol if that is not your thing. After all they have been here for several hundred years to provide sustenance to travellers of all persuasions. That is still their job.

I cannot defend Budgens as I support your view and have done ever since they bought the premises from Carters (who were excellent). I'm sorry about the disabled bay, we know they are abused and the control of parking (in fact parking in general) is a matter of controversy.

I'm very surprised about the churchyard as our park keeper is very meticulous about his job. He has had some extra work put on him lately and we have had some rain (at last). I can only assume he wasn't expecting to have so much on his plate.

Our town is a lovely, usually vibrant and thriving place. You seem to have caught us on an "off" day. I hope it won't deter you from returning in the future and proving that we are worth visiting.

(Head above the parapet)
Jane Boulton

Faringdon - how disappointing - 23/5/07

We called in at Faringdon on Sunday because Buscot House (our first choice) was closed and we needed some lunch.

We were also looking forward to a walk around the town.

What a disappointment.

The only cafe open wanted over £5.00 for a baguette (but luckily had run out), the Budgens didn't have any sandwiches or cold drinks, the gents toilet was locked up, the churchyard grass was overgrown, your disabled bay in the town square is used by all the locals as parking for the cashpoint, and there was a general feeling of malaise about the town.

Very sad.

Rod Young

Message from FAP = FARINGDON AREA PROJECT - 23/5/07

It has just come to our attention that there is some grant funding available for small organisations from the Vale of White Horse District Council.

If you are in an organisation that requires grant funding please contact Launa Edwards from the Vale of White Horse District Council on 01235 520202 Ext 369.

When you speak to Launa, please mention that you heard about this information from FAP and OCVA.

All grants application forms must be completed and returned to the Vale by the 31 May 2007.

Thank you Julie Farmer

FAP

Support act getting an encore - 23/5/07

Interesting to note the visitor from Kent (15/5) mentioning the first time a warm up act getting an encore.

Those who saw 'Breathe - a celebration of Pink Floyd' at the junior school last September will remember Neil Dwerryhouse receiving a well deserved encore as the support act.
And for those want to see a repeat visit www.faringdonartsfestival.org and see both 'Breathe' and 'Neil Dwerryhouse and the Young Gods' at the junior school on the 9th June.

This will be a very special event as the Junior School Choir will also be supporting 'Breathe' on 'Another Brick in the wall'

Sean Hodgson

Zooming In - 23/5/07

The creeping scourge of Orwellian surveillance fills me with alarm

When THEY realise the huge cost of servicing and storing this constant electronic scrutiny, it is likely that THEY will be forced to do a deal with the juggernaut of commerce, and sell the footage.

I happened to notice when looking in the mirror the other day, that I had a smidgen of unsightly facial hair. Until now, I have been able to stride boldly around town safe in the knowledge that (judging by the way I get barged out of queues) I am invisible. With the encroachment of this ever more sophisticated CCTV technology will everyone get to know that I am developing 'Desperate Dan' whiskers?

I dread to think that I will become the unwitting 'before' star of some advertisement for hair removing therapy.

The way things are going, IT COULD HAPPEN HERE.

Agoraphobic

re: CCTV - 22/5/07

That'll be the same Deputy chief Constable Ian Readhead who appeared in court a while back because of a problem with his police force and speed cameras - I think the man may have a bit of a bug-bear about cameras due to the following story! (Courtesy of ABD News Archive)

'Hampshire Police have been fined £500 for failing to identify the driver of an unmarked police car snapped by one of their own cameras (Stop sniggering at the back!). The car was photographed doing 48mph in a 30mph zone, but the driver did not come forward to own up (well done that man!) and despite a four month investigation (good to know our police are spending their time so wisely) the police were unable to identify who had been driving it.

Deputy chief constable Ian Readhead was thus obliged to appear in court and pleaded guilty to the charge of failing to give information about the identity of the driver. He went on to claim that the driver had "tarnished the reputation of the constabulary"

...and so the debate continues!

Wooden Spoon
Faringdon

Thankyou Faringdon Cricket Club - 21/5/07

I just wanted to say thanks to Faringdon Cricket Club for organising a fundraiser for me.

I'm travelling to the border of Mozambique and South Africa on 3rd June for a month to volunteer at Moholoholo Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre which contributes to the conservation of endangered species and the rehabilitation of injured and poisoned wildlife.

We had a great night playing Deal or no Deal and eating curry and burgers. We raised enough to pay for my malaria tablets and boots.

Thanks to everyone who has supported me
Danny Thurston

CCTV - 21/5/07

Recently on this forum there was a small debate about CCTV in Faringdon. I thought you may be interested that a person "in the know" has recently expressed concerns over the amount of CCTV cameras in the UK and their intrusion transforming this country into an "Orwellian state".

No folks these are not the words of a "Nutter" or someone who is described as "paranoid" or the easily dismissed Mr David Icke, in fact the person expressing concern is Deputy chief Constable Ian Readhead of Hampshire Police.

You can read the BBC story here - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6673579.stm>

It is certainly refreshing to see someone in uniform with the guts to speak out.
Name Supplied

Enjoying Life in the Market Place. - 21/5/07

Many thanks for all the letters, phone calls, and comments posted here on this wonderful on-line community, especially Martin Phillips (wine bar), expressing support of this little restaurant plodding along, minding its own business.

Good idea to move the stage away from open businesses, it has been mentioned before.

Anyway I think that all that needs to be said about the MAD Friday, has indeed now been said. It was a good idea. Faringdon lives, it is alive with good ideas and culture.

Well done to the arts week and the artists responsible for the Portwell Monument, it looks FANTASTIC being alive with vibrant colours, can we keep it like that.

Andy Boston

Madd - enjoyed by the young - 19/5/07

I Just want to say how much my 15yr old daughter and her 13 yr old brother enjoyed helping out with the Faringdon festival.

They volunteered to spend the friday night filming the crowds in the square with my camcorder and the reception they got from everyone attending as their efforts were projected onto the big screen was an amazing buzz for them.

They told me in no uncertain terms that they would love to help out with future events and also said they finally met up with their neighbours and realised just what a great place Faringdon is.

To inspire my techno kids takes some doing.

To drag them from their games and screens is an incredible feat in itself.

To make them want more is a dream come true!

Jo Fraser

From Madd Hilary - 19/5/07

Hi, this is Hilary, MADD person.

Having just read the latest on Talking Points, I would like to point out that the whole of the Friday night's music was centered upon the theme of water. The stage was put outside the Pump House because up to 1939 the well outside the pump house was the only running water in Faringdon. The well which we dressed on the Monday bank holiday was crucial to Faringdon's existence. We worked with "Oxford Inspires" to highlight the

need for water in places which are not as lucky as we are. That is why the event was titled "Go with the Flow"

The music was only there for one evening and brought a lot of people out into the fresh air to listen and watch the wonderful lighting. Two youngsters from Faringdon C.C. used the experience to video and project the event as part of their course-work. One or two people have complained but most have been complimentary. It was a taste of sunshine and Africa for many of us.

Try Notting Hill if you really want to experience (or not experience) BIG sound! There were programmes and posters everywhere plus postings on several websites for the computer literate. What else do we have to do to make people aware of our intentions? Fore-warned is for-armed but try enjoying life - it's fun.
Hilary Prince-Braunton

Festival Website - 18/5/07

Just to let everyone know that something went a little awry with the link in Julie's post below.

Fear not, the Festival website is up and running just as it should be!
Head over to <http://www.faringdonartsfestival.org> (just copy and paste if in doubt) to see what we're up to.
More updates coming day by day, so stay tuned!
Caroline Symcox

Arts Festival website - 17/5/07

Please check out our new website for the Faringdon Arts Festival.
www.faringdonartsfestival.org

Well done Caroline Symcox and her team.
Look out for our new brochures, they will be available in the next few weeks, also look out for the Oxford Times, we're in there to.
Julie Farmer

Mr Martin Phillips, Esq. - 17/5/07

Thank you so much for your kind letter which one received today. It is so refreshing to find a like minded soul. My out look on life is simple, just as you can lead a horse to water, but not make it drink, equally, you can lead an idiot to culture but not make them think.

Thank you also for your kind invitation to your establishment, sadly this I must decline. Tristram has been and informs me that it is indeed a jolly place to go to, lots of tottie.
His lordship is fine, he also will be unable to attend, unfortunately wine women and song has been his downfall. The smell of a wine bar would set him back decades. He is however easier to manage as I had him done the same time as the cat. He does however take the occasional Viagra, but thats more to stop him falling out of bed.

Thank you once again for your kind words, you must come up to the house one night, we are always having parties, balls shoots ect, do you do outside bars?

Lady Constance DeCoverlette (Mrs)

Music in the Market Place - 17/5/07

As an impartial onlooker at the problem of music in the Market Place.
When music is to be played, can the stage not be placed outside the Lloyds Bank building, where no businesses are open, T

hen the loud speakers positioned pointing towards the old town hall.
Then no restaurants need to close, and everyone will be happy.
Name Supplied

My Dear Lady Constance - 16/5/07

How absolutely delightful to read your posting on this quaint little site again. My, how refreshing it is when we are honoured with your presence and decorum.

I was so pleasantly surprised to realise that we think alike, not that I profess to rise to your level of intelligence or education of course, I can only aspire in this respect. Imagine my surprise however when I read your suggestion that we provide Camomile tea in the Bistro, as in fact we already do!
How wonderful!

You really must take tea in the Bistro some time. Camomile, Earl Grey, Darjeeling, Peppermint, Green Tea, and Elderflower, strawberry and rose no less are all available. There is even English Breakfast tea for the chauffeur once he has deposited the Bentley in Budgens car park.

I couldn't help but notice the parentheses at the end of your note. I do hope everything is spiffing with his Lordship, but may I suggest that you leave him at the Manor one Ladies' Wednesday (how appropriately named) and visit the Bistro perhaps with the Marchioness, as you will receive a 10% discount if you leave 'im indoors. Hurrah!

Your eternal servant
Martin Phillips

Ed: Quaint little site indeed - this is our pride and joy!!

Sponsorship - Japanese trailwalker - 16/5/07

Local lad Jon Perry is currently spending a year in Japan as part of his studies.

Next weekend, 18-20 May, he is taking part in the Japanese Trailwalker, an Oxfam team event involving a 100 km walk over 2 days and nights to the foot of Mount Fuji.

Jon, an ex-pupil of the Community College, a member of the tennis club and a keen pub-quizzer is hoping that his friends in Faringdon and surrounds will help him raise money for Oxfam.

If you wish to sponsor him for this event please go to [www.justgiving.com/blisters&longlegs](http://www.justgiving.com/blisters&longlegs;);

Thanks Jill and Steve Perry

Dear Ms Webb - 15/5/07

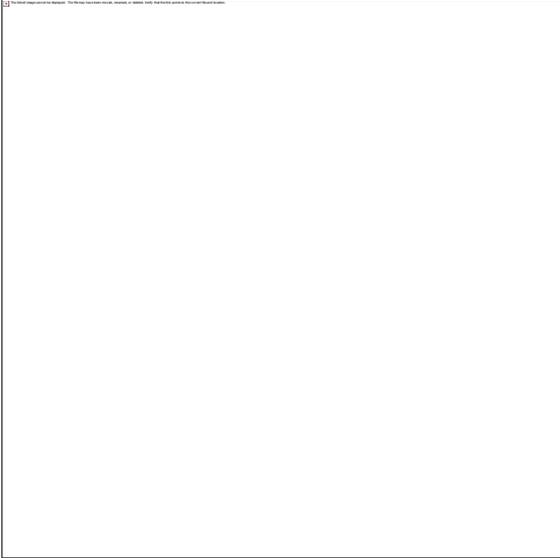
I gather from the website that you are interested in the Corn Exchange's future so assume you may also be interested in its past
Regards Albert Ross

Although the wholesale demolition of buildings to replace them with more lucrative alternatives is fairly new it was not unknown 150 years ago. The owners of a public house in Gloucester Street and his neighbour in Marlborough Street decided to knock down their adjacent properties and build a hall which could be let out for a large profit. Planning Permission was required even in those days but as the owners had a "nudge nudge wink wink" relationship with most of the Council no problems were anticipated. Remember this was before the advent of Faringdon.org so the general public knew very little about what happened in the smoke filled Council Chambers. Unfortunately one councillor had an unfortunate social conscience but he was placated by the promise that a statue, bearing his wife's name, would be mounted above the door of the new building. It can still be seen there as the Council kept their promise and the name is carved on the plinth on which it stands but the Council, feeling they had been blackmailed into providing it, ensured that the name was engraved only on the back.

Just a few days before work was to commence the Marlborough Street property owner pulled out of the deal leaving the Gloucester Street owner with the plans for a very ornate, and it must be admitted, imposing building with windows looking out on to Gloucester St, Marlborough St. and the Town Centre but with only half the space required for its erection. The Artist's impression of the intended building clearly shows it would have

graced our town then and still would now. No problem ! Even in these enlightened times it is not unknown for the final development to differ from the approved proposal and in those days it was simply a case of running the equivalent of a Stanley Knife down the centre of the architect's drawing then building what was left.

That is why we have a lopsided mock Gothic edifice with a modest entrance standing in an imposing position looking out over our Market Place. That is also why even the occasional Japanese Happy Snapper takes a quick look through his viewfinder, shakes his head, and decides not to bother.



T.C.P - 15/5/07

One has not been on this little site for such a long time as his Lordship and I have been visiting the Empire, or what is left of it I should say, my cousin, Lillybet, really hasn't much left now, poor darling, you just cannot get a good run up for a decent holiday nowadays, just three months and you have to come home, hardly worth getting your maid to pack the trunks and the butler to put away the silver.

Anyway I digress.

Upon reading the post it notes, I find that you have not been playing nicely with each other. In fact you have caused a bit of a hullabloo. Have you all been on the fizzy pop? Bless my giddy Aunt, this will not do.

Firstly, you must get your Maid to make you up some soothing Camomile tea, an idea you could take up Mr Philips perhaps? and get all of those nasty little E numbers out of your system, secondly, I think TP should be, for just one month only, TCP, Talking Caringly, Points. Then just like that evil smelling antiseptic sorts out medical problems in the real world, T.C.P could sort out all the cyber germs and viruses on here.

A little dab of good manners and a gargle of politeness will help to heal the wounds.

Of course, after the month is up, you can go back to tearing large chunks out of each other again, but that is the joy of living in this scrummy little town, is it not?.

Lady Constance DeCoverlette.(Ms.)

MADD Mayfest:- 15/5/07

Congratulations Faringdon, what a great way to introduce the town to tourists.

We live in Witney & came across the Madd Faringdon website & spent all day Sunday & Monday with you - shame we missed Friday & Saturday.

Keep up the good work, hope you go from strength to strength
Sheila and Bob

Madd comment - 15/5/07

Saw the Hamsters show a week ago at the junior school, absolutely brill, well worth coming up from sunny Kent to see.

My father lives in Didcot and every time I've visited him for the past umpteen years, I kept banging on and on to several of his neighbours about the Hamsters, so it was ideal to go and see.

They all loved the show. And weren't the Reservoir Cats excellent.

That's the only time I've ever seen a warm up band get an encore.

Any chance of a repeat performance?

Chris Lee

Council Finances- Corn Exchange and Pump House - 14/5/07

I'm not sure what VWHDC would do with the Corn Exchange- but it is now their building, their asset and the maintenance and improvement of it should remain their responsibility. We will be paying for it anyway through our Council Tax- but once instead of twice

They may even want to achieve the amazing £2959 that is called profit. - but of course it's not really profit. The Town Council still operate an old style approach to budgeting, ie not a cost or service centred approach (as done by most councils these days) So this profit figure does not include a share of all the costs associated with the Corn Exchange.- the amount allocated for maintenance, a share of salaries - caretaker and management, a share of general overheads, provision for improvements (eg secondary glazing).

It's a bit like saying the cost of running a car is the petrol, tax and insurance and nothing else.

I suspect VWHDC have calculated the likely real costs - hence their reasons for wanting to offload the Corn Exchange back onto the Town. If they don't want it, maybe it should be given back to the town- it seems we are likely to be paying for most of it anyway.

Similarly the Pump House loss of £1535 does not include the loan repayment costs (£13.6k), the costs of capital, caretaker/management costs, share of overheads, provision for future maintenance.

It's not really a big deal that the Council structures it's budget this way, but only if the costs of each service are fully calculated elsewhere. I have a fear that this is not done- why else would Steve quote £2959 as profit. Why aren't the full costs published? (in this era of transparent government)

It is fundamental for any organisation to know the full cost of service in order to make informed decisions when considering any changes.

But Steve is right - it is not all about costs -but these must be complete and clear before leading the town into another long term contract.

Remember the Pump House story - the costs quadrupled- and we will be paying for a building we don't own for many years to come

Remember too that the town meeting was packed because the 15 minute club was not allowed to continue there, and yes most people voted to keep the Corn Exchange in the hands of the Town Council.

Ask us again:

when you have a full and clear statement of costs - forecast over the whole term of the proposed lease

When the alternatives have been fully investigated

When you can ask a wider cross section of residents, having presented them with a complete set of facts

Gene Webb

PS: Correction - I gather the Corn Exchange is Grade II listed, not Grade I

PPS: I did look on the Council Website for the budget papers - to no avail. I could put them on this site if anyone is interested enough??

The Future of the Corn Exchange... - 14/5/07

First of all I must make it clear that as far as I know I have never met Gene Webb or Steve Leniec so my comments are unbiased. I am sure that at some time I must have stood with them in the queue at Budgens while some customer is trying to make sense of her bill (men don't seem to take the same interest) and it is more than probable that we have exchanged friendly toots on our horns as we try to negotiate the road outside

LloydTSB in opposite directions.

Gene implies that the cost for Faringdonians of running and updating our Grade 1 listed building could be reduced by allowing the Vale to fund it. She describes it as a financial Albatross and I agree 100% with her because I believe that she takes the trouble to investigate all the pros and cons. When it was built about 150 years ago (and No, I didn't lay the Foundation Stone) it may have had some appeal but to drag it into the 21st century and ensure that its use wouldn't bother one or two of the neighbours would be at a cost that I, for one, would prefer not to share.

Steve Leniec disagrees with Gene and he gives a different interpretation of the same facts and I find I also totally agree with him because he also appears to investigate all the pros and cons. He criticises Gene's figurative use of the word Albatross as pejorative but would he settle for White Elephant meaning that while it might be described as decorative by some it is far too expensive to maintain ?

I assume that neither Gene nor Steve has a personal axe to grind and they are both acting in the town's best interests so, as I don't pretend to understand all the pros and cons I will probably do what most of us will which is allow someone else to make the big decisions. Later, when it is far too late, if I don't like what is decided I will use my fantastic powers of hindsight to criticise the result here on TPs

HGM

I just love Faringdon.-13/5/07

I've lived here for only 15 years. I wasn't born here, but I am one of the many hundreds (probably thousands) of people who have settled in the town after meeting some of, what I am absolutely certain will be, the people who will turn out to be lifelong friends. And I need to talk, so if Hilary and Gene will permit me, I will.

I can't compare it with any other town's website, but I also love Faringdon.org. The opportunity for people to air their views is fantastic and enlightening. I have only once posted on here anonymously, and then only because I wanted to cause a bit of a laugh when my very good friend David Reynolds admitted on here that he had sounded his horn in The Market Place. I fully intended to reveal my identity after the whiplash, but my anonymous posting created no whiplash whatsoever, and so disappeared as a silent backfire.

Lesson learnt? I don't think so, as I do appreciate those who feel their comments and opinions might backfire on themselves maliciously. A good example is again David Reynolds, who had the strength to state fact regarding Alan Hickmore's stance regarding the 15 Minute Club (which David and I run) when it was held at the Corn Exchange. I was there on the evening that Alan did indeed state that in his respected opinion we (I assume he was referring to me and David) were "selfish" for staging the 15 Minute Club on a Sunday night (more on this later). In my opinion Alan's understanding of selfish is questionable as it was proven that the strength of feeling for the live music on Sundays by far outweighed the feelings against, even from those within earshot of the Corn Exchange.

David's posting was not malicious, but factual. If you're a councillor then you are not withholding your name, so you are not hiding behind any parapet. You can be shot at in the same way as people on this site who do not withhold their name.

Let's respect each other's opinions and keep all this friendly, please.

This is not personal, and I'm sure we all wish Alan a speedy recovery.

Before going into the reasons why it is held on a Sunday night, it is important to understand that no artists get paid for playing at The 15 Minute Club. I think most people (artists and audience) who attend the 15 Minute Club understand why we hold it on a Sunday night, but for the record it is for the following reasons:

1. Accomplished artists often get booked for paid gigs on Fridays and Saturdays. As a town we should encourage this, as it can only be good for the town. "Where are these guys/gals from?" is probably the most common question at any live gig. Surely "a tiny town called Faringdon in Oxfordshire" or "right here in Faringdon" is good for us.
2. Up and coming and wannabe accomplished artists need learn only 4 or 5 numbers rather than a full set before having the opportunity to play live in front of an audience. Daunting!
3. Made less daunting by the fact that it's a Sunday night, everyone has work the next day so it's nice and relaxed, the audience haven't paid a fortune to get in, and moreover they are friendly, receptive and

encouraging to anyone who has the nerve to get up there and just do it. That's us; it sums us up, Faringdonians.

4. If the artists keep improving, they will get paid weekend gigs locally and further afield. Just think of Bobby Moore's Shorts, Jon Lane's Boogie Me, Powertrain, Phil Baker, Gorgeous Moron, The Magpies, who all started playing at the 15 Minute Club. Ask them.

5. Even already accomplished artists find that playing at The 15 Minute Club boosts their confidence and musical careers. For example soloists such as Steve Day, Trev Williams, Neil Dwerryhouse, Shaun Green and many others who have gone on to form bands.

6. So even if you now understand why it is not held on a Friday or Saturday, why a Sunday? The reason is that most people don't work on a Sunday, and behind the scenes in order to make the event work a good few hours have to be put in before it starts. The venue has to be prepared, and moreover Tim Cartwright and Rod Green put in considerable time and effort in setting up their own sound and lighting equipment (expensive, paid for themselves through their own hard work). Any other day would not be possible without them taking time off work.

The tragic element here is that live music has suffered in the town as a direct result of the Corn Exchange problems. It is no secret that I was planning to convert the old theatre behind the Pump Rooms into a dedicated music venue. However, I have reported to the Town Council that I am not prepared to risk a considerable investment in a venture that a massive minority can close down. I do respect personal opinion, but I need more faith in democracy. Roll on the Corn Exchange sound proofing!

In the meantime, some smaller live gigs are still occurring in the town. I'm sure the management of The Old Crown Coaching Inn won't mind me saying that The 15 Minute Club has contributed significantly to the Crown becoming the best "large" music venue in the town, albeit much smaller than The Corn Exchange. Let's keep supporting live music locally, wherever it is.

That comes on to the next point. The larger events such as Faringdon Arts Festival, Party in the Park and the MAD May Fest all take a vast amount of effort to organise, and whilst the former events are run purely voluntarily with no personal profit, they are all run for the enjoyment of the majority. Indeed, we all pay for an element of all three events via grants from our Town Council. If they are well managed then please let's not knock them just because the music might be too loud for our personal taste. It is fair comment though if they are not well managed. These events are not too frequent (in my opinion not frequent enough), and all good for the community spirit, tourist attraction and economy of our town.

In this respect, I would refer to Andy Boston's comments from The Market Restaurant. I can speak first hand about Andy and Jo's commitment to the town. After the first Faringdon Arts Festival they contributed along with many other businesses in the town to a collection to pay for a night out to thank the voluntary organisers who freely gave up so much of their personal time to ensure that the event took place. Andy and Jo had closed as the event was detrimental to their business that weekend, yet they still contributed where some others refused, in some cases even where their business was boosted.

And finally:

1. Come on Charlotte, we're all itching to read your posting, even if it is anonymous!
2. Great news about Harry Potter. Will it be surpassed by Paul Cornell's impending Dr Who double bill? (26th May and 2nd June, BBC1)
3. Harry - my spell check was ok but please do check my grammar!

Don't you just love Faringdon?
Martin Phillips

Ed: So do I

Dr Who - 26th May 2007 - 13/5/07

This episode, 'Human Nature', followed the week after (2/6/07) with 'The Family of Blood'.
Both written by Paul Cornell of Faringdon
Gene Webb

Corn Exchange - 12/5/07

Whilst I welcome further debate on the future of the Corn Exchange and the town's relationship with the Vale district council I regret the use of pejorative labels such as "albatross".

The facts are rather different from those put forward by Gene. The Corn Exchange hall actually produced a modest profit on revenue income over expenditure in the last financial year - some £2,959. This despite the loss of regular live music bookings for the last quarter of the year.

The Pump House figures for the last year on a similar basis show a small deficit of £1,535 which is largely due to a very high rates banding which the council is challenging.

The costs of refurbishment on the building would have been incurred even if we had surrendered the lease to the landlord and under those circumstances the town would have lost a magnificent set of community rooms which are beginning to be well used.

On the question of the lease negotiation with the Vale, it is just that; we have not yet finalised the terms of any lease, I have simply reported the current position. Officers at the Vale understand that the Town Council will not take on the building at any cost, there is a point where we are prepared to walk away, although even that option as with the Pump Rooms COMES AT A COST.

The Vale have also indicated that they have no wish to run the building, remember that their only presence in our town is a cash office that is currently under threat of closure. Do you seriously believe that the Vale would continue to run the building as a public service if the Town Council pulled out?

Other options have been put forward as a live music venue:

The Junior School hall has a licence for 12 events per year, has no wish to extend this and would not want a bar situated in its main school hall.

The proposals for new build sound attractive but are long term and of necessity outside of the town centre. A figure of £2million has been suggested as a possible cost, yes there are grants available, but such a package would take some commitment and justification. Will the music scene survive and thrive in the meantime with no available venues?

At a packed Town meeting where future options for the Corn Exchange were considered the near unanimous consent was for a continued live music venue. The votes for a hand back option amounted to one, but at least Gene is consistent in promoting her view.

It is true that we have the highest council tax in the Vale although others are catching up and we make every effort to provide value for money.

Faringdon is recognised as a vibrant "can do" town and that is achieved by residents with vision running May fests, Arts festivals, Dramatic groups, Festive Faringdon, Artistic skaters, sports clubs, and music events etc. All of which benefit from town council support in the form of grants or the use of facilities such as the Corn Exchange. When one considers that the cost per household over a minimalist council such as Wantage is a little over £1 per week it puts the level of tax against delivery into perspective. It should also be recognised that as the new housing is built the tax base will increase and economies of scale will improve.

The choice is ultimately one of a pro active council prepared to support local initiatives or one which simply leaves everything to market forces and private sector delivery. The views of Faringdon residents have been clearly expressed in favour of pro active support both in the case of the Corn Exchange and the Tourist Information Centre and as a Council we have listened and acted.

I hope that now the May elections are over and there is an administration in place at the Vale we can sort out the lease issue and achieve our commitment to live music in the Corn Exchange.

Steve Leniec

Corn Exchange - another financial albatross? - 12/5/07

Steve Leniec wrote here 25/4/07

The draft lease (from VWHDC) proposed a 7 year term and onerous reparations at the end of the term. Town Council takes the view that if we are to invest large sums in a building owned by the Vale we need the security of a longer term.....The draft lease proposed a 7 year term and onerous reparations at the end of the term. Council takes the view that if we are to invest large sums in a building owned by the Vale we need the security of a longer term. (25 years was mentioned)It was made clear that the Vale will seek a 50/50

split on repair costs with the town bearing 100% of the cost of any "improvements".

The Corn Exchange is and always has been an important building in the town. Indeed it is the only public building big enough for certain activities, but with limitations we know about - unsuitable for loud music, unsuitable for the drama group.

I am concerned that The Town Council commit to the suggested lease terms(25 years, 50:50 repairs, all improvement costs). We are already the highest Council Tax payers in the Vale - largely because of the Pump House (initial refurb costs were est £100k, actual costs nearer £500k(inc legal fees, £200k loan (I think) outstanding)

The Corn Exchange, like the Pump House, will always be an expensive building to maintain. Also it looks very tired and I think needs significant refurbishment to bring it up to a good standard- cloakrooms, WCs, bar, floor, decoration, maybe kitchen- and of course the double glazing.

We want the building, but can we afford it and the Pump House??

A former Town Council did give it to the District Council many years ago, because we couldn't afford it. (The deal was that the town would run it at a peppercorn rent, the Vale was responsible for repairs/improvements)

I suggest we still can't afford it and that we let the VWHDC fund it (we will still be paying, - a proportion of our Council Tax does go to the Vale)- I suspect they fund and run similar buildings in Abingdon and Wantage.

I guess there would be some concern that the Vale would change the use - flats? offices? - unlikely I feel as it is a Grade 1 listed building

What does everyone else think??

Gene Webb

Lost Dog - 11/5/07

8mth old White and Brindle Greyhound missing from Clanfield, last seen morning of 10th May by neighbours shortly after escaping from my garden!

He is a big baby and very nervous around strangers and will panic if cornered.

We have no idea which direction he headed in. He was wearing a leather collar with two blue tags. He has been microchipped and police and vets within the area have been informed. Reward offered for his safe return. If you have any information please call me on 07917 546688

Jeanette Ross

Andy Boston - Market Restaurant - 11/5/07

What a refreshingly positive comment from someone for a change, and in the context of lost revenue. Good on you sir.

Mrs Hickmore - may I apologies on behalf of all those who have made personal and direct insults which have caused you distress. If they are not feeling a pang of guilt then stuff them I say - they know who they are. Lets see how big they actually are and whether they offer their own apologies for the insults.

As I have always said, if you have a different viewpoint from someone then attack the viewpoint, not the person.

Devil's Advocate (sorry but I will remain behind my sham name thank you very much)

I hope Mr Hickmore is on the mend

My husband - the comments - 10/5/07

I have just read comments on my husband Alan Hickmore, I have to say they distressed me.

I hope those people who fail to give their names on talking points are ashamed of themselves. My husband has worked long a hard for this town. Has never claimed to get everything right but at least he tries his best for this community. If you want to change something put your own heads above the parapet.

So Mr and Mrs Reynolds might not like him!!! I have never meet them to know whether I like them. Has he personally been and done them any real harm? or was he representing views that he felt at the time were probably not popular but correct. How many of you give up your time to drive disadvantaged people on the community bus?. How many of you give up 2/3 evening a week for the town?

There are many people in this town unseen and unheard that had benefitted from help and support from my husband. Could it be that he does so much because others know that if they ask him to do something he will do it willingly to the best of his ability.

The closure of the Corn Exchange to the music bands was not Alan's personal action it was the action of the enviromental health officers representing the people living around the Corn Exchange. Alan has never courted popularity but I can tell you that you never walk through this town with him without people waving, stopping to shake hands and stopping him for a chat, it takes ages to get the shopping done.

Please, decide perhaps you don't like his politics but don't go about trying to destroy somebody's good name and character for your own pleasure and fun and then hide behind a silly sham name.

Thank you to all the people to did vote for Steve and Alan. Thank you also for all the good wishes we have had during his recent illness.

Alison Hickmore

Regarding the music in the Market Place - 10/5/07

Thanks to those who have commented on the extra-loud sound system at the Friday night music event. We have now been at the Market Restaurant for nearly 14 years, are proud to support all the towns events, including the music in the market place. We appreciate all the hard work and planning that goes in to organizing such events.

Indeed the quality of the band this year was fantastic.

In the early days of the music events we indeed had customers leave due to the sound levels, after that, whenever we were told of an event outside the restaurant, we closed for the night to avoid upset for those who had booked. As we were not told about the 'live music' until after we had confirmed reservations, we opened this year.

Unfortunately, the stage and music system was directly outside and was so loud as to cause offence to many, some however loved it..

I can confirm, I did speak to both the organizer (Sam) and to the sound man, requesting that the base level was reduced, but was passed off or ignored as petty minded. mmmmm

So YES, as a local business we do lose money on the evening, but we are happy to do this in support of the event.

DON'T STOP THE LIVE MUSIC, keep up the good work, just keep us informed. Or indeed just move the speakers. . But do tell us what is happening so as we can close and not cause upset to our valued and loyal customers.

Andy Boston

Market Restaurant

Madd congratulations - 10/5/07

May I add my thanks and congratulations to Sam and Hilary for a fantastic MADD Fest.

There was something for everybody. Everybody, that is, who enjoys living in and supporting a vibrant community.

The music was great and made me realise how deprived we've been since the demise of the Corn Exchange as a performance venue - although the Crown is doing a grand job.

For the few people who are less happy may I suggest they google 'music festivals' to check out the places they should avoid when escaping to somewhere quiet for the weekend, especially during Faringdon Arts Festival.

And try it if you want to know where else to go for live music...even Burford rocks!

Sheila

To Charlotte - 9/5/07

Thankyou for your contribution, I would really like to publish it, but we have a strict rule not to publish contributions where the sender is not identifiable.

Perhaps you'd email me with more information

Thankyou

Ed

genewebb@nildram.co.uk

Re MADD thanks! - 9/5/07

I would like to congratulate Sam and the Mayor for a wonderful Bank Holiday offering. The music was excellent and the Combat Golf fiendish!

This was the best MADD yet; long may it continue.

To those who did not enjoy the experience, well there are always a few aren't there.

Re the comments on certain Councillors, I would love to join in the debate, if not the praise, but perhaps enough has been said already.

Mike Perks

Heard on a Health Walk - 9/5/07

"I've lived in Faringdon for 4.5 years and this is the first time I've been up the Folly"

Can anyone beat that??

Gene Webb

Ed: Health walks officially 'opened' today, 30 walkers today, 1 or 2 miles. Every Wednesday 10.30 outside the Bell

FARINGDON ARTS FESTIVAL - 9/5/07

Faringdons 4th Arts Festival will be taking place on the **6, 7 and 8 July 2007**.

We plan to have live music, a stage in the middle of the Market Place, dance, K9 and the Dalek. Face painting together with a few exhibitions and workshops.

There will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Our brochure will be produced in the next few weeks and should be delivered door to door.

However if you do not get a copy please find one at the Portwell Wine Bar.

For more information please call 01367 246003.

Julie Farmer

Harry Potter readers in Faringdon - 9/5/07

Faringdon is the third biggest pre-orderers of Harry Potter!

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/oxfordshire/6637701.stm>

Is this all down to David at the White Horse Bookshop?

Well done!

Paul Cornell

MADD thanks - 9/5/07

M.A.D.D. would like to thank all the people who came and supported the May Fest.

The Friday night although chilly was much warmed by the stunning light show, amazing music by the SOOTHSAYERS and DANNY PRINCE, which gave a significant number of Faringdon residents and visitors an enjoyable evening.

This feeling of festivity continued throughout the event.

The exhibition in the pump rooms was well attended-a first for Flickr.

Salsa dance proved to be a hit.

Youth bands in the Town Park were blessed with good weather.
Despite the adverse conditions on Monday morning Faringdon's stoics attended the madrigals sung by The Folly singers from the Folly Tower and later battled with Kombat golf.
The Junior school were thrilled with their Well Dressing.
M.A.D.D. are pleased to have played apart in instigating three new Faringdon traditions.
Sam Prince

Re: Loud Music - 8/5/07

Why don't we appoint a Music Ombudsman for Faringdon.

He or she could be situated at the top of the Folly Tower with a complaints hotline and a Big Volume Control Knob to which all Music Venues would be obliged to link to.

He/She would then be perfectly equipped to

a) receive complaints and

b) observe if customers were being obliged to leave restaurants early. Then he or she could spring into action at the slightest sign of trouble and turn it down a bit.

Persistent offenders could be fined large amounts of money to pay for secondary double glazing at the Corn Exchange

Pimpernel

In support of the Friday music - 8/5/07

I can't believe the two small-minded killjoys (Freda and name supplied) are moaning about the music on Friday night! It last no more than three hours!

You had ample warning that there would be a band in the square on Friday, yet still seemed incapable of moving your bookings. Maybe the stage should have been placed in the Corn Exchange....oh hold on, we can't do that can we?

I think the low crowd was more down to the weather than anything else. Also, I'm not sure if this event was publicised outside of Faringdon - but if it wasn't then it should be.

But please be aware that the **Faringdon Arts Festival is happening on 6,7 and 8 of July** and that there may be a little noise which may upset your little eardrums. Without the Mayfest, the Arts Festival and the 15 Minutes Club Faringdon will remain a small, uninspiring town that is slowly dying.
Except for the Craft Fairs, obviously.

If the Arts Festival is going to impact severely on your pipe and slipper lifestyle, then I am happy to contribute to a fund that will allow both of you to spend the weekend in Eastbourne, or somewhere else that can offer you the more sedate lifestyle that you obviously crave.

Ray

Enjoyable music - 8/5/07

I for one, and amongst many people I have spoken to, enjoyed the atmosphere and music of The Soothsayers, in the Market Place on Friday night. This was a special outdoor event of which there aren't many in this town. There was quite a bit of publicity about the event and others that followed over the weekend, which I happen to know was put through people's doors and there were public signs about.

Ok, the dj could have taken the bass down somewhat and there's probably a case for being more proactive with consulting nearby businesses.

They were quite a special and very talented band, who played something out of the ordinary, Afrobeat, dub and fusion, probably not to everyone's taste (what is?), but I applaud the initiative to present different types of performance.

Well done to MADDMayfest for livening up this sometimes sleepy town.

Bring on the ska band!

Roland Alphonso

Over enthusiastic music - 8/5/07

I must agree with F.Borders regarding 'over enthusiastic music'.

We often eat out in the towns restaurants.

We (a party of 4) were booked in to eat at the Market Place Restaurant on Friday night.

While I admire efforts to entertain the town, Sadly we had to leave early due to the vibration from the loud music.

We also commented that there were more people hiding from, that listening to the entertainment.

Is it not possible to locate the stage away from restaurants?

Old fogie (not !) (42) who actually likes music!

Name supplied

Harry for Mayor - 7/5/07

Pimpernel

HARRY HOME - 7/5/07

Thank you so much for my postcard Harry, In response to the message on the back, No, I 'm glad I wasn't there either.

Jim Horton

Re: Scot Gildert CCTV response - 6/5/07

Dear Scot, I am saddened that you have felt the need to criticize research that you have not read. The research I referred to has nothing to do with CCTV but the common causal pathways to criminal behaviour and crime with relation to zero tolerance policing. It was a two year Home Office funded study which has since been taken up by research groups in the UK, US and the Netherlands. I have reread my posting and I thought it was rather clear that I was not referring to CCTV research.

Also perhaps I did not make myself clear enough when referring to "automated" CCTV systems. What I was referring to was fully automated facial recognition and tracking systems, like those being trialled in airports and not the simplistic number plate recognition systems in use around the country. I am also fully aware of the street crime reduction initiatives in place in Oxford street and Huddersfield et al and their success in fighting crime in limited areas. It also might be of note that I have in no way related CCTV with "Big Brother" in my previous posting, so I am confused by this slant in your comments. I meant my previous posting to be a discussion piece and not a collection of definitive statements. e.g. Perhaps there is a need for the subtle placement of a CCTV system as a prophylaxis before the crime figures rise?

Can the moderator of this site please make a definitive statement regarding the lack of simple manners in some postings?

Edward Guerra (& sleepy Mojo)

Fame at Last ? - 6/5/07

I've been on holiday for the past few days with no access to a computer and I've just checked the website. I find that I have been promoted to Harry Kari, Harry Lime and prospective Councillor Mitchell and I have to say that the old adage "out of sight (or should it be site ?) out of mind " doesn't seem to apply in Faringdon.

I am quite flattered that I remained in your thoughts. I am also rather sad because it is obvious that some of you boys and girls have not been playing nicely during my absence and I would like to suggest that you bury the hatchet but I'm afraid it might be in each other.

I don't know enough about Data Collection or CCTV or even being a Councillor to join in the disputes so I'll just sit back and watch for a while.

In case you are wondering..Yes, thanks, I did have a nice time but I missed you all..well nearly all.

Harry G Mitchell

REPLY TO MR PICKER - 6/5/07

Thank you for your kind words Nit.

I have never been afraid to take on anyone who buys their printer ink by the gallon. Unfortunately I don't have the luxury of unlimited time to spend agonising over every single dot and dash and syllable. Sometimes though, I must admit to making a mistake deliberately, it always makes me chuckle to think that some people can't look past a spelling mistake to see the real meaning, or the passion or sometimes even the effort someone writing on here is trying to convey, you don't need a first at Oxford to have an opinion, and anyway, Dyslexia rules K.O.

David Reynolds opinions were valid, and the threat of " not good for your business" was rather dark and menacing, does that mean in future I have to be subserviant to everyone on here just to get decorating work?, I don't think so, for most of the time I can find humour in the post on here, but some things just put a bad taste in my mouth, and that's worse than any spelling mistake.
Jim Horton

Its not too late for Harry - 6/5/07

- he could still be co-opted
Pimpernel

Dear name supplied poster of 'dear data Collector' - 6/5/07

1) at no point did I suggest that I wanted to make a complaint about incorrect procedures. What I did is ask a question to inspire some discussion on Talking Points (which it did and continues to do so!)
2) In answer to your question, no I do not believe that data collection is only carried out in Faringdon (goodness there are some patronising people on this site who think they're the only ones with brain cells!!!)
3) Did you get elected? You're clearly something to do with the town council (oh pardon me if you're a member of the town council of course you didn't get elected because we people of Faringdon are obviously lazy, lacking commitment and not worthy to sit on our esteemed council? that's the impression I get from the comments made by certain people on here at least)
4) Long live freedom of speech; the right to personal opinion...oh and Talking Points!!
5) Now what controversy can we conjure up?...how about lets bring back slavery!?
Comments please!....
Name supplied

What a waste of good music - 5/5/07

Last night (Friday) I came down to the market square to listen to the live music and have a nice meal in my favourite restaurant.

While the live band was very good and professional, the whole evening was ruined by the ridiculously loud amplifier which just shook the whole building. Then, when the recorded music was played during the breaks, IT WAS EVEN WORSE.

I asked the waitress to request that the volume was turned down, to no avail.
Then I was told that no spectators actually turned up until 9.00pm, and then only 30.
Is this event good for local businesses, or do they actually lose trade
Freda Borders

Jim Horton/Harry Kari... - 5/5/07

What next ?

I have been concerned at the recent postings on this website particularly about the data protection issues and the fact that very few residents want to take on the thankless task of being a Councillor so it was with some relief that I spotted Jim's comical Harry Kari piece (and my six year old grand daughter thinks he's very funny)

I understand that Harry is on holiday at the moment no doubt trying to recover from Jim's devastating verbal attacks which I know cause him a great deal of anxiety. I'm sure he would not be able to think of a suitable reply to the Harry Kari posting and if he did he wouldn't be so unkind as to point out that there is a difference between "to" and "too" and there never was, until Jim invented it, a word "Indefendable"

However Jim's humour adds a definite something to this website. . .though I'm not too sure what..but we would

all miss it. Harry would now have more than twenty one votes.
Nit-Picker

Dear data collector - 05/05/07

You've got one thing right - the population of Faringdon is nearer 6000 than millions, and by now I expect you've realised that there were local elections all over the country, - or is the data collection to which you refer only carried out in Faringdon?

Perhaps you would like to enlighten us all with regard to the correct procedures which aren't/weren't being followed. I think we should be told, and you should make an official complaint.

name supplied

Re Edward Guerra (and mojo) CCTV comments - 5/5/07

I don't know where you did your research (more than likely from the back of a matchbox) This is the biggest load of drivvle I have ever read.I work with the government sectors and implement this technology I can guarantee that this technology is not on trial it now being widely used in town centres and on raods and motorways to detect crime as it happens.

Take the CCTV project in oxford street in London one operator is online looking at a total of 24 screens and their is a team of 6 officers on the ground. the operator spots a crime taking place and informs the field officers they catch the offendor in the act or post the event with the goods on them.

Where you must be mistaken with the post crime philosophy is a crime is not a crime until after the offence has been committed. Take shop lifting the crime has not been committed until the offendor has left the shop so how can it be pre vented CCTV does deter them.

The reason why places like our Beloved Faringdon does not have CCTV is we do not have the crime rates of other larger towns and cities. And as for taking crime from the streets to the alleyways near your home is that not where Burglars lurk anyway as to avoid detection So the answer would be to put CCTV in the alley and force the crimals to use the streets so that they can be seen.

This is not a Big Brother thing unless you have something to hide
Scot Gildert

Re: The council we deserve. - 4/5/07

I wholly concur with Dee.

You have got the council you haven't voted for. As a town councillor I stand as an Independent.

I voted on Thursday for the people I thought did the most for our town.

Personally I don't think Party politics belong in local government, so my vote was eclectic.

Jane Boulton

The Council we deserve - 4/5/07

As a former Deputy Mayor for 3 years and Town Mayor for 4 straight years.I gave this town my time 24/7 for 4 years as Mayor I enjoyed the time but Ha! people just dont stop moaning whatever we do.

I worked with Alan Hickmore for many years. Although his people skills are much to be desired at times he is the best Planning Chairman this town has ever had. The Knowledge and experience he has is second to none.

Alan, Steve leniec and myself were three of the team that took this town through the health check process and many other projects.

Faringdon residents have no idea the work Town councillors put in over and above their normal day.
Many working full time.

The elections were a good time for this town to elect the people they wanted to move the town forward. Where were they?

Faringdon gets the Council they Deserve!!

Dee England

WARD Councillors - 4/5/07

Well done to Alison, Roger and Matthew and bad luck to all the others.

Votes not yet confirmed however with 800 plus, more votes each than any of the other candidates I'm not sure a recount will make any difference.

I have to say that I am surprised by the result particularly given some of the other candidates leaflet drop and the magnificent claims of achievements, for example, splitting the atom, being the first to land on Mars, creating a cure for aids and cancer, succeeding in world peace and inventing a car which runs off grass.

Just shows that most of us are not that stupid.
I think we all need to lighten up a bit.
Devils Advocate

Response to Mr Melbank - 4/5/07

Tom Melbank, as both a businessman and resident I have every right to speak my mind.
I'll continue to defend that democratic right, thank you very much.
David Reynolds

Voting data, CCTV & assorted paranoias - 4/5/07

I love a good conspiracy as much as the next person but as was said earlier just think of the practicalities. The marking of ballot counterfoils, as laid out in the Parliamentary Election Rules 1983 and amended in the Electoral Administration Act 2006, is done to provide an evidentiary chain to counteract the rising use of fraud. The use of a paper electoral system is specifically more secure than an electronic system because it has a man in the loop, making it an uneconomic and impractical method of collecting data. If a fraud has taken place then the economic argument is replaced by judicial investigation.

CCTV....until automated systems come around (at the moment they're only really on trial at high risk locations) then CCTV is only really used as post-crime evidence tool. Yes we have the highest CCTV per head of population rate of any country in the world but

1. It is becoming impossible to process/handle the data and
2. Crime rates and the costs of crime are still going up (Home Office Research Study 217).

There is some evidence that the placement of cameras can cause a displacement of criminal activity...do we as a community move the criminals from the streets to the alleyways behind your homes? The police already have the powers necessary to place automated cameras for the purposes of intelligence gathering.

Perhaps we should fund local initiatives to reduce criminal activity? Local solutions to local problems? The small amount of research I have done does lead me to conclude that a zero tolerance approach to criminal behaviour does lead to an overall decrease in reported crime. Just a thought...

Also, is this really the venue for the increasingly vitriolic personal bitch slapping?
It's very tiresome...

Edward Guerra (&Mojo)

Another opinion!! - 4/5/07

I think there's a bit of definition dodging going on here.

This isn't a slagging match between two personally-involved opponents. A councillor is a public official, and what they do is subject to public criticism.

Much as I'm a fan of certain politicians, and feel bad when the media have a go at them, I'd never seriously suggest, as one of the posters here has, that the mere existence of such criticism is unfair and out of the question.

This is a public forum.

These are not murky stabs in the back, this is the public complaining about the failings of one of their elected officials, in public.

Not having enough councillors to make this town a democracy is our own fault.

Bad policies and public relations are the councillor's.

And I'd like to add my voice to those who have said: of course there's nobody monitoring ballot papers.

Yes, it would be fun to live in a totalitarian state, because then all our moaning would be justified and all our protests heroic.

Unfortunately, we don't.

Paul Cornell

To Mr Melbank - 4/5/07

RE Councillor Hickmore, my husband's (and every other person's comments) are not vindictive, just a true representation of their experiences.

With regard to defining "decent" most of us know the dictionary definition.

However, "name supplied" quite understandably in this case, must think you have a completely different understanding of the word!

Trish Reynolds

In response to planet paranoia - 4/5/07

yes it's serious and

yes I do think there are people who go through the detail of local elections (I thought Faringdon was nearer 6000 population to millions but perhaps I'm out of date) and yes I do believe details are logged (and that millions of pounds are wasted on data collection and statistical analysis)

...oh, and yes I do have a little more than one brain cell (not a lot perhaps but enough to keep me on my feet!)

I personally don't give a monkey's @\$e who knows my political preferences but I do care when correct procedures aren't followed.

Anyway, whatever your view it's very good to see them aired on here - that post has given me a much needed good laugh this morning so thank you (PS...do you have a handbag?)

(PPS Tesco's can know as much as they like about me - I still won't shop there!)

Data Collector and Statistical Analyst

Mr Reynolds and Mr Melbanks tiff - 4/5/07

Can I be helpful and suggest handbags at dawn.

Devils Advocate

- just trying to be helpful as always.

Reply - previous posts - 3/5/07

In reply to define "decent". With respect, obviously you can read and write, so you do not need me to tell you to look in the dictionary.

In reply to Mr Reynolds. You do not help yourself as a business man with your vindictive comments, as they may turn out to be counter productive.

The point blank shot must have been in the foot.

Kind regards

Tom Melbank

Planet Paranoia - 03/04/07

Can this be serious??

Does someone out there really think there are people who painstakingly go through the detritus of every town and district council's local election?

Engage your brain cell, whoever you are, and try to imagine this vastly expensive process of tipping out several million voting slips, going through them, matching them up with names and addresses, and.....what? pass them on to the 'relevant' political parties? (pur-lease!) enter them on a big brother computer system? Who would carry out this undertaking? What for, exactly?

Tesco's probably know more about you than any government 'big brother'
Get real. You're just not that important.

name supplied

To Tom Melbank - a question - 3/5/07

Mr Melbank.

With the very greatest respect, and without the sniff of cordite from a long range sniper, please define "decent".
Name supplied

Re Voting Data - 3/5/07

...and after 6 months what happens?

My guess is that those envelopes are opened, the results analysed, details taken and passed to the relevant political parties!

Name supplied

Response to Tom Melbank - 3/5/07

Tom, not sure to whom you are referring about the personal attacks on Cllr.Hickmore, however my earlier comments relate to his ability to do the job properly.

However if you want a comment on personality I find Cllr Hickmore's approach to members of the public (ie the people who he supposedly represents) to be both arrogant and rude...I personally have experienced this on more than one occasion!

That's not a long range snipe, that's a point blank shot!

David Reynolds

Advertise your events - 2/5/07

Hallo, Just to say that details of community and charity events which are happening downtown Faringdon are welcome (if you wish them to be so advertised) at our website address www.oxfordmail.net/whatson,

click on '**events**' in the left hand menu then select '**submit your event**'.

This feeds a central database that serves both the website events listings and consideration for free publication in our papers including the Oxford Mail, Times, Gazette and Herald areas.

All the best for Faringdon events,

Lorna Stevenson

Lift to Oxford wanted - 2/5/07

Hi Everyone!

I'm new in town (yes that Aussie girl) and im wondering if anybody is working anywhere near the Oxford Science Park and is able to share the ride during the week.

I am more than willing to chip in for petrol and my hours can move around to suit but full time, 5 days a week if possible.

Cheers!!!

Mel Payne

Re Voting Data - 3/05/07

Have just been to vote and asked the question about logging counterfoil numbers and personal registration numbers.

It seems these records are kept in a sealed envelope for 6 months. If a fraud is suspected, they can be looked at - but only with permission via a Court Order
Gene Webb

Please stop personal attacks - 3/5/07

I have over the last few weeks read the comments with regards to Councillor Hickmore. I must say that I find it rather distasteful that a decent man can be attacked in this way. All positions on the council are freely advertised for election. If you are not happy with the present arrangements feel free to apply. Please stop these personal attacks, and stop being long range snipers.
Regards Tom Melbank

Re: Faringdon 4 - 2/5/07

Sorry Scott - I cant sing and I dont fit the age band but I have got a six pack and blue eyes - maybe I could hum in the background
Pimpernel

Polling Day - 2/5/07

Woe are we on polling day, because we cant go and have our say, of all the women and all the men, we will get the same again
Pimpernel

Faringdon 4 - 01/05/07

You've heard of G4, Il Divo and the Fab 4
I'm looking for three Other like minded chaps aged between 25 and 40 to start a group called the faringdon 4 to cover songs from the Shows TV and the charts both Past and present.
Come on chaps let's show these reality shows you don't have to be blond haired, blue eyed with a six pack to be talented
Interested? e mail me scott.gildert@telindus.co.uk
All the criteria you have to meet is you can sing be between 25 and 40 and live in Faringdon.

Scott Gildert

National Bus Pass Scheme - 31/07/07

For those who have not yet received a renewal form for their free bus pass, (valid from next April) the date that you have to get your form in to the council by - with your photograph - is **10th August**

This also applies to those who have not already got a bus pass.

For more information follow this link

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/health_and_social_care/community_transport/DetailPage11749.asp

HT

Update: the deadline is now 24th August

Street Furniture:30/07/07

Now that people have to request permission and pay for putting up signage on our roads and pavements should the same not apply to the roads and transport department.

Who had a say in the new signage on park road.

Does anyone see how the new oversized speed limit signs entering faringdon on park road fit in with the governments review on tidying up street furniture.

Don't they look a mess? whats wrong with a traditional simple round 30 sign to replace the 40 sign.

I just hope there temporary and get reused when there taken away and not binned.

name supplied

Recycling - 30/07/07

RE: recycling Shredded paper can be composted along with your food waste (but not in the brown bin?). You can buy a seperate compost bin fairly cheaply from the council web site for that.

name supplied

Vandalism - 29/7/07

This Saturday morning we tried in vain to get a glazier to repair the window that some irresponsible youth had smashed 'en route' along Gloucester Street in the early hours; neighbours of mine noticed that morning, glaziers working at the back of the library in the town park to repair windows that had been smashed that same evening/early morning.

Why is it that a handful of youngsters can cause such chaos. I would urge any of you out there who observe youngsters on motorcross bikes riding in appropriately without head gear, those consuming alcohol in our town parks etc just report it - even a note in the letterbox of the police station.

Elsie, Gloucester Street

Regarding the Chemist - 27/7/07

I have found that 99% of the staff in there are helpful, lovely, discreet people, professional to a man/woman.

There is one assistant who stands out though, who can be rude and complaining. This assistant needs training in one or more of 3 things - customer relations, politeness, and helpfulness.

There are staff training courses available and it's my feeling that this person would benefit from one, and maybe the others too, just from a refresher, although they are ok as they are.

Signed, a shop assistant

Where are the landrovers? - 27/7/07

Whats happened to the Land rovers and other car stuff that used to be by the old dairy. Have they moved or gone bust?

Colin

Faringdon Garden competition - 25/7/07

I filled in the form to enter the competition, and worked hard at my garden to get it ready for the judging - which was to take place 21/7, 22/7. I was getting quite excited - I am proud of my garden and looked forward to showing it off.

How surprised I was to receive a phone call mid evening on Friday 20th, from the Town Councillor named on the entry form(the one that has been a town councillor for years and has a moustache!!), that because there were insufficient entrants, the competition had been cancelled.

I was so disappointed, but then I thought about it - Surely it was known how many had entered at the closing date - which was at least a fortnight ago, why didn't someone tell me then that the competition wasn't to happen?

I have become suspicious - I cannot believe there were insufficient entrants - after all, the competition has been run for many years, I think it much more likely that judges had not been found, or worse still the organiser couldn't be bothered.

Town Council - please explain
Name supplied

Red tape - 24/7/07

Further to the posting regarding the local chemist, I had a hilarious encounter in there a couple of weeks ago where they wouldn't sell me more than half a dozen or so hayfever tablets of my usual particular brand but would happily sell me hundreds of a different brand containing, apparently the same active ingredients in the same amounts on the grounds that there wasn't a "P" printed on the box.

Apparently, I could happily kill myself on hayfever pills but not while the pharmacist was at lunch.

Its barmy red tape like this that infuriates at the time but makes me laugh now.

Small town mentality - we got it in spades

Name supplied

A question of staff training? - 22/07/07

I was appalled to overhear a customer in our local chemist being interrogated about a medical condition. The saleslady asked, quite audibly to other customers

"Do you actually have irritable bowel syndrome, then?"

When the customer subsequently requested some particular medication the saleswoman asked a pharmacist - "We dont just hand these out, do we"?

If I was embarrassed, - whatever must the unfortunate customer have felt like?

We all realise that pharmacists are obliged to ask certain questions sometimes but this was downright rude and humiliating.

Whatever happened to confidentiality.
Name supplied

Shoes - old fishmonger - 23/7/07

I notice that the old fishmongers is to become a shoe shop.

Not sure if they have chosen a name for it yet but I think that.....'Soles 'n' Eels' might be a good idea !.

Any other suggestions ?.

Eileen Pill

Bureaucratic cowardice - 22/7/07

The so-called authorities that target pavement society, music in the Corn Exchange etc. do this to disguise their pathetic record in tackling real issues such as speeding, crime, litter etc. It is the behaviour of the bully; go for the soft targets.

But nothing will happen until ordinary Faringdon residents say "enough". A few residents and bureaucrats form a very small tail on a very large dog. Get out there. Go to town meetings.

Write to the town, district and county councils. Write to our MP Ed Vaizey. Make a nuisance of yourselves until sense prevails ...
Mark Harrison

The following advert is RSPCA approved... 22/7/07

As a result of Friday's torrential rain there has been an increased demand for our product and we would urge anyone who may be assuming that the latest deluge may not be the last to contact us with your requirements (Dimensions in Cubits would expedite construction).

Until the end of August we will be offering an easy payment plan i.e. everything upfront and nothing to pay for the rest of your life combined with a flood compensation package and a pair of doves.
Noah and Sons (By divine appointment)

Sylvia's Green Box. - 21/7/07

First of all Sylvia it is wrong to assume that binmen like handling dirty boxes. That is why they leave them the right way up with the lid off when it is raining. Much as they would like to they haven't the time to clean them but by moving yours they ensure that your cleanliness is shared by your neighbours.
You should feel proud not irritated.

However if you do not want to become the local Green bin cleaner paint your address on the thing. It will still probably go walkabout but you stand a reasonable chance of being reunited with it.
Name Supplied

Support from Faringdon Rotary - 21/7/07

The Rotary Club of Faringdon & District has supported the following during the period July 2006 to July 2007

Faringdon Cyberbus, Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance, Hope & Aid Direct (Convoy of Hope to Kosovo), Faringdon Artistic Skating Club, Access Bangalore, Action for Blind People, Barnardos, Oxon County Scout Council, Fourteen Club, Helen House Hospice, Douglas House Hospice, Faringdon First Responders, Oxford Childrens Hospital Fund, Porridge Club, Macmillan Cancer Fund, Water Aid, Rotary Foundation, Senior Citizens Party, Faringdon Christmas 'Lights-On', Rotary Youth Speaks Competition and most recently the Rotary Administered UK Flood Disaster Appeal.

Many thanks to those who so generously support our Christmas Appeal with Father Christmas and Thomas the Tank Engine and also our numerous fundraising activities throughout the year.
Mike Bell

Oxfordshire Gateway's response to need for street cleaning.- 21/7/07

The Ed's suggestion that removing 'dog muck' was a problem for Oxfordshire Gateway was obviously taken seriously and led to an impressive result

But, though Friday's four inches of torrential rain in 24 hours was effective, in my opinion it was just a bit over the top and I certainly didn't need my garage being treated to a display of the Council's Super Power Washer.

Next time please just send a man with a brush and a bucket.
Not Devil's Advocate

HGM - 20/7/07

You give'th then take'th away. I'm honoured to receive such comments though. I did prepare a lengthy rebuttal/contrary view to the business advertising debate just to advocate an other view, but it started raining and I thought I would post something benign and useless for a change, although many of my victims will of course argue that all my postings are rather benign and useless.

However, you have now inspired me sir, and I will post my original post on Monday (its on another computer), and will expect the wrath of the local people of good Faringdon.

Devils Advocate

Ed: I look forward to it

Recycling - 20/7/07

Is there anyone else in Faringdon who finds themselves totally lost on the difficult problem of being green.

I think the whole idea is necessary and since the initiation of anything to do with recycling we have been there and done that, we were one of the first to get the green box. We have filled our box regularly with the things said to be recyclable, only to find that things are taken for a while then all of a sudden rejected, and left in the box, then paper - my personal bug bear. We are told that for security we should shred all documents, and again we have been doing that for several years. We always put the shreds in a plastic bag to prevent them blowing away, and they were taken like that for a long time. Then surprise, surprise the plastic bags were rejected and the full bag left behind.

Would it be so very difficult for the operative to empty the bags into the container? On complaining to the Vale we are told to put the shreds into paper bags, where the heck do we get paper bags from, no shop keeper uses them now except the occasional small brown one, and envelopes (the other suggestion) do not hold much.. The answer to that one is to buy paper bags!

This leads to two things: 1) where do you buy paper bags, and 2) surely to buy yet another container in which to put rubbish is being utterly ridiculous we already buy bin bags, green bags, and pay for a brown bin.

Another little moan, we occasionally wash our green box out, because it gets unpleasant, only to find the operative moves them around when picking up the rubbish and we end up with usually the filthiest one about!

I personally am getting to the stage when I shall go back to putting everything in the ordinary bin.

Sylvia Bowley

Advance notice Faringdon Arts Festival 2008 - 20/7/07

Part One' Saturday 5th July 2008 Faringdon Junior School

A full day and evening of live music from bands playing original material. Headline act 'Carrie Rossiter and the Dacoits'

This will be a unique event as all bands will only play original material - no covers.

The event is tentatively called 'FAF- part one' (a week before the main FAF event).

It is planned to have 7 bands throughout the day in the dinning room and then move to the main hall in the evening.

Any band wanting to play please contact Sean Hodgson 07712 530405 email seamus401962@yahoo.com

A question - not a debate - 20/7/07

I'm not attempting to start a debate or anything but I would be grateful to hear from the editors why we have to submit our real name and address if we want to post to the site?

I personally belong to plenty of forums and on not one of them am I obliged to leave my real name which suggests its not a legal requirement, so why here?

I have to confess, it takes away a bit of the fun of posting under a pseudonym if someone knows who you are...

Thanks

Mel Lane

Ed: Thanks for asking - I can see your point, however we ask people to identify themselves (through their email or postal address) in order to deter unreasonable posts. We never disclose names and addresses, so don't feel it should be a problem

Devil's Advocate and Cole Porter - 20/7/07

Devil's Advocate. I'm glad you have objected to people using your pseudonym and attempting to gain credence for their views and to bask in a reflected glory.. I have always felt that your reasoned arguments provide a steadying influence to some of the more unreasonable posters who use and sometimes abuse this site. But slippers with Bart Simpson on them even from your little daughter may well be covering feet of clay and I'm feeling just a little let down.

Cole Porter (no offence intended but is that your real name ?) don't give up on Faringdon or this website.both take a bit of getting used to but it is worth the effort and you'll find that some pearls of wisdom do get in amongst the postings.

Your views on the VWHDC may or may not be accurate but as they hardly ever condescend to reply to our moans on the site it is hard to know what goes on in their particular ivory towers.

As to the 'dog muck' you claim entitles us to be named as the 'muckiest town in England' I think the appropriate authority would deny that there is a problem. I would suggest that, to be fair, you should collect a few samples and send them to the Town Council for onward transmission to whoever deals with such matters. Finally do continue to share your thoughts with us and don't be upset if you are occasionally misunderstood.it happens to the best of us HGM

Ed: [Report it online via Oxfordshire Gateway](#)

Slippers - 19/7/07

I find it quite offensive that I (and indeed all slipper wearers) are being accused of all the ill's which Faringdon is currently facing.

I don't smoke a pipe, but I do wear slippers, navy blue ones with Bart Simpson on, a present from my little girl at Christmas. I demand that the accusations against me and other law abiding slipper wearers (who go about their daily lives without causing problems for anyone, or objecting to everything) are dropped immediately and a public apology made.

Devil's Advocate

PS Please note that some posters are trying to be Devils Advocate, they are not me. If its not signed by me, then its not me.

dot org - 18/7/07

I've not lived in this town long, but feel moved to write to air a few issues.

What is it about Faringdon that makes it work? On the surface the town has a lot going for it and has great potential. Arts and music festivals, a thriving music scene, a lively community website, and some positive, community minded people pushing the boat out - they all help to generate a sense of moving forward.

But scratch the surface and it is not long before problems emerge like icebergs wanting to sink the good ship Faringdon. For one the silent, invisible complainers, (probably not always the same people,) hiding anonymously behind officialdom, who are then forced to carry out their duties to the letter and put spanners in works and stop things happening. Very recent history is littered with examples - the Corn Exchange fiasco, the children's murals on the Portwell, the table and chair cafe society outside and others.

In the second instance I do not think the town is well served by its district council based in Abingdon, it seems remote and intent on withdrawing even further. The lack of movement on the Corn Exchange, the pre-emptive dictat on business signs in the street, done without warning or consultation - a 'great' way to treat businesses trying to make a go of it.

Thirdly, a different kind of problem, but while I'm on the growl - the dog muck. This must be the muckiest town in England, it's nothing to be proud of.

What's the problem with being a responsible dog owner? I don't get it. It's symptomatic of the whole problem.

So what is it to be - a town moving forwards or backwards?

I want to stay here and play a part in making it work, but may have to consider moving on somewhere else.

Cole Porter

Spare Ticket- Latif Bolat sufi musician, concert at Bampton Village Hall Sat 21 July - 19/7/07

I have a spare ticket for the above event.

If anyone is interested in having the ticket please contact me as the only way to transfer the ticket is for me to do it on line.

Cost £9.

There will be Turkish food available earlier for an additional cost.

nina@jazzthecat.fsnet.co.uk

I totally agree with Swannie - 19/7/07

I am waiting with baited breath for the banning of next year's festival due to one, or two, people deciding that it interferes with their pipe smoking and slipper wearing. If people do complain then I think it's reasonable for them to have to do so in public. Which would then allow those who organise such endeavours to rebut their claims.

It's the secret and unaccountable way that these things seem to happen around here that gets me.

Plus the fact that the views of the majority are totally ignored.

Ray

Calling Faringdon - 17/7/07

Plans are in progress for a purely youth based music/arts festival to take place next year.

Anyone who is in a youth band or knows someone who may be interested (note, all band members must be under 18) please contact me on hairycaveman@hotmail.co.uk, eagerly awaiting replys :)

Nial Prince

Re: Friday 13th - 17/7/07

Just to play Devil's Advocate here..... Business Rates are a tax that businesses pay for being a business and my understanding is that it doesn't go towards any local services. It is in fact collected by the District Council on behalf of the Treasury and therefore goes straight to Central Government. The Government may argue that most of it comes back out to OCC and VWHDC, but of your £360 per month, I understand the councils will see a total of less than 10% of it

..... therefore they have to tax businesses in other ways for local services !!!

Regarding the A-boards - Central Government have asked local governments to review their policies on local signage due to the large amounts of signage all over the main roads and distracting drivers. I think VWHDC have taken a blanket decision to remove all signage, whether trailer boards or A-signs (see the rampage about Challow Cricket Club and the removal of sponsorship signs).

So back to the discussion on raising revenue locally from businesses - if I were a "radical thinking" local Council, I would think that taxing local businesses to put up signs is a good way of raising local revenue from businesses and I could blame Central Government for having to do this.

I, therefore, don't have to draw on my powers of common-sense...

Sarah Allen-Stevens

What is wrong with us!! - 16/7/07

Oh come on people, what is wrong with us. We live in a wonderful town that is full of history and interesting and vibrant people, so why oh why are we letting the little people push us around AGAIN.

We recently had MADD May Fest and then the Faringdon Arts Festival all of which are arranged by willing volunteers wanting to put something back into the town. In December we will have more volunteers pushing Festive Faringdon for the kids not to mention the French Market(s) the Craft Fair and the Farmers Markets and a number of other events that are arranged by volunteers for the whole town to enjoy, in fact there is something to enjoy every month in our town. Do they get any thanks for this, no just complaints?

Now we are told that the Portwell Bar will have to pay for tables and chairs to be placed outside, presumably the Coffee House will also have to pay for their. Our local shops now have to put their A boards away. Do we actually want the businesses in Faringdon to be successful? We have just lost the Faringdon Enterprise Gateway now we want to lose our shops and our café culture.

Come on, we finally get the people of Faringdon out of their homes and talking to each other, celebrating with music and dance, playing sports and actively getting involved in the culture of our town. We have started to create a community spirit.

Let's stop listening to the silent minority and move into the 21 century where we are trying to stop isolation and loneliness and continue to build on our vibrant and thriving community.
Swannie

Pavement Cleanup - 16/7/07

Chaps working (on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council), were removing weeds from the Coxwell St pavement this morning. They told me that all the pavements/paths in the town were to be done

Good News!

However they had no idea if weed killer would be put down - if it isn't the weeds will be back in a few weeks

Still it is a something, I guess
Gene Webb

OFFICIAL COMPLAINT - 16/7/07

We have an idea, a cunning plan we hope you will agree.

We'd like to lodge an official complaint against one or two complainants being able to close down anything in the Town regardless of majority public opinion, merely by the fact that they, the overwhelming minority, have complained.

There, problem solved.

A couple of individuals have complained, so there it stops. No more minority rule.

Precedent rules ok.

Corn Exchange live music, 15 Minute Club, A boards, street furniture, cafe culture, well-dressing, Market Place Atmosphere, please come back, all is forgiven.

If you don't agree with us, tough luck, disagreeing with the minority gets you nowhere in Faringdon.

If you do agree with us, please keep it to yourselves, as mass support hasn't worked in the past so we need to make sure this works once and for all.

Signed: Stan Dupp and Don Mass

In Earnest - 15/7/07

dear sir.

it has come to my attention that a few issues have arisen recently centering on a few churlish complaints that have disproportionate repercussions. this has led to a generally negative mood within the town and some are up in arms. i am of course referring to the signage and the chairs and tables outside a few of the popular establishments in the market place.

it would appear that the letter of the law has been applied without even a cursory glance in the direction of common sense. the portwell bar has been targeted and has been ordered to pay an exorbitant levy for the few tables and chairs on the pavement outside and was ordered to remove the temporary trellising between the bollards forthwith.

i considered it quite a pleasant look and it addressed in part, the risk of someone inadvertently stepping out onto the road which cars, and motorbikes use as a rat run past the crown and portwell in their failure to observe the road signs. as for the signage advertising new features, upcoming events and latest offers, i again am left flabbergasted.

in a climate of ever increasing restrictions, rent and rate rises beyond the national average, the drop in trade they have felt from the smoking ban (not that the portwell suffered, it has always been non-smoking), i applaud them for at least trying to be a little inventive and none of the signs and adverts appeared to me to be in any way out of place or a detraction to the character of the market place.

i will be lobbying to see this blatant profiteering cease, to see the knee jerk reactions against common consensus halt and attention to more pressing issues with a consistent policy from all organisations come to the fore. on a lighter note, a big smile for the person that put the lampshade on the street sign on the london street corner of the market place.

thats the spirit.

yours, in earnest david halsall

Support for Chairs and A boards - 15/7/07

Everytime I say that Faringdon is an interesting, vibrant place to live, some form of complaint or officialdom arrives to reverse what people are trying to do.

We have had debates about the noise at the Corn Exchange, well dressing etc and now trellis outside the Portwell Bar together with imposition of charges to gain "approval" for chairs on the pavement or A board advertising.

What is going on?

Over recent years, I have spent a lot of my working time in Europe where complainers are ignored unless they are a significant number and when pointless regulations exist, they are routinely ignored.

So I suggest we ignore the complainers unless they can prove genuine nuisance and ignore stupid regulations. If anyone is "brought to book", we attend court cases as a community, run collections if necessary to pay fines and make common sense the norm.

You may assume that I support Martin and the other businesses in their irritation.

And when are we going to get some traffic calming and control in the town?

Steve Wright

Arts Festival winners - list wanted - 15/7/07

Would one of the organisers give me the list for publishing here please.

Someone has asked for it

Gene Webb

The Nelson Touch -14/7/07

Horatio Nelson was a national hero. He deserted his wife,flaunted his mistress,lost two valuable pieces of Admiralty Property namely his right eye and most of his right arm and supposedly asked his friend Hardy to "give us a kiss sailor". He achieved Hero status by disobeying a legal order from a superior authority. Yet he was given a State Funeral (Posthumously of course).

Here in Faringdon we have similar potential heros who ignore the legal orders from superior (?) authorities with very little chance of a State Funeral. If you park on double yellows, on the pavement, in a disabled slot or a bus stop, exceed the speed limit, overstay the 30 minute parking limit in the Market Square, or drive up the bus lane, Nelson's blind eye will usually be turned to all these offences.

So Mr Phillips and others who use harmless A boards etc why not ignore those regulations which you believe to be unreasonable and hope a similar blind eye will be applied to your wickedness. If you do get 'caught' the fine, if any, may be less than the cost of obeying the orders.

Reluctant Anarchist

Good Rhyme - 13/7/07

very good rhyme jim

where do you get them from

is it living in faringdon for a long time best wishes

patricia [cousin]

Martin v The council... 13/7/07

I don't drink so I never go into the Portwell Bar, I don't smoke so I don't need to sit outside it and as far as I know I have never met Martin Phillips and if any of you think I lead a boring social life .well, could be !
But..you don't have to be smoker or a drinker to appreciate that the Portwell Bar is nothing but, wait for it, an asset to Faringdon.

I suppose the proposed charges and restrictions being suggested can be justified by Council Officials who may even weep crocodile tears at the necessity to impose them. I'm sure that almost all those involved would assure Martin that if it was up to them the whole business could be 'sorted' but their hands are tied.

I have no idea how much should be paid, or for what, but I DO KNOW that the locals sitting outside the Bar watching the Boy Racers speeding past in what used to be the Bus Lane do nothing but good for the Market Place Atmosphere.

I know that some of you regular posters will be tempted to oppose me as a matter of principle but just this once, let's face it, you haven't got a case.
Harry G Mitchell.

Re Friday 13th - 13/7/07

Yes Martin there is already a heated debate going on regarding A boards and other street furniture.

The VWHDC have decided we all now need to be granted permission to display A boards, planters barbers poles etc. The cost will be £265 per application and then you may not get the permission, but you have to first contact Oxfordshire County Council Highways for them to grant consent to get the permission - hope you are following this!! - the only trouble is they OCC cannot do this as it is illegal for them to do it, they have in the past overlooked all street furniture as long as it doesn't intrude on public footpaths etc. the story will not end here as Faringdon Retailers and Chamber are looking into it.

Yet again another stealth tax for small business, it seems to me this government wants to kill off all small towns or make them all very dull just like the large shopping centres.

Maybe if enough people complain they will leave Faringdon alone.
A lot of businesses are working very hard to make the town look great by having seating outside, may you all continue.
Denise Palmer

Boogie Me Website and Email - 13/7/07

Now Back Up
Apologies for anyone trying to contact Boogie Me as our site and email have been down.
All now ok and you can contact us at www.boogie-me.co.uk or email info@boogie-me.co.uk
Many thanks Jon

Re: Fab Arts Festival.- 13/7/07

Great that you enjoyed FAF.

There is some information about some of the bands that played the Arts Festival on the www.britpopuk.com site although it is a bit out of date.
Steve Wright (PowerTrain)

THIS MUST BE FRIDAY 13th - 13/7/07

FACTS:
I pay £360 per month in business rates for the Portwell Bar (yet still have to pay Grundon to take my waste away).

Until now my license to put tables and chairs out was a simple matter of applying to the County Council Highways Department, who granted the license at no charge. I have now been informed that I have to pay £150 for them to consider the renewal of the license. This sum is deductible from the £750 per year that I will now have to pay if the license is granted. If it is not granted the £150 is non-refundable.

I have also been informed that my A boards will not be allowed out from 1st August unless I pay £265 for the County Council to consider an application, which is not guaranteed (and probably not likely) to be granted. The fee again is non-refundable.

I have received many, many compliments about the trellis fencing sections I put up during the Arts Festival weekend. I have now heard on the grapevine that due to one individual complaint I must remove them.

COMMENTS:

I was under the mistaken impression that my business rates were meant to cover our various councils' costs.

I do not begrudge paying an additional administrative charge to the Council to cover their costs in granting licenses for outside tables and chairs, from which we can only benefit for 4 or 5 months per year at best. £150 non-refundable deposit and £750 per year for a little rubber-stamping, a bit of stationery and a postage stamp appears to be a little steep.

Are A boards really that bad if they do not force pedestrians onto the road?

With regard to the trellis fencing, we have ensured that at least two panels are retracted at the end of every session to allow pedestrian access onto the road (even though nowadays it is positively dangerous since it appears to have been abandoned as a bus lane). Is the trellis fencing not an improvement to our Market Place? Please tell me either way - I will willingly go with the majority opinion if the powers that be will let me.

I'm struggling to see a health and safety argument against what we are trying to do to make our home town a better place. You will be able to sense that I am somewhat disgruntled.

QUESTION:

What do you think?

Let's have a heated debate, air our opinions (all of them please, good and bad, from retailers and general public), and see if there's any way I can become grunted again.

Martin Phillips

Financial Opportunity - 13/7/07

At first glance it seems a wonderful idea.

However, it has dire financial consequences for the rest of us.

As with satellite dishes and sky, your invention will become a necessity for modern life. No doubt the "social" will also see it as being fundamental and a life essential. Millions of the items will be purchased by the state and redistributed to those who can't afford but need and demand them.

As tax payers however, we will be paying for them.

So, excellent idea, but no thank you, I'm fed up paying for essential satellite dishes, cars that don't get taxed, cigs and beer, and for a large number of people who expect and demand something for nothing.

Now that's controversial.

Devil's Advocate

Re Fab Arts Festival - 13/7/07

So pleased that you enjoyed the weekend.

If the skateboarders had worn appropriate protection they could have performed for us. Maybe next year?

All the bands, apart from 'Forgotten Priority' - the winner of 'Battle of the Bands' - are named in the programme which you can still download from www.faringdonartsfestival.org website if you didn't pick up a printed programme.

There are some super photos of them (and a few skateboarders) on <http://www.flickr.com/groups/314165@N24/pool/>

If you need more info about some of the bands, contact me via this site.
Sheila

PS to Jim's list of afflictions - 13/7/07

As Jim ignored X may I suggest a last line?
"X is for that awkward rhyme that Jimmy couldn't find "
Helpful of Faringdon

Financial opportunity - 12/7/07

On a stroll round Faringdon I was struck by a Eureka moment and have produced detailed sketches for an invention which should sell well in our town and probably throughout the World..

Unfortunately I do not have the funds to maximise the profit from my invention so I am inviting applicants to finance my venture. Don't miss out on this golden opportunity because it will be on a First Come First Served basis

This is the problem and my solution.

On any walkabout in our town centre you will see many mums pushing their offspring in pushchairs. Most of them are having to do this with only one hand because their other hand is fully occupied with a cigarette and/or a mobile phone. My solution is obvious but so are most great inventions. I have produced plans for a combined ashtray and phone holder which can be clipped on to a pushchair. I am also working on a similar item which can be clipped on to a small child.

Anyone interested in providing backing may contact me anonymously through this site if the Eds allow it
H Robinson

Fab Arts Fest - 11/7/07

Arts Festival was a fab fantastic weekend in Faringdon and must pay attention to some of the talents which were not billed.

Skateboards and BMX type stunts brought some good entertainment maybe the skate park better place in the Market Place ;) so we are entertain all year round.

It would be good if we could have this event every month.

Does anyone know if there is further information on the bands which took part?

Name Supplied

Something to look forward to? - 10/7/07

A is for arthritis,
B is for bad back,
C is for chest pains, maybe cardiac,
D is for dental, decay and decline,
E is for eyesight, nope, can't read that top line,
F is for fluid retention,
G is for gas, best not to mention,
H is for high blood pressure, I'd rather it was low,
I is for incisions, scars you just can't show,
J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack, when you try to bend,
L is for libido, whatever happened to sex,
M is for memory, um, can't think what comes next,
N is for neuralgia, in nerves way down low,
O is for ostio' bones that no longer grow,
P is for prescription, I do have quite a few,
Q is for queasy, is it fatal?, is it flu?
R is for reflux, one meal turns into two,
S is for sleepless nights, counting all my fears,
T is for tinnitus, there's bells inside my ears,
U is for urinary, trouble with the flow,

V is for vertigo, that's dizziness, don't you know,
W is for worry, about what's going round,
Y is for the years I've left, above the ground,
Z is for the zest of life, but only in my mind.
Jim Horton

Weather - 10/7/07

Aw Steve. There I was thinking it was all down to Martha and the Doctor!
Next year we are going to attempt to raise (no, that is not a spelling mistake) the Corn Exchange.
Perhaps you could help with that and another bit of summer for 'Fiesta in Faringdon' would be welcome.
Sheila

Jim from Harry - 10/7/07

You complained 'cos I wouldn't play with you.
Well, it's 'cos of the words you use which I know my mum wouldn't have liked.
I never wrote soddon so there ! I wrote sodden and meant sodden not s**ding,and,you used the word scally which she wouldn't have liked,and,I don't think she would have told me what a*** means.

So now you know and if you don't give me my ball back I'm going to tell ...
Harry

Weather - 9/7/07

HGM, Thank you and I claim total responsibility for the weather improvement - well, no-one else will!
Steve Wright

SPELLCHECKER - 9/7/07

Harry, you have finally spelt a word wrong,and as always I am happy to put you right. It's not "soddon" it's "s--ding".

Thanks for the compliment, I feel bad now.
By the way, it wasn't Slade I was in, it was the Sad dads, how soon they forget, how fickle is stardom, deep sigh.....
Jim Horton

Brainstorming? - 9/7/07

I thought all the talk about PC and brainstorming was a spoof..The kind of nonsense which I may even have considered writing myself. But I checked it out with Google and Google says it is correct and so it must be, mustn't it Jim? Incidentally I never believed that Jim was ever in Slade or any other prison.He's far too clever to get caught never mind convicted and any way he was probably innocent !

PC spoof or not the Mind Boggles (am I allowed to say that?)

The market place festivities were great this weekend . The music was splendid and the organisers and participants are to be congratulated.

Unfortunately we now expect all our entertainment to be of a high standard so there may be a tendency to overlook the effort involved in producing these apparently effortless performances.

But one man/woman/person (I really can't be doing with this PC rubbish) did a splendid job and needs more public recognition. So don't be shy.step forward and be recognised..I refer to whoever it was who arranged for two sunny days in the middle of our Sodden Summer.

HGM

Raffle winner - 9/7/07

The winning raffle ticket for the Faringdon Arts Festival was a pink ticket number 499.
Would the luck winner please contact Julie Farmer from myPA Recruitment on 01367 244607 or pop in to the office

at number One London Street, Faringdon.
Thank you
Julie Farmer

Exciting Arts Festival - 8/7/07

Yet again, the Faringdon Arts Festival proves what an exciting, vibrant place Faringdon is to live in.

It is 5:00am Monday morning and I still can't sleep due to the adrenalin rush!
Thanks to everyone who came to all the events and all the artists who performed for us. As Market Place stage manager (a very grand title) I had a great opportunity to look out on the crowd and seeing everyone enjoying themselves so much makes the effort worthwhile.

One point that lots of people commented on was that the Well Dressing decoration was back and it looked great - thanks, I assume, to Sam and Hilary.
I'm looking forward to FAF 2008.
Let's hope I can get to sleep before then.
Steve Wright

Teenagers of Faringdon - 7/7/07

Not possible to publish your comments - I need a real name and email address
But we're glad you look at the site
Gene Webb

Children's Choir - 08/07/07

Could I draw your attention to this wonderful opportunity for any youngster at primary school interested in singing. Salisbury Cathedral is advertising for children to join its junior choir, and it is open to anyone who is in the right age group. For further details and contact address/phone numbers see the Cathedral web site
<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/news.php?id=237>
It's a long way to travel, but anyone who wishes to take up this opportunity and is able to do so, will get a superb training and the chance to sing in one of Britain's most impressive venues. It's free, and not limited to children who live in or around Salisbury.
HT

IDENTITY THEFT - 6/7/07

Firstly let me make it quite clear that Slade prison and I have never met. (I saw Slade at the New theatre in Oxford once, and also at the Faringdon Corn Exchange, but that's a different story).

The reason I have not been annoying this site for a while is because I have been doing missionary work, that is to say painting and decorating outside of Faringdon. what do I find on my return, some scally using my identity, not only that, getting "banged up" for what, I dread to think.

I have my reputation to think of, and to have someone dragging my good name through the mud (I saw them as well) is outrageous.

He does however sound a likeable rogue, what with his razor sharp wit, and his Leslie Philips "hello ladies" he does sound like my sort of guy, (as opposed to Lukewarm).

No, I can honestly say that my razor sharp wit has been sheaved for some time now, and I have not been galloping around Faringdon slapping my a*** like a ten year old boy coming out of Saturday morning pictures after watching a cowboy film(circa 62-63, come on admit it, we all did it) for a while. Harry just doesn't seem to want to play anymore, and where wit is concerned, I never pick on an unarmed man anyway,

So, Mr Norman Stanley Fletcher (can we call you Fletch'?) seeing as you are doing nothing for the next five years perhaps you would like to badinage.

Anyway must go, good work to be done in Fyfield.....have brush, will travel.....
Jim Horton

Politically correct - 6/5/07

In response to the Politically Correct post by HT, I discovered this on the net posted a few years ago by Garry Platt of brainstorming.co.uk. I hope he doesn't mind me quoting him verbatim.

"The name has been criticised in some quarters and deemed to be politically incorrect, confused, bored? I was. The contention is that some people who experience epilepsy might be offended by the expression Brainstorming, why? Because an epileptic seizure might be defined as a Brainstorm.

I was highly sceptical of this claim and did some research of my own; I contacted the British Epilepsy Society (BEA) who are a group which represent the interests of sufferers, carers and researchers into this illness and spoke to their Public Relations department. Their response was to emphatically deny that the term Brainstorming was non PC and deemed the term perfectly acceptable and indeed made the interesting observation that they themselves use this idea generating technique in their own offices and call it by its true name; Brainstorming.

Not satisfied with this I posted a question on to 3 newsgroups and forums which focus on Epilepsy asking whether this term was none PC. I had 47 responses, all of them stating that no offence was received by this terms nor could there be by any reasonably minded person. The end result of this is that I continue to use the term Brainstorm and urge you to do the same challenging anyone who tries to convince you otherwise, they are not using the facts to make their decisions.

I also sadly reflect on the fact that there are far too many HR departments with either so little to do or such a poor grasp on reality that they spend time sending edicts round requesting people to no longer use the term 'Brainstorm' when in truth there are no problems at all with this term except in their fevered and limited imaginations."

It is about time we put a stop to this nonsense and "Nit picking".
Whoops... you're not supposed to say that either are you??
Citizen Smith

Act-IV Theatre Company - 05/07/07

This Company are making a brief stopover on their hundred-gags-an-hour tour to the Edinburgh Festival, bringing "Europrats - a 12-star Revue!" to Faringdon.

This is a show that asks the really important questions about life within the European Union: What would happen if Austria got Hungary and ate Turkey? Does the Euro Gravy Train fit inside the Euro Gravy Boat? And why is the nun blue?

Answers to these, plus many other questions you thought you'd never ask, can be found in the **Faringdon Junior School Main Hall on 15th July**

Tickets are £5 each, including a glass of wine or a soft drink

Box Office / Enquiries to Richard on 07743 915780

Don't miss this hour-long smorgasbord of satirical and saucy sketches and songs, boarding at precisely 19:30
- Santé!

Politically Correct.....05/07/07

I had this conversation with my son the other evening:

I ask him what he thinks about the idea that some schools may scrap traditional lessons altogether and take up long term project work.

"As a matter of fact," he says "I'm going to a conference about that very thing on Thursday"

"Oh," says I, "That's interesting"

"Yes" he says "Our headmaster is very keen, and it can work if you do it properly, like at some of the schools I saw in Australia. The organisers rang me yesterday to ask if I'd chair one of the breakout groups"

I am intrigued. Breakout groups. "Breakout groups" I repeat "What are breakout groups?"

"Oh its just management speak for when you get into groups to discuss things.....brainstorming" he adds.

"You mean like cross-fertilisation of ideas" Dredging up sixties jargon.

There is a pause.
"Sorry" He says. "I mean 'thought showers'"
"Thought showers?"
"Yes. We're not allowed to say 'brainstorming' any more. Its offensive to epileptics"
He does not laugh.

HT

Important meeting- Wed 11th July, Faringdon Community College, 7pm - 5/7/07

Have your say - Neighbourhood Action Group

An opportunity to tell the various organisations what our view of the issues in Faringdon are and what we think are the priorities - so they know what to work on first - well that's what the poster says.
Representatives from Parish and District Councils, Housing associations, Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Youth Service, Schools

Gene Webb
Ever the optimist

Au revoir Jim (with apologies to Porridge) - 5/7/07

See..We told you..Good behaviour did reduce your sentence. Yes. I know ..you were innocent like most of us in Slade. You'll soon get used to the anklet and if you push some soft toilet roll down it, not like the stuff we have here, you'll hardly notice it's there.

Now you're back on the streets Faringdon will once again be able to enjoy your unique brand of razor sharp witticisms and it was good to see that while some in here find Religion you discovered Google. But remember our Golden Rule "thou shalt not get caught"

Me, Godber, Blanco, Ives and Mr Barrowclough send our best but Mr Mackay's message in his distinctive Scottish way was "Laddie, you'll be back". Harry Grout was a bit upset at your webmessage until we told him that the Harry you can't resist making snide remarks about wasn't him.

Don't forget when you visit us Prisons are not smokeless zones and snout is always welcome
PS Lukewarm sends his love and looks forward to seeing you again.
Norman Stanley Fletcher
(Slade Prison for the next 5 years)

GERONTIUS - 3/7/07

A 5th Century Roman General, a Greek word for "old man"(I will have to start calling Harry that).
Cardinal Newmans poem, and of course,Elgars, The dream of Gerontius.
Amazing what you do when rained off and looking on this site.
Jim Horton

Hot air in Faringdon - 3/7/07

seems to be a lot of hot air in Faringdon, havnt you folks herd of climate change - lets keep Faringdon cooooool
Pimpernel

Skatepark - 3/7/07

Some time ago I posted a letter on here warning people to be careful as they walked along the path that links Southampton Street and Park Road. I had just seen a group of lads walking home from school enjoying what seems to be becoming an increasingly popular game in Faringdon. Bottle smashing.

I don't know if anybody else has noticed recently just how much broken glass is littering the town - the path near the playground in Harding Close is awful.

There is a bench - youngsters sit there, drinking, smoking.....and its couple of feet to the waste bin - too far to walk.

Anyway, back to the lads I saw smashing the bottles.....shortly afterwards, a picture appeared on the front of the Folly paper - a group of teenagers begging the town to build a skatepark.

Funnily enough - a couple of familiar faces !.

I hope if a park is built for them they show it more respect....wouldn't it be awful if they fell off their boards and cut themselves ?.

Name Supplied

Playing Devils Advocate - 3/7/07

Just purely to play Devils Advocate for a minute...surely a town like Faringdon not having a tennis court is only an unthinkable prospect to those who like to play tennis? In the same way, not having a skateboard park is perhaps only unthinkable to those with a vested interest in skateboarding (whether that be as skateboarders themselves, as parents/carers desperate to see their skateboarding family members happy and entertained or even disgruntled residents wanting youth away from the streets!)

In a similar vein, not having pubs is perhaps only unthinkable to those who use them; not having a curry house is unthinkable to those who like curries and having no library is unthinkable to those who use it?! We are never all going to agree!

I could go on but will spare you all. I guess what I'm trying to say is that we're all different and you can't please everybody all the time.

There are things for young people in town but they won't appeal to all of them.

Ideally we would like to see more choice for all ages but that doesn't come without a lot of time and hard work. There are many people working really hard achieve this but also many others who just want to moan (I'm not directing that at anyone specifically I hope you understand!)

Don't slate our lovely town just because it doesn't cater for your every need. If you want to see things in done then get up and do something to help. We have many wonderful volunteers who have done great things for Faringdon and have ensured that the things they want to see happen here do - Faringdon Arts Festival, Madd May Fest, Party in the Park and the Skatepark Group are all great examples of this.

Hilary you've hit the nail on the head with your comment about unity - it really is time we all started getting together as a whole community and not just arguing about things from our own insular points of view!

Anna

Hello Faringdon.- 2/7/07

It is lovely to hear that Nial's friends care about their own peer-group and would like to add to our town's culture. It will grow with time and your support. Thanks also to David Reynolds.

We appear to be rival factions on some occasions but in fact are working towards the same goal - i.e.- let's get our communal acts together and involve everyone.

As it has been pointed out, the Junior School made a marvelous job of dressing the well this year and will be doing so next year, The Mayor has started a new Annual event called "Combat Golf" which provides hours of amusement to the badgers who field the tennis balls which end up in their homes (plus Nial - how much washing?)I look forward to next year and you. yours,
Hilary M.A.D.D.

Skatepark again...Yawn...- 2/7/07

(and I know it's supposed to be coming soon to a field near you) BUT I agree with some of what Gerontius says re. determinedly child-centred culture etc. However, as such things are so quickly forgotten, it might be worth remembering that it took years of campaigning just to get a decent playground in Faringdon (though, to be honest, as my children are older, I don't know what the state of the playgrounds is here nowadays) and it is taking just as long for a skatepark.

It is rather ironic that when my two eldest children were little, I often used to join up with other mums and drive to Lechlade or Bampton or Alvescot or Carterton or Witney to find a decent playground (when the joys of pushing or

pulling them up Folly Hill were palling) - here we are 10 years later driving to Uffington, Stanford, Bampton, Lechlade (+ Witney, Swindon, Grove, Oxford etc) to drop them off at skateparks.

You may think loads of towns don't have skateparks - I'm not sure that you are right and it's pretty depressing that poor old Faringdon still ain't got one. We are going to Cornwall for a week in August, and one skateboarding member of my family is very pleased to have discovered via Google that there are no less than 4 skateparks within very easy reach of Penzance (which itself has a skatepark.)

From a parent's point of view, skateboarding can often seem dangerous, noisy and the boards (and shoes!) expensive, but it requires good lengths of time out of doors in the fresh air, physical exercise and - if there is a designated skatepark - keeps the skaters (and BMX bikers and rollerbladers) well occupied away from other parts of the town or village. And it doesn't require any adult supervision - and that's a definite bonus!

By the way, skateboarding has been popular now since the early 1970s. Maybe another parallel (apart from the children's playground one) could be found in the unthinkable prospect of a town like Faringdon not having any tennis courts.

Margaret Townsend

Gerontius Youth Posting - 2/7/07

"Gerontius" is close enough an anagram to "Onerous Git" for me to conclude that the poster probably has his own youth well and truly behind him!

As someone very dear to me often says "You don't stop playing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop playing!".

Lighten up Gerontius!

David Reynolds

Not enough resources poured into our youth?? - 01/07/07

A quick look through this website reveals in the clubs and organisations pages no less than 27 local organisations with a specific invitation for children and young people; the Arts Festival, and various other events in and around the area are specifically geared to the interests of the young. It seems to me that far from not enough resources being poured into young people's activities; there are ample.

We are suffering from a culture that cannot treat it's youngsters realistically.

Reading the postings on this website - we see, for instance that criticism of the Park sculpture should not be tolerated because 'children were involved', and the cheerful, but temporary, well dressing decorations looked 'fantastic' and should not be removed - despite the fact that well dressing is not customary in this area, and that well dressings being, traditionally, made of perishable materials would not usually be in place more than a few days.

Maybe this is the endemic result of our determinedly child-centred culture, started back in the sixties, but these days some young people have become so used to getting what they want, when they want, that they can be demanding, strident and without any realisation that they are still immature, learning, and have little experience. Youthful opinions are often selfish and lacking in judgement. There are many age groups to be catered for in our society, - not just youth.

So there isn't a skatepark - so what? There's loads of towns where there are no skateparks. There has been a lot of goodwill and effort expended to deal with the problems associated with this. There is however a good leisure centre, and many other spaces; and adults willing to give up their time and effort to help and support youth groups.

Of course youngsters should be supported, encouraged; and praised, and some are truly exceptional; but being sentimentally over protective about achievements which are fairly commonplace is asking for big let-downs later on, when they have to face competition in the big wide world.

Gerontius

Party in the Park - 1/7/07

Congratulations to Dawn and Denise for all the thought and hard work they put into the planning of the 'Party in the Park' and to the footballclub, Army cadets, members of Rotary. Maraid in the bus, Sean with the artic and all the musicians - and the many others involved.

It was a good event - pity about the weather but that's England! let's hope that we have another Party in 2008 - and better luck with the weather!
Margaret Barker

Events for young people? - 1/7/07

Good idea. Faringdon Arts Festival has the Battle of the Bands on Wednesday, where youth bands vie for the opening spot on Friday night.
The wonderful Junior School Choir opens Saturday morning's Market Place Stage performances.

There are drama, singing and photography workshops at the Pump House. An art exhibition by Faringdon Community College students, who also provide written commentary for the Fields of Battle exhibition.

White Horse Youth Music Group takes the stage on Sunday morning. In the afternoon, after a ballet performance, the young winners of writing and painting competitions will be announced.

It may not be enough for the anonymous poster, but perhaps next year he/she will get involved in organising the festival and introduce other youth acts or activities? S
Name Supplied

An event for Youth talent - 29/6/07

I believe that Faringdon is not putting enough time into its most valuable resource, the future generation. When you think about the children of Faringdon and how we can enhance their lives some of you may feel a sinking feeling as the words "skate park" float into your head but I believe that we need to involve them more in the culture of the town.

If any of you have children at any of the Faringdon schools then you will know of the art, music and literature that are produced by these younger members of our society.

If we could find a way of enhancing these amazing and hidden talents in a way that the children and all residence of the town can enjoy and take part in then I believe that we could bring people together.

I believe that we could make this work by appointing someone to organise an event that would display all of these talents in a variety of ways.

I was one of the many people who turned up to the youth section of the MAD MAY FEST which was expertly run by Nial Prince (son of Sam Prince) and I couldn't thank him quick enough for such an amazing event, I have already spoken to Nial and he would be honoured to be given this opportunity to put his mark on the town.

Name Supplied

Ed: Sounds a good idea- let us hear more

Faringdon Arts Festival - 29/6/07

The Faringdon Arts Festival is only a few days away.

We have been very lucky this year and a number of people have said that they would like to be involved.

I am very sorry to say, but I have moved offices in the last few weeks and have mislaid a few of your telephone numbers.

Would those of you who said you would like to be involved please call me again on 01367 244607 or Sheila on 01367 244016.

We look forward to hearing from you and making this years Arts Festival the best yet.

Take care

Julie Farmer

Parking - again - 27/6/07

Why oh Why is it that there is one rule for one in faringdon and one for everybody else???

When i recieve genuine deliveries for my premises i have to tolerate rudeness from some faringdonians and yet everyone else can park(even on the footpaths), deliver, stop and have a natter!!, and drive up a no entry road and receive no comment,

i seem to be blamed for the number 61,65,66 buses not being able to stop within there designated area, at all times whether it be my delivery or not. i must add that the number 66 bus has no problem parking in it designated area at 6am with the engine running for 20 minutes.

any thoughts?
Name supplied

Disabled access - 29/6/07

Hi

I'm new to this site although I have lived in the area for most of my life.

I have recently taken up employment in a local nursing home-you may have seen me I wear a red T shirt and push my clients all around town when the weather is fine?

It is not until now that I have realised the state of the pavements in the town and how difficult it is pushing wheelchairs around.

Another issue is wheelchair access to some businesses?

Today I tried to get into one charity shop but the steps prevented us and the same happened when we tried to access a cafe in town(no names?). We were forced to sit outside and it was cold!

Sort yourself out Faringdon!

Martyn Holder

"For a few local residents" - 28/6/07

One of things that brought my family and I to Faringdon was the fantastic community spirit that encompassed history and tradition.

Then, we had singing and dancing stopped at our community singing and dancing venue, because of complaints a few local residents.

Now, we have the traditional well dressing decorations removed from our ancient and traditional well because, of complaints of a few local residents.

I suggest that we support the Faringdon Arts Festival next weekend; otherwise the small minded minority will manage to get this wonderful event for our town 'removed / closed' stopped as well.

Guy Robinson

PS - has anyone else heard the rumour: 'All Saints Church is to have it's bells removed, as it is upsetting the peace for a few local residents on a Sunday morning?'

Portwell Art - 26/6/07

The art on the Portwell looked fantastic and brightened up an historic, but otherwise fairly drab looking construction! And now it's gone because the faceless, silent minority has stuck its oar in and, once again, got its own way!

A brief history lesson to those who colluded to have the art removed... "Well Dressing" is itself an historic act carried on for centuries across the country. So in an attempt to "respect" an historic monument you have in effect "disrespected" an ancient tradition (not to mention the disrespect to the children and teachers who spent hours producing the art).

Once again faceless, silent minority I hope you can hold your head(s) high as you walk through Faringdon.

David Reynolds

I believe that Faringdon is not putting enough time into its most valuable resource, the future generation.- 26/6/07

Tom - I'd really like to publish this - please let me have valid contact information - it will be kept private

Ed

London St Parking and Speeding - 25/6/07

Many of us were involved in the "unofficial community study" into parking in Faringdon over 2 years ago and suggested various solutions to the problems observed by residents, including London Street. This was all contained in a report, meticulously prepared by Cllr Tim Evans and this was presented to various official bodies whose view was

- 1) there is not a parking problem in Faringdon and
- 2) traffic speed in London Street is acceptable and no traffic calming is required (until someone gets killed).

Clearly, the problems still exist but getting our councils to do anything about it remains the problem. Perhaps we should undertake another "unofficial community study".

At least we wouldn't have to write a report because it already exists!

Steve Wright(former London St resident)

Super concert - 25/6/07

I really enjoyed 'An evening with VoiCE, Harriet Williams and The Sheriff's Men' performing madrigals, classic jazz songs, spirituals and early sacred music.

How good to see and hear such talent in All Saint's Church.

Thanks to the performers and to Steve Wright for bringing them to Faringdon Arts Festival.

Name supplied

Arts Festival programme - at a glance - 24/6/07

The full brochure is available - but you can [download the program here](#)(37kb, pdf)

Sheila Donovan

Portwell Pump Art - 23/6/07

I can't believe anyone would complain about some temporary artwork displays created by children of the town or that anyone would respond to these complaints

Sally Thurston

ED: The art has been removed now

Buses - 23/6/07

I would dearly love there to be a decent bus service. We have now lost our 'early' to Swindon on Saturday mornings.

My daughter used to get the 7.50 bus which got her in for her Saturday job before 9am. Now, the first bus gets in at 10am so people who want to work on Saturdays have to drive or be driven by willing parents.

As for Sundays, you can't get to Swindon until noon so no chance of a Sunday job either!

Joan

" It is defacing an historic monument" - 22/6/07

Childrens art to be removed because of complaints.

The art work created by the students of Faringdon junior school for the M.A.D.D. Mayfest well dressing, (The Portwell) admired by many, is now to be taken away

Once again the few control.

Sam Prince

Arts Festival Website - 20/6/07

Just to answer the ed's query, as well as to add a little something.

The website is continually being updated, although as I type this, it doesn't have full listings posted for the weekend

itself.

Those should be up by the end of the day though, so do hurry on over to the site and check out what the Festival has on offer this year.

Your friendly neighbourhood website-updater

Caroline Symcox

Ed: Thanks Caroline.

To all - There is more info now - you need to click on Events

Reporting problems to the Council - 21/6/07

I have just discovered <http://www.fixmystreet.com/> - a website where you can report any problem and not need to know which Council is responsible.

You must give the location - click on a map or by typing the street name.

You get an email from the Council that is sent the problem report - but this may only be an automated one - I have yet to see how effective reporting problems this way is.

My report suggested that the weeds on the pavement down Lechlade road were causing obstruction to pedestrians, also that the stream needed to be cleared.

Perhaps regular walkers down this path would let me know when(if!!) something is done - just by way of gaining confidence in the online service.

The Councils still have their own online reporting (see [tareportproblems.htm](#))- I wonder how they all join up!!

Cheers

Gene Webb

In support of Town Councillors - 20/6/07

I stumbled across this 'talking points' page quite by accident and i have to say that i am mortified by some of the remarks made about Cllr Hickmore. Honestly some people just dont know the dedication that these people have to improving the community for everyone.

You have no idea the time, energy and commitment it takes and i can not believe for one second that any of you complaining could do a better job so stop moaning, it is ridiculous.

If you have a personal opinon about someone then keep it to yourself, all i know is that this town council works extremely hard for the people of faringdon and i applaud each and everyone of them, past and present.

I have lived in faringdon all my life, and my father was on the town council so i know just how tough it is for them, it is deeply unfair to make comments of a personal nature on such an open forum and hope that what ever this little quibble is about that it is dealt with through other means of communication from now on.

Thanx for listening.

Name Supplied

Arts Fest again - 20/6/07

Dear Ray

Thank you for your message about the Arts Festival.

I can confirm we have a website <http://www.faringdonartsfestival.org>

You should be getting some more details about the events when we distribute the brochure in the next few days.

Julie Farmer

I hope that helps

Ed: But is the website uptodate??

Arts Fest programme - 20/6/07

Residential homes in Faringdon will this week start receiving a full brochure/programme of events covering the weekend of the Arts Festival 6-8 July.

They'll also be available at the Community and Tourist Information Centre and other high footfall points in the town. Posters about specific events will also be going up shortly.

Apart from the website the promotion of the event is to be focussed locally as we have found that, in the past, wider promotion is costly and quite frankly its effectiveness is questionable.

However, please feel free to spread the word to one and all!

David Reynolds Chairman - Faringdon Arts Festival

Arts Festival events - 20/6/07

Hello

Can anyone tell me whether a full listing for the Arts Festival has been posted yet, as I can't find it at the website?

Also, if any of the organisers visit this forum, can you tell me if they event is being publicised outside of Faringdon?

Thanks

Ray

Sponsor me?? - 19/6/07

Me - or rather would you like to sponsor me for the Oxford Big Bike Ride on sunday 24th June 2007 starting from Blenheim Palace.

All sponsorship will be for the Anthony Nolan Trust - taking lives back from leukemia.

Email me on nwilkinson@btinternet.com or call on 01367.242809

Many thanks

Nigel Wilkinson.

Car Boot Sale?? - 19/6/07

Does anyone in Faringdon know if there is a car boot sale due to be held in the area around mid july?

Name supplied

Suggestions for Faringdon - 19/6/07

I like the suggestions already put forward for Faringdon railway and cycle paths.

I would like to see something done to tidy up Park road; in particular the shabby grass verges. It would be nice to see some trees planted along the road and stop cars driving over the verges especially by the burger van. The road coming out of Faringdon by the police station is also becoming very tatty and pressure should be put on property owners, landlords etc to maintain thier property

I am very disappointed to hear the council are going to impose a levy on the few bars/restuarants for placing tables and chairs outside there premises and bringing a touch of Europe to the town.

Are they trying to stop this and keep us all inside?

David Sutton

Regular Blues Club - 18/6/07

The Jam club is to introduce a regular blues club @ The Crown Inn, Faringdon Market Square.

Featuring National and International performers. The Club will meet on Thursday Nights. Opening night August 23rd. After a very succesful M.a.D.D. Mayfest appearance, Pete Boss And the Bluehearts."Grapevine","Stormwarning"and "Blues Factory" are in line to follow.

There will be more information to follow. www.maddfaringdon.co.uk

Sam Prince

Faringdon Arts Festival Card-making Workshop - 18/6/07

The Folly Card Club is a local club with an interest in making greetings cards, either just for fun or for special occasions, which meet once a month in the June Rennie room.

The club will be demonstrating six different card making techniques, including tea bag folding and 3D decoupage.

To book a place on this exciting work shop please contact June Rennie on 01367 240085.

All levels are welcome.

A message for Mel Lane's stepson - 18/6/07

These days kids of all ages are given school projects and I know from past experience that many are treated by the children with the contempt they feel they deserve.

So it is nice to see that a 12 year old is interested enough to investigate a project.

Recycling plastic bags, if it worked, would obviously be a great idea. But I think you should consider two points

1.Hygiene. What has happened to the bags from the time they leave the shop and are returned.

2.How strong are the bags.Often they are only able to manage one journey from shop to home and there would be a tendency for all bags useable or not being dumped by shoppers glad to get rid of them.

But don't let a grownup's point of view rain on your parade.T

hat's something that grownups tend do if they hadn't thought of the idea.

HGM

Recycling project - 18/6/07

Dear Mel

Thank you to you and your stepson for your suggestion.

On behalf of FAP I think it is great idea as so many are from our younger members of our community.

I will certainly add it to our list of projects to bring forward for the next few months.

If you would like to discuss this project further please email me at julie.farmer@fap.org.uk

Julie Farmer

Recycling Project - 17/6/07

My 12 year old stepson is currently doing a school project on recycling and has requested that I find out the answer to the following question...

"Since everyone has got so many spare carrier bags and we get more of them all the time from supermarkets and stuff, why can't we give our carrier bags back to local shops in Faringdon so they won't have to buy them and we'll all be able to re-use them and it won't matter so much if we forget our proper shopping bags"

Can we discuss this?

It makes sense at a basic level but could it be made to work?

Could we all hand our carrier bags into a central point where they'd be re-distributed out to shops that are happy to join in?

Its not as good as being plastic bag free but its not a bad half-way point is it?

What do you all reckon?

Mel Lane

Faringdon Area Project - 17/6/07

These are the suggestions for projects that have been put to FAP over the last few weeks.

1 Performance Venue for live music

2 Large Town Map

3 Yearly Town Calendar

4 CCTV

5 Friends of the old Theatre

6 Faringdon Railway

7 Improved facilities for our older community members

8 Sleeping policeman along London Street

9 Saving the 2nd fire engine

- 10 Guided Tours of Faringdon
- 11 More cycle paths
- 12 Energy check for residential home
- 13 Speed reduction measure in the Faringdon "Triangle" of Gloucester St, Marlborough St and Gravel Walk, and London St

Over the next few days you will see suggestion boxes popping up all over town asking for peoples thoughts on how we can improve our town. This information will be very useful as it will form the basis of our community involvement process.

Once we have a number of suggestions we can then arrange a town meeting and invite all members of our community to come and vote on the projects they would like to see Faringdon undertake.

This list will also become invaluable when we send out questionnaire via Faringdon Advertiser, the What's On and other local media that will help us get set the next action plan.

In addition to the above we are in the process of arranging a large debate on CCTV and if Faringdon should acquire this form of monitoring for our town. In general conversation this issues has already brought up the lack of facilities for our youth and the suggestion of an increased crime rate in the Market Place.

Please take the time to let us know your thoughts and comments as we look to our members to help improve our town and help move us to the next phase of our growth

Email: info@mypabusienss.com or annamarlow@tiscali.co.uk

Ed: - or of course you could post your suggestion on Talking POints - then everyone will be able to see what has already been suggested., and or comment

We already have a an uptodate town map- easily enlarged

Car Boot Cancelled - 17/6/07

Due to unfortunat weather conditions we have had to cancel Sunday's car boot sale at Faringdon Cricket Club.

We hope to reschedule for August, date to be decided.

Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Anna

Buses for DOLs - 16/6/07

According to my information I don't think that the exact timetables have yet been set for the upgrading of the 66 Stagecoach service between Oxford and Swindon to a premier route, but it seems that they will be running up to 4 times an hour and finishing much later in the evening.

The planning gain Section 106 money from which this comes has been agreed, but not quite signed off as outline planning permission for the 400 Bloor Homes was only granted this week, and is subject to these negotiations being completed.

Couldn't say when this would be likely to start.

The newshound

Dashing Old Lady - 11/5/6/07

The improved buses are as yet just a rumour - but yes, the last service from Oxford to Faringdon would be far later than it is now (which, let's face it, wouldn't be difficult).

If Steve L is lurking around this site perhaps he can shed some light onto this.

Ray

Yippee- buses - 15/6/07

Buses? 4 an hour?? Yippee!

Us DOLs (Dashing Old Ladies) with our bus passes will be in and out of Oxford like yo-yos.

Will we be able to get back to Faringon after dark though?

DOL

London St parking - 14/6/07

Either of the parallel streets could be used to take the traffic in the opposite direction. If London Street was one way from the A420 down and on to the roundabout by the Fire Station then all of the delivery lorries could still make their deliveries with no problem.

As far as parking on the right hand side is concerned, you'd be surprised how quickly the available spaces in this town fill up - even right outside the church. There's no way I'm going to leave my car in the car park though, not only would it be expensive but I can't imagine that it would be in one piece when I got back there in the morning.

I'm pinning my hopes on Bloor beginning to build its new homes. As soon as they do then the ridiculous bus service we've got goes to 4 an hour and up until midnight (or so I've been led to believe).

I'm going to contact the council about London Street, though - something needs to be done.
Ray

Making London Street One Way - 14/6/07

Which street should be designated to carry traffic in the opposite direction, Ferndale Street? Church Street/Coach Lane? and how would large delivery vehicles manage? (think about Budgens deliveries - maybe having to turn around the Corn Exchange)

There is no reason why cars cannot be parked on each side of the highway during the permitted hours, and in fact it would be the easiest traffic calming solution to use. Why make it more convenient for the tearaways?
Name Supplied

Parking - 14/6/07

London Street has always been bad - but I don't understand why living in a house without parking should give the owner the right to park on the pavement if they can't find a space.

I would love to live in a character property but having a car I decided that parking was a priority.

The even more simple solution would be for the car owner to park safely as close as possible and walk....or use the town car parks.
Name supplied

Car Boot Sale- Sunday 17th - 13/06/07

For all of you out there with surplus items in your homes, why not get it all together and take a 'pitch' at the car boot sale taking place this Sunday at Faringdon Cricket Club. Pitches will be priced at £5 each.

Come along and find those bargains!! 11.30 onwards
Richard Marlow

London Street - 13/06/07

Hi, I live on London Street and experience on a daily basis the idiots who tear up and down in their cars. They are not always boy racers either, but men and women of all ages and obvious incomes.

I also experience difficulty in finding a parking space for my car, which is why you sometimes find that some of us park on the right hand side of the road. (looking down). Unfortunately, because of the idiots who use London Street as a race track we also have to place our cars onto the curb. Which is annoying for everyone.

I have a simple solution to both of these problems: make London road one-way and place a number of chicanes along it. This will stop idiots of all ages driving like the idiots they are and allow us to park on both sides without needing to park on the curb. Any ideas who would be the right official to approach about this?

Thanks Ray

Informing the police - 12/6/07

Informing the police about an illegally parked, untaxed car, witnessed causing an obstruction by a number of people for 'the best part of two hours' is bound to elicit a response. The evidence is parked and ready for collection and there is a reasonable chance that a successful prosecution would follow.

What would have been the outcome if the car had moved off before the police had arrived; or if the onlookers hadn't been there for more than a couple of minutes - would police or onlookers have been prepared to pursue the matter?

Before we condemn out of hand those bystanders who see incidents and fail to reach for their phones just consider this.

1. In each of the Marlborough St and London St. incidents there was a single uncorroborated allegation - of a single incident.
2. The perpetrators had left the scene long before there could have been any attendance by police, who in any case would not have classified the call as urgent as there was no accident. (a collision in which there are no casualties/reported damage doesn't count)
3. There was no evidence, just one person's word.

Had the police paid a visit to the owner of the car whose registration was recorded, the allegation would doubtless have been hotly denied and the honesty/reliability of the witness questioned, and no chance of any action taken against the driver - sorry - *alleged* driver. ["Wot, me?? - I was here all afternoon"]

I too live in London Street, and have often heard/seen cars and motor cycles which appear to be racing up and down the road. A pedestrian's perception of vehicle speed is notoriously unreliable, so unless there are a number of witnesses in this particular type of incident, there is little point in involving the police. Had there been a complaint to the police in the above examples they would certainly have responded, but without any reasonable hope of deterring the drivers, even if they could identify them.

This is not a condemnation of the police, merely a realistic view. (and no - I was not the witness in the London Street incident).

Hilary Taylor

The police do respond - 12/6/07

Anyone in Market Place last night would have been entertained by the remarkable piece of double parking of an Audi outside the Portwell Bistro.

The car was left blocking one side of the road for the best part of two hours while the owner obviously wandered off to do other more important things! However, the police were called and were there within 20 minutes...after a bit of deliberation and probably prompted by the fact that the car's tax disc was 4 month's out of date they had the car hoisted onto the back of a pick-up truck and whisked it away!

Now who says they don't respond?

If no-one informs them can't do anything about it can they?

David Reynolds

Something can be done - 12/6/07

Yes, there is something that can be done to stop reckless drivers. Take down their numbers and contact the police.

The bystander who failed to do so and said 'nothing will be done' was simply excusing their own unwillingness to get involved.

Paul Cornell

Reckless Driving - 12/06/07

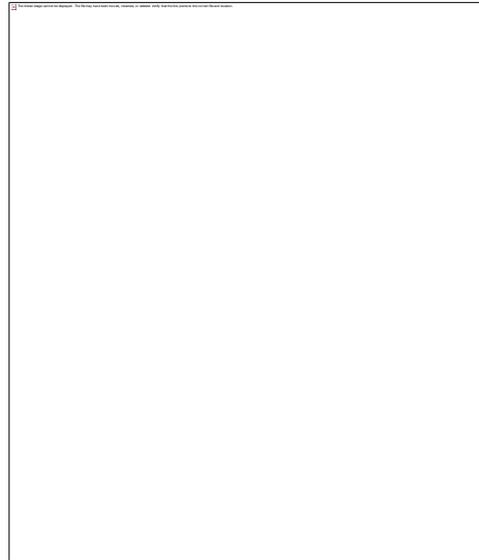
Might the car who raced up Marlborough Street be the same one which was racing with another car up London Street, later? This one was involved in a collision, but no-one called the police as there were no casualties.

The pathetic boy racers who drive so badly - imagining that they are so macho and so clever - do so at everyone's risk. The witness who took their registration numbers failed to contact the police as "Nothing will happen, the police won't do anything"

On another traffic related grumble, again in London Street, cars are parked so close to the sides of the houses that pedestrians cannot pass. The one in this photograph was just 20 inches away from the wall - a couple with their baby in a pushchair had to walk out into a busy road to get by.

Why are we all so helpless against selfish, irresponsible drivers? Is there nothing that can be done?

name supplied



Congratulations to the Junior School choir - 10/6/07

.....on their confident performance of 'Another Brick in the Wall' and other songs in their own set last night. Great gig all round from Breathe with excellent support from Neil Dwerryhouse and his new band the Young Gods.

Contrast this with the dunderheads in a very fast car, with massive sound booming out, who nearly wiped out my family crossing the road at the top of Marlborough Street on Friday afternoon just after 3pm.

They were about to cross the road when out of nowhere a car doing well over 60mph careered up the road. My daughter had to be dragged back off the road to the pavement in the nick of time. It was a very close shave and she was extremely upset.

Were they thinking about anyone else's life? I don't think so, and yes they happened to be young and wearing baseball caps...

This is Faringdon, it takes all sorts.

Al Cane

Customer Service? - 8/6/07

There is a message in 'Rob the Cheese's' shop about shortage of custom. Sorry but some of this comes back to his lack of customer care. What happened to the customer is always right. I wanted a piece of parmesan. I do not want it nine inches long, three inches high and half an inch wide. He was not prepared to compromise on this so he lost (a very good) customer.

Davis's still close at lunchtime. When that is the time that the working population of this town (the one's with disposable income) are around to buy things, they are shut.

The barman at the Bell accidentally spilt a glass of wine over me. Not only did I not get an apology, but I still had to pay for the refill and I was wearing a cream top which I now have to get the stains out of, and white underwear which is now ruined. I also had to curtail my evening as I didn't want to appear as if I had spilt wine on myself or go around smelling of a winery. Had I had at least an apology and perhaps a token of recompense I would have written it off. As it is I feel like a second class customer.

If this is the way our businesses treat their customers then it is no wonder that our towns trade is dying.

Jane Boulton

Thankyou - 8/6/07

Just a quick note to say thank you to the poster who said kind things about my Doctor Who. Cheers.

Paul Cornell

The "Jam Club" - 8/6/07

Runs on the third Sunday of every month is pleased to present "Blues in Faringdon" @ The Crown Inn
This will be on Thursday's 8pm.

Commencing on the 23rd August. Featuring bands such as Pete boss and The Bluehearts, The Daniel Smith Blues Band, Grapevine Blues, The blues Factory and Storm Warning, to name but a few. Information soon to be available **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

This is sponsored by M.a.D.D. a not for profit organisation.

Well Roland perhaps a Ska band is not so far away.

Sam Prince

A Celebration of Pink Floyd- 7/6/07

from 'Breathe' Faringdon junior School this Saturday, Doors open 7pm

Junior School Choir 7.30pm

Neil Dwerryhouse and the Young Gods 8pm

Breathe (with junior school choir) 8.50pm

Due to a problem in obtaining a licence please BRING A BOTTLE or TWO.

Soft drinks available.

A SPLENDID TIME IS STILL GUARANTEED FOR ALL

www.breathefloyd.co.uk

www.singalongpunk.co.uk

www.faringdonartsfestival.org

Sean

CCTV - 7/6/07

Have you been enjoying the comments raised on Talking Points about CCTV? Do you have strong views either for or against CCTV being introduced to Faringdon? Would you be interested in participating in a town debate on the issue?

Faringdon Area Project are about to launch a series of events to engage the local community in Faringdon's revisit of the healthcheck. We want to find out your opinions on the town's strengths and weaknesses and what you think it needs to ensure it continues to thrive.

As part of this process we will be hosting a debate about CCTV at the Corn Exchange in Faringdon (date to be confirmed!). We need volunteers to come forward who would be prepared to speak publicly either for or against the idea and get the debate going.

There is an awful lot of passion amongst townspeople regarding local issues and we think a debate would be an entertaining and productive way to discuss these topics. If this event is successful we hope to host further debates on a host of different subjects in the future.

If you are interested in presenting your side of the argument please contact Julie or Anna at FAP, on 01367 244607.

Anna Marlow

Join Friends of Folly Park - 6/6/07

Having read the comments about Folly Park perhaps those who have issues about it would like to join the Friends of Folly Park.

We are a small group of local people who are interested in maintaining the park as a conservation area.

Go onto our website at www.oxnet.org.uk/follypark to get a flavour of what we have been doing.

Re the statues I think we should remember our local children were involved in the design of them .

I also understand that the replacement statue is being produced, it has not been forgotten.

Margaret Broadberry

Ed: There is also info on this site on [lfollypark.htm](#) We're happy to put more details here - events, plans especially re the extension of the park. Send using the form on [leisure1.htm](#)

Brilliant Dr Who - 5/6/07

I'd like to add to the comment about Dr. Who by local writer Paul Cornell.
Brilliant, wonderful twists and turns, and very moving too.
I'm not ashamed to say I cried at the end - mind you, I do cry at the tv!
Well done Paul, may your pen keep full of ink!
Fiona Merrick

Arts Festival Writing Competition - 5/6/07

For the first time this year, the Faringdon Arts Festival is holding a writing competition for the budding authors of the town.

It's open to all, with prizes of £50 for each of the three age groups' winners, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors - local business "Keeping Data Safe".

For more details come and take a look at the Festival website - www.faringdonartsfestival.org

Caroline Symcox

Information from VWHDC - 5/6/07

This is the response I got from the District Council.

"After some time the funding for replacing the vandalised statue has been obtained and the mould is with the fabricator. Hopefully it will be completed shortly and reinstalled.

The road way into Folly Park is not owned by the District but we do have a Right of Access. I believe it is owned by Bloor Homes who are looking to develop the nursery site. As part of the development the access road will be upgraded and the existing problems should be dealt with. It is hoped that the actual car park to Folly Park which is owned by the Council will also get upgraded at the same time.

In the meantime I have already asked our Direct Services team to undertake some remedial works in the car park to try and improve the situation within the limited resources we have."

HGM

Courses at the Community College starting this week - 4/6/07

Holiday Spanish
Digital Photography software
Digital camera photography
Acting for adults
Beginners French

[See Whats On](#)

FAP e newsletter - 4/6/07

[Click here to read the latest news about:](#)

New address
Information Point
Health Check refresh
Grants
Festivals
Annual Report
Fap website
Fap Membership

Julie Farmer
Anna Marlow
01367 44607

Folly Park: - 4/6/07

I have this evening done my usual walk through the Folly Park.
The 'black fishermans stuff' left in the middle of the path is actually frogs-spawn
Someone obviously thinks it amusing to leave it on the path to dry out and die!
What ever next will they think of doing to destroy our lovely park.
Name Supplied

Dr Who - Human Nature' and 'The Family of Blood' - 4/6/07

Well done Paul Cornell! yet another great and interesting storyline.
You must be proud and so should Faringdon!
Name Supplied

Aptly named Folly Park. - 4/6/07

The Folly Park sculpture was installed in 2004 but no-one seems to know what it is and it has caused some heated discussion as it cost about £20,000.

Its meaning is causing even more controversy. It is based on a ' wind-worn megalith ' but it looks like four puzzled aliens (now reduced to three and a half) wondering how they finished up in Fun-Filled-Faringdon.
It is called As Old as the Hills (the Hills mentioned being geographic features not one of our Eds)

On 11-10-2004 I posted a poem about the "monument" but my well known modesty prevents ME from repeating it.
At the time David Reynolds defended them on the grounds that at some point all art is modern.
So what do you think about them now David ?
Were they value for money ?
HGM

Calling all poets - 4/6/07

As part of this year's Faringdon Arts Festival the Back Room Poets will be appearing at the Folly Inn on Saturday 7th July from 7pm.
There will also be a little music and floor spots offering local poets the chance to read their own work.

Why not take your latest offering along for a public airing?
For more details about the event, see www.faringdonartsfestival.org

Folly Park & Statues - 03/06/07

Yes, hear hear! let's leave the park as a secret wilderness, we have enough municipal meddling as it is. As for the statues, let them rot.

There is nothing misguided about dislike of the Folly Park sculpture. The committee which commissioned it clearly has little understanding of public works of art, and presumably didn't think to consult anyone who has

It is a dismal, boring piece of work, badly sited, which appears to have nothing at all to do with Faringdon. It has neither wit, monumentality, nor aesthetic merit.

No art critic with any knowledge would give it a second glance, let alone bother to damage it.
Name Supplied

Ed: Hear Hear! and I suspect if VWHDC have their way, the ££ the developer of the new housing has to make to Community Art will be spent on similar.

Folly Park - 3/6/07

Back in March I posted a letter on here asking about the pot holes. I even e.mailed VWHDC - no reply. The money they spent filling them in about 18 months ago was money down the drain.

I've just arrived back from a walk to the park actually. I didn't stay long. I don't think I've seen it looking worse. The lake was surrounded by fishermen/teenagers. A huge pile of unwanted black live bait had been left squirming in the middle of the path. Litter and cans everywhere. All in all - a very intimidating place to be. Would tourists recommend

our town if this is the first place they visit ?.

And as for the statues - an embarrassment to leave them there in such a state. If they are to be replaced can they please be made of a suitable material.

Better still - can somebody start teaching these mindless idiots to have some respect.

Name Supplied

Ed: How about trying again - report it on <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Onlineforms/DetailPage-9151.asp> I think the logging system forces the Council to reply

Folly Park - 2/6/07

Almost a year ago I negotiated the pot-holed track leading to the Folly Park. I saw that one of the fibreglass statues had been destroyed by some mindless vandals or a misguided art critic . Today the pot holes are deeper and the remaining portion of the statue is full of empty beer cans.

A committee must have decided that the statues were worth having and the same committee must have considered what to do about the damage. It would seem they had three choices.

First..Restore the statue to its former glory.

Second... Remove it completely.

Third...Ignore it and hope no one notices.

Regarding the pot holed entrance a similar committee had two choices.

First...Find out who is responsible and get it repaired.

Second...Ignore it.

It is obvious that in both cases the "Ignore it faction" were in the majority.

A large number of Faringdonians appreciate the Folly Park for what it is. A good dog walking area, a fishing lake and a place where teenagers with few other places to go can show off to their friends with a bit of minor vandalism such as burning picnic tables.

What the Folly Park is not is a tourist attraction so why not remove the Park Road sign and leave it as a secret wilderness known only to residents.

Name supplied

CENSORSHOP,PART TWO - 2/6/07

I am more than happy to let the Ladies of the Site refuse to put some postings up because they may be in bad taste. The Post Office ranting DID go on, and we all saw it.

Once on it should have been dealt with in the usual manner, eg ridicule, agreement, outrage, indifference, not a knee jerk reaction.

Come on Ladies put your teeth back in, you know we are only happy having a good scrap on here.

Did the Post Office staff complain, or reply to the removed post?

Jim Horton

CCTV Poem - 2/6/07

In response to the CCTV poem 'Bravo!' (Another poet laureate in our midst?)

I'm all for CCTV myself - can't wait to read all those statistics on arse scratching ;-)

Anna

CCTV - the Camera Speaks - 01/06/07

Horse's Mouth

O Tempora O Mores

copulation in shop doorways

fumbling on the steps of banks

sub town hall the solitary w***.

I watch all, my cyclops' lens unblinking

Where is the shoe shop - 30/8/07

I too am interested to know where the shoe shop is!

I held out on buying my children's school shoes right until the last minute in the hope that I could buy them in Faringdon and support a local business but it wasn't to be. I do hope this is just a delay and that we will see it happen.

Sadly I had to take my custom to Witney but at least I was able to take advantage of their FREE car parking!!

I did have a conversation about parking with a VWHDC councillor recently who seemed to think that the situation will never change in Faringdon. I can't understand why Abingdon, Witney and Wantage can all have free car parking but we can't.

I really feel for local businesses in Faringdon - it can't be easy!

Anna

Ed: I think the Witney situation is something to do with the land being given to the town. I agree, free (to some extent) parking would help Faringdon. But businesses could help themselves by offering a refund of the ticket price for spend over £x. Budgens do this.

Referring to the poaching egg thing - 30/8/07

My first cookery lesson was how to soft boil an egg, then how to hard boil an egg. The second lesson was how to poach and then how to fry an egg. (Please note each stage was done with a different egg!)

After that we learned how to make pastry, and made jam tarts, then we learned how to make egg and bacon flan. We did the lessons in stages, learning how to cook the eggs, then the pastry then putting these together in the flan.

These days though the school isn't given enough time and resources to do these lessons and they have to press on with food technology, as it's now known, and teach them quickly. My son's first lesson was fruit salad made with fresh fruit and orange juice - when I made fresh fruit salad, we were taught how to make a syrup. All my son learned there was how to put bought ingredients together, some fresh ones needing preparation of course, but not a lot.

I'm not a brilliant cook, but I do enjoy cooking and learned how to DESPITE my cookery teacher when I did my Food and Nutrition O Grade (in Scotland), not because of her - she and I did not get on, I'm afraid, but that is irrelevant!

I feel sad that schools are not able to take the time to let the children do longer cookery lessons and learn more during them.

Fiona Merrick

Satisfaction guaranteed on a local night for local people - 29/8/07

Live music back in Faringdon on Sat 15 September at the Junior School. 4 acts all for £5 in advance (Portwell Bar) or £7 on the door including

Surface Noise - from the Community College

The Likely Lads - Roger and Shaun regularly seen at the Portwell

Diablo13 - from Swindon

Tyla - the legendary final gig at the corn exchange last November and recently supported Alice Cooper in Milwaukee USA. Both acoustic and electric

Sound and lights being provided by Faringdon's finest Tim and Rod.

Any more info contact me via fbpromotions@tiscali.co.uk

cheers

Hamish

For the Chef who cannot cook a poached egg - 29/8/07

Buy yourself a poacher - put water in the water receptacle, put the egg in the egg receptacle, simmer until egg turns white, tip the egg out onto your toast - get back to me if you dont know how to do toast
Pimpernel

Allan - 27/8/07

Just check the insurance statistics ...
Mark Harrison

Well dressing query - 27/8/07

I've read a little bit about people complaining about the well dressing, but am unclear on exactly what the complaints were...
Would someone be kind enough to fill me in?
Kate Harrison

Technophobes? - 26/8/07

Surely the Technophobic Ladies should encourage their partners to spend many hours concocting erudite mail messages and then sending them via the DEL (for Deliver) button.
John Gillman

Where is the new shoe shop? - 24/8/07

Whatever happened to the new shoe shop that was meant to be opening in August (according to the paper sign in the window)? The sign has now been removed and there is no sign of any shoes!

I was really happy to hear that I wouldn't have to guzzle petrol just to buy my children their shoes (and children need new shoes too often to trail down to Greenbridge every few weeks!), and support local business at the same time.

Hope that this shop hasn't gone the way of many others in Faringdon, which seem to be disappearing at a rate of knots...
Name supplied

Technophobic Ladies...not ! - 24/8/07

A hundred thousand years ago a stone-age female said "I couldn't cook that Mammoth dear. I'm not sure that it's dead"
Her man said "That's no problem, mate, I'll grill the thing for you"
And that is why in modern times men do the Bar-B-Que.

But these days Women say to men " Computers hurt my brain"
So men, it's time to make a stand or we'll get stuck again.
There's lots of things that women do.
From making babies to cooking stew.
So why on earth do they pretend
they can't write an email and then press "Send" ?

MFC

To the frustrated chef: - 21/8/07

I find boiling the water then letting it just go off the boil before doing the vortexing thing, not too much water mind the level is also critical to a good egg I say
... then onto the toast, a nice runny egg with a bit of brown sauce, marvellous.

Name supplied

It's a fair cop,Guv. - 21/8/07

I've just had my moment of fame. I am now included in the Police Speed Camera Album. Which I think is a very fat book. My important statistics are listed including "allegedly driving at 36mph in a 30mph zone." My Grand Daughter summed up the situation by calling me "Naughty Grandpa".

This post isn't to complain about being caught. It is a warning to everyone who may have to follow me that in future I will be causing long tailbacks by keeping to the speed limits and you will overtake me at your peril. That doesn't apply to certain elements of road users of course. Joyriders in stolen cars can't be traced easily. People who don't have a valid Car Registration, MOT or Insurance won't have their details held at the DVLC so they can't be traced easily.

VIPs can claim they don't remember who was driving at the time so they won't get a ticket. And of course cars and enormous lorries with foreign number plates are excused from obeying our Highway Code because..you've guessed it..they can't be traced easily.

But the majority of TP readers probably are reasonable law abiding citizens. AND YOU CAN BE TRACED EASILY.

Name Supplied

Thank you Jane - 18/8/07

I appreciate your advice and I'll try it.

I appreciate even more the fact that you treated my problem with the seriousness I felt it deserved.

Frustrated Chef

Poetry..Faringdon Style - 18/8/07

The poetry competition is back again this year
and once again the winner will get money.

The subject doesn't matter, it's entirely up to you.

So will it be dead serious or funny ?

Once again Jim Horton is offering a prize
But I've heard, let's hope it isn't true...
Rumour says the first prize may be one of Jimmy's poems.
And the second prize might possibly be two.

Professor C.C. Norris has agreed to be a judge
Persuaded by the dulcet tones of Hil.
It can't have been too easy to persuade him to preside
But come what may, it seems, he's said he will.

So if you're good at writing, and even if you're not,
here's your chance to show what you can do.
Your name will not be published. No one will criticize.
So the best of luck to everyone of you.

Anon

To Frustrated Chef - 17/8/07

You need to turn the water rapidly so that it creates a vortex and drop the egg into the well caused.
I've found that cracking the egg into a bowl first is the easiest way or the water slows down too much before you get the egg into it.

When the egg is partially cooked use a slotted spoon to turn it over.
You need two pans for two eggs or the first is cold before you've cooked the second.

Good luck!!
Jane Boulton

Parking at the Leisure Centre - 18/8/07

Now it's school holidays there is always plenty of space in the car park at the Leisure Centre. Something to do with families being away on holiday, but mostly I think due to the fact that the school is on holiday- the large numbers of teachers and pupils with cars are on holiday too.

VWHDC have asked for more car parking at the Leisure Centre - to be paid for as part of Planning Gain from the soon to be built 400 houses near the Folly. Surely it is the school that needs the parking and therefore this should be paid for by Oxfordshire County Council??

Perhaps VWHDC and Soll Leisure should be restricting the use of the car park to Leisure Centre visitors only
Gene Webb

Poaching an egg should not be rocket science. - 17/8/07

While TP regulars are frantically composing poems for the competition will some less ambitious poster tell me how to poach an egg without using an egg poacher?

I put water into a saucepan coated with polytetrafluoroethylene and add a small amount of 5% acetic acid. I raise the water temperature to 98C and gently pour in one egg. It promptly sinks to the bottom of the water where the yolk sticks firmly to the supposedly non stick surface of the pan.

Most of the egg white forms a white scum on the surface and by the time I have removed it the yolk has the appearance and taste of a yellow golf ball.

What am I doing wrong ?

Frustrated Chef.

Ed: I think the water should be simmering v gently - see <http://whatscookingamerica.net/Eggs/PoachEgg.htm>

Singing for Pleasure - 13/8/07

For anyone and everyone who would like to sing for the sheer pleasure of singing. Whether you think you can sing or not, whether you can read music or not, whether you're male or female, whether you're 'mature' or young, whether you can come to all sessions or just some- all are welcome

It will start on Tuesday October 30th, and last for 6 weeks, until December 4th. and will be held in the Hall of Faringdon United Church, from 7pm - 8pm. It will cost no more than £2 per session, with perhaps a charge for copies of the words and music.

We are likely to have 6 more sessions starting in the New Year

We are fortunate to have 2 experienced musicians and singers to lead us. Initially we will sing well known modern(ish) and traditional songs. Perhaps Christmas ones too.

Look out for adverts in Whats On and on this site.

Please contact me if you intend to come, as it will be good to have some idea of the numbers to expect.

Gene Webb

genewebb@nildram.co.uk, 01367 242222

'The Motorist's If' (not by Rudyard Kipling). - 10/8/07

Many years ago, following a motoring accident, my mother bought my father a framed copy of "The Motorist's If".

I think he had bumped into the man with the red flag. I can only remember the following few lines but can anyone provide any others ?

If you can drive from John O' Groats to Devon and not tell lies about your average speed.

If you can treat the modest Baby Seven with all the care a limousine would need.

If you can thread your way through thickest traffic, nor cease from caution down the loneliest lane, aware that, once removed to realms seraphic, no hen or duck will e're see life again.

In short if you behave with due discretion as just one item in a mighty host

You'll be, if you will pardon my expression, A damned sight better motorist than most

Name supplied

Hi All - 8/8/07

I passed my test at 17 years 6 weeks in 1969.
My Dad had taught me to drive from the age of 14 on private property.

My son learned to drive in 2001.
I believe our driving skills are similar but his are more honed on the likes of roundabouts etc - which were few and far between in 1969.

But I have not written off my car like he has!
Jill Dean

Reply to Happy days - 8/8/07

I usually take a somewhat wicked stance in support of an alternative view. However, the one put forward by the youth (or parent he claims to be) is simply mindless drivel.
If its an attempt at a joke, I'm afraid it in very poor taste and quite frankly obscene.
Devils advocate.

Welcome to TPs Allan - 8/8/07

I've now got used to comments provoked by what I post..I know I've only got myself to blame.
I feel that without criticism of the things I write this website really wouldn't be the same.
I sometimes do become quite sad when I'm misunderstood. And find it hard when others disagree.
But one thing really hurts a lot, and damages my pride, I thought you'd know that HGM is me.

Harry G Mitchell (Definitely a HE not a SHE)

Allan, Grow up - 8/8/07

Wow! how clever you must feel - "current driving protocols.....the ethos of modern driving techniques.....move the world forward....etc. "

Dont make me laugh. If you really were the parent of a young person old enough to drive you could never write such drivel.

I am a parent; I also have a nephew, permanently maimed , disfigured, crippled and dependent, because he was unlucky enough to be driving his car when he met just such a boy racer as you appear to support - a know-it-all, self centred, cretinous little t***** who thought that he could "make overtaking the simple exercise it should be" Unfortunately, he couldn't.

He served a short prison sentence for dangerous driving.

My nephew will serve his life sentence until he dies.

Name supplied

In reply to Happy days Allan . -7/8/07

I passed my car test 45 years ago, and I still drive around this country amassing approximatly 45000 miles a year, well above average driving. Every day of the week I see some great driving techniques, I suspect, trained and perfected in the circus. Believe me when I say, the best racing drivers are out there every day, much better than those at Silverstone. These guys are from the Gods and think that they and their cars are indestructible.

Boy racers seem to be infatuated with speed or the sound of it. Ask them about speed limits and they will tell you exactly how fast their vehicle can go, road signs, what's them.

However Allan, remember that the Highway Code applies to all drivers old and young, this has not changed. I hope that you never have to support any boy racer who has knocked a child down, or indeed knocked anyone down, or God forbid a fatality through speeding.

You cannot be proud of such actions when you have to say sorry to the family of the injured party. Please be proud of your boy, but do not support speeding through our streets.
Tom Melbank

Litter pick assistance - 7/8/07

The Vale of White Horse District Council is offering a helping hand to anyone in the District who wants to do their bit to keep their local community clean and tidy.

The Council's Environment Wardens Colin Marshall and Sadie Broadbridge can provide help, advice and equipment to anyone who would like to organise a litter pick.
See nypressrelease.htm for more info

Missing Cat in the Town End Road Area - 7/8/07

Our small black and white cat went off early on Monday (6th) morning and we haven't seen her since.

She gave birth to 2 kittens on Sunday 5th followed by a caesarian section later in the day...so you'd know her if you saw her!

I would just like to ask everyone if they could kindly check their sheds and garages in case she's got shut in somewhere - she really needs to come back to feed her kittens!
Thanks 242769 / 07974 938 265
Sarah Oliver

In support of the young - 6/8/07

Jane from HGM raises valid (pre Aricept) discussion points when she states she cannot abide boy racers...is it because she is so out of touch with current driving protocols..how proud we parents are that we can buy a car for our offspring..how proud are we that we can support them and tell them that anyone who passed their test 34+years ago can be a danger to other road users because they can longer judge & understand the ethos of modern driving techniques..older drivers can be easily identified..they indicate when not needed....cannot judge distances..cannot read the road ahead to make overtaking the simple exercise it should be..someone tell these old vacuous folk that if you cannot read, judge or anticipate current driving conditions then please use public transport...

and what has baseball caps & music to do with driving..what's that about...no your time has been (like the dinosaurs) not come...that's for us folk who know & understand children, their motivation & desire to move the world forward to undo all of the small town NIMBY attitudes that have been instilled by ill informed parents who feel that that if they act like their parents then the world will be like a better place, wrong! just be comforted by the fact that your/other folks kids will move the world forward infinitely more than you ever do or did!!!

or imagine.....in case it passed you by we no longer need the chap with a red flag in front of a vehicle...I don't remember this ...I am aware that it used to happen...but until now had not read from anyone who lived the experience..now that box has been ticked...

Happy Days
Allan

More chemist support - 6/8/07

To support the local chemist shop I must leap or even hop to their defence!

A couple of weeks ago I was very unwell on my return from a holiday in the Arabian Gulf - having disgraced myself both in and outside the Dr's surgery with severe techicolour yawns.

I went to the chemists where I obviously looked even greener around the gills than I had been earlier and they assured me they would as quick as possible with my prescription - (It needed to be!!!)

Despite their speed & genuine concern I could not stand the pace and had to make a v rapid emergency exit -

closely followed by a very kind young lady who looked after me ... I was the one that was embarrassed beyond belief - but at least I made it to the door!

At NO time did they treat me with anything but kindness and concern - thanks again for customer service beyond the call of anyone's duty!!!

Name supplied

Hard workers - 5/8/07

it is to my amazement that no-one seems to be very interested with hard workers. like the art festival! the crown the chemist, everywhere, well most of us!!!

no-one ever talks about how well people are doing these days, so i am going to say something. s am at the old crown, has music every friday and saturday, and you always see her working her backside off, cooking, making sure the staff know their job. even the local mayor thinks nothing, but himself. "she was flirting with the drey" oh my god, she had a deliverl, is that so shocking?

please is there any chance that people can start to applaud them people who actually work hard, or are their days gone!

Name supplied

Cynicism from the Ed ?.. - 5/8/07

Shame on you ! Whatever next ?.

I understand that the "Messing about with buses " proposal originated with the OCC and was backed up by the FTC.

I would hate to think that they can't be trusted to carry out their promises. Surely we must all believe they have our best interests at heart ?

Next you'll be telling me the Tooth Fairy doesn't exist and I couldn't stand that. If everybody was like you Tinkerbell would still be wandering about in Cyberspace. Perhaps someone from the TC would care to back up my hopes.

A rather sad HGM

Chemist support - 5/8/07

In relation to the comment made about the chemist i feel the all members are staff are very helpful and polite. I do not feel that any of them need further training .

It is a very pleasant atmosphere and i would without a doubt return there again.

Name Supplied

Jane from HGM - 5/8/07

Most people, including me, say they don't mind criticism. Most people, including me, lie.

What is even worse is criticism which is justified so Jane, my apologies, and despite knowing that if I get in a hole I should stop digging I will try to explain the connection between Boy Racers and the OCC plans for rerouting the buses.

I believe, or maybe just hope, that the OCC are waking up to the fact that here in Faringdon we have a traffic situation which is far from ideal. I can sympathise with 'illegal' parking and speeding as most people (Not you or me of course) are occasionally transgressors.

But boy racers I cannot tolerate. They are easily identified..oldish,small cars probably provided by parents, baseball caps, loud stereos and friends who encourage them to show off. In my opinion they are a danger to themselves and to the law abiding rest of us.

It is my hope, possibly wishful thinking, that the Council may now be taking our traffic problems more seriously and if they are it seems obvious that a crackdown on Boy Racers should be the first target.

Am I still in a deep hole ?

HGM

Ed: I think you may be a little optimistic about OCC. I heard that it was a local resident that made the suggestion. Don't hold your breath, OCC usually take ages to put in place traffic orders- given that they agree it can be done.

Images of England - 3/8/07

Glad to see you have found Images of England.

also check out <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1518> and use the navigation systems for West Oxfordshire, Berkshire and 'Faringdon'
Name Supplied

Re: Boy Racers Beware. - 2/8/07

I'm sorry, but I don't understand.

Your point is?

Jane Boulton

Images of England- 02/08/07.

HT, are you the one and the same who has many pictures shown on the following website <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/default.aspx> If so, good job, good resource for showing the historic context of Faringdon.

Devil's Advocate

Other ed. (HT) - Yes, thank you for the comment.

A chance to get involved in a great motor sport race at Silverstone in September. - 02/08/07

On the 8th of September, the Britcar 24hr race starts at 16.30 at Silverstone. Present will be over 70 teams all competing to win the twice round the clock race at the world famous circuit.

My team will be entering two Porsche 968's, built specially for this race and we are looking for 4-6 volunteers to help us with refuelling and some basic pit lane duties. Whilst you won't get paid for your time, you'll be right at the heart of all the action for the entire race. We'll provide fireproof overalls and balaclavas, food and drink and plenty of caffeine and Red Bull to keep you going through the early hours of the morning.

This will be a unique chance to see how a race teams works over 24hrs as well as the highs and lows that happen over a long race. If you like watching F1 on television, this race is the equivalent to watching a whole season of F1 in one go! Ideally you'll need to have an interest in cars / motor sport and be able to work under pressure and act responsibly whilst representing the team. If you are interested then please give me a contact me using the details below.

Richard Bernard

Mob - 07764 176 276 / 01367 244 874

richardb@twlinbound.com

Boy Racers Beware ! 02/08/07

Just in case anyone missed this :

Extract from FTC Planning and Highways committee meeting July 10th 2007

Dr Wise proposed that the proposal put forward by OCC to change the traffic flow on the service road, north side of Market Place, so that the flow is East to West, with No Entry signs located at the western end of the service road be accepted with a sign at the other end indicating "Buses Only"

This proposal was seconded and CARRIED.

HGM

Are adults being phased out? - 01/08/07

I have just received my copy of the Oxfordshire adult learning handbook.

From many hundreds of courses ranging over approximately 150 subjects, Faringdon is offering.....eight.
(There are a couple of others listed under Faringdon but these are not in the town)

I cannot really believe that there is 'no demand' for evening/day adult classes here, so why the dearth of opportunities? Perhaps as we are so keen on youth culture nowadays, Faringdon is being used as a pilot scheme for adults being slowly phased out.

I think we should be told.

Name supplied

Town Centre Pedestrian Crossings - 29/9/07

In response to Peter Hawkins, I am pretty sure these raised humps do not give priority to the pedestrian.

They do act as traffic calming measures but the motorist still has the right of way.
Jmmo

Lend me a Tenner - 29/2/07

- Was that the VWH or Faringdon Town Council said that - or am I getting them confused with the Dramatic Society?
Pimpernel

Parking - 29/9/07

I live in a road that has double yellow lines. Nobody on either side has a drive or garage. Consequentially, they park further up the road in order to avoid being ticketed. They park outside houses that have drives and garages. These vehicles do not belong to the houses they are parked outside of. AND they are parking responsibly. The local "yoof" know this and target these cars, tearing off the wing mirrors and putting hammers through the lights. Not only is it too small beer to claim on the insurance but, in the winter months, working days are lost as people cannot get to work in a disabled car.

Most of these crimes are not reported. The police cannot trace the culprits and it is below the limit of claim on insurance. It is annoying, and expensive, especially if your holiday time is valuable to you.

We live in a medieval town which was not designed for residents to have cars (let alone more than one per household).
Name Supplied

Lend me a tenor - 29/9/07

I went last evening - it is very well performed and funny
Gene Webb

Intrigued - 29/9/07

I am intrigued.

How do you *know* that the people who park their cars on the road when they have garages are the very same ones who grumble about parking? When you aren't being amused by the website, do you spend your time driving around spying on them?

Name supplied

Curious of Faringdon - 28/9/07

Obviously my posts have struck a nerve, which is not in itself a bad thing. I usually find that people are upset when the truth hurts them in some way. Not sure what you are saying in your post though except that you hate bagpipe players, you think I'm crazy (fair point I concede), you are pro war and you do not support fair trade.

Personally, I have nothing against bagpipe players, I am not pro war and I do support fair trade. If that's crazy then I'm guilty as charged.

As for comparing me with Princes Di, and HGM, I'm truly not worthy but am flattered in any event.

Devil's Advocate (also known as water of a ducks back)
Scott - fair point there.
Name Supplied

Live Music- practice space? - 28/9/07

I've been reading the various comments regarding live music in Faringdon.

I only recently moved to Faringdon and one of the aspects i really enjoy is the ammount of live music in the different pubs(I thought the Faringdon Festival was excellent).

But, one thing puzzles me, where does everyone go to practice. Is there some practice venue that i'm not aware of?

Name Supplied

Parking in the town/down Canada Lane/Coxwell Street or any Housing estate in Faringdon - 28/9/07

I read all these comments and find every single one of them very amusing.

People blaming Mothers, Mothers Blaming everyone Else.

How many of you have driven round these places and noticed that the people that are Moaning either have Driveways or Garages, but they still park their Vehicles on the road probably because they turn the garage into some storage shed or another bedroom. or maybe even a dining room. and the driveway becomes a playground for the children.

so before all you driveway and garage owners start moaning. Actually use them. and please don't moan.

But then again Please do as you all make this Talking points site very amusing.
Scott Gildert

Devil's Advocate Reply to HGM Re Yellow Lines - 27/9/07

You wouldn't be the same person who plays the bagpipes, would you ? or whose family recently won the crazy cricket event around the Folly Tower because nobody else bothered to enter ?

Or who strongly supports the ridiculous Fair Trade Town posters ? or who has been known to chain themselves to the railings outside Fairford airbase ? or who seems to have a self promoting publicity machine second only to the likes of the late Princess Di or HGM ?

Curious of Faringdon

Faringdon chosen by Canadian drama group - 25/9/07

I've heard it said that the members of the Garrison Little Theatre, Canada found Faringdon on the internet, and then arranged for an exchange with the Faringdon Drama Group.

So this weekend they will be performing their play in Faringdon. Next time the Faringdon Drama group will go to Canada.

So lets give them lots of support, I understand there are still tickets available.

Lend Me a Tenor - A steamy, pulse-racing, opera-tic farce.

Faringdon Junior School hall, Performed by members of Garrison Little Theatre from Fort Erie, Canada as part of an exchange.

Tickets £7 and £5, available from the Nut Tree or you can buy tickets on the door

Portwell Pump planting - 25/9/07

I've just noticed the tall plants around the Pump. From a distance they look like sycamore tress - 5 of them. Surely they're not trees?

What are they?
Gene Webb

Shops/Changes - 26/9/07

Recently heard that the Marlborough St Barber is to move to White Horse Countrywear premises, and that the Bargain Centre is to be reopened by the people/company that is opening the shoe shop
Gene Webb

Not too many locals - 26/9/07

Hamish you are to be applauded for your efforts but the answer is really quite straightforward.
Ageing "Tiswas" fans will recall Chris Tarrant's immortal mantra about the audience, "Give 'em what they want!".

It really is that simple. Keep up the good work Hamish.
David Reynolds

Firework Displays around here?? - 24/9/07

Could anyone tell me if there are any firework displays, particularly those with a big bonfire, around the Stanford In The Vale area out as far as Oxford on bonfire night.

Many thanks

Marc

Ed: There is usually one in Faringdon House grounds, organised by the Rotary club- usually a Saturday evening

VWHDC and Private Eye - 24/9/07

Has anyone read this is this month's Private Eye? Page 11...under "Rotten Boroughs"

Vale of Tears

"Embarrassing cash-flow problems at Vale of White Horse district council in Oxfordshire. Last month the Lib Dem authority's 300-strong workforce did not get paid. Much, much worse, the Vale's 51 councillors did not receive their allowances on time.

The council's electricity supplier threatened to sue for non-payment of bills, village halls refused to take bookings from the council because they feared they wouldn't get their money and the Land Registry turned down search requests for the same reason. Yet the Vale, around Abingdon, is a prosperous area, the council boasts of setting the eighth lowest council tax in England and is proud of its "substantial" financial and property investments. It's all very odd.

Well perhaps not. The problems only began after the council signed a seven year, £9.1m deal to "outsource" financial services last year...with Crapita plc."

I just thought you may be interested
Mel Lane

Not many locals - 24/9/07

Mark it was not poorly attended in comparison with many events in this town but poorly attended by locals, over 75 non-Faringdonians chose to make the journey many adding to the economy of the town by staying over.

I'm sure i'll persevere with another go but I would be intrigued to find out how to get someone who would pay £25 to travel to a shed in Birmingham or £120 to sit in a field in Reading to come and see high quality live music up close and personal for £5 on their doorstep.

Best answer wins 2 free tickets to my next extravaganza
Hamish Millar

HTs Poem 192 interpretation - 22/9/07

Who do you think you are kidding Hilary ?

The five Chinese lines (Poetry Competition entry number 192) are not a poem but come straight from the local Chinese Restaurant Menu as I'm sure you are aware.

They mean:

Beef in a curry sauce.

Prawn with preserved egg.

Prawn dumpling.

Egg fried rice.

Service charge not included.

Nice try though. The competition entries this year areinteresting !

HGM

Yellow lines and parking - 21/9/07

I would just like to distance myself from HGM's comment re Devil's Advocate solution. I do not hold such a view. Personally, I consider that the double yellow lines, are valid and should be more rigorously enforced. We still have the relic's of a whipping post, lets use it.

As for parking problems in the town centre. There wouldn't be a problem if the majority of Faringdon residents got off their fat backsides and used their legs for a change. The whole of Faringdon is within walking distance, unless you have some form of limiting disability (obviously these people are not the subject of my rant).

As for someones elses comment about living in the 21 Century, if we are to make the next one, perhaps legs rather than backsides should become more of the norm.

Devil's Advocate

Different Town Map - 21/9/07

I made a suggestion for a NEW and also DIFFERENT kind of Town Map. But I didn't hear anything back. I guess we'll end up with an mediocre paper type of map that fades in the sunlight and keeps on costing money. Like the one in the Budgeons Car Park, which has now become less than helpful to visitors.

No POSTCODES on it may I point out.

But to recap: where should ideas to improve the town be sent?

It might be good to know...for the future that is...

Name Supplied

Ed: I don't know - but suggest Margaret Barker(FTC), the chair

Re: Live Music 18/9/2007 - 21/9/07

Hamish, as a person who has regularly attended live music in the Junior School, I'm sorry to hear that the Tyla concert was poorly attended. I am afraid, however, that it demonstrates starkly how we need the life of the town to be focused on its centre. Moving live music on to some industrial estate, as some people suggest, will not work. And it won't restore the life that was just beginning to ebb back into Faringdon.

The 15-minute club in the Corn Exchange not only brought unprecedented vibrancy, it also drew people into Faringdon from Swindon and Oxford. These people began to see our town as an enviable place to live and started to frequent our pubs and restaurants. I can't believe that the people that are currently killing music in the town centre want to see it return to the windblown place that ordinary residents preferred not to visit after 9PM

We need to keep the momentum going.

Mark Harrison

Joint Environmental Trust - 20/9/07

This is a group made up of Faringdon Town Councillors and VWHDC, and have an objective of improving/maintaining the environment(or some such thing)
It is currently chaired by Margaret Barker, FTC

The minutes are posted on the VWHDC website at
<http://whitehorsedc.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.asp?CId=169&Year=2007&J=2>

There was a meeting in early September, but the minutes haven't yet been posted. The June minutes(draft) include:-

- 1 Agreement to grant £5,000 for the re surfacing work to the **Faringdon Football Club** c/o Faringdon Town Council.
- 2 **Lechlade Road Gateway feature**. The County have agreed to this providing that FTC or VWHDC take responsibility for it.
- 3 **Coxwell Road seat** installed
- 3 **Town Map** This map is still with the Town Council for checking.

Additional items on the September agenda, include:

1 Recommendation that that Faringdon Town Council be offered a grant of £3,093 representing 50% of the total cost of the works subject to the District Council's Principal Planning Officer (Environmental Policy) agreeing the details of the edging to the paths.

2 Grant Application - Restoration of Milestones

The applicant has now moved away from the area and no longer wishes to take up the grant offer made by the Trust to restore the milestones in the Faringdon area. It is therefore recommended that the £200 set aside be returned to balances.

Next Meeting: Thursday 24 January 2008 Old Town Hall, 4pm

I don't know where the project ideas come from. I have no memory of townspeople being asked!
Just trying to raise awareness
Gene Webb

Pleased that music problems resolved - 20/9/07

I'm delighted that you have resolved your problems with the authorities over noise levels and that the music is coming back to Faringdon however, as I interpret Sam's latest comments the Environmental Health officer didn't even bother to get off his backside and come out and investigate the complaint! I find this unbelievable!

Apart from anything else, that's his job. (I wish I could get a job where I could sit at home in front of the TV with my feet up and get paid for it).

From previous experience with complaints about noise I can guarantee that there is no way that the complaint would have been upheld. If you can hold a conversation in the same room as the band without shouting, that's definitely not loud enough to justify stopping the music.

Anyway, I've had my say. It's your town.
Big Brother is watching you! (even from his cosy arm chair)
Remember, you get the officials YOU elect!
Name supplied

In response to HGM - 20/9/07

I'm sorry but I've just got to say something in response to HGM etc.

So 'boy racers' are about on the Coxwell road, where? I live just off this road in fact about 30 yards and its just not true. And to say we need speed camera's, sleeping policemen again why? I'm sorry but this is market town mentality to me, can only pedestrian's, pensioners (I am one actually) and any one who's 'nice' ever be allowed to live in peace here?

And the parking in the town, we all know about the cost to park and what's been done by our representatives, I guess nothing much if at all as noise abatement in the town continues to override all else! SO why not remove the yellow lines on one side of the road so the people that NEED to park can. I guess the people that park

outside Blockbuster etc are there for a few minutes is that so wrong?

These are Faringdon residents too, not horned devils. And if its all because of the glorious banner waving brigade of road safety'ists, hold on to your children and dogs, look before you cross the road, stay away from the edge of the road.

Wake up people its time to start living in the 21st century and not day-dream of a pre-war idyll.
Name Supplied

Town centre pedestrian crossings - 19/9/07

Can someone please tell me if the raised humps of tarmac in the town centre are officially designated as pedestrian crossings and, if so why are they not properly marked and signposted as such ?

As things stand, drivers are unclear whether or not they have priority over pedestrians. Meanwhile pedestrians seem unclear whether to cross on them or not or just to stroll around in the middle of the road seemingly oblivious to oncoming traffic and at severe risk of being flattened or worse.

While on this pet hobby horse of mine, can someone please tell me when the Police are finally going to do something about drivers who flagrantly ignore the priority signs at the narrow bit of the road between the new "have I got shoes" shop and the now defunct Bargain Centre - or do these signs, as I suspect, have no legal standing whatsoever ?

Post card length answers please.

Peter Hawkins

Policing of parking - 19/9/07

I spoke to 2 Community Support police the other day - just after they'd asked someone to move their car which was on double yellow lines outside the old POst Office - no ticket was issued.

They said if they find an illegally parked car they try and find the owner, and ask him/her to move it, and not just issue a ticket.

This seems reasonable, but I do hope they keep a note of registration numbers - so they can take a harder line with repeat offenders.

I was told that anyone can ring **0845 8 505 505** and report parking, speeding issues and the like. They said, resources permitting they would take action. I suggested they look at Talking Points!!

Perhaps someone should phone about Canada Lane!!

They were very helpful, but I wish I'd asked why there were 2 of them together - wouldn't they get more done if they split up?? Maybe someone was in training

Gene Webb

Keep music Live - 19/9/07

Good news, makes a change!

"The Jam club" blues night will continue at The Crown Inn Faringdon. Once a month on a Saturday night.

I am now in the process of shifting bands already booked for Thursday nights and negotiating with others for next year. I would like to thank everyone who has voiced their opinions on this site. I'm sure it helped to enable us to continue.

Please check on www.maddfaringdon.co.uk for updates.

Sam Prince (M.A.D.D.)

Coxwell Road.....again. - 18/9/07

Some years ago a few of us, including David, tried to block the development of 18 Coxwell Road. We gave many reasons why this should not go ahead. We deplored the fact that many houses with character would be replaced by modern houses. . .but who really cares ? We also pointed out that our infrastructure, shops, bus services, parking etc was inadequate for the existing population and Faringdon would turn into a dormitory village for workers in Swindon, Oxford and neighbouring towns. We pointed out that once one back garden had been allowed to be turned into a housing estate others would follow. Well at least we got that right ! Despite our self righteous protests we all knew that given the opportunity we would all jump on to the same lucrative band wagon. Most of our objections were down to NIMBY-ism.

But one objection is still valid, though apparently ignored by the planners. The Coxwell Road is very busy at certain times of the day and children going to and from school will eventually have to cross busy access roads to these new estates and the traffic load will increase considerably at peak times. Why is nothing being done to control cars on this road apart from the occasional lurking policeman with his mobile speed gun ? Speed Cameras, sleeping policeman, chicanes and other traffic calming schemes may not be popular but they wouldn't bother most of us. They may even deter the boy racers.

Finally, and this is more a Devil's Advocate solution, all this aggro about parking in the town resulting in perfectly nice ladies threatening handbags at dawn against other perfectly nice ladies could be resolved very easily by removing all the yellow lines. Hardly anyone takes any notice of them anyway and the 'illegal' parkers just arouse anger in those of us who are too afraid to transgress.

HGM

Live music - 18/9/07

Live music passed more or less unnoticed this weekend in Faringdon so I can only assume that everyone is resigned to the minority having killed it off.

Thank you to the few who did make it along.

Whilst I realise that non cover bands are a niche market and that "proper" live music can sometimes be a bit loud I would like to think those who braved the sunny evening out were moved by Tyla's solo performance.

Any thoughts welcome on how to keep live original music going

Hamish Millar

Keep Music Live campaign - 18/9/07

As the editor of a new local magazine I've read the comments about the music situation in Faringdon with interest - I'm also a keen fan of live music so I've got a personal interest in this too.

I'd love to run a story in the magazine on the Keep Music Live campaign, the problems being experienced in Faringdon and to highlight the live music scene as it is. If anyone involved in the 15 Minute or Blues clubs, or anyone else with a story to tell, would like to help the campaign by getting some free publicity, please give me a call on 01367 888229 or email

editor@ctinthevale.co.uk

Actually, while I'm here if anyone would like to get free publicity for ANY organisation or event in Faringdon, please get in touch. The magazine covers Faringdon, Wantage and Grove but so far I've run more editorial on W and G - it's time to redress the balance!

The next (Oct) issue of the magazine will be delivered to 1000 homes in Faringdon next week, and will also be available in the library, Budgens and Mustard Seed.

Hope to hear from lots of people soon!

Alison Neale
Editor, Community Times In the Vale

Council Meeting - 18/9/07

How nice to see a set of minutes on Talking Points and so SOON after a Council meeting.

Carry on like this and we will have to name a room after you
Pimpernel

Another housing estate - 17/9/07

Anyone driving along Coxwell Road will have noticed that a very large house is being prepared for demolition to be replaced by twelve houses.

Now it seems another application has been put in to demolish number 25 Coxwell Road and replace it with a further three houses. How long will it be before the whole of Coxwell Road gets trolleyed and replaced by a "much needed" new housing estate?

Also does anyone know who now owns the first field off Highworth Road (I think it used to be known locally as Humpty Dumpty Hill!) and, more importantly, what they intend to do with it?
David Reynolds

£15k for a parking study?? - 17/9/07

Regarding the town council meeting, interesting reading especially the bit about the council putting aside £15K for a parking survey. For £15k I will do it - easy really we need more parking!!!

Name Supplied

Ed: A group of volunteers, lead by Tim Evans, then a town councillor did a study 2-3 years ago. I understand because it was 'unofficial' ie the District/County didn't do it, they wouldn't take any notice of it

Faringdon House grounds to open??? - 17/9/07

I heard they are considering opening up the grounds of Faringdon house as a new Faringdon country park with a large fishing lake.

Is this true?

Roger Francis

re:Illegal Parking Near School - 16/9/07

My understanding of why the Infant's school car park was closed is that it was closed by the Council because they deemed it unsafe because of the risk of children running from the school into the car park and being knocked over (i.e. were scared of being sued).

In my opinion the risk to child safety is far greater with the current situation (particularly in those cases where mothers seem to see no risk in unloading their offspring from the off-side door of the car).

I hope it won't take a serious accident before the folly of this situation is reversed!

Name Supplied

Illegal Parking Near School - 15/9/07

So, now it seems the parents who park on the double yellow lines do so because they need to get to work afterwards and don't care where they dump their cars.

The people in cars who are unable to pass these inconsiderate parents have to drive on the pavement so that they can get to work !. Seems everybody is in a hurry.....

I just wonder why parents aren't allowed to drop the children off in the school car park. It seems big enough and with a proper drop off point should be safe for all. Is there a reason why this isn't allowed ?.

All very well the person who suggested that the people who drive up on the pavement should wait....but one day it could be a fire engine or ambulance that needs access down Canada Lane.

Probably safer to get this problem sorted sooner rather than later.

Name Supplied

Ed: I heard (anecdotal) that the head of the Infant school had deemed it unsafe for parents to drop off children

in the car park. This was some years ago - could have been a former head.

Click on www.thebreastcancersite.com - 15/9/07

The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on their site daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman.

It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "donating a mammogram" for free (pink window in the middle). This doesn't cost you a thing.

Their corporate sponsors /advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammogram in exchange for advertising.

Here's the web site! <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com>

Pass it along to people you know.

Personal negative replies - 15/9/07

I agree in principle with the "Let's Be Nice" comments.

However, whenever I have put my name to a comment (never very controversial) I have nearly always received a very personal negative reply. This can be very off putting.

Maybe this is why posters give a "name supplied" and is why I do so this time.

It would appear that some posters with a pseudonym post with impunity and others who give their real name are vilified.

Name supplied

Let's all be nice - 15/9/07

Yet another anonymous posting entitled "Driving children to school - 13/9/07" comments: "cynicism, there seems to be far too much of that in Faringdon lately. Let's all be nice ."

Well, some of us have tried being "nice" but it is hard not to be cynical when it appears that they ONLY law being enforced in Faringdon is the ludicrous one that allows ONE complainer to close down music events without even having to prove that the sound was above generally acceptable levels.

I am afraid that I am going to continue to be cynical as long as complainers hide behind and exploit undemocratic legislation, people express their opinions anonymously (with a few exceptions) on this site and the local MP and his District councillors claim to be doing things in their manifestos when they plainly aren't.

If you aren't prepared to stand up and be counted, you forfeit your democratic rights.

Mark Harrison

Faringdon Town Council Meeting 12/9/07 - 15/9/07

Haven't been to one of these meetings for a while - I'd forgotten how tricky it is to understand accurately, not having been to previous meetings where perhaps a discussion took place. But good to see some new councillors. Here goes - my understanding of some subjects

1 Corn Exchange lease - not decided. A meeting with VWHDC was talked about.

2 VWHDC want to demolish the gateway along Park road as they say it is now not needed as the 30mph limit starts outside the gate. There was a view that they want to remove it to make an access road for the housing. No mention of who pays for it to be removed.

3 FTC believe that the town owns the land around the Portwell Pump and therefore can give permission for the coffee house to have chairs and tables on it. Alan Hickmore thought that the licence payment to VWHDC would still need to be made. Another councillor said the jewellery shop had asked for the legal position re an A board on his land outside the shop. He was told that as it was his land it is OK. A letter is to be written to the Coffee shop requiring them to clean the area, particularly of cigarette ends, once a day.

4 FTC will be writing to Martin Phillips re his idea about a music studio in the Pump House theatre. They don't appear to know what is going on (I think Martin has abandoned the idea - maybe he would confirm)

5 FTC have formed a panel to deal with Hamish Millars complaint - though the councillors there didn't appear to understand the detail of the complaint 6 Some repairs to the parapet of the Pump House has been made (costing £558). One councillor asked for more information- but no one knew!

7 C Gaught v Faringdon Town Council. The Council has decided to defend the case

8 Councillor Cox (VWHDC) and Councillor Heathcoat (OCC) did not attend, but submitted reports. These were predominantly lists of meetings attended, with a bit of description. The Council did not discuss them (*but then I guess there was little substance to discuss (I fail to understand how this sort of report is worth doing. It should be focussed on achievements and relevant issues)*)

9 FTC are investigating whether the land South of Park Road/Sands Hill Lane can be developed for housing. They're getting in touch with the landlord.

10 FTC have agreed with OCCs proposal to change the traffic flow around the Town Hall (ie the service road direction)

11 106 monies FTC Finance Committee will oversee 106 obligations. A Bank of Ireland account is to be opened to keep the money separate. FTC Planning Committee will receive £15k for a parking survey

12 Sovereign Housing Group have proposed to redevelop Ferngrove (bedsits for the elderly) as there appears to be little demand for this type of accommodation. FTC do not object but feel it should include accommodation for people with children and problems with parking in the area will need to be addressed. It seems there are 4 remaining elderly residents. (*Seems to me that this is a better location for the elderly than for children*)

13 FTC and Jet (Joint Environmental Trust) will be spending about £3.5k on improvements to the Town Park

14 FTC have rejected an offer by White Horse Bookshop to locate the Faringdon TIC in the shop premises, on the basis that it is not such a central position, and it would cost significant money to relocate. (*Presumably they have considered any economies arising from joint working and longer opening hours*)

15 £1822 is to be spent on new Christmas lights, £1500 of which will come from the Faringdon Retailer group.

16 It seems that Faringdon Dramatic society have indicated that the Pump House theatre and Club Room are unsuitable for their needs. They have agreed to work with FTC re a new theatre. (that is all that was said!!)

Gene Webb
Does anyone know more??

Tommy - the British Soldier in the Great War 1914 - 1918 - 15/9/07

Monday 8th October, Community College, 7pm

Professor Richard Holmes of RMCS Shrivenham, BBC TV presenter of War Walks and Battlefields of the 2nd world war, and author of Redcoat, Soldiers, Tommy and Dusty Warriors

£7 or concessions £5, Light refreshments will be available

Tickets on sale at Faringdon Community College, and Mike Sheil 01367 870276 In aid of Buckland Responders

Re- the mum with rose-coloured spectacles - 15/9/07

-if you and other mums park in Gloucester Street Car Park, as I understand the Infant School is CONSTANTLY asking parents to do, then this will cut down the problems.

You get to teach your children how to cross roads safely, they get the sunshine on their faces for a bit longer, and you still have your car accessible for getting to work. .

I live in the area of the Infant School, and parents park without regard to anyone else. The thinking seems to be 'I'm ok and so are MY kids', and never mind other kids. Some people who live along Canada Lane, The Pines

and Cedar Road cannot get into or out of their drives at school times. And I'm sure the Highway Code still forbids (if that is the right word - I'm happy to be corrected if not) parking of a vehicle within 30ft of a corner, yet parents park ALL THE WAY along the road..

All that is being asked is a bit of consideration and common sense here - is it TOO much to ask? .

Name withheld (worried about reprisals from drivers, as I am a non- driver but a wary pedestrian) .

Trish Reynolds wrote:- 14/9/07

: "In the end myself and everyone behind me had to go right up on the pavement to continue down the road otherwise we'd have been there all morning. :

:

One day someone will be knocked down. ":

:

Yes, one day a child will be knocked down and it'll be by one of those inconsiderate drivers who think nothing of mounting the pavement to get by! It is wrong of parents to park on the double yellow lines, however that does not give the right to other road users to drive illegally.:

:

Is it really worth it? To risk the life of a child just so that you can reach your destination a minute or two quicker?:

:

I have a child who goes to the infant school and we do walk there. It's a short walk from our home in Chestnut Avenue and on an all too frequent basis we witness impatient and angry drivers dangerously driving on the pavement in Canada Lane. :

:

God help you if it's my child you hit.:

:Name Supplied

Live music again in Faringdon tomorrow night (Sat 15th) - 14/9/07

At the Junior School.

Local bands supporting a performer of worldwide renown.

Tickets being held at the advance price of £5 for Faringdonians to help support the "keep it live" campaign

Hamish Millar

Why the music stopped - 13/9/07

It was stopped on the request of the licensee sam of The Crown inn. She was informed by the local authorities that a complaint had been made and that if they had to come out and monitor the situation she stood a good chance of losing her license.

With this threat hanging over her we of course ceased the music.

I hope that clears that question.

Sam Prince, organiser.

Lazy selfish Parking - 13/9/07

The alleged majority seem to hold the view that if you don't like music or noise, don't live in the town centre and go and live in the countryside.

Presumably, therefore if you run that argument, then if you don't expect parking problems associated with schools at drop off and pick up times don't live near a school.

Just a thought

Devils Advocate

Driving children to school.- 13/9/07

In reply to the person without the manners to supply her name, yes Mrs Reynolds has had to get a child into school for 9am and then get off to full time work, and still would not consider parking dangerously.

How about some consideration for and being nice to everyone else trying to get to work?

Whatever the problems people face, parking on the double yellow lines is illegal and causes an obstruction which can have dangerous consequences.

No defence!
Trish Reynolds

'Parking' rides again - 13/09/08

But Trish - every double yellow line in town is a personal parking space! Walk up London Street any weekday and see the cars parked with impunity all the way from the Market Place to Davis DIY.

It ain't just mothers.....

Name Supplied

ED: I observed a community police officer NOT give a parking ticket to someone who had parked outside Blockbusters. There was another car near the baker's too- also ignored

Driving children to school - 13/9/07

As mum to two young children myself, I really object to people referring to them cynically as 'Little Darlings'. Yes, they are 'Little Darlings', children mean everything to their parents and so they should! No-one should criticise parents for loving their children, they are precious whatever their behaviour and however much you dislike them!

Whilst I understand the huge frustration of living near a school entrance and finding cars parked everywhere, I wonder if Mrs Reynolds has ever tried getting children into school for 9am and then getting off to full-time work? Many mums do not have time to add up to one and a half hours to the morning routine by walking to school, however environmentally sound or healthy it may be (and for many it is simply too far when there are young children in tow)

A little bit of respect for the problems faced by parents might not be a bad idea rather than cynicism, there seems to be far too much of that in Faringdon lately. Let's all be nice, we'll get far more achieved!

From one resident with rose-coloured spectacles.

Ed: In my day Mums got together- and took it in turns to take a group of children

Support for Sam - 13/9/07

I can't help but support Sam, the world and Faringdon needs more music not less. At the very least it helps keep people off the streets and at best it's a marvelous unifying force for good.

Paul Poulton

Lazy, selfish parking! - 13/9/07

It took me 10 minutes to drive from the allotments entrance in Canada Lane to The Lechlade road this morning. Why?.....because as they do every morning, the lazy, inconsiderate mothers were parked all the way up the double yellow lines whilst they dropped their little darlings off at the Infant School.

No where for the traffic to pull in on that side of the road to allow the traffic on the other side to go down the road.

In the end myself and everyone behind me had to go right up on the pavement to continue down the road otherwise we'd have been there all morning.

One day someone will be knocked down (or someone will be punched because of the frustration it causes).

Why is it that some people think having a child at the Infant school makes a double yellow line their personal parking space?

I'm sure most of these parents live in Faringdon so why not try walking to school, especially on a beautiful sunny morning?

It'll do them and their children good.

Trish Reynolds

Why did the music stop?? - 13/09/07

I sympathise with the disappointed punters, but I am curious. So far we only know that the music stopped; that no 'official' was present; that (apparently) a complaint had been made.

The licensee and the organisers must presumably know exactly what happened, and why the music was pulled so abruptly. The sequence of events just doesn't make sense.
So what were the exact words spoken, as they say?

Why so coy?

name supplied

My band was making the 'noise' - 12/9/07

I suppose I must hold my hand up as being the guilty party as it was my band, Grapevine Blues, that was making all the 'noise'. I actually thought that we were playing at a reasonable volume for the size of the venue. After all, nothing clears out an audience more quickly than playing too loudly. People were even holding conversations without shouting at each other.

I have performed in many parts of the world and it is only in England that people complain about music as being 'noise'. Councils make life as difficult as possible for bands and music venues to survive and people watch live music from behind pillars or whatever cover is available (presumably in case the band is driven into a state of frenzy and attacks the audience)

Whilst I uphold the individual's right to make a complaint, it struck me as very strange that the guy who stopped the music is presumably a council employee. The same council that has granted a licence to the venue to have live music in the first place. Sort of a catch 22 situation? What readings did he take and can he produce them as evidence to support his decision? Why did he not negotiate a reduction in the sound level or issue a warning? I for one would be greatly interested in the answers to these questions.

Remember, the council represents YOU too! If it makes them feel better, why not fit a noise limiter? They don't work (they react to certain frequencies and not to the volume) but at least you can point at them and make out that there is some sort of agreed maximum sound level.

It was very disappointing not to get to play our full set. As professional musicians we take pride in our work and to travel 150 miles to play half a set for half pay is very disappointing. A bad night all round.

Maybe I'll start looking for a 'proper' job.

Good luck with the club, I hope you find a new venue and then perhaps we can come back and play our second set for you.

Mike Chase
grapevineblues@hotmail.com

Petty? Small minded? - 12/9/07

There does seem to be a stream of petty small-mindedness that runs through this town.

I like Hilary's idea of writing to the relevant authority to complain about malicious complainant as it seems that the NIMBYS are determined to kill this town off.

Perhaps Sam and Martin (as the promoters of the Blues and 15 Minute Clubs) could draft something and then leave it in the Portwell Bar for a week so we could all sign it?

Cheers Ray

J'aime les cloches - 11/9/07

They remind me of home
Quosimodo

Naming Names - 11/9/07

Is it really necessary to explain why naming names is wrong.

Well, in a nutshell, it is because it is obscene to do so. We have already had posts about forcing people to move on by various means, by someone who would like to be judge and jury. I appreciate that this person is angry and frustrated about what is happening, but shame on them for trying to incite people to run someone out of town, on the grounds that they do not like the way in which the person used their democratic right to object (whether it is justified in reality or not). Where would such action stop if these methods didn't achieve the intended result?

Being vigilantes is not the way forward; rather solutions need to be found.

Obviously my personal view and not an advocated one, essentially because its right.

Incidentally HGM, I watch very little TV, spend most of any free time I have playing guitar and going to concerts. Devil's advocate

Town Council - 11/9/07

Without being able to discuss too much as its an ongoing matter the town council issue does not relate to the noise but the handling of procedural matters that I had raised directly with the Town Council.

Hamish Millar

Naming shames us, not 'them' - 11/09/07

In response to Jill Dean's question: however well founded the suspicions that a particular individual is responsible for persecuting local music lovers and businesses, there is no concrete evidence of their identity. It is not the business of this website to encourage witch-hunts, merely to allow residents and others to express their views.

At worst, we (not the contributors) could be sued.

My own view is that a sensible course of action might be for the victims of this alleged persecution to get together and make formal written representation to the relevant authority to the effect that the complaints are malicious, and unfounded. That way the authority concerned needs to take the situation seriously, and cannot behave in a one-sided manner.

Hilary Taylor

Copies of emails sent to Sam Prince re: blues club. Sent Sept 10th - 10/9/07

From Nethercoat Joe.

Hi Sam, a quick note to express how sad and sorry I was to hear of the problems experienced at the Grapevine Blues gig recently.... Unbelievable! I was due to come over that evening to guest with Mike and Ika for the second set...

Please be aware of how grateful we musicians are to people like you who work so hard to provide a supportive environment for us to play- and if you would like some support from my band in any form(FREE of CHARGE), please ask and we'll be there to back you up!
Regards Joe Reloaded Blues.

Also sent by Joe Nethercoat from Buckinghamshire.

Hi Sam, if an acoustic gig would help, I'm sure I could work with Derek and Stuart from Storm Warning and Mike and Ika from Grapevine Blues to come up with a great format...
Let me know. Joe.

Sam Prince

P.S I have put these on the site to illustrate that not only Faringdon people are involved and willing to help.

Keep Music Live

Church Bells - 11/9/07

I missed the church bells where we live but that blooming Dawn Chorus woke me up again, can't anything be done about it?!

I also think the roads around Faringdon should be shut everynight too, some people have the audacity to drive cars after 10pm and it's just not good enough! ;-)

Anna

Ed: Perhaps complain that you can't hear the Bells - they should be louder!!

Church Bells - 10/9/07

Can anybody else hear how loud the church bells are tonight, aren't they wonderful

Hamish Millar

Naming Names -8/09/07 - 9/9/07

Why Not?

Jill Dean

More Noise. - 10/9/07

With regards to the complaint from Vox Populi implying that the Council appear to be out of touch with the feelings of some Faringdon Residents it is only fair to point out that the noise matter will be probably be raised at the meeting on Wednesday 12th September. Unfortunately the agenda simply states that a panel will be appointed to investigate a complaint from Mr Hamish Millar, there is no mention of what that complaint may be. It is left to the Faringdon.org Talking Points to make it clear that his complaint is probably about the "Noise problem" which has resulted in numerous postings in the last few days.

How long will it take for the panel to report back to the Council ?

Is no member of the Council allowed to comment without having first to be told by an appointed panel what they should say? Or is it just that no member of the Council feels deeply enough about the music scene to offer a personal comment.

Name supplied

Live Music event - 10/9/07

Satisfaction guaranteed on a local night for local people

Live music back in Faringdon on Sat 15 September at the Junior School. 4 acts all for £5 in advance (Portwell Bar) or £7 on the door including

Surface Noise - from the Community College

The Likely Lads - Roger and Shaun regularly seen at the Portwell

Diablo13 - from Swindon Tyla - the legendary final gig at the corn exchange last November and recently supported Alice Cooper in Milwaukee USA.

Both acoustic and electric

Sound and lights being provided by Faringdon's finest Tim and Rod.

Any more info contact me via fbpromotions@tiscali.co.uk

Hamish

I was the "name supplied" - 10/9/07

- who had posted and received some vitriolic responses by those in the majority.

In no way was I criticising their viewpoint, in fact I think I made reference to the blues club being fantastic, but the name Devil's advocate has already been taken and I couldn't think of another.

In fact I was at the first Blues club but was away from Faringdon on the fateful night last week.

A post is now up in my name as well. Please feel free to post any new comments

Hamish Millar

Your last chance to climb the Folly this year - 10/9/07

For the last time in 2007, the Folly Tower will be open on Sunday 7 October from 11.00am till 5.00pm.

Climbing the Folly continues to be a big attraction and this year we've raised over £1,000 to help maintain the Tower.

Please help us to make this a bumper year

To arrange additional visits please contact Eddie Williams on 01367 241142 or email edchriswilliams@aol.com

Magna Carta 1215. FTC 2007 - 10/9/07

Magna Carta is not widely available but if you want to see it I'm sure that if you pay a fee of 85p The Faringdon Library will do its best to get you a copy. However if their search is in vain I can tell you what it was intended to do. The King agreed, somewhat reluctantly, that in future anyone who felt they had a grievance would get a fair hearing.

As a result of this promise guidelines were laid down to ensure that those in power were supposed to listen to the problems of those who weren't.

These guidelines provide the background for official meetings including the Faringdon Town Council Meetings. A quick browse through the Minutes of the FTC meetings, the most up to date being 11th July 2007, gives an indication of how the time is spent and explains why crowd control is never an issue.

A list of councillors attending is given and this is relevant because they are the ones doing the discussing. A list of the public is given in this case 0. A list of Press attending is provided, in this case 0. Apologies are then read out from the councillors who couldn't make it and because the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were in this list someone else was nominated, seconded and voted in to become Chairman pro tem. It was pointed out that apologies from people who were not Council members were superfluous because they didn't need to be there anyway. A good point and I'm sure I've seen something similar at a Dibley Village Council Meeting. There was no report from the Police as the Thames Valley Police Representative didn't turn up. There were no written questions from the public and the Chairman's Activity Report was not read out as he hadn't submitted one. Many important financial matters were mentioned. Mr Hickmore's Regional Council Expenses £43.20 sound like good value and John's window cleaning at £95 seems reasonable

To be fair there was considerable discussion about serious matters but I won't tell you what in case you decide to check them out and I don't want to spoil the surprise.

There was one very disturbing omission from the agenda, probably because, through an oversight (?), Magna Carta gave no guidance. I think it's time that an item entitled "Matters arising from comments on the Faringdon.org.Website" should be included if the Council are really interested in what we think. I wonder how many Councillors even bother to read it ?

Vox Populi

Please sponsor me - 10/9/07

I have a friend whose son died from a brain tumour when he was just 16. Greg decided that he would like to find a way of remembering his son - at least annually: and the Octopus Challenge was created (<http://www.octopuschallenge.org.uk>).

I promised to support Greg then - and still do now. This year, we are again cycling from Paris to London, raising money for CancerBackUp and The Shooting Star Hospice.

Raising money becomes more difficult each year - but if you would like to sponsor our endeavours please take a look at <https://secure.justgiving.com/nick-elwell>

Thanks

Nick Elwell

In support of music - 9/9/07

I fully support Sam (and his wife) and his work in trying to bringing something to this town. I also applaud Sean for his work over the last 12 months. I have personal experience of the problems caused the minority to affect the enjoyment of the majority, anybody remember the noise limiter issues of Sat 18 November 2006 at the Corn Exchange

My point about charity events was that "local" cover bands seem to be supported whereas original music seems to be viewed suspiciously as a commercial venture without appreciating that acts have to be paid for, as do professional sound and lighting. Original acts are also more of a niche market in a town of our size whereas in the cover bands the audience will know the music.

For all the majority you are fantastic and I was in no way criticising your support of the arts. I hope that you are in a position to support the next paid for live event and ensure that promoters are prepared to take risks whilst the live music venue debate is resolved rather than kill the scene pending resolution of this problem.

Hamish Millar

Adult courses in Faringdon - 9/9/07

Tai Chi, Scrapbooking, Digital photography, silver jewellery making, acting, cake making, archaeology, trampolining, plumbing, music technology, pilates, french, movie making.

[More details, Dates, times and costs here](#)

Enrolment Evenings - Faringdon Community College Wednesday, 12th September and Thursday 13th September 6.00p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Follow the signs to 'Reception', from the access road to the Leisure Centre.

To enrol or for more information

Tel. (01367) 243 599 (Janet Deane)

Email: jd0051@faringdon-cc.oxon.sch.uk

Call in person at Faringdon Community College or visit the website www.faringdon-cc.oxon.sch.uk

Collect an enrolment form from the Charity Shop next to the Corn Exchange.

Faringdon Pubs and shops - 9/9/07

If you're interested in what pubs and shops there used to be in Faringdon, have a look at

<http://www.faringdon.org/bdbusinesses.htm> on our History pages

This was all done from memory, so there could be some mistakes. Do [email us](#) if you notice any

Incidentally, the Faringdon pub piece is on this website on <http://www.faringdon.org/hyfaringdonpubs.htm>.

There is a typed version and a handwritten one provided by someone who lived in Faringdon before WW1
Gene Webb

Market Place traffic flow - 9/9/07

The suggestion that the traffic flow on the service road, north side of Market Place was originated by the Faringdon & District Chamber of Commerce.

However, the suggestion was made without checking the physical dynamics of the buses.

The bus companies should be asked (if they haven't been already) for their opinion before any changes are made

Name supplied

Hey, name supplied- 9/9/07

... a majority to me means more than one. Do you have a problem with that?

More important, why does my one voice carry less or more sway than one other? What difference do you recognise between the 'noise' of a charity event and one that provides pleasure?

Noise is noise is it not? The levels are invariably the same...

One of the Sheilas

Music, sound level or noise? - 08/09/07

As another disappointed punter supporting Sam's Blues night, I'd like to point out there wasn't any 'noise', just good music.

Certainly some of the sax or guitar solos were played with passion and might have upped the sound levels somewhat, but they weren't noisy!

Perhaps any complainant could listen and learn to appreciate the skill of musicians - it's very relaxing, dispels troubles and encourages good will!

Yet another Sheila

Hello Faringdon - 08/09/07

To all who came to our Blues (fledgling) club on Thursday - THANK-YOU.

To the un-named "Poster", you should know that the Faringdon Town Council has indeed supported us in our quest for people to remove themselves from their bottles and find out what real (not telly, or a DVD / CD) shot of music sounds, looks and feels like!

M.A.D.D. has received regular grants for our May Festival and although the majority of our audience has arrived from beyond Faringdon, we do have a hard core of Faringdonians who support us to the hilt. We could/would do far more in this musical respect if we were allowed to get on with it. Incidentally, the Crown and the Bell have done their utmost to help us achieve our aims.

One very sad person, managed to ruin a very enjoyable night and probably many more which would have happened. We now have nowhere else in Faringdon to stage the bands which have already been booked. Thanks a bunch. Hope the person can live with him/herself when their children grow up with nothing to enjoy except street-corners and a screen. Yours very sincerely, extremely disappointed and rather disillusioned.

Hilary, MADD person, (wife of Sam) Both of us slog our guts out for these events - why do we bother? Would somebody care to re-illusion me? Answers on a postcard please.

Hilary Prince-Braunton

majority/minority? - 08/09/07

I believe that Faringdon is a great and vibrant place to live and have been very impressed by the moves in recent years to enhance the atmosphere of the town. I think however it is incorrect to refer to the music goers as a majority although they do outnumber the minority who use their right to object, albeit by knowing how to play the rules rather than attempting to resolve the matter with event organisers.

Support seems to be reserved for "charity" events. It would be interesting to know how many Faringdonians were supporting Sam's fantastic blues club when the plug was pulled. A show of support at future events in the town would certainly enable the term majority to be used correctly.

name supplied

Why?? -08/09/07

why does it, when people enjoy themselves, or try too, why is it one person that has to spoil it? if the music is too much, why live next door to a pub???????????????????? i have a young daughter who is 16 months and can happily sleep, with the music or laughter that happens in the crown. oops, sorry people we can't have fun anymore!!!!!!!!!!!!

if you wanted a quiet life, live next to a field. all i can imagine, by monday people will have to whisper to get a pint, to make sure they don't get a complaint against them. i was working the bar on thursday night, and listening to the jam, and believe me, i never really like the blues and i must say, i enjoyed it, but then again, we

are allowed to enjoy ourself, can we!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Nicola Wood

Our representatives? - 08/09/07

I support the individual's right to complain. That, after all, is what I did (albeit not to the 'authorities') when the music was stopped. I do not complain about smelly, smokey barbecues, noisy kids, barking dogs, late night parties - I shut the doors and windows.

Also I walk around cars parked on pavements, step gingerly to avoid dog poo or tripping on broken pavements and potholes (remembering to report them on the appropriate website), look carefully before crossing from the the Old Town Hall to the newsagents and take a longer route home to avoid groups of youths whose language and/or behaviour can sometimes seem intimidating.

Furthermore, I do not create a fuss about having to give up the pleasure of sitting with friends, having a drink outside the Portwell after 11pm, because I don't want Martin to lose his licence (or encourage phone calls of complaint at 11.01pm if the chairs are still outside!). I regularly attend meetings of groups including Faringdon Association of Residents where I listen to and put forward points of view. In other words, I take part in local interest groups and follow the code of 'live and let live'. (Sorry, this is going on a bit!)

But I can't help thinking that the reason no action has been taken with regard to supporting those who want live music, A-boards, well-dressing, action against dog-poo, cheaper car parking etc. is because together we exceed the requisite number of 1 or 2 people (or live at the wrong address/in the wrong town). Cynical? Yes.

But who do our 'elected representatives' actually represent? Seriously, what is the likelihood of VWH/OCC putting additional funds into the town (they - ie we - already award grants for, FAF, MADD etc.) when the lion's share of 106 monies (for housing developments in Faringdon) goes to projects in Wantage and Abingdon?

Sheila

Here we go again ! - 08/09/07

I would hate to have to agree with Devils Advocate and I don't think he would be too happy about appearing to side with me so I am trying to get this point across before he gets to his keyboard.

Metaphorically tarring and feathering the person complaining about the music is just not fair. He or she must feel they have a case or they wouldn't stick their neck out. The people who may deserve a public hanging (again, unfortunately, only metaphorically) are those who decided that the complaint was justified.

Neither DA nor myself were there so we can only jump to conclusions and, perish the thought, we may be wrong. I have read what Sheila, Sam and the rather coy Name Supplied have written and until I hear anything to the contrary I will continue to believe that the complaint was not justified. This is where Devils Advocate, if he is not watching the TV, may well suggest that my attitude is very un-British because I am suggesting that the complainer is guilty until proved innocent.

Incidentally I think that references to dog poo in the same posting as a discussion about a cultural matter is not to be encouraged so I refuse to mention it.

HGM

Naming names - 08/09/07

Unless we are told the name of the establishment concerned, we cannot withdraw our custom. So is anyone going to come out with the name?

name supplied

HT - Definitely not on this website.

Call to Arms? - 08/09/07

So what are we doing, seems like a call to arms.
Now that *is* an example of mob rule.

Why we are about it, lets put pillow cases over our heads, and give them a 10 minute start before we chase them out or town. From the tone and the way the post is written, we can all make a good guess at who posted it. If I'm right, they accused me of being a bully for referring to them as being a nimby (about 2 and a half years ago). If thats right then who is the bully now. If I'm wrong, then apologies, I will hold my head in shame.

As for the majority of Faringdonians knowing who this alleged spoil sport is, well I'm in the minority, I have no idea, and personally I dont care. It is the issue which needs to be dealt with. If there is no real noise issue then there is no case to argue. We need facts not opinions on this matter. All I have heard so far are opinions proposing to be facts. For the record once again, I fully support the music scene in Faringdon, it is a great loss not to have it. However, I say it again, it is the issue which needs solving, not the scapegoat.

As for local and distict councillors, and our member of parliament, you know what the issues are, you can see what the majority of Faringdonians want (or alleged majority). What are you doing about it, and what are you going to do about it. There's the challenge, do your job, and provide a response and a solution. I've made your job easy, and have provided you with the solution already, see post below.

A joint cricket/Rugby/community building (acoustically sufficient) predominantly paid for by S106 contributions associated with the 400 plus houses. Phew, got that off my chest, I feel better now.

Devils Advocate

Pye Street Park - 08/09/07

hi i was just wondering if anyone working on the council had been to pye street park recently?!
it is disgusting with broken glass bottles EVERYWHERE!!

i took my 3 yr old down there in the holidays and we ended up having to walk all the way up to the docters surgery park because it was so unsafe and being heavily pregnant wasn't fun.

I wanted to know why is it that other areas have lovely parks that are looked after by the council but all we seem to have are rubbish dumps!!!! its not fair on the younger children

name supplied

Cultural Desert - 080907

I was there on Thursday watching a very good band. I go to a lot of live music events, so I am in a position to know whether or not the music was blaring - it was not. In fact, after the gig was closed down the piped music that came on was far louder than the band.

I'm glad I don't live in Faringdon, it seems to be a cultural and artistic desert.

Another Sheila

So, what are we doing then? - 08/09/07

All musicians in the town either have to stop playing live (and also rehearsing) while we try to get someone to pay for a venue out of town (presumably with no-one in listening range). Not very realistic, is it? I mean, its taken years and years to even get a patch of ground with a couple of ramps on it as a skate park and even that hasn't happened.

In addition, our council hardly have much of a history of supporting live music do they? It also seems that the majority of the town believe the majority of the complaints to come from one particular person. There is reason to believe this too. I happen to believe it and therefore will not be patronising the establishment owned by the nimby until they do saddle up and get out of town.

If you agree then you must do the same. If we all voted with our feet, things would change. Apologies for with-

holding my name but past experience on this site suggests that a considerable number of readers will start accusing me of failing to support local businesses which entirely misses the point.

Ta

p.s Incidentally, dog poo is a massive problem in Faringdon but I'm starting to think that the failure of the council to enforce cleaning up after your dog by fining people is yet another example of our council failing to address the issues that really bother tax-payers such as parking and pholding minority complaints regarding noise. I might move. This is starting to get ridiculous.

name supplied

Saddle up and ride out of town - 08/09/07

Such comments are really unnecessary and devalue the weight of the point which is being made, and reduce the valuable contribution and point which is being made to an uneducated rant.

The point is valid as is the argument, but do yourself justice and dont let vindicive disappointment enter the equation. Clearly there is a problem, and it needs sorting, essentially by those who are in place to make a difference, ie our elected representatives.

I have a real problem with dog poo on the pavements, but it would appear that the majority of Faringdon dog residents dont, judging by the amount which is left lying around. Does that mean I need to saddle up and ride out of town?

Just a thought

Devils Advocate

How I Feel. - 08/09/07

As an organizer of the Jam blues club. I have put an enormous ammount of work into producing this monthly event. Stage building, purchasing lighting, organising bands who were willing to travel considerable distances.

To hear these musicians would certainly cost much more than the £5 entrance we were charging. The other aim was to create a club atmosphere where people could relax and enjoy. The certain female Whose main reason in life seems to be to critisize and complain about how people enjoy their life, should realize the extent of the damage and knock on effects of such action.

It would seem that their inability to actually make contact with the organisers, (Myself)and explain that they had a problem with the noise. I'm sure we could have come to an agreement about it. Which would have ment the blues club would not have had to close.A sad end to a community idea.

As a postsript would this be the same person who complained at 1 minute past eleven on the Friday night of the opening of the M.A.D.D. mayfest this year? Come on stand up and be recognized, or saddle up and ride out of town.

Sam Prince

Noise HGM - 08/09/07

you know me too well, and you are indeed right, my masochistic tendancies are a pretence, I dont actually enjoy being abused.

Sometimes you just have to push the limits a bit to get a response, and a useful or reasonable debate going. Sheila - a fine response, and one which I have sympathies with. I attend music events myself and consider them a great asset to the town.

The point is that it is not productive to spout off about someone who complains, they have a right to do so. If the complaint is unfounded then we all move on. At present, the comments made so far do not clearly lay down the facts, where is the evidence of what actually took place. The purpose of my rant was to provoke someone into

making this known. In my view, town councillors take note, the best way forward is to establish a new venue.

The solution is simple and had those who have any influence actually thought about it, its simple. Faringdon is to absorb well over 400 houses, with planning gain attached, including a new cricket/rugby ground and club house. At a small additional cost, this could be expanded to include a community venue including music venue.

Come on those who can do something, get off your backsides and be useful.

Devils Advocate

Devils Advocate from HGM - 07/09/07

Dear Devils Advocate You may get some of the abuse which you seem to enjoy from TP Posters who haven't read many of your past contributions.

I, however, am not prepared to pander to your pretended masochistic tendencies because I know that your real purpose is to liven up the website with controversial comments.

A very laudable aim and one which I support. We both know that this latest spoiling of a harmless entertainment was just not on ! By the way will you be entering any of your Mob Rule Verses in the poetry competition ?

HGM

More Noise....., - 07/09/07

Noise - the little person and mob rule. There is no mob, just a group of people enjoying a shared interest which was brought to a sudden halt. I do not believe a request was made for the 'noise' to be reduced, which surely would have been complied with.

The band and many of the audience had travelled some distance to Faringdon for this event, the second of a series of blues nights scheduled, with bands already booked, into next year.

Where is there an alternative venue for such music now? Most of the villages have better provision for public events than Faringdon, and/or more tolerant residents - but without a car or a bus service in the evenings this little person has to get her pleasures within walking distance. I chose to spend my retirement here having found a delightful, vibrant town full of friendly, welcoming people.

It seems a lot has changed in 4 years. I wonder how the town will cope with the new families due to arrive in the next few years? I guess it will just provide all the essential services via our high council tax and be more than happy to see people going to Swindon and Oxford (on the promised new, improved bus service) to dispose of their incomes.

Sheila

Noise - 07/08/07

Oh dear, oh dear, hear we go again, mob rule verses the little person.

The fact that it was one person who complained, (if that was indeed the case) is irrelevant. The fact is, that a complaint is alledged to have been made. The issue needs to be dealt with, not yet another witch hunt, or this childish my dads bigger than your dad approach.

Lets grow up a bit. If there was no issue, why was the plug pulled. Someone below says that the noise was not blaring but that no noise readings were taken. Question, if there was no noise readings on what basis can a statement be made that the noise was not blaring. For all I know, the poster may be partially deaf. I was not there on Thursday so cannot make any personal view whether it was blaring or not. However, before we start hanging people or puttig them in the stocks, perhaps we need the full facts.

Incidentally, there are always posts about parking in the town centre and the problems residents who live there have. By the line of arguement offered below, perhaps all these people should stop complaining and move on. You can be the one to knock them up and tell them to all sling their hooks. I look forward to some abuse.

Devils Advocate (and no it was not I who complained)

What are the facts? - 07/09/07

How can this happen in premises licensed to play music ?

Sheila's complaint about having her music cut off must be answered. Who complained isn't important because in this country we still have the right to complain about anything. (But.. No, it wasn't me)

What is important is that someone took the complaint seriously and decided to respond to it very quickly. A few days ago my peace and tranquility was shattered around midnight by what sounded like a drunk shouting at one of my neighbours. No one, including my neighbours, could make sense of his problem but one thing he said did make sense. Quote.. " Don't bother phoning the police because they won't come " Rightly or wrongly that is a widely held view.

How on earth did anyone manage to lodge a complaint resulting in music being stopped at such an early hour ? It seems that someone has a Magic Phone Number !

HGM

Noise abatement...? - 07/09/07

So, it's minority rule for Faringdon. Yet again a music venue falls to the whining of one individual. A quick call to the authorities before 10pm last night, was all it took to destroy the enjoyment of the many people listening to some excellent Blues. Was it blaring? No. Was the sound level measured? No.

If you hate church bells, why buy a house next to a church. Don't like tractors and farm smells, but buy a house in the country? Likewise if you hate the sound of happy people and music in a pub, why choose to live next to one. Find somewhere quieter would be the obvious advise.

Mike.

Dem Old Cosmic Blues....again - 06/09/07

GRRRRR. After a first, most enjoyable, set of music by a top class band...nothing. The plug was pulled at 10.10pm on Thursday evening after a complaint/threat to the licensee of the Crown. How can this happen to premises licensed to play music? Do I hear a death knell for Faringdon playing from the local church bells? Not yet. But how long before even those are silenced?

Sheila

Pub Prose Poem - 05/09/07

Driving into the town of Faringdon this morning I was delighted to find an old and valued friend THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON and having shaken hands with him by way of SALUTATION we proceeded down Gloucester Street escorted by the VOLUNTEER and made best of our way to MARLBOROUGH ARMS.

We had just seated ourselves for a drink when the landlord informed us that the ANGEL had seen the CROWN knocked out of the QUEENS ARMS by the DUKE OF YORK.

Determined to see if such a thing was true we started away to Coxwell Street where we met the GARDENER with the WHEATSHEAF in his arms just preparing to feed the SWAN.

He told us he had never heard of such a thing but since our arrival in town there has been a desperate fight between the RED LION and the EAGLE and that the eagle was at the top of the street and the lion was chasing the WHITE HART all around the FOLLY.

Off we set again and getting to the Market Place we were alarmed at the tolling of the BELL. (Continued in another posting no room)

Enquiring what was the matter we were told that the TAP had been stopped and the old BULL had kicked the STAR over into the BAKERS ARMS.

Margaret Haddon

Pub Names Galore - 04/09/07

OK, bit of research done.

Kelly's Directory 1915 shows 18 pubs.

There were probably more but this is taken from the list of registered owners of commercial premises.

Folly Inn - London St, Salutation Hotel - Market Place, Queens Arms - Coxwell St, Duke of York - Coxwell St, Eagle Brewery - No address so I presume it included the Eagle pub, Swan Tavern - Station Rd, Volunteer - Gloucester St, Marlborough Arms - Marlborough St, Wheatsheaf - London St, Red Lion - Marlborough St, Duke of Wellington - Lechlade Rd.

There are also seven where the pubs aren't named - just the publicans; these are :- Mary Ann Vincent - London St, Henry Jackson - Coxwell St, Thomas Lardner - Market Place, John H Pawling - Union St, George Ryman - Coxwell St, Henry Appa - Market Place, George Harold Berwick - London St.

Kelly's Directory 1848 has the following pubs:- George, Crown, Angel Inn, Red Lion, White Horse, Harp, Green Dragon, Salutation, Swan Inn, Bell Inn, Prince of Wales, White Hart, Duke of York, Queens Arms (this entry says & but the next pub has been cut off, the Eagle perhaps), Windmill, Folly House (now the Folly Inn perhaps), Royal Oak.

Obviously, many of these are the names missing from the 1915 Directory, but as the streets aren't given it's a guess as to which are which. The Black Bull in London St isn't mentioned.

Jane Boulton
HT. thankyou, Jane

Pub Names. 04/09/07

Sorry HT but "The Pink Elephant" was originally "The Queens Arms". "The Eagle" was "The Eagle" and is the pub with the notice still on the door jamb. Closed a cuppla years ago. There were some other pubs in Coxwell St between Saffron and the Church. Can't recall their names (before my time). I'll do some research.

Jane Boulton

Pub Confusion - 04/09/07

No - The Eagle and The Pink Elephant were two different pubs. The Eagle only closed about six years ago (and is now a house). The Pink Elephant closed before - might be one of the piano shops now.....not sure.

name supplied

Senior Moment?? - 04/09/07

HT, sorry your wrong !! The Eagle and the Pink Elephant are different buildings. The Eagle was situated opposite the retirement cul-de-sac and the Pink Elephant was opposite the large advertising board.

Martin Harries

HT - uh-oh, sorry, senior moment.... (on second thoughts, it's me that's going doolally) so which pub did the Pink Elephant replace, was it the Queen's.... maybe there wasnt a pub there at all....oh dear..

Change of name - 04/09/07

I think that is The Eagle you refer to - or possibly the Pink Elephant (somebody tell me that did exist or am I just going doolally?)

Anna

HT (other Ed) No - not doolally....the Pink Elephant was the new name of the Eagle. I used to hope that maybe the pub sign might reflect that avian metamorphosis... but I was disappointed.

Forgotten Pubs - 04/09/07

There is an ex-pub on Coxwell St, I spotted it with my son when we walked down to town. It's around no. 56ish, and still has the 'licenced to sell liquor' notice at the top of the door; though the rest of the building is unmarked

(it is now painted white), you can tell it was an inn. Any idea what that one was called?

name supplied

Pub names - 03/09/07

a few more for you, Duke of York, Crown Tap, Gardeners Arms, The Marlborough and The Bull.

John Carter

More forgotten pubs - 03/09/07

Really old ones in my grandparent's era were The Duke of York (where the United Church is now) and the Crown Tap (behind the Crown Coaching Inn. I believe there was another one up London Street as well?

Name supplied

Pub Names - 03/09/07

There is a poem that lists the names of all the pubs, I think I'm right in saying that the Folly Pub has a copy of it. It might be nice to get it posted here if any TP readers are in that direction at any point?!

Anna

Re: Loss of Volunteer - 02/09/07

Sad to hear of another pub going. At one time it used to be a bit of a thing - I think it was called a pram race, where you had to tour Faringdon and have a drink in every pub. I think that there were thirty two at one time. If you can find anybody old enough I'm sure that they could turn up all the names. I can remember, The Queens, The Star I believe, The Eagle, The White Hart and of course The plough, The Salutation, The Bakers Arms, anybody come up with anymore?

Pimpernel

Gt. Western Ophthalmology dept. - 02/09/07

I have been to the Ophthalmology Out patients on 3 occasions, twice in the last 2-3 years, and have been impressed by the professional way I was treated. The dept looked clean as well. I would not hesitate to go there again. I do hope you find it is as good.

Kay.

Loss of the Volunteer - 02/09/07

I was saddened to hear that we might be losing another of our old public houses, The Volunteer. It always seems a busy little pub. These establishments have been around for longer than we have, and will never be replaced. I feel it will be a loss to the town centre if it does eventually close.

Rob.....

The Great Western Hospital. - 02/09/07

This facility has two outstanding attractions for Faringdon dwellers.

First it is a nice modern building and second it is close to Faringdon. Unfortunately from bitter experience I know that cleanliness in some areas is not a priority and some of the staff give the impression that the patients really are rather a nuisance.

I realise I may get a stream of abuse from people who have cause to be thankful for the care and treatment they or their loved ones have received there and to those people I can only say "Lucky you and I'm happy for you" But has anyone any comments on the Ophthalmology Department and are they prepared to share their experiences?

I am encouraged to ask this after seeing how many posters have been prepared to offer advice on how to poach the perfect egg and I'd like think that my concerns will receive a similar amount of sympathy. Incidentally I do know all about the complaints procedures and also know they are futile. I also accept that like most of our NHS the staff are overworked and underpaid.

name supplied

Shopping Locally - 01/09/07

Ed, whilst I agree that some businesses could also offer the money back incentive it's worth noting that you still have to spend £10 in order to qualify - not much good if you want to nip in for a pint of milk or a loaf of bread really! That's where Costcutter and Stanford's Co-op get good trade I guess - much more convenient! It's fine for those of you within walking distance but many of us aren't! Not wishing to moan, I love Faringdon and it's businesses, but there are still many improvements to be made that could benefit us all and encourage us to shop locally not further afield!

Anna

To keep the music rolling. - 31/10/07

A blues Jam @ The Jam Club. Post Christmas/Pre New Years Bash.
29th Dec approx 4pm ish to 8pm ish.

Are you a blues musician, would you like to jam with other blues musicians? If you are interested in coming along to the Crown to Jam please contact Sam.

A small charge will have to be charged to cover costs.

Numbers will be limited so get registered without delay. All participants will be advertised. Pete Boss & The Bluehearts are on stage at 9pm.

To Get Registered. www.maddfaringdon.co.uk or call sam on 01367-243806. M.A.D.D is a not for profit organization.

More support for Music @ Corn Exchange - 29/10/07

It's good that David Porter and other music enthusiasts have again raised the issue of the Corn Exchange as a music venue and thanks to Steve Leniec for assuring us that things are moving, albeit slowly.

The weekend just passed was 1 year on from when the venue was effectively shut down and, since then, the attempts to re-open the old theatre have been thwarted and the only venues providing "louder" live music have been the occasional gig at the Junior School and Sam's events at the Crown and even those have had problems. David Reynolds rightly raises the questions about whether a "sound reduced" Corn Exchange could remain viable, but surely a compromise could be reached by a combination of double glazing and an agreement that "loud" events could be limited to a certain number of published times per month, possibly limited to Friday or Saturdays. After all, the Corn Exchange does have a music license and the license authority are not disposed to withdraw it!

We should also remember that loss of the Corn Exchange has not simply forced local bands such as Kiff, Lucky Generals, PowerTrain etc to play in more enlightened towns such as Witney, Swindon, Abingdon, Marlborough and Highworth, but that the opportunity for the college and school bands who cannot play pub or club venues has simply been removed. A great loss for the young musicians, their families and, most of all, Faringdon itself.

So yes, thanks to all those who are doing their best to keep the music scene alive, but let's keep this at the top of various agenda and get our real venue back, preferably before our music enthusiasts old and young simply conclude that Faringdon has died again and the only solution is to drive somewhere else.
Steve Wright

Space - 29/10/07

I am a realist not an acoustic engineer and, as such, see this issue as about dealing with people not decibels. My comments are not intended to undermine any campaign to restore live music to the Corn Exchange but to create an awareness around the potential challenges.

Dave P you say you don't understand my comments about "sound-proofing" but then seem to go on to confirm them as correct. My point remains that if any sound emanating from the venue is deemed to be a nuisance by one person there could be grounds for complaint irrespective of whether you or I feel that to be unreasonable.

The only real way forward is to work with those who feel they would be most affected to reach a mutually acceptable conclusion. As to whether £20,000 should be spent at all on a building that belongs to someone else, well that's another issue and Steve Leniec and his team are clearly working hard to resolve this.

In the meantime if anyone out there has some spare cash they want to spend on a property that doesn't belong to them...I need some work doing in my garden! David Reynolds

SPACE and the Corn Exchange - 28/10/07

Thanks for the update Steve and thanks for joining Hamish. If there is anything we can help with to get this moving at an improved rate, like mass attending open meetings (in a nice way), we are very up for it.

As for Dave Reynold's comments, I don't really understand them. "Sound proofing" is physically impossible without a vacuum. We use the term in everyday life but really we should use the term "sound reduction" (but then SRACE wasn't as good a name!!). We know from the tests that if we reduce the sound by 10dBs (as this will at least) we have a working venue.

I really can't see any point in undermining this campaign. In my opinion, without the double-glazing, the Corn Exchange will become flats in a few years time and it will be lost to our children forever!

One final point Steve, I'm Dave not Ian!
Dave Porter

SPACE and the Corn Exchange. - 27/10/07

Ian Porter and Dave Reynolds raise the issue of live music in the Corn Exchange, perhaps I can provide a progress (or lack of) report.

As Dave rightly points out the lease is a key issue which town councillors are trying to resolve. This has involved a number of meetings with Vale officers, including the Chief Executive, the last one was this earlier this month, and it is my personal opinion that we are close to a resolution. However, close in Vale speak may be a lease ready for signature by April 08! That said I feel that once we have agreement on the Heads of Lease we can make progress on noise mitigation measures.

As Ian reminds us we have money agreed this year for secondary glazing the hall and I would hope that we can start work once the heads of lease are agreed and not have to wait for lawyers to draft a lease. To that end the Town Council Venues committee have considered an external report on the problem of noise mitigation in preparation for further action.

While I agree with Dave that any complaint could result in further problems, we have to work to establish a sound level which we can defend against over sensitive complaint.

There has to be a resolution to this problem otherwise the town will lose it's main live venue. I appreciate that things appear to be moving slowly and share your frustration, however I am optimistic that we are moving closer to a long term solution which will see live music back in the hall.
Steve Leniec

Space - 27/10/07

I think that its a great idea especially as the money is budgeted for doing the work.

If the complainers continue to complain at least it can be demonstrated to the Vale that changes have been made. It would then be up to the Town Council to ensure that conditions of hire are complied with and possibly an annual timetable of live music nights availability established.

The issue of reasonableness would then have to come into it.
Hamish Millar

New Pages on FO - 27/10/07

Have a look at [nvmemories.htm](#) and please do send us your memories and recollections.
It doesn't have to be about many many years ago- anything that helps us remember times now gone
Gene Webb

Response to SPACE - 27/10/07

I'd love to help restore live music to the Corn Exchange. However there are still some very fundamental issues to be resolved.

Take the very term "Sound Proofing" for example. This is almost an impossibility with secondary glazing alone as the

net effect will be only to reduce the amount of sound "leaking" from the building. Having completed the work what happens if our main protagonists are still not happy with levels of sound? Remember they have only to claim that the sound is a nuisance. It is nothing to do with decibels!

And in any case, is it really a prudent move to spend up to £20,000 of taxpayers money on a building that not only belongs to someone else (VWHDC) but on which there is no formally agreed lease?

David Reynolds

Make your mind up! (police informers) - 27/10/07

On the one hand, you whinge because you say the PCSOs aren't doing their job well enough. On the other you whinge in case they do and you get done for illegal parking. No-one can do right for you people.

Not so long ago you were whining because there weren't any community support officers. It would serve Faringdon right if the Police, PCSOs, council and everyone else were to shut up shop and leave you all to it.

You might then have enough to do without having time on your hands to think up complaints about everybody else.
Name Supplied

SPACE - 27/10/07

Right.... Who's up for joining me in getting the **Corn Exchange** up and running as a music venue again (please)?...

We, as citizens of Faringdon, must ensure that the secondary double glazing that we voted for, is fitted and the lease is sorted!! Faringdon is not the same place without our Corn Exchange. We've had the excuses from our MP and from Matthew Barber who has "protected the Corn Exchange" (?!?!). We must not stop until the venue is again hosting the 15MC, Wedding receptions, Halloween parties, Christmas parties and and.....

Please respond to this if you wish to join **SPACE** (Sound Proofing At the Corn Exchange)! Lets stand up and be counted!

Please respond to this with your name published, **loud and proud!!**
Dave Porter

Police informers wanted - not - 26/10/07

Gene tells us that if we report illegally parked cars the Police Community Support Officers "will do their best" and I presume that is a quote ?.

I think the sad thing is that they are already "doing their best" and it just isn't good enough. Very few people would like the idea of reporting minor misdemeanours. It just shouldn't be necessary in a small town such as ours. The PCSOs should not be relying on "informers" when all that is needed is for them to take a stroll down Coxwell Street at almost any time and take the action for which they are, presumably, being paid.

It's very like the situation we have with Thames Water . They tell us not to waste water while they continue to leak millions of litres every year. They also are probably "doing their best"

For goodness sake Gene don't mention my name because I've a feeling the next car to be 'caught' could well be mine....If, Heaven forbid ,I should transgress.
Name Supplied

Coxwell St Parking - 26/10/07

When will Thames Valley Police do something about the illegal parking that occurs each day in Coxwell Street. The signs clearly give the restriction times, and it is usually a nightmare to go through the street.

Name Supplied

Ed(GW): I was told by a Police community support officer to report parking issues on 0845 8 505 505 - and they 'would do their best'

'Breathing Places', Biscuits and BLUEBELLS - 24/10/07

Saturday 27 October from 10.00am

FRIENDS OF FOLLY PARK is a small group of volunteers who aim to improve, protect and assist in the management of Folly Park in a way that increases the park's value as a habitat for wildlife and encourages the involvement of the community and wider public. We have already begun work on a boardwalk; transplanted orchids into the park from a field scheduled for housing development; planted wood anemones, snowdrops and a living willow structure.

In association with BBC Breathing Places, BTCV and The Wildlife Trust, Friends of Folly Park invite you to:
HELP PLANT 500 BLUEBELLS

Meet by the pond in Folly Park. 10am

Wear suitable outdoor clothing and footwear.

SOME REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Further information: Margaret Broadberry 01367 242661 www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces

Jim from Harry - 20/10/07

I was pretty sure where the prize would go and you're welcome.

I'll be delighted to get a Jim'll Fix it Key ring I am all for peace and quiet as you know Jim. But I understand you remember the Christmas Truce of 1914 ? I have only read about it but now I know how it must have felt..but it did only last for one day.

So tomorrow back to the status quo

HGM

Talking of Photography... - 20/10/07

If you care, or even more important, if you don't care, about climate change, environmental collapse and global poverty, and you are in Oxford between now and the end of the Month, check out the hard rain exhibition at the Botanical gardens opposite Magdalen College.

Inspired by the prophetic lyrics of Bob Dylans 40 year old song 'A Hard Rains A-gonna Fall', this is an unforgettable and sometimes disturbing open air photographic exhibition by Mark Edwards. www.hardrainproject.com

Graham Fletcher

Thankyou Harry - 20/10/07

Thank you for your kind gesture Harry, the money will be sent to the Prospect Hospice, in Wroughton, where as you may, or may not know, my wife spent the last nine weeks of her life.

It has been mentioned that it was strange that Harry had won the prize, seeing as we are always at loggerheads on this site, well my prize has always been for local poets and their work(some of you may also be asking why I give a prize at all, well,it was my suggestion to start the poetry competition, as at that time the site had become sluggish, I also offered up the prizes,added to by Martin at the wine bar, and out of kindness, or sufferance, the Ed's keep me in the loop) that make's me want to read it more than once.

At no time did I know the name of the entrant, when I was informed of the winner, you can imagine there was an awful lot of hooting, mainly from the Ed's I may add, I also had a wry smile on my face, as I should imagine did Harry as well. Harry's poem's are very funny,and that one deserved to win, but so did many many others, the quality of the work was phenomenal, (I hope thats spelt correctly Harry!)we just agree to differ thats all,and perhaps, just perhaps, we snipe at each other to force others to participate.

Harry there is a "Jim'll fix it" keyring/medal that goes with the prize,(sorry, they dont make Harry'll fix it ones) I would be extremely pleased if you would accept that as your winnings.

Right, thats enough of the sycophantic ramblings, lets all get back to slagging each other off..... I have just had another good idea, how about once a month,lets have a "Praise each other" day, where we find some good deed that someone has done, and tell everyone else about it.....I know it's a bit radical, but hey, nothing ventured, nothing

gained, as I often say, "It's just a thread pull in the tapestry of life".
Jim Horton

More Library - 19/10/07

I can understand Devil's Advocate's pleasure at discovering the Faringdon Library (I felt the same thrill when I read my first book, and NO ! DA it wasn't The Gutenberg Bible) but if he goes in and has a word with one of the jolly staff they will tell him how to access thier services online.

The facilities available are awesome
Name Supplied

Poetic Irony - 19/10/07

Thank you Jimmy

I'm proud to win Jim's hard earned cash but decided to refuse it
Please give it to a charity but tell Jim he can choose it.
I've always been quite modest. I'm also very shy
I cannot change these attributes no matter how I try
I like to write my poetry because I think it's funny
But it was not intended as a way of making money
I'd also like to thank our Eds. I'm sure you'll all agree
The work they do on our behalf deserves an OBE
And finally my thanks to him whose vote ensured I won
I'm pleased he liked my poem but. . . .I wrote it just for fun !

HGM

Faringdon Area Project - Healthcheck revisit - 19/10/07

As we are just beginning re-visiting the Healthcheck (Faringdon is one of the first Market Towns to do this) we would like to ask if you would be able to complete the [attached questionnaire](#) and also distribute it to anyone who you know that might also be interested

Jayne Haynes
jane.haynes@bordengate.com

Library - 19/10/07

On a more positive note, has anyone not been to the library recently. If you havent its well worth the trip.

Its been a long time since I had visited and I was truely impressed with not only the stock, but the staff.
The lady and gent there today were jolly, really pleasant and extremely helpful. It was a real pleasure to make the visit.
Devil's Advocate

Cllr Leniec's Post - 19/10/07

I have read with interest this post, and somewhat regret my initial post, not because of the content. But because of the posts which followed, openly criticising the town council. I simply raised a question, a valid one, but with hind sight an ill informed one.

Personally I wouldnt be a TC'er for all the tea, or is it now electronics in China. On the whole they do a great job, one that needs to be done but which few would like to.

The problem discussed in Cllrs post arose out of issues concerning the town guide. To any person the clear impression is given by the document that the Town Council was resspnsible for the publication and its content. Furthermore that it was paid for by the town council, why else would the Town Council be giving it away with their compliments. The front clearly states this.

Given the above it appears, rightly or wrongly, in agreeing whatever draft, that the council has sought to give the impression that this document was its own work and that they have distributed it freely.

We now know that this is not the case, and Councillor Leniec has put us right. It is regrettable however that he felt he had to do so with such venom, and go for not only the authors but the messenger as well.

If I caused any offence to the TC staff with my question I apologise. Although personally, having reread what I posted it is pretty low key and inoffensive.

I don't hear any apology from the TC though to the ED's or for the fact that the TC allowed and indeed endorsed a publication clearly purporting to be their work and paid for by them. We all make mistakes, but we should all be big enough to own up and say sorry when appropriate

I also feel sorry for the poor residents halfway along Highworth Road who are going to have to absorb an influx of youths (look at the map)

Devil's Advocate

Faringdon - the Future - 19/10/07

I have just been told that VWHDC is to hold a meeting (31 October 2007, United Church Hall, 7pm - 9pm) called Your Vale - Your future.

Having spoken to someone at the Vale I understand that notices of this meeting have been sent to FTC, Far, VWHDC councillors, and any organisation that has requested to be kept up to date with the Community Strategy/Local Development Framework. I understand that it is these organisations that are being relied upon to inform their members and residents of Faringdon.

I understand that VWHDC are interested in any issues that affect Faringdon and/or the Vale - health, education, transport, housing, leisure +++

It would be good if a good few Faringdon residents went to the meeting to express their views, but if you can't go you can email valefuture@whitehorsedc.gov.uk telling them what you think..

I understand that there will be a notice on the Home page of VWHDC's [website](#) 'soon' and that the full consultation document will be published there next week.

Gene Webb

Thanks to FAR for letting me know about this

Addition: Toby at VWHDC has just told me that there are full details in the latest edition of Vale Views which is currently being delivered to every household in the Vale

In response to Cllr Leniec's post - 19/10/07,

May I say that I was responsible for the original message with regard to the omission of Faringdon.org from the town guide. In spite of reading my comment through several times, I can find no wild accusation, nor sly innuendo, though I must confess to it being hastily written and peevish in tone.

It is stated in the guide that it is distributed "with the compliments of" and produced "on behalf of" the town council. As nowhere in the guide can I find an invitation to request inclusion it is a reasonable, if erroneous assumption that the information [that which is not 'paid-for' advertisement] is selected and supplied by the town council personnel, whether salaried or not. I apologise for making that assumption, but I wrote in disappointment at our omission and I very much resent the implication that my comment was deliberately published in order to set the town council and its employees up 'as an Aunt Sally'. As for your incomprehensible remark about Faringdon.org becoming the 'people's champion', I had thought I was merely making an admittedly rather trivial complaint on behalf of ourselves, and with my name appended.

As a matter of your own factual inaccuracy, the grant which the Town Council awarded to us in retrospect of our setting up this site was properly and gratefully acknowledged at the time, some six or seven years ago, since when we have worked hard to build and maintain the site, for the good of the town and its visitors, totally voluntarily, not as

salaried employees. I think even you must agree, that for £500 spread over seven years, our three hundred page plus comprehensive, and continuously updated guide to Faringdon represents remarkable value for money.

Personally I have on these pages defended the Town Council in the face of its critics, which you have no doubt forgotten. Some time ago, prior to the Council having its own web site, Gene and I have offered to provide, maintain and update web pages - free of charge, on behalf of the Town Council. Perhaps you have forgotten that also.

It is regrettable that sometimes the comments we publish are ill informed, and rude; however, we receive as much yelping indignation for not publishing such comments as we do for publishing them.

With regard to virtual councillors I entirely agree with you. Let those who think that being a councillor is an easy ride get a bit of hands on experience. Personally I take little interest in town affairs these days - I am simply grateful that someone else takes care of such tedious and thankless tasks. I may add that I speak as one who has already done a stint as a town councillor, (long before your time), so I am aware of what it involves.

Before you accuse Gene and me of fomenting anti-council feeling for our own entertainment, let me remind you that council-bashing was, is now, and ever shall be a middle England sport. I remember it very well from my own days as a councillor. The only difference is that the web makes it more immediate - the flip side of which is that it is also more rapidly forgotten.

Allow me to extend the olive branch and invite you and your fellow councillors and staff to our poetry reading evening - courtesy of the Crown Inn, 23rd November, 7pm onwards. Now there's a less contentious activity altogether, (unless, of course you are a poet and don't agree with the judge's decision).

Hilary Taylor

Twining Weekend - accommodation needed - 19/10/07

If you can provide accommodation for one or two French visitors, please contact Jeanie Pugh on jeaniepugh@ukonline.co.uk after 29/10/07

The visit is from 1/11/07 - 4/11/07

Jeanie Pugh

Town Council - 18/10/07

It's been a quiet month on .org so let's set up the Town Council and its employees as Aunt Sallys to be kicked around for our gratuitous entertainment. Set the ball rolling by making some wild suggestions and sly innuendo and away we go, .org becomes the peoples champion and hey who cares if it's factually inaccurate or if we demoralise dedicated employees working for the good of the town.

The Town Guide is a commercial publication which has been produced and updated for a number of years, the Council's input is limited to staff passing on requests for inclusion and proof reading before publication. Regrettably an error appears to have slipped through on the town map which I'm sure is a hanging offence in some contributors' eyes.

We pay for our own advertisement as do all of the other advertisers, organisations are listed on request, so the question is, did .org or others now complaining request a listing? If not place a request with the Town Clerk now and you will be included in the next print run, remember our staff are not psychic and do not have time to spend compiling entries for a commercial publication. The guide is popular and a free resource and as such our staff spend a limited amount of time facilitating its production.

As "The Council" our staff spend much of their office time fielding issues which should be dealt with by Vale and County, not an ideal situation but one which they take on for the good of the town and its residents. Dedicated and hard working they should not have to suffer abuse on this site in the name of "free speech".

"Being treated with contempt by the Town Council is like a badge of honour" Perhaps brave Pimpernel you would like to come out from under your pseudonym and ask the editors on this site who gave them a grant of £500 to set up a community web site. I'm sorry that the editors haven't felt able to acknowledge Council support amidst all of the Council bashing and suggestions that we oppose .org.

Free speech and criticism is a healthy part of democracy and anyone who stands for public office has to be prepared

to take their share, we all have names, declare our interests and are accountable - no "name supplied" or "Pimpernel" anonymity for us.

So all of you virtual councillors, a challenge, we have a vacancy come and have a go, or is it easier to sort out the town's problems with the click of a mouse and anonymity?

This site is at its best as an exchange of ideas and issues, when it sinks to abuse it loses all credibility and becomes town graffiti.

Steve Leniec

Enough of this sniping, how about something more positive to check out? - 18/10/07

You may have heard of flickr and the Faringdon collection of photographers who are putting images of this town and its environs on the map. Well, here's a new twist - six local photographers have joined forces to pool our photographs of people in this town playing music, visiting artists and sometimes the audience.

It's our visual representation of the vibrant music scene people keep banging on about. Performance is ephemeral, but photos help us capture and remember a small part of it.

So if you want to have a look check it out at Faringdon Music Scene www.flickr.com/groups/490321@N25
In a week nearly 200 images have been posted, but there's more to come and here's the best bit, if you'd like to contribute you can - either by posting comments or joining the group and posting images ... just keep it clean and relevant to the topic.

Meanwhile there are two other slightly more established Faringdon flickr groups to check out.

Faringdon Photographers (images made by people who are connected to the town) and Faringdon and District (strictly images of Faringdon and the area).

Just type in www.flickr.com and do a search for Faringdon.

Al Cane and co

Message for Dee - 18/10/07

been there bought the Tee shirt - thats how I know
Pimpernel

Sit on the Town Council - 18/10/07

May I suggest that Pimpernel sits on The Town Council for 6 months then I can assure you that you would eat your comments.

Dee England

I know what goes on - 17/10/07

YES I do know what goes on and it would amaze you to see the work load.

Over this passed 4 years the paper work that goes with meetings and running buildings is enourmous. The telephone is constant from 9am to 12 believe me I have been there.

So whilst clerks are answering sometimes trivial matters that usually are for District work is not able to be done.

I am not defending the mistakes with the Town Guide just bringing forward reality of how much work prior to publishing guides there should be.

This is where FAP should be involved!!!.

Oh cant wait for the comments now!!!

Dee England

Re: Town Guide - 17/10/07

Perhaps we should define better what we mean by TC - Town Clerk or Town Council - or perhaps Total Chaos would cover both
Pimpernel

Faringdon Town Guide - 17/10/07

I think it must be emphasised that the Town Council are ultimately responsible for the town guide. NOT the Town Clerk.

More time should be given for proof reading and research. The Town Council need to take on board the work load for our town clerks which is enormous.

If anyone doubts this why not spend a couple of days in the office. I am sure you will come away with a different attitude and respect for what goes on.

Town Council need to employ one more member of staff NOT just pass work load to already employed staff.
Dee England

*Ed: I guess as the former Town Mayor Dee knows what goes on, but I worry. Before getting more admin help (and thereby increasing our Council Tax), I'd want to be sure that the Council is run as efficiently as possible, and that all the work is essential. I know it's not a business, but that is what a good business would do.
There was a time when there was just one part time clerk.*

For HGM - 16/10/07

Well mister no apology from the TC emerged - guess they are a bunch of "small minded beaurocrats" then - says it all
Pimpernel

Learning and Lifestyle Courses - 16/10/07

Faringdon Community College October - December 2007

[Many courses, and how to enrol detailed in this document](#)

Janet Deane

Tel. (01367) 243 599

Email: jd0051@faringdon-cc.oxon.sch.uk

Town Guide - 16/10/07

Another organisation not included in the guide was the Retail Group but I suspect that was because I asked them to include all businesses within the town centre

A comprehensive guide was needed for the town all businesses listed whether or not they had paid for advertising - you will note that the only businesses included were the ones who had paid a rather hefty advertising fee.

I think I rattled a few feathers at the Heritage Guide, but not to worry the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce are in the process of producing a definitive one with our input.

Denise Palmer

Faringdon Retail Group

PS Festive Faringdon is on Saturday 1st December this year, more craft stalls and lots of fun!

The Postcode for Faringdon - 16/10/07

Just wondered if anyone knew why Faringdon that is in the County of Oxfordshire and we Pay Oxfordshire Council Tax Rates (one of the highest in the County if not the highest) why we have a Wiltshire Postcode
Should we not therefore Pay Wiltshire Rates and Have Wiltshire on Our Address Labels and not Oxfordshire.

Would anyone from the Postal Service be able to explain this.

Scott Gildert

More support for the Eds - 15/10/07

Though it may not be obvious to some I do enjoy a little bit of controversy on this site, as someone said, I can't remember his name, it's better than doing crossword puzzles. So having to go along with the popular viewpoint goes against the grain a little. Nevertheless I have to say to the Eds don't feel in any way slighted by being ignored by the FTC. If that is indeed what has happened. Who knows ?

Tomorrow someone in the office might suddenly realise that there has been a dreadful mistake and may immediately log on and rectify the matter with a much needed apology. Then everyone who has implied that they are bunch of small minded bureaucrats will also have to apologise.

Tomorrow's posts may be interesting.

HGM

Ed: Thanks to everyone for your support

Town Guide Map - 15/10/07

A pity on what is a nice little map to discover that most of the roads are wrongly gridded.

Kay Fox

Badge of honour - 15/10/07

Dont worry www.faringdon.org - being treated with contempt by the Town Council is like a badge of honour - wear it with pride

Pimpernel

Town Guide Contents - 15/10/07

Yes it is interesting to see that www.Faringdon.org is not mentioned in the Town Guide - especially when it would appear that much of the contact information looks like it may have come from here?!

I also noticed that many of the contacts are actually out of date (not the fault of this site I hasten to add - its up to individuals to correct details not the Eds!) As regards contact information, out of interest, did anyone representing any of the clubs actually receive a call from the compilers of the guide asking them for correct information or has it all be done via other sources?

On a positive note I very much like the historical information and the map - very nice info to have, but I feel that the rest is just a colour version of the ads in 'What's On' rather than being the comprehensive directory of local businesses, clubs and organisations which I believe it could (and should?) have been?!

I'm sure this took a lot of effort on behalf of a small number of (volunteer) individuals so I don't want to knock their efforts at all, but it is a shame that when a large amount of money is spent putting something into print (that glossy booklet can't have been cheap?) that it is not as great as it could be!

The Town Council may not be thrilled by the debates that take place here on TP, but if they wish to work positively for the people of Faringdon then they have to realise that allowing local people to have a voice is essential. This site should have been given the recognition it deserves! Far from being a hindrance this forum is actually a very useful tool for the Council. Whilst there are clearly some councillors who recognise this, isn't it a shame the rest don't?

Now to sit back and watch the proverbial hit the fan...again!

Name Supplied

Ed: I have heard that the Rugby Club has not been included.

The guide is produced by Heritage Guides 7 Romilly Road Barry Vale of Glamorgan CF62 6AZ (www.heritage-guides.com). My guess is that this is a commercial company, getting it's revenue from business advertising. FTC is involved ie 'published on behalf of FTC', but I have no idea how much they are involved with the content

Town Guide - 15/10/07

Hil/Gene, could it be that the TC do not approve of the site because it provides an opportunity to debate and pass comment, and sometimes postings are critical of the TC.

Surely not.

Devil's Advocate

Ed: I'm sure they're not that petty!!

Faringdon Area Project Healthcheck Review - 14/10/07

The Faringdon Area Project's Healthcheck Mark 2 is underway. Like any Healthcheck, this entails discovering the state of the Market Town, and its Hinterland of surrounding villages; its good and bad points. The 2001/2 Healthcheck, maybe the first in the UK, produced 52 projects this community thought necessary to bring vitality into the town. The Beacon Town status followed soon afterwards.

Many of these projects have come to fruition, and we can congratulate ourselves on these completed projects. In the Healthcheck Mark 2 we need to understand why we failed in some of these projects, what we could do better, and to look forward to the future with new projects and new ideas. Some work we can set ourselves to do in one to two years, other projects in five years, and some we can hope to be finished in 2015.

We believe we are the first Market town to re-visit our work in 2007, whilst many towns are only beginning their first Healthcheck now, and are using our expertise to 'crib' what we did in 2001.

Everyone in this FAP area is invited to join - making suggestions, giving an hour or two per week of their knowledge, expertise and energy to have our small town as we would wish. James Pavitt, who was the Founder and Chairman of the National Local Food Markets, has been funded to work with us - the finishing deadline of the Healthcheck being late February 08.

Under four broad and intertwining headings:- the Economy, The Environment, Social and Community work and Transport, interlocking groups will consider ways of making Faringdon a great place to live and have a business. Splinter groups will form with knowledge and wishes in Education, Energy, Care for our Elderly and of Youth and Sports facilities., recycling and waste, Arts and Music to name a few.

As volunteers we will have our say and the larger our number, the greater the State and Councils will listen and grant our wishes. In 2003 our large numbers enabled us to have Broadband, and in 2005 we were able to change Thames Water's plans for a large sewage treatment works within half a mile of our Town Centre. The Future is ours. We need all to get involved.

Please contact Jayne Haynes jane.haynes@bordengate.com or telephone 01367 241162

Small groups are forming together... join now and enjoy the social side as well as working towards what we all love dearly.

Daphne Saunders

Bus Service changes in Wantage and Faringdon Areas - 15/10/07

New timetables will be in operation from 9/12/07

67 Wantage to Faringdon - weekday service unchanged plus new Saturday service

65 Faringdon to Swindon - some timetable changes

66 Oxford to Swindon (certain journeys) - some timetable changes

X47 Wantage to Swindon Saturday service - unchanged

There are more changes affecting Wantage, Oxford, Childrey, Southmoor, Appleton, Newbury

Have a look at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk for full timetable information

Gene Webb

Town Guide - 14/10/07

We have just looked through a copy of the new Town Guide produced and distributed by Faringdon Town Council.

In our Town Affairs section on this website we list the address, tel. & fax numbers of the FTC, also we have links to their website, councillor information, venues for hire, meetings and staff contact information.

We note that the Town Council has chosen not to return the courtesy, but has however listed the Faringdon Advertiser, What's On, Folly Newspaper and Radio Swindon under it's media information, while www.faringdon.org is conspicuously absent.

Hilary Taylor
Gene Webb

Touched a nerve? - 14/10/07

Well definitely touched a nerve eh Harry?

Sadly your friend isn't well versed in judging peoples ages from a line of prose, I'm not you may be suprised to hear 5 years old. I am however a pensioner, and actully one in touch with reality.. So please do continue, whats next youths in hoodies or global warming.

Best regards to you, guess it beats doing crosswords to pass the time...
Pat Pending

Re Freeview picture - 14/10/07

The Reason for the poor quality of picture in this is area is the Digital Pictures that you receive currently are only a trial as the Digital Transmitters are not fully ready to transmit all pictures so the ones they currently transmit are set to a certain power output.

Also the FOIY does not help as the nearest transmitter is in Oxford and the folly blocks the signal.

Even the Digital UK tells you that it is very poor reception in this area if you want to try it out for yourself website is www.digitaluk.co.uk/postcodechecker

I work for the BBC i don't live in oxford and i do care
Scott Gildert

Ming - 14/10/07

You may have a porcelain teaset
You may think it's fit for a King
But..if it says "Made in China"
Though it couldn't be finer...
It's not from the Dynasty .. Ming

Very Anon

Accident - 14/10/07

Good to hear that the people involved in the accident in Coxwell Road are well - I believe they are local people.
Jill Dean

Digital Reception - 13/10/07

It must be degenerating across the area. I have been having the same problem - brief interuptions.
Thought it must be rain got into my gear but listening to everybody else its more significant than that
Pimpernel

Floyd in the Independent - 13/10/07

The Independant article says Floyd uncorked:

A vintage encounter with TV's booziest foodie....when I turn up at The Bell Inn in Faringdon, the comatose town in Oxfordshire where Floyd's soon-to-be-former fourth wife, Tess, lives, I can only recognise the man by his voice and his wonky bow tie <http://news.independent.co.uk/people/profiles/article3050146.ece>
Charlie Harman

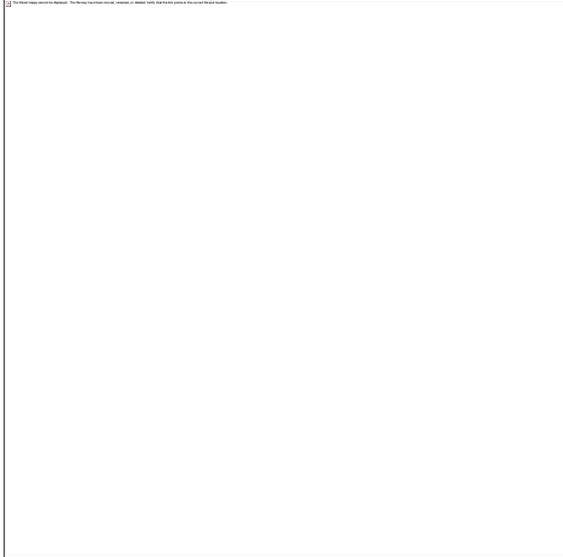
Poetry Competition - 13/10/07

There is still one day left before voting closes. Although we had an unexpectedly large number of poems to choose from this year - a number of you have had a crack at choosing a favourite or two, thankyou for that. In case any of

you have an idle moment - I should give a few clues for the chinese puzzle - poem No 192

It is a very bad (free online) chinese translation of an English language limerick, ending with the word 'Ming' - (think dynasty/ceramics, not Take Away). It was sent to me as a joke, and when translated back into English was idiotic, and quite unlike the original, and even funnier after a glass of wine or two.

So forget parking, speeding, and all those serious things, and do something frivolous. Try guessing a version of this.



Think limerick, China, ending with "Ming"

Hmm..... did I say idle *Moment*.....?

HT

Pat P from Harry M - 13/10/07

I find your comments interesting and quite understand why you don't want to use your real name. I have always defended the right of anyone to use pseudonyms (false names) and last night I found myself in the odd position of defending your comments.

A friend phoned and said you didn't have the intelligence of a 5 year old child but I'm sure you'll be pleased to know that I said I was sure you did.

As to my speed on the motorway you probably didn't realise that if I admitted to speeding I might finish up with a conviction based on my confession and I'm sure you wouldn't want that to happen. Please keep sending your comments. They provide such an insight to your character that I feel I know you.

Harry Mitchell (Real Name)

Digital reception - 13/10/07

The digital reception has certainly deteriorated around here recently.

When I had a new aerial fitted and installed digiboxes in the house the TV reception was pretty good, in spite of the fact that we live in a poor area. I have noticed a significant deterioration recently, with channels normally fine now coming up as "signal scrambled or unavailable"

I too have reset the digibox several times, to no avail. This morning even the radio 4 signal was unavailable.

HT

Comatose? - 13/10/07

Surely he was saying that Keith Floyd was comatose in a town in Oxfordshire!!!!

Hamish Millar

Coxwell Road - 12/10/07

To be honest, I'm not that concerned with the tit for tat arguments about what was the cause of the accident, although it is clearly important that the reason is established and if it can be prevented from happening again, then it should.

My concern is with the victims, both sets, whoever and whatever the cause. For those interested, I have heard from a police source that both sets of crash victims were doing well, as of yesterday.

For the record, in my view, a great and significant number of drivers do clearly break the speed Whether this caused the accident remains to be established.

Devils Advocate

Speeding - 12/10/07

The 'speeding problem' isn't that speeding *in itself* causes accidents; rather that the higher the speed of the vehicles involved in an accident, however caused, the greater the damage to individuals who may be hurt. Speed is a critical factor in the severity of injuries caused in traffic accidents.

name supplied

Ed: When I did my 'remedial driving course'- some years ago, we were asked what the most common criminal activity is. No one thought of speeding - but that's what we were told was most common

To Curious again again - 12/10/07

1. As I said before, I usually do use my drive, but there are times such as receiving a delivery of heavy goods when I have to use the roadside.
2. I live on the wider part of Highworth Road where two cars can pass each other even when a car is also parked at the roadside. The road is only narrow near the junction, and I agree people shouldn't park close to the junction.
3. The problem in Highworth Road (and elsewhere) is speeding and impatience. When I drive onto my driveway I often find the driver behind can't wait the ten seconds or so this takes but overtakes on the wrong side of the road.
4. I understand that the police have told some of my neighbours that they prefer some cars to parked on the roadside as they act to slow the traffic.

Katrina

Here we go again, Coxwell Road and speed.- 12/10/07

Is it at all possible the crash MAY have been caused by someone intoxicated, under the influence of drugs, on the phone, smoking, eating, sneezing all whilst driving?

Is it at all possible it was caused by someone elderly who needs a stick to walk but's allowed to drive a car albeit unable to react swiftly?

Could it be due to someone who's never had a crash but caused others to have one?

What about a pedestrian walking out into the road not taking enough care and the driver has to swerve.. No of course it couldn't be any of those as its been decided its speeding.

Well why not have speed humps or other dangerous things everywhere or is Coxwell Road the only place people are supposed to be speeding?

Out of interest I would like to ask if Harry Mitchell ever drives over 70mph on motorways, or is that acceptable...

Pat Pending

Coxwell Road can be dangerous. - 12/10/07

On 19/9/07 I suggested that some form of traffic calming was needed in Coxwell Road. Unfortunately I used the emotive phrase "boy racers" which I now regret. I meant to describe drivers who, FOR THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS, were travelling too fast. That doesn't mean they were breaking, or even approaching the speed limit.

At 9.00pm on Tuesday I wanted to drive from the town centre to the Highworth Road and it was obvious that there

had been a serious accident. I presume that two cars were involved and if this was the case it must be assumed, like it or not, that at least one of them was driving too fast FOR THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS.

Correctly parked, unlit cars always reduce the available road's width every night and cars from town even using dipped headlights almost always dazzle drivers into town. So once again I am prepared to stick my neck out and say. We need some form of traffic calming in the Coxwell Road. The new developments will only increase the dangers.

My sympathy goes to the victims of the crash because "There, but for the Grace of God, go I" and I suspect that this applies to most of TP's posters who use Coxwell Road.
Harry Mitchell

In reply to Katrina Campbell of Highworth Road - 11/10/07

the problem is that the road is barely wide enough for both parked cars and streams of traffic in either direction so the risk is that the parked cars are a collision hazard for drivers pulling in far enough to let the traffic coming from Highworth pass safely.

If you give the parked cars a wide enough berth, then the risk is collision with traffic coming from Highworth.

So if you have a drive to park on, please use it.

Curious again and again

Re Freeview picture.- 11/10/07

I live in the line of sight of the Folly and was told some time ago that is the problem in the area of the town I live in. The Folly needs to come down so that we can get a better picture. Or move.

And dont forget; this isnt Oxford so the people who could sort it dont care.
Have also spent a fortune on a different aerial.
Name Supplied

Loud music events? - 11/10/07

Perhaps we need to invite that journalist to one of our music events to prove him wrong?!....

NB Before you get all hot under the collar I'm going to put my name to this so perhaps those who know me will know I'm having a bit of a joke ;-)
Anna Marlow

Hello? - 11/10/07

did I hear someone say something?
I.M. Nappin

Comatose town - 11/10/07

I see in Thursday's Independent that a journalist, in an interview with Keith Floyd, describes Faringdon as a comatose town in Oxfordshire.

Is this fair comment? Sorry, is anyone awake?
Frank Lee Asleep

Freeview picture quality - 10/10/07

Is anybody else experiencing problems with their Freeview pictures lately on TV in Faringdon?

Mostly it seems to be a problem for the ITV channels and Channel 4 channels. The picture quality is low - about 3 out of 10 - compared to 9 or 10 out of 10 for BBC for example. The picture is constantly jumping and the sound is cutting out.

We never used to have this problem until about 6 months ago. We have re-tuned the Freeview box more times than I can remember so it's not that. If anybody has any idea I'd appreciate some help.
Name Supplied

Parking tickets (yawn) - 10/10/07

Again, in fairness - a ticket machine can only issue a ticket when enough money is fed into it, and parking wardens are not psychic - how was 007/8 or whoever supposed to know that you really had meant to pay, and the car had only been there a few minutes?. Once a ticket is issued it cannot be torn up or 'forgotten' - 007 has no 'discretion'.

Yes I agree, it is a steep charge, but can you not halve it if you pay promptly as in Oxford, (maybe not, I don't know) where, incidentally, the car park overstay charge is £100.

Some fines are justified; others, like Anna's, are not.

Name Supplied

Accident - Coxwell Road - 10/10/07

If any one has any information re the condition of those poor people involved in the terrible car accident on the evening of the 9th October, I would be grateful. Its even more shocking when things happen so close to home.

Devil's Advocate

I hope those involved are ok, in the circumstances, and I wish you a speedy recovery.

Victory for common sense! - 9/10/10

Apparently my parking ticket was issued 'in error' and VWHDC (and I quote) 'can assure you that the matter will be brought to the attention of the patroller who issued this notice.'

How satisfying!

(I even received an apology...no flowers though!)

Anna Marlow

008 is actually quite nice - 9/10/07

Just read Ms Marlow's last post after replying to 'Be Fair' and I was told by a nice lady in the parking department that she would be fed up too if it had happened to her.

Don't be swayed by their platitudes! Keep appealing.

008 is actually quite a nice chap - just doing his job you know, maybe a bit too officiously but...

Name Supplied

Dear 'Be Fair' - 9/10/07

I don't mind paying fines if it's fair, but £80 for 10 minutes, and yes it was 10 minutes because I had been worried about getting a ticket - oh the irony, is not fair.

When you get caught in an equally awkward predicament and try to buy a ticket (and yes I did try to buy a ticket, so there was no intention to defraud) which can't be issued due for, admittedly on that occasion my ignorance, and for 10 minutes I hope that the fine you receive is equally 'fair'.

Please feel free to have a whinge about it later.

Name Supplied

ps. I hope Anna Marlow did appeal and I hope it was successful.

Be fair!! - 9/10/07

In all fairness, the last parking whinge is just that, a whinge.

Rain, your small daughter's appointment, etc. and whether you realised that the charge had gone up are totally irrelevant, (and for a 'ten minute appointment' I very much doubt that ten minutes was the actual time you left your

car)

You did not pay, you got caught; and the fine was justified.

Bad luck.

name supplied

Singing for Pleasure - 08/10/07

For anyone and everyone who would like to sing for the sheer pleasure of singing- no auditions, no need to read music- just fun!

It will start on Tuesday October 30th, and last for 6 weeks, until December 4th. and will be held in the Hall of Faringdon United Church, from 7pm - 8pm. It will cost no more than £2 per session, with perhaps a charge for copies of the words and music.

We are likely to have 6 more sessions starting in the New Year

We are fortunate to have 2 experienced lively musicians and singers to lead us.

Initially we will sing well known modern(ish) and traditional songs. Perhaps Christmas ones too.

We already have about 30 people - and a reasonable mix of men and women(more men would be good though)

With that number the sound we make will be wonderful!!

Come and join in

Please contact me if you intend to come, so I know how much photocopying to do

Gene Webb

genewebb@nildram.co.uk, 01367 242222

The Portwell Bistro has changed! - 9/10/07

No apologies, this is a blatant unashamed advertisement!

The formal restaurant has been replaced with an informal lounge bar concept that serves inexpensive bistro style dishes for those who wish to eat. The range of more traditional starters, main courses and desserts has been reduced, and supplemented with a wide range of pastas, salads, panini, jacket potatoes, pizza breads and "Bistro Bites", together with constantly changing Specials Boards. All dishes are still prepared and cooked on the premises from fresh, with no meals just "brought in" and heated up. We can still accommodate large groups/parties if booked in advance (01367 243888).

However, there is no pressure to eat. You're welcome to pop in for just a drink or two with your friends, or even tea or coffee and read the paper.

Table service is standard. Just walk in, find a seat and a waiter/waitress will take your order and bring your drinks/food to you.

Opening hours for the Bistro are

Lunch times: 12.00 Noon to 2.30 pm, Thursday to Sunday.

Evenings: 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm, Monday to Saturday.

Last food orders 9.15 pm.

For an introductory offer, from Friday 5th until Thursday 11th October you can enjoy your first drink for half price or £2 off your first bottle of wine on each lunchtime and evening.

I really won't mind if you pass this on and tell all your friends!

Martin Phillips

Parking in the car park - 8/10/07

I have had exactly the same thing with the bonkers fine. It was last year and we had had a morning of terrential rain. I had to take my daughter (18 months at the time) for an appointment (10 mins) and parked in Budgens. I had taken 30p for the machine, not realising that the charge had gone up, as I don't usually use the car park. It was pissing

down with rain and I tried to get my money in the machine and no ticket could be issued as I'd not got the right money, so I went for my daughter's appointment- still in a down pour. When I got back - 10 mins later I had a ticket, I told the man, as he had just issued it, the situation and he said I would have to appeal. I did 15 mins later, in writing and got know where. Their reply was that, as I had not got a ticket, I would have to pay, but the machine wouldn't issue me with one!

I was so angry, anyway heard they were broken the other day. Hurrah! Carry on parking in there for free - if you can, but if you get caught the fine is just too much
Name Supplied.

In reply to "curious again":- 8/10/07

I live in Highworth Road and do occasionally park my car at the side of the road, though it is usually on my drive when not in use. Given that is is legal to park on the roadside I can't see what the problem is.

On the other hand, I and my neighbours often have problems getting into or out of our driveways due to the impatient, stupid drivers who want to race up and down our street at well above the speed limit.

This is the real traffic hazard in Highworth Road, not roadside parking.
Katrina Campbell

Who are our VWHDC councillors? - 8/10/07

Does anyone know who our local Vale of the White Horse Councillor is?

If so, can you send me his/her/its name please? I'm trying to find out what the council's recycling policy is.

They only seem to take certain plastics and no cardboard at all on Fridays, but accept it at the Tidy Tip, which doesn't really make sense.

Most councils accept everything with the recycle logo on it - except the Vale.

Thanks Ray

Ed: They are Alison Thompson, Roger Cox and Matthew Barber. See

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/councillors_democracy_and_elections/findyourcouncillor.asp
also for contents of green box

http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/rubbish_waste_and_recycling/recycling_-_general_information/DetailPage-9507.asp doesn't say why not cardboard though

Re Parking Excess Charge - 8/10/07

Thanks for the support - glad it's not just me who thinks it was ridiculous! Also, don't worry, I have absolutely no intention of paying the fine or letting myself be bullied. I got straight on the phone to VWHDC and spoke to a woman in the 'car parks' department who agreed that the ticket should not have been issued and said she would have been pretty 'fed up' (well, similar words at least!) if she'd received one in that situation too.

I scanned both my tickets and the note I'd written and emailed it (not wishing to be delayed by postal strikes) to their department as soon as I got home. It wouldn't make nice reading if you were my friend Officer 008, I can tell you! I have a read receipt from them but as yet no response (there's a surprise!)

Will keep you posted...

Anna Marlow

Unfair parking charge - 7/10/07

If you had paid up legally and displayed the tickets, the warden was wrong to ticket you. Simply send the tickets, together with your excess charge, and explanation to the appropriate office and you should get your charge cancelled. If possible take the paperwork in person and get a receipt, failing that get a certificate of posting/send a recorded delivery letter.

I had a similar experience in Oxford some time ago. In that instance I paid immediately in exasperation, and to get the

charge 'halved'. The company concerned claimed that they had not received my letter, and tried to charge me again. They blamed a postal strike. I resisted, and checked with Royal Mail sorting office. The manager not only explained that the strike had not affected the company's area, but that they received two deliveries per day to their PO box and frequently did not collect the mail. To the RM manager's credit, he offered to support me in the event of the court action which they had threatened. No further action was taken.

Don't allow yourself to be bullied.

name supplied

RE car park excess - 7/10/07

Wow your unlucky, personally I have never paid for parking in budgens (well maybe once).

I don't see the point of finding the change (which invariably I have to nip into budgens to do my shopping in order to obtain), inputting my number plate, displaying the ticket only to claim it back 5 minutes later at the checkout. Granted I only do little shops at budgens as its not that well stocked and if I nip into town its for a short shop (I would park in the short stay free spots in the centre but there never free) and I know the car park isn't connected to budgens etc and that one day ill get caught but I don't care. As long as traffic warden 008 (who I bet secretly longs to be 007) is no where in sight when I pull up I flaunt the law at the risk of nothing but my own wallet. Now there's a challenge to Agent 008.

Name withheld for obvious reasons...

Safe Motoring Matters - 7/10/07

Tailgating....

Mr Horton's Safety Slogan is frightfully British and polite like the Golden Oldie "IF YOU CAN READ THIS YOU'RE TOO CLOSE" Americans are less polite e.g. "EITHER PASS OR GET OFF MY A*S".. (The British version being "PLEASE PARSE OR GET OFF MY A**E") or "YOU MUST BE DRUNK.GET AWAY FROM MY TRUNK . The Australians are not noted for subtlety but their message is equally clear " YOU'RE TOO CLOSE CHUM.TRY FRESHBREATH GUM"

008

For doing 36mph in 30mph zone with no excuse my penalty of £60 was reasonable (But that doesn't mean I liked it) For doing 0mph in Budgen's carpark with a written valid excuse a penalty of £80 is mind-bogglingly stupid. Blaming 008 is also stupid. He/she/it (in case 008 really is an alien) was given the power to make this ridiculous decision and the people who allowed it can only redeem themselves by cancelling the fine immediately and sending a bunch of flowers and an apology to Ms Marlow

.
2762733

A quick after thought following my rant! - 5/10/07

...in case anyone gets the wrong idea about me saying Officer 008 doesn't speak English I was referring to the fact that he/she is inhuman and must talk some kind of alien language, it wasn't a racist remark! Suddenly had visions of TP being swamped with 'Angry of Faringdons' chastising me for being a bigot! I daresay I'll be chastised for being Traffic Wardenist but I can cope with that! ;-)

Phew...hope I've steered myself out of that possible corner?!
Anna Marlow

Car Park Excess - 5/10/07

Whilst on the subject of parking please excuse me while I have a little rant about our lovely local Parking Attendant ('Issuing Officer Number 008' apparently!)

This morning I went to Budgens car park , entered my registration number and popped three 20p pieces in the machine as I needed to be in town for a couple of hours (rates are 40p for 1 hour, 60p for 3 hours). I then pressed the

green button and got my ticket. I checked the time I needed to be back to the car for (as I always do being a cautious type!) and realised that one of my 20p's had obviously whizzed all the way through the machine and not registered - I had therefore ended up with a one hour ticket.

After a bit of scrabbling around for more change (why don't those machines give change?!!) I managed to find another 20p so decided to purchase a second 40p ticket, therefore having paid 80p in total - more than necessary for 3 hours parking. (I hope you're still with me - sorry if you're drifting off!) I then wrote a pleasant note explaining my predicament on a piece of paper so that the parking attendant (who I assumed, apparently incorrectly, was human) would understand and displayed it alongside my two tickets on the dashboard.

Imagine my delight when I returned to my car 2 hours later to find an Excess Charge Notice stuck to my windscreen demanding £80. Just as well 'Issuing Officer 008' wasn't there because he/she might have discovered what a parking ticket feels like when being inserted where the sun don't shine (and I don't mean Alaska!) at a high velocity (which might have brightened the day of the smokers gathered round the entrance to Budgens at least!)

Right, sorry for the rant - feel a bit better now! Just take this as a warning that if you wish to communicate with IO 008 at any time, you'd better attend a course to learn whatever language it is he/she speaks first, because it isn't English!! (boy I am still cross aren't I?!)

Off to calm down now and ponder an anti speeding slogan!...

Anna Marlow

Ed: I hope you will appeal!

ROAD SAFETY SLOGAN. - 5/10/07

Better to be late, than DEAD on time.

it does have a nice ring to it, dont you think?

Jim Horton

WANTED..Road Safety Slogan - 4/10/07

I admitted on 28.8.07 that I am now a minor criminal having been caught driving at 36mph on the A420 between Sainsbury's and Greenbridge. However I was one of those given the choice of paying £60 with 3 points on my record and an extra few ££££s on my insurance premium or paying £60 and attending a Speed Awareness Workshop (SAW). After considering the choices for all of 2 seconds (this, I now know, being the minimum safe interval between vehicles on a dry road) I decided on the second option I went along to The Hilton Hotel where I was provided with coffee and biscuits. I then spent almost 3 hours accompanied by 11 other minor criminals listening to two very pleasant lecturers telling me about the hazards associated with speeding. I came away with some pamphlets and a rather smart key ring.

I am very grateful that I got off so lightly but would still have felt grateful if I had been charged at least twice as much. I felt I was benefiting from the prevalent too lenient treatment towards law breakers.

I would also have exchanged the key ring for a sticker for my car's back window explaining why I was holding up my fellow drivers. Something on the lines of "Speed Kills. But I don't "

Can other TP posters offer a better slogan for me to pass on to the SAW people. It has to be short and non-distracting

No 2762733

Dangerous Traffic Hazards - 2/10/07

I agree with "name supplied" who said that dangerous traffic hazards should be dealt with. In particular I refer to the increasing number of cars that appear to be routinely parked along the south side of Highworth Road these days.

If they belong to the people in the garageless properties referred to by other correspondents, then I have sympathy for the owners. However I suspect at least some belong to Highworth Road residents who have perfectly good driveways and garages to use but don't out of laziness - nothing more nothing less.

The cars would not be a hazard if the authorities took the simple step of narrowing the footpath on the north side of the road by a foot or two or getting rid of it altogether as there is a perfectly adequate one on the south side. But they probably won't.

Double yellow lines properly enforced would be another solution as would parking permits available only to residents in the vicinity who do not have drives and garages. Again these would need properly enforcing. But what does anyone else think ?

Curious Again

Congrats on the 15 minute club - 2/10/07

keep up the good work.

A date for the music diary with final details TBA but Faringdon Rock School will be meeting again on Sat 9 February again 4 bands for a fiver.
Cheers Hamish Millar

Faringdon Car Parking - 1/10/07

Parking particularly in the centre and surrounding streets of Faringdon will always be a problem whilst there are more vehicles than there are spaces. Affluence has brought about the 2 / 3 (or more) car family to a place where accommodation was not designed to cater for it.

Stating the obvious I know but I don't think there is that many people who would want to take advantage beyond the convenience that they require and I think as a tolerant community who enjoy living in period properties we have to accept some breaching of the rules.

However there are times when we need and should expect the law to call time on the abusers that disrespect that tolerance by forcing pedestrians onto the road or that actually create dangerous traffic hazards. This is where we are let down in my opinion and I think there would be less complaining if we saw these matters regularly dealt with.
Name Supplied

15 minute club - 1/10/07

Hi folks,
Good to see many of you at the gig last night.

A reminder that the 15 Minute Club is on this Sunday 7th October upstairs at The Old Crown Coaching Inn, Faringdon. 7.30pm - 10.00pm.

Last month an audience of 70 people were treated to some of the best talent the 15 Minute Club has seen. Let's see if we can repeat it again! See you there!
David Reynolds

Congrats to Sam at the Crown - 1/10/07

Congrats to Sam at the Crown for rescuing the music AND introducing decent cooked breakfasts for non residents.

At last a breakfast that is reasonably cheap and which fills a plate.
Ray

December Folly - 30/11/07

To inform readers of Talking Points that the December edition of the Faringdon Folly came out on Friday 30 November.

In case anyone isn't aware it generally comes out on the Friday closest to the first of the month.

In this edition there are close to 100 local stories and identifiable photos of almost 300 local people - and a few French visitors from Le Mele.

Top story is the Operation Christmas Child and a chance for the local organisers to respond to the criticisms of the charity, there's news of the 'Ban the Bag' campaign coming soon and a plea for help from 18 year old Philippa Hunt for help with her trip to India to teach in an orphan school in her gap year.

Otherwise there's a feature on the Swindon and Cricklade Heritage Railway and descriptions of Faringdon's Christmas shop windows written in 1926, as well as news from nearby villages and two pages of local sports reports and much more besides,

The Folly is available in newsagents and selected shops in the area, price 60p.
Al Cane

Faringdons Carbon Footprint - 30/11/07

Just a quick response to Citizen Smiths ignorant rant.

Firstly, nobody actually said Faringdons Carbon footprint is too high. Although you have to be a complete idiot if you actually believe that it is not a good thing to reduce it, whatever the science.

Secondly, if you got rid of those 150w lightbulbs you love so much, you would be able to save up enough money to buy something you want.

I dont usually enter into person insults, but someone here is doing something worthwhile and beneficial, and indeed saving the old folk some much needed cash.

I personally applaud the gesture.
Devils Advocate

Carol Singing in the Square - 30/11/07

Some of the Singing for Pleasure group will be singing carols from about 10.30, this Saturday(1st)
We'll be collecting for Riding for the Disabled and Helen House Hospice.

Do walk by!
Gene Webb

Re: Reducing Faringdon's carbon footprint - 29/11/07

We are ever so grateful for the lightbulb gifts to the people of Faringdon, and I am not going to be rude and tell you where I think you should put them, but does anybody actually have any statistics that says that Faringdon's Carbon footprint is too high??

Secondly, more and more people around the world (including top scientists) are now beginning to realise that climate change is a natural phenomena and is being used by governments to tax them more by stealth means and use it to

dictate and control the masses. I am not making this up, do your own research.

On dark nights like these, you just can't beat a 150 watt traditional lightbulb.

Citizen Smith

Congratulations Fernham - 29/11/07

Congratulations to Fernham's Project Inspire for winning the People's Millions - I was so delighted to hear the news today!

All credit to those volunteers involved for their strength, determination, dedication and incredibly hard work!!

Good luck with the rest of the project - I can't wait to see the end result!

Anna Marlow

Fernham's Project Inspire have won £90000 - 29/11/07

Many, many thanks for your votes for Fernham/Project Inspire!

We were told this lunchtime that we've won Wednesday's Central East competition for The People's Millions, so we will now receive £90,000 in funding.

A group of us gathered at the church in Fernham at 3pm today for the Central cameras to cheer and thank TV viewers and supporters.

It was all down to your support, so again, thank you so very, very much!

In case you haven't seen the ITV Central East film that was broadcast yesterday evening, you can view it here:

http://www.itvlocal.com/central/news/?player=CEN_News_26&void=123932

Jayne Rice

Project Inspire Fernham, Oxfordshire

FARINGDON REDUCES ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT - 29/11/07

A local person who cares much about the environment has generously donated money for the purchase of a large number of low energy light bulbs.

These bulbs will reduce the carbon footprint of the town, and will also reduce the recipients electricity bills. The Light bulbs are to be given to local OAP's, especially the house-bound, as Christmas gifts. .

For more information , please telephone Ian on 10367 240405

A full working demonstration of the different kinds of bulbs and the savings each bulb can make will be at the

Faringdon Area Project Evening at the Corn Exchange 14th December 6.00pm onwards.

Use Everyclick and raise money - 29/11/07

Have you seen our websites?

www.thheporridgeclub.org.uk

www.africanchildrensfund.org help raise some money for us to

Use Everyclick.com as your search engine.

Every time you click on you can raise money for the African Children's Fund and it doesn't cost you a penny, but it can help give a child an education.

Alison Moore

Parking at Budgens - 29/11/07

In response to MGH 'urgent shopping items'. Perhaps under such circumstances car owners could simple put a note in the car stating 'I'm only getting a single urgent shopping item so don't give me a ticket'.

Of course if it transpired after investigation they lied and they purchased two items or they took a little longer than a minute then they should be dealt with.

Perhaps there should be a graded payment scheme 1 item free parking, 2 items pay a little, 3 - 5 pay a bit more etc.

Of course we have to account for variables. If at the time of parking the intention was only to buy one item then no fee should be made and if a bargain was identified and a second item purchased this should not result in a fine against the individual. It must be bourn in mind of course that it will be for the driver to prove that

1. The second item concerned was never intended to be purchased at the time of parking the car and;
2. It was a bargain and not a regularly priced item.

The other factor to consider is that shoplifters park for free as they don't buy anything - this defence will only be available for bona fide shoplifters (3 convictions in the last 12 months will have to be shown)and not those that shoplift simply to avoid carparking payments.

There it's all so easy when you think about it.
Seamus O'Hodge
Ministry of Prattle

Coloured Pigeons - 28/11/07

Colouring pigeons/doves may make them easier to spot as targets for people with shot guns but I think may work as camouflage too as far as local cats are concerned.

The logic behind this argument is that back in the mid 1980's when the coloured birds were around, my cat never caught one. But as soon as the dove's dye died out and they returned to white - whammo - he snared two in a week.

Re the statistics about parking behind Budgen's, surely these show that people are becoming increasingly hacked off by the ridiculous procedure of having to enter your registration no to get a ticket, even staying just for a minute or so to pick up a single urgent shopping item or a prescription, for instance.

signed MGH

VOTE TODAY FOR FERNHAM/PROJECT INSPIRE in THE PEOPLE'S MILLIONS: phone 08702 433 202 - 28/11/07

All you need to do is:

Phone from somewhere in the UK
Phone any time between 9am and midnight
Phone 10 times from every phone you have: work, mobile, home
Pass the word on to friends, family, work colleagues - everyone!!
Your votes could make all the difference!

Want to see us in action? We're on You Tube!

Just click on this link:

<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=wIKpIFW2V9w>

Many, many thanks!

Calls cost 10p and you can phone up to 10 times from one phone.

Until midnight on WEDNESDAY 28th NOVEMBER

Jayne Rice
Project Inspire
Fernham, Oxfordshire

Measure your carbon footprint. - 26/11/07

Most interesting. It seems as though I must give up my job because I drive too far, move from a listed building so I can have a windmill, double glazing etc. But best of all -- I must change my digital radio for an analogue one, now this will definitely save energy as they will soon be turning off the analogue signal!

Mike Perks

Christmas Variety Show - 25/11/07

Wantage Stage Musical Company is bringing its christmas variety show and panto to Faringdon at the Junior School Hall on Friday 30 November at 7.30pm.

Tickets £8 and £5 and available in Faringdon from The Nut Tree.
Hamish Millar

350th Anniversary of the Baptist Church - 25/11/07

December 8th - 9th

Faringdon Baptist Church are beginning a year of celebrations to commemorate their 350th Anniversary.

Our activities begin on Saturday 8th . Bromsgrove Chapel will be open to visitors to view an exhibition of the history of the Baptist church from 10.30am - 12 noon . After this, there will be a walk from Buckland Baptist Chapel to Faringdon Baptist Chapel, starting at 2pm in Buckland, retracing the footsteps of those that established the first Baptist fellowship in Faringdon in 1657.

This will be followed by a Dinner and Barn dance in Corn Exchange from 6pm.

Sunday 9th - Thanksgiving and celebration service 10:30am at Faringdon Junior School. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Bromsgrove Chapel will again be open to visitors to view the exhibition of the history of the Baptist church in Faringdon from 12-1.30pm and 2.30 - 4.30pm that day.

Tim Gerry

Faringdon's Kind of Hush - Update - 25/11/07

359 tickets have now been reserved.

I'll announce the first few acts soon, but as the announcement will go further afield, demand for tickets is likely to jump significantly, so I'm just waiting to give Faringdonians the chance to reserve the first 500 tickets cheap before the first announcement and price rise.

To answer a FAQ, you can reserve as many tickets as you'd like for you and your friends, but once the tickets are available you'll have to pay for them within 2 weeks. If at that point you find that you want fewer than you have reserved, that's fine but any reserved tickets that are not paid for within 2 weeks will be offered to the next people on the list.

The next ticket release will be more expensive.

At this rate the first 500 will have gone very soon, so put your reservations in quick, and let all you friends know!

Your money is fully refundable if the event does not go ahead.

Emails please to PortwellBar@aol.com, stating how many tickets you'd like to reserve, and whether or not camping. There are now only 141 tickets available at £20 (£30 if camping).

Cheers
Martin Phillips

Books of Poetry by Local poets, for sale - 24/11/07

There are 60 poems in it, all written by local people who entered the Faringdon Online Poetry Competition. You can buy them from either the the White Horse Bookshop or the Library. They are really nicely presented - good enough to give as a present
Gene Webb

Car Parking in Faringdon - 24/11/07

Did you know that:-

In the twelve months commencing April 2004, a total of 166,163 vehicles paid to park in the car park behind Budgens. In 2005/6 the figure reduced to 146,549.

By 2006/7 the number had dropped to 135559

And the downward trend continues this year and is estimated to be about 120,000.

There could be a number of explanations for this, but if you have any theories I would be interested to hear them.
Jane Haynes

Measure your carbon footprint - 24/11/07

You can calculate your carbon footprint on the [directgov website](#)

At the end it will also give you some suggestions how to reduce it

Gene Webb

Faringdon Online Poetry Competition - Prize giving - 23/11/07

The Crown, 7pm, Friday 23rd November

Hear the winning poems

Buy a book of poems by local poets who entered the competition. Only £4

Anyone can come.

Hilary Taylor

Festive Faringdon @ the Crown. - 23/11/07

A stunning line-up of Blues/Rock music for the Jam Club @Christmas.

Rockin the Blues with "Storm Warning" with guest the sensational singer guitarist, "Lewis Cohen"

There will also be a blues cd store with some fantastic bargains . 22Dec from 7pm. Entrance a mere snip @£5.

Join a Free blues Jam session on Sat 29th Dec from 4pm-8pm, Players get in touch with Sam either via

www.maddfaringdon.co.uk or 01367-243806.

Following the jam session is the wonderful Pete Boss and the Bluehearts. Entrance for the Bluehearts is £5.

Sam Prince

Faringdon's Kind of Hush! - 21/11/07

I'm organising a live music event in Faringdon over the weekend of 26th July 2008. The venue is some fields on the edge of town, with camping facilities from Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th.

The ultimate aim is to have live music on a full stage on Friday 25th from 5.30pm to 11.00pm, and Saturday 26th from 10.00am to 11.00pm, with some big (household) names headlining, supported by a showcase of our own Faringdon talent. We have rich talent in this town, so let's show it off and sing about it.

I'm (rather ambitiously!) hoping to attract a crowd of a few thousand, with significant media coverage.

Depending upon the big names, yet to be announced, tickets for the weekend could be as much as £100 each. However, I want to give local people priority opportunity, and so will be releasing tickets in limited numbers at reduced rates available to local people only.

The first 500 tickets only will be available at the absolute bargain price of £20 each (£30 with camping) within the next couple of weeks.

As with all "too good to be true" offers, there is a catch, but in this case only a very small one. Initially I can only offer a whole day's live music on the Saturday. The acts will all be from in and around Faringdon and have already been booked, with the exception of one "surprise" act headlining. If ticket sales are insufficient, and the event has to be cancelled, full refunds will be given.

However, if this first batch of tickets is all taken up quickly then I'll book more big names for the stage and extend the music to include Friday night as well. I'll even take a poll from the first batch ticket holders to see if I can get some of the big name acts you'd like to see. I'll then release more tickets at a higher price to a wider audience.

The best thing is you won't have to pay a penny more for your tickets, and you'll still get to see all the big name acts. Can you let me know as soon as possible (by email to PortwellBar@aol.com) if you'd like to reserve tickets, and if so, how many and whether or not camping. Reservations are strictly on a first come first served basis. Once the tickets are available you will need to pay within 2 weeks, otherwise I'll have to offer them to the next people on the list. I'll post regular updates on here as progress develops.

So, whisper the word to your friends and see how many would like to come. The first 500 will only have to part with £20 (£30 if camping) each for the whole weekend, which is fully refundable if it's cancelled, and stand an excellent chance of seeing a few big names live here in Faringdon at a bargain price.

Trade stands/stalls/pitches etc. will also be available to local traders first at reduced rates, before being offered further afield at higher rates. Please therefore email me stating your product/service if you are a local trader and would be interested in a pitch at the event.

After all, this is Faringdon so we really should keep quiet about this! ;-)
Martin Phillips

Operation Christmas Child - 20/11/07

As a volunteer "box-checker", I wish to reassure people that the intention of the shoeboxes is simply that of goodwill. That in itself may be a Christian value, but I should like to think it is one of humanity too. All boxes are carefully checked and sealed before they leave us and contain nothing forcing religion onto anyone.

I defy anyone to see footage of the distribution of these boxes and not be moved by the genuine gratitude shown by these poor children.

Surely everyone wants to see happiness brought into their desperate lives?
Name and address supplied.

People's Millions update: - 20/11/07

A film crew visited Fernham yesterday morning!

The Central TV film crew spent 2 hours with us on Monday, 19 November, filming our case for People's Millions funding of £90,000. The footage will be edited down to a 2-minute film which will be televised on Central East on Wednesday, 28 November, at 6pm.

We think the filming went very well, and we certainly had a great turnout of villagers of all ages - including our very youngest resident (all of 10 days old!). Please remember to vote for us 10 times from each of your telephones, any time from 9am to midnight, on 28 November.

We are the underdogs in our 'head to head' competition for 2 reasons:

1. We're up against a charity in Stamford, Lincs., which has a population of 18,000. We're a village of about 200 people.
2. Central have placed us in the Central East competition, which means many of our supporters (including Fernham villagers!) won't see the 2-minute film. Central have admitted that this was a mistake, but it's too late to change it now. So it's even more important to pass on the word - and this email! - to anyone you know who could be willing to vote for us on the day.

You don't have to have seen the film to vote. Anyone in the UK is eligible to vote.

I will email you the phone number on 28 November, when it's released.

Many thanks in advance for your support!

Jayne

<http://www.fernham.info>

View from a touring musician. 17th Nov 2007 - 20/11/07

'The Jam Blues Club, Old Crown Inn, Faringdon.

This was always going to be an interesting one. Faringdon nr Oxford. Google said it was a historic market town that retains all of its "charm and ways of life". The Old Crown Inn was said to be "an old coach house that has preserved all of its olde English appeal". So with all this tranquility on offer, why then is the venue website called maddfaringdon.co.uk?? there was only one way to find out....

The Blues Factory brand is not exactly celebrated with English sporting success!! So - as true English football fans - it was somewhat unnerving for the band to learn that the crucial Israel-v-Russia fixture was due to start a couple of hours before the gig with us kicking off just as the final whistle blew. Shades of the Rugby World Cup dawned... Well our jinx was finally lifted by an Omar Golan injury time winner for Israel and, as the band wiped their brow, the local mood heightened and the cheers could be heard all around as Faringdon went...ahem...Madd...

Now Faringdon may be a small town, but don't ever underestimate its musical passion. Amongst others, there were no fewer than three "grown up" paid entry gigs listed on the local website and the quality was right up there. As we kicked off, a handful of local blues enthusiasts looking for a proper American Blues experience were in and ready. Cover charges, hat passing, general humor and intimacy is the name of the game and that is exactly how the gig began. By the end of the night however, it was heaving and the Madd ones had probably, seen the best performance the Blues Factory has ever put on.

Thanks to Faringdon and thanks to Sam prince for booking us. You are both Gems at the heart of Oxfordshire and we had a truly Madd night!!

looking forward to doing it all again next year.

the blues Factory. '

Sam Prince

Vocalist Required. - 19/11/07

Acoustic Witney/Faringdon based band (3 members) Guitars/Banjo's/Bass doing Covers - Alt.country, Bluegrass, Bluesy folk, Skiffle/Rockabilly. Think (or See YouTube) Old Crow Medicine Show, Steve Earle, Bob Dylan, Springsteen (Seeger sessions). Members are sound musicians with varying experience of other Bands but need singer to move forward, must be able to sing but enthusiasm and commitment are just as important.

Nothing too serious as we all have family commitments/jobs etc. but looking to gig every 6 weeks or so.

If you fancy a go ring Howard (Witney) 07970 863316, or Sean (Faringdon) 07712 530405

Sean Hodgson

Operation Christmas Child - 18/11/07

I have been involved with Operation Christmas Child in collecting shoeboxes for the past 6 years.

After the fall of the Romanian dictator Ceausescu, you may remember the tv coverage of what life was like for some of the unfortunate people who lived there. Dave Cooke who lives in Wrexham hit on the idea of using a shoebox to pack with gifts for Christmas that could be given to children in Romania and he managed to deliver about 500 boxes. Like most good ideas it grew and several years later it went under the Samaritan's Purse umbrella. Last year 1.24 million boxes went from the UK alone.

As I have been involved for so long, I can state that no leaflets of any kind are added to the boxes and any religious material included in boxes is removed. This year I am fortunate to be chosen to help distribute some of the boxes in Belarus.

I will then be in the best position to clarify what happens as the boxes are given out and I will be very happy to talk to anyone who would like to hear more

Ann Jerome

Plans for New Business Park- exhibition 8/12/07 - 16/11/07

Do visit the exhibition of the proposed plans and designs for the new business park on **Saturday 8th December from 9:30 - 2:30 at The Old Town Hall.**

Sarah Allen Stevens

Phone 4 Fernham in the People's Millions - 16/11/07

Fernham wants to create a community hall to benefit the village and surrounding communities, and has made it to the National Finals of the People's Millions.

A film about the community hall project will be televised on Central TV at 6pm on Wednesday, 28 November, when Fernham will go 'head to head' against another charity in a competition to win the most telephone votes.

The other charity is based in Stamford, Lincs., which has a population of 18,000 and, as Fernham is a village of only 200 people, your help is urgently needed!! The village stands to win funding of £90,000.

Please phone for Fernham by ringing a national call rate number 10 times from each of your phones from 9am to midnight on 28 November.

Calls cost less than 10p if calling from a BT line.

The phone number will be released on 28 November and will be posted on the Fernham website:

<http://www.fernham.info>.

Thank you!!

Singing Carols for pleasure - 16/11/07

The Tuesday singing group will be singing carols for the next 2 weeks. (20th, 27th)

Come and join us at - we're a group of over 40, so we make a good sound!
United Church Hall, 7pm - 8pm , £2

Suitable for anyone who enjoys singing - whether you think you can or not
Gene Webb

Winter Market in Faringdon - 16/11/07

Thanks to all of you who braved the cold weather last night to support the Chamber of Commerce and the new evening market.

For those of you who were not aware that this was happening you will have 2 more chances on Thursday 20th December and Thursday 17th January.

The market runs from 3pm - 7pm.

The market has locally grown, pork and beef, baked goods, fruit and veg and some beautiful pottery by Ken Mills.

I am hoping to find even more stalls for the next market and if anyone can help with this please let me know.
Jayne Haynes

Thomas the Tank Engine - 15/11/07

Look out for Faringdon & District Rotary with Thomas the Tank Engine & Father Christmas

Monday/Tuesday 3/4 December - Watchfield

Wednesday 5 December - Faringdon: Orchard Hill, Westland Road, The Pines

Thursday 6 December - Stanford-in-the-Vale

Friday 7 December - Southmoor

Saturday 8 December - Lechlade: Loders Field, Moorgate, Gassons areas

Monday 10 December - Uffington

Tuesday 11 December - Shrivenham

Thursday 13 December - Lechlade: The Park, Venymore etc.

Friday 14 December - Clanfield

Saturday 15 December - Faringdon: Goodlake Avenue, Ferndale Street, Berners Way, Tuckers Road, Nursery View

Monday 17 December - Faringdon & Great Coxwell: Coleshill Drive, Fernham Road
Tuesday 18 December - Shrivenham Wednesday 19 December - Faringdon: Volunteer Way, Sandshill Estate,
Marlborough Gardens
Faringdon on 19 December: Volunteer Way, Townend Road, Marines Drive, Marlborough Gardens.
Name Supplied

Nice Try HGM - 14/11/07

I'm not going to rise to that one.

All I can say is that I have personally driven a lorry full of the boxes to Romania and helped distribute the boxes. I am not the least interested in religious matters. And yes the childrens faces do light up, and yes I'm sure that you would shed a tear or two like I did, if you gave up your Christmas to do the same thing one year.

Personally I would suggest you look beyond the published rantings of an idiot and religious biggot and actually go and see what happens.

I have.

Devil's Advocate

Window Cleaner recommended - 15/11/07

A question was asked at the beginning of the month about a reliable window cleaner.

I would like to recommend my window cleaner who has cleaned my windows (and many of my neighbours) for the last 18 months. He arrives every 4 weeks without fail. He provides a friendly and efficient service.

His contact details are as follows (I have obtained his permission to provide these):

Matthew Treadwell 16 St Mary's Court Bampton Oxon OX18 2HX Mobile tel no: 07906 266058 Home tel no: 01993 851463

You can call him for a quote.

I hope this information is helpful to the person who asked the original question and also to anyone else who needs a very reliable window cleaner.

Jill Dean

Operation Christmas Child - 14/11/07

From what I can gather from that 'ooh, conspiracy, watch out!' website, the terrible thing that Operation Christmas Child are doing is: putting a leaflet inside every shoebox of goodies. Obviously, said leaflet must have terrible powers, if it scares the writers of the website that much. So much, in fact, that they'd rather children starve than be exposed to organised religion.

The really terrible thing is, there's nothing people like more than something clever-sounding and negative about something good, so this website may well have the desired effect, and stop quite a few children from having a nicer Christmas.

Well done!

Name Supplied

Devil's Advocate from HGM - 14/11/07

Here we go again ! Devil's Advocate's picture of deprived children's faces lighting up when they get their shoebox would grace the front of any Christmas Card. But it is about as realistic as one showing Mr Pickwick on a Stage Coach passing through the centre of a snow covered Faringdon.

About one third of the world's children are 'Christian' and therefore according to Franklin Graham , who is the driving force behind Operation Christmas Child, they are 'Good'. The other two thirds are Non-Christian but they will get a Goodie-Box if they become 'Good' Christians. It's a bit like the saving schemes which give bonuses to new members but ignore the old loyal members. I'm sure that, like most of us, DA donated to the Tsunami appeals but I'm equally sure that he won't have endorsed his cheque with 'Christians Only'

I know that my view will be violently criticised because for once DA has supported the politically correct attitude to any Charity that mentions children. I'm tempted now to avoid this website for the next few days as I anticipate a fair bit of well deserved abuse. but please read the comments about Franklin Graham before you write in.

I believe that he really did say "Islam is a very evil and wicked religion" and yet 20% of the World's Population believe in it.
HGM

Merry Christmas. - 14/11/07

The Christmas Lights in London Street looked very nice last night. Presumably this was a test drive. Let's hope they are just as good in 6 weeks time.

Does anyone have any news about Faringdon's main claim to Christmas Fame the light on the Tower ?
Name Supplied

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON BROUGHT FORWARD ???? - 13/11/07

Just to say it was nice to see half the towns Christmas lights switched on all night on Tuesday evening the 13th November 2007 or am I just getting Deja vu.?
Peter White

Re Land around the Folly - 13/11/07

One additional item regarding the land around the folly tower.

If you have been up to folly tower in the last few days you may have noticed that the brambles have been cut back on perimeter path around the woods of Folly tower.

The farmer has done this upon request of Friends of the Folly.

This will give us (Friends of the Folly) the opportunity to collect the rubbish dropped in the brambles.
Raoul van Eijndhoven

Pigeons - 13/11/07

The odd thing about the thread on pink pigeons and dyed doves is that I had been wondering recently why the doves were not bright colours.

I'm glad they're back.

Does anyone know how long they have been missing?

Stephen Oliver

Ed(GW): Or indeed, why they're back

Operation Christmas Child - 13/11/07

Well I've read the pursestrings website, and am left completely cold. Personally, whatever motivation, even if there was some undercurrent, is irrelevant in my view. If there are poor Kiddies in the world that have just one day on which their eyes light up with pleasure then its worth it.

Also the important lesson taught to my kids, that giving is good, and that there are really poor kiddies elsewhere in the world is invaluable.

Well thats my view for what its worth.

Devil's Advocate

Operation Christmas Child - 13/11/07

I am shocked that people support the organisation samaritanpurse. I am not religious myself but I think to make people convert to Christianity to receive help after they have been in an earthquake is not very Christian!

I think too that its typical of a religious body to ask people to go to the church to find out what 'really goes on behind

the scenes'. I get the impression that they'll brush over the bad points and only show what they want you to see.

Operation Christmas child may sound lovely, perhaps because a lot of people have forgotten what Christmas is about, now days it's a holiday and nice presents and not about a religious event, so if you dig around and learn about the organisation behind OCC, who do you really think your helping, the children or a global organisation that takes advantage of dire events around the world for their own good?

Name Supplied

M.A.D.D. Mayfest dates - 13/11/07

The same as the previous 7 years, will run over the first bank holliday in May.(3rd,4th, 5th)

Thank you John I shall be pleased to attend your meeting on the 21st.

Sam.

Operation Christmas Child - 12/11/07

Regarding the motives of Operation Christmas Child, readers of Talking Points might want to have a look at www.pursestrings.ca to get a different perspective on the operation.

Not everyone thinks it's just a giving thing, that there's also an evangelical crusade behind it.

Read for yourselves and then decide....

Jean Paul

Remembrance Sunday - 12/11/07

My Dog George has a few bad habits one is to refuse to move I call it the lay down protest until I go in the direction he wants to go.

This is normally to pet shop, Crown where he can get treats, the vets, the Bacon Van, the pet market stall, you get the general picture.

Last Sunday I got real surprise he pull me all way to church gates, maybe trying to tell me something or wanted to pay his respects for remembrance day?

Name Supplied

The Folly - 12/11/07

I am very worried to learn that the fields around the folly is not common land with the building of new houses the folly Millenium Park will become more of an estate pond

It seems that there is very little open spaces left for residents of Faringdon.

Kirsty Phillips

NOTICE OF EVENTS - 12/11/07

In reply to Sam Prince's posting,

The 15th July is not a weekend, but I understand the following events are planned for next summer (please advise if any of these dates are wrong):

28th June - Party in the Park.

5th July - Peace Festival.

5th July - "Big Faringdon Gig" (see What's On on this site).

11th - 13th July - Faringdon Arts Festival.

19th July - Sealed Knot.

25th - 26th July - "Music weekend" as referred below (it will be big, watch this space.).

Perhaps we should all post all events on .org's What's On, then everyone including music organisers can have more information and avoid conflicting events.

When is the mad event next year?

More info on 25th-26th July to follow very soon .. does anyone sense a kind of hush?

Martin Phillips

ED(GW) Good idea Martin . Anyone, please do send us information about your events - we are more than happy to keep a Town Diary of sorts. The events in this post are now in our Whats On - but more detail is needed

Sealed Knot event - 11/11/07

Dear Sam

The dates for the Sealed Knot battle are 19/20 July 2008.

The campsite organised for the battle will then be used for a music event 25, 26 and 27 July using the same camp infrastructure.

If you are interested in helping organise the musical event, which aims to raise money for the Faringdon Area Project, then please join me and the Sealed Knot participants on a site recce, meeting at the Coffee Shop in the Market Place at 1130 a.m. on Wednesday 21st November.

Thanks

John Gillman

Music event and the Folly - 10/11/07

I see in the land around Faringdon Folly there is mentioned a music and dance weekend proposed for the weekend of July 15th 2008.

As an organizer of music I would like to have more information.

This would help against organizing any conflicting events.

Sam Prince

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 10/11/07

Thank you for your interest.

I know that there are some articles available on the internet that do not present an accurate account of the work done by the charity Samaritans Purse, of which OCC is a part.

May I suggest that you log on to www.samaritanspurse.uk.com to find out more, and if your queires are still not satisfied, come to Faringdon United Church 9-1 Mon - Fri next week, or 7.30 - 9pm on Weds and ask to discuss with Ann or Kate, and actually see what goes on behind the scenes.

Thank you

Kate Butcher

Folly Paths - Thankyou - 10/11/07

How refreshing that the farming tenant of Folly Hill has posted such an interesting and informative message re. the Folly public footpaths and the land surrounding them.

I would be fascinated to attend a farm walk - who should I contact?

HT(other Ed)

Land around Faringdon Folly - information from the tenant - 10/11/07

Your correspondents are not well informed.

They may not know that all agricultural land is mapped by satellite by Defra, and inspected as to its use, and recorded its planting each and every year. Defra have inspected the Faringdon estate this year, checked the number of trees recorded, its ditch and stream lengths, its management of soils, hedge trimming schedules, its organic status

Defra requires all arable and pasture land to be kept in good agricultural husbandry. Defra have laid down the rules. Four years ago, after the poppies spectacle, when the rabbits ate all the planted wheat, leaving the bitter tasting poppies to flourish, the land was returned to nitrogen fixing deep rooting plants, a mixture of legumes, Alfa-Alfa, vetches, red and white clovers.

During the July floods this year, did anyone appreciate the reason why the town did not have the deluge of sand running off the Folly as has happened before. The deeper roots held the sand.

Before five years have gone by, Defra insists that this land must be returned to arable if it is to retain its status. For one year, the nitrogen in the soil will feed a crop of organic porridge oats (we hope) which will be harvested July 08. The rotation is planned in advance to balance the grazing and winter feed needs. The Folly lands will then return to a legume/clover mixture as before. Set aside has been disbanded recently by the EU because of the high cereal prices and lack of cereal production. The 20 m circle round the Folly was in set a side.

The Folly Trust is planning to tidy up fallen trees, plant new ones and to make the Folly a nice place to walk. The tenants will help. Hopefully, so will others. If anyone would like to have a farm walk where the tenants will explain why rotations are so necessary to keep the land in good heart, please get in touch.

The land around the Faringdon Folly is part of an agricultural estate. The owners of Faringdon House estate have, over the years generously donated land, such as the Folly, to the townsfolk of Faringdon, and recently, land for an extension to the cemetery. (the tenants purchased and erected the fencing.)

The tenants, who are paying a rent for the farmland have happily allowed Faringdon people to have a big bonfire and fireworks on grazing land on the Lechlade Road each year. There was the Pony Club Championships off the Lechlade Road in July. Next July, 08, the very large gathering of the Sealed Knot will be using the London road fields, and land both down the Radcot and Lechlade roads, so that large crowds can appreciate the spectacle of the Civil war battle reenactment. They would like to think this will give Faringdon shops and businesses more trade as the long weekend, and the following weekend of music and dance is enjoyed. Parking and tenting will also be accommodated and as always, cattle will be moved to safer places.

Faringdon residents have enjoyed the well made footpath from the Stanford Road, with vehicle access for the disabled, completed last year. It took five years to get the legal status of the path agreed and the work done. They also use the Church Path Farm paths regularly.

Name Supplied

Ed:(GW) The tenant has said that Hedge cutter has been at the Folly taking brambles back, leaving the path and seating more exposed.

The land will be rolled once oats are planted and it will look a lot better."

SSSI News - 10/11/07

The solicitors to the Town Council are at work on a necessary document which will enable the Faringdon Fossil Trust to apply for charitable status so that we can finally take over the pit in Fernham Rd.

Setting up the trust is taking an inordinate amount of time but it looks as if we are getting near the end at last.

I was hoping to arrange a visit to see the Faringdon Sponge Gravels (in the pit behind Rogers Gardenstones) but the pit will be closed to visitors until early in the New Year . Hopefully we be able to arrange a visit next Spring

Name Supplied

See hygeology.htm for more information about Faringdon Fossils

Faringdon Photo Calendars - 10/11/07

We have Faringdon Photo calendars in the Tourist Information Centre at £5.75 each.

Our winter hours are 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday to Saturday, so please feel free to come in for one!

Faringdon TIC

Pink Pigeons - 10/11/07

I believe the dying of pigeons and doves in Faringdon dates back to the time of Sir Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt Wilson or the 14th Lord Berners as he was better known. He was an eccentric artist and composer who shared Faringdon house with Robert Herber-Percy, who had the Folly Tower built for him by Berners to celebrate his twenty first birthday

in 1935. They used to entertain a variety of well known celebrities of the time including Cecil Beaton, John Betjeman and of course, Evelyn Waugh who I think mentions Faringdon House and some 'interesting evenings' in one of his books.

The dying of doves had something to do with Berners surrealist art movement, to enhance and contrast with something he indulged in called monochromatic lunches.

Cynics may naturally assume that apart from being an enormous hoot, dying birds pink or purple gave them higher visibility, making them an easier target for a shot gun after the excessive consumption of Laudanum.

The Mad Hatter

Operation Christmas Child 2007 - 10/11/07

Sounds like, and may well be, a worthwhile cause but articles found by Googling indicate that it may not be all that it seems.

Before I go out and buy some toothpaste I'd like to know more.

Any comments any one ?

Name Supplied

Pigeons - 9/11/07

The rainbow pigeons are probably from Faringdon House.

I know when it was trying to be let a few years ago it mentioned that it had pigeons/ doves and the owners were responsible for dyeing them

Hamish Miller

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2007 - 9/11/07

Once again we are collecting filled shoeboxes to send to eastern European children (leaflets in shops and churches for more info).

Today the first 588 boxes were collected to travel to Ukraine. we will continue to process boxes until Friday 16th to go to Bosnia, Serbia or Romania.

As the boxes are processed for travel, we add any 'missing' items, and we have totally run out of toothpaste and face cloths!

Please, if anyone has any they would be happy to donate, bring to United Church any morning next week, where you will be greeted with a huge smile!

For further info please contact Ann on 241566 or Kate on 241201.

Thank you

Kate Butcher

Desperately Seeking Window Cleaner - 9/11/07

If anyone knows where (a reliable) one may be found, please contact me.

HT

How do you get a pigeon pink? - 8/11/07

Thanks to everyone for their eagle-eyes spotting the pigeons.

What I want to know is how do you get a pigeon to go rainbow colours? and why would you do it?
Is it going to affect their health/ are birds of prey more or less likely to catch them?
I've tried googling it and all I get is someone suggesting the use of vegetable based hair dye or food colouring.
Sharon Clough

Pigeons

06/11/07

And....here they are, courtesy of Adrian Meredith,

thankyou, Adrian



PINK PIGEON SPOTTED !! - 6/11/07

Sharon, I have also seen the pink pigeon (or dove). I saw it sitting at the entrance road towards the church path farm. But this pigeon was not alone, next to it was a purple pigeon. I saw them on Saturday. As I was in the car, I was not able to take a picture
Raoul van Eijndhoven

Paths around the Folly - 06/11/07

The area around the Folly tower is not common land. The only public rights of way are those on the map marked in green

Below are the rules about ploughing up footpaths

"A right of way which runs across an arable field can legally be ploughed up, but it must be reinstated within 14 days. Arable crops should not be allowed to grow on a right of way or overhang it from the sides.

The minimum width of a cross-field path on arable land should be 1 metre for a footpath and 2 metres for a bridleway.

Paths along the edges of fields should never be ploughed. The minimum widths for field-edge paths are 1.5 metres for a footpath and 3 metres for a bridleway. This should be the usable width of the path, and not include hedgerows, banks or ditches".

For information about public rights of way in Oxfordshire, [click here](#)
The person to contact re. problems in Vale of White Horse area (and west of South Oxon) is Mark Sumner. Phone 01865 810218 or email: mark.sumner@oxfordshire.gov.uk

HT

Re Common Land at Folly Hill - 6/11/07

Common Land is registered with a Registering Authority.

In this case that is Oxfordshire County Council. I therefore e-mailed them to find out if any Common Land was registered at Folly Hill. Their reply was that there is no Common Land registered at Folly Hill. This means that the only statutory rights of public access are the footpaths.

As I said in a previous post I have contacted the County Council to ask for clarification in relation to those and I am still awaiting a reply.
Name Supplied

PINK PIGEON SPOTTED!! - 5/11/2007

Sharon

I think you will find that this is one of the famous dyed doves from Faringdon House, I recollect seeing as a child
Sally Clarke

Pink and purple pigeons - 5/11/2007

I spotted the pink pigeon and a purple one near the folly on Sunday afternoon.
Name Supplied

Re The Folly and ploughing - 5/11/07

I have contacted the County Council about this and I will post any reply.

If anyone else wants to contact the County Council the contact for the Vale of White Horse area is Mark Sumner on 01865 810218 or e-mail to mark.sumner@oxfordshire.gov.uk

On Freeview - 5/11/07

I moved to faringdon recently and plugged in my digibox and got nothing.

My house had a sky dish though so I bought a sky digibox and subscribed to sky's Freesat service for a one off fee of £30 and can now get most of the free to air channels and all the radio channels.

They won't get the signal past Folly Hill so this may be the only route to cheap digital for some.
Name Supplied

Noisy barn dance (not) - 5/11/07

We all remember that when we held the meeting in the Corn Exchange to discuss the "noise" problems, the limiter warning light went on every time the audience applauded!
Steve Wright

SPACE - and any other events/campaigns in the area - 5/11/07

I am the editor of Community Times magazine and if I can ever help out by promoting local events or campaigns such as SPACE I'd love to do so.

I ran a feature in the November magazine which looked at music in the Vale including the 15 Minute Club and The Jam Blues Club, and I'd be happy to promote anything in the future. please call me on 01367 888229 or email info@ctinthevale.co.uk

Alison Neale

Folly ploughed - 4/11/07

The Folly I see it has been ploughed up again.

Yes, I appreciate the farmer wants to have as big a crop as possible but is it too much to ask that a smooth grass area, say about 15-20 foot wide is left at the top ?. Again there is nowhere for people to walk (unless in the mud). The

path around the top is barely wide enough for a child's buggy and tricky for two people to pass.

One of the main (if not the main) attractions in our town which we encourage tourists to visit is again pretty much a no-go area.

Surely the Folly Tower was given to the people of Faringdon to enjoy - and that should include part of the land around it which gives it its beauty.

I imagine our local farmers expect local support at markets etc.....can something be given back please ?
Name Supplied

PINK PIGEON SPOTTED !! - 4/11/07

Early Saturday morning whilst out for a stroll round town I spotted a bright pink pigeon on church street. It was not painted, and was a flamingo shade of pink.

After deciding that I was not seeing things (was completely sober), I looked it up on the internet and found that they do exist and come from Mauritius!

So what was it doing in Faringdon? Has anyone else seen it? I saw it fly off into Faringdon house direction.

I emailed Bristol Zoo who have a collection of them, to see if any were missing, but they said not. However they would be very interested to see a photo.

Sharon Clough

Ed: Have a look at <http://www.faringdon.org/hyberners.htm> - likely to be from Faringdon House

What has happened to the Folly? - 3/11/07

It's been turned into a ploughed field with not even a footpath left to walk around the perimeter, and no sign of the clearly marked public footpath!

I dread to think of what it will be like when it rains.
A real attraction has been spoilt.
Name Supplied

Anniversary - 3/11/07

Not quite the anniversary of the last gig at the corn exchange that was Sat 18 November 2006
Hamish Millar

Window Cleaner wanted - 3/11/07

Can anyone recommend a window cleaner please?
Name Supplied

Why is the Folly fields being ploughed up? - 3/11/07

I was under the impression the fields were part of the common land and as such a public area, why is it being ploughed up and where do we now have to go for our walks etc?
Rudi DuPlessis

Pre By-Pass Faringdon - 03/11/07

My recollection is that there were appalling traffic problems. Because of the heavy goods vehicles using the main road (e.g. London St.) the traffic was frequently gridlocked at the Market Place.

Traffic was often stationary, stretching back towards Oxford every Friday afternoon way past the Stanford Road, and on, beyond what is now Sudbury House Hotel.

London Street and the Market Place stank of car exhaust fumes. Car transporters regularly thundered down the A420 during the night, rattling the houses.

Parking, however was much easier in the main streets because many of the older properties were occupied by older people, who as you say, did not own cars. The area around the Town Hall was reserved for buses, but these were infrequent so cars were often parked there while their owners had business in the town.

The other feature which many people forget is that many of the shops in (the south side of) London Street had rear access and, where necessary, parking and loading bays; now gone as the spaces have all been developed into dwellings.

HT

Not very noisy Barn Dance - 3/11/07

The music at the Barn Dance (Corn Exchange) was loud enough to trigger the sound limiter 3 times last evening. It was a 3 piece band, caller with a mike - and at times lots of laughter.

Didn't seem loud to me at all- you could easily talk with people and be heard

Seems as if the limiter is set quite low

Gene Webb

Faringdon pre-bypass - 2/11/07

Can anyone confirm or correct my memory of the Faringdon road layout before we had the bypass.

The Fernham Rd. led to Fernham and the Stanford Rd. led to Stanford each journey being about 2 miles less than now.

The A420 involved Coxwell Road, Marlborough St. and London St. so Marlborough St. must have been 2 way
Coxwell St. to the Lechlade Rd was via Gravel Walk which was one way

Lechlade Rd. to Coxwell St. must have been via Gloucester St. and Marlborough St.

There were Traffic Lights in the Market Square.

The Market Square prioritised traffic not pedestrians and the space outside the Town Hall was a bus only area.

There were few serious traffic problems for 3 reasons:

1 Most houses with no parking spaces had no cars.

2 Most children, accompanied or not by parents, were not taken to and from school in cars. (And yes they often did get wet but you rarely saw a rusty child)

3 Any traffic problem was quickly sorted by a locally based walking policeman.

I know there will be many quick to tell me where I have got it wrong but is anyone prepared to confirm or add to my version where I have got it right ?

HGM

Ed(GW): In my childhood and youth, Gravel Walk, Marlborough St and Gloucester St were 2 way- but that was a long time ago!

Plastic Bag Free Faringdon? - 1/11/07

What about it? We were the first Fair Trade Town in the South East, we have an active environmental group, half the population now seem to have Faringdon's own Bag for Life, if we can get Budgens on board surely the rest of our traders will support it?

Visit <http://www.plasticbagfree.com> and you'll find a town that looks uncannily like Faringdon (OK, it doesn't have a Folly). Follow the "Why & How To" link before deciding it's unrealistic.

Anyway we're not going to let Thame and Wantage get there before us are we?

Dave Headey

Singing for Fun - 1/11/07

The first session was such fun - and 50 people were there- yes 50!

So if you've been a bit reluctant in case there were only a few people - don't be- come along and join in United Church Hall, 7pm, Tuesday.

We sounded amazing!

Gene Webb

Police Station - 31/12/07

Why is it when everyone is complaining about parking and crime in Faringdon, the front desk has been closed in the Police station. We could just pop in and report these tings if it was open.

Music

I can't understand with the wealth of musical talent in the area why so many are against it.

Faringdon could be put on the map as a centre for music and be known for its music scene instead of its bad parking and lack of front desk at the police station.....Its not just young people who need things to do.

Name Supplied

FESTIVE FARINGDON!!! - 30/12/07

to name supplied but not brave enough to publish!!

Maybe you should be part of one of the groups who work endlessly on this cause or maybe or you live too far away, maybe in Highworth!!

Denise Palmer

Chair of Festive Faringdon

Xmas lights - 30/12/07

nice lights but its a shame that they dont work properly ,this is now a common thing , cant they get someone to get them working right for next year

Name supplied

15 minute club - 30/12/07

The 15 Minute Club held at Faringdon's most prolific live music venue The Old Crown Coaching Inn continues to grow in popularity.

We look forward to seeing performers and audience on the 1st Sunday of each month kicking off in 2008 on Sunday January 6th. (7.30pm to 10.00pm)

Happy New Year everyone!

David Reynolds

Festive Faringdon THIS HAS TO BE A JOKE!!!! - 29/12/07

I to would like to congratulate the Faringdon Town Council on there ability to provide Faringdonians with such a consistent poor display of lights at a cost that it would seem no sane Council would ever pay for.

Maybe the person who thinks Highworths Christmas lights are worse than Faringdon should open there eyes and take a drive around our town before criticising others Council's displays.

The great Faringdon Tree they speak off hasn't worked for the past three nights, the lights in London street don't switch off anymore and the Christmas lights in Marlborough Street are just an Embarrassment to the town and would look better if switched off altogether.

I have been following the comments made on this web site about Faringdons Christmas lights over the past few years with interest. From speaking with various people in the town it would seem that most of the problems with the Christmas lights in our the town stem from a few persistently bloody minded people who are part of the Town Council. I am sure they know who they are.

It's just a shame that the town has to suffer at there hands. Faringdon should have the best lights in Oxfordshire not the worst.

I understand the town has the talent. Just not the inclination.
Name Supplied

Faringdon (and the Folly) on BBC One - 28/12/07

You may want to watch BBC CountryFile to be broadcast on **BBC One on Sunday 6th January at 11.00am.**

The Programme is about Great British Eccentrics (including Lord Berners) and is based in Faringdon. John Craven and the production team filmed in Faringdon on 6th December, spending most of the morning at the Tower, and the afternoon at Faringdon House.

Eddie Williams

Special opening of the Folly Tower in January - 28/12/07

Christmas Lights and Public Opening

First and most important, many thanks to Peter White for once again lighting the Tower this Christmas - the wonderful pink lantern can be seen for miles around.

We plan to keep the lights on until at least the end of January.

As an experiment, we will open the Tower to the public on **Sunday 13th January 4.00pm till 8.00pm.**

I'm sure it will be an exciting experience to climb the illuminated Tower, and be in the woodland with the pink glow of the lantern.

Note: The inside of the Tower has lights but visitors should bring a torch for the footpath.

Eddie Williams

More on the slip road - 27/12/07

What would be even better than a "No Entry" sign, as suggested by your previous correspondent, would be a camera to "clock" the offenders so that they could be sent nice police letters offering them £60 fines and points on their licences.

The same camera could also be used to award fines and penalty points to the many more people who take absolutely zilch notice of the right of way traffic sign just round the bend outside the opticians.

But I for one won't be holding my breath waiting for any action by the authorities on this.

MGH

Dog bins a challenge for conservation area - 25/12/07

I am not writing to be antagonistic, but at the open Town meeting in 2006, attended by the Town Council, I (Anita van Eijndhoven) brought the lack of dog poo bins in the town centre to the attention of all present. At that time, it was noted that the placing of such a bin could be a challenge as much of the town centre is a conservation area, but that it would be looked into.

It does strike me that not a lot has happened since - if all I needed to know was that I should approach the District Council, then that information has been a long time coming. I guess the Town Council can't approach them, or surely they would have done it by now.

In the meantime I shall carry on like a bag lady taking the poo out of town with me :) I'm no longer allowing my dog to hold his breath to wait for the poo bins to arrive, as I fear he may not live long enough to see them, although he is only 2 at the moment.

The Pooper Scooper (aka Anita)

Cancelled Gig - 24/12/07

Deepest Apologies if you were thinking of coming to the gig at The Old Crown, Faringdon, the people who run the pub have cancelled without ceremony today.

The promoter, Sam Prince has been left with gigs into April that he now has to cancel!

We hope you receive this message in time and have a Good Christmas despite this seasonal reminder of what makes so much of the British leisure industry the charmless wonder that it is.

Best Wishes The Band

Plug pulled on the jam Club. 24/12/07

As from 3-45 this afternoon 24/12/2007 the management of The Old Crown Coaching Inn have decided to cancel all future gigs (Jam Club).

As this is such short notice I must apologize for any inconvenience that will be suffered by audience and performers. I have no control over this stance. It comes from the Crown inn.

Sam Prince

Pax Vobiscum. - 21/12/07

To all my critics and my supporters (admittedly a smaller group) Happy Christmas and a Prosperous 2008.

To Hil and Gene. ...Thanks once more for providing this fantastic website.

Harry G Mitchell

Slip Road Use - 21/12/07

It seems to me there are two types of driver who use this slip road...those who know it's restricted but still blatantly use it as a short cut and those who genuinely don't know which way to go at the junction.

Spend half an hour sitting outside the coffee shop and you'll soon see which ones are which! Fortunately the former are in the minority.

The new signage is a step in the right direction but still not very clear.

Surely the simple answer is to put up a familiar red circle and white bar "No Entry" sign!

David Reynolds

Mummer's Play - 21/12/07

Boxing Day morning, Market Square, 10am (I think!!)

Christmas Wish - 21/12/07

Please accept without any obligation whatsoever, implied or implicit, my very very best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender-neutral, unbiased, nil pressured, carbon neutral, anti spin and with respect for all animals and plant life and sensitive noise receptors, celebration of the winter solstice holiday/festival/break/celebration, practised within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, and having full respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of all others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all, being fully aware of the possible foreseen or unexpected consequences also implied or implicit for not doing so.

.. and a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling, and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2008, but not without due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures who celebrate a new year at a different time and whose contributions to society have helped make Britain great, (not to imply that Britain is necessarily greater than any other country, despite the comments of our former PM in his parting speech, and recognising that the Great before Britain is a noun rather than an adjective), and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, mental ability, religious faith, musical preference, percentage of recycling and composting undertaken, choice of computer platform, games consol, football team affiliation, political party, sexual preference, or level of tolerance of perfectly acceptable live music of the wishee, accepted use of energy efficient light bulbs, or the freely chosen name of your teddy. (Includes all town councillors, Ed's, Jim, Harry, Steve, David, HGM, CS, minority and indeed majority etc, but excludes irresponsible dog owners who can't be bothered to bag and bin it and those who bag and hang on a tree or throw in a bush, and boy/girl/man/woman racers, and those who live off the

state because they can't be bothered to get off their backsides and get a job despite being fully able and capable, and are not legitimately prevented from working for a valid health or personal social reason, you know who you are...). My cheer can only extend so far, but will be extended to all, if new years resolutions are made to bag and bin it, don't bag and hang it, drive legally and responsibly and for those fully able, to get working and become a worthwhile member of society, instead of sitting on backsides watching xmas TV on satellite.

(By accepting this entirely free and without any obligation what so ever greeting, you are accepting the following terms. This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal, without notice and is deemed fit in the prevailing circumstances. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting, to do otherwise may or may not infringe a copy right which may or may not be acted upon depending on which day of the week the offence takes place and what colour socks the wisher is wearing at the time of any alleged infringement. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/himself or others, and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. This wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year, or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first, and warranty is limited to replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.)

I'm sure that most of you would like to say "thank you" and some would like to say get stuffed in a festive Turkey sort of way, but are concerned that in using such terms it might be misconstrued by others, leading to accusations of partiality which might eventually be the subject of some form of legal action. If this is a genuine concern I would advise you of the need to reserve your position vis a vis any such legal action when I may well be asked whether I regard "thank you" or indeed "get stuffed" is an appropriate response in such circumstances. I fully appreciate and understand that committing yourself at this moment in time could thus prejudice your position. Perhaps I can suggest that you simply keep any acknowledgement of this Christmas wish to yourself at present and perhaps respond again following legal advice and representation, and then only if you consider that the matter warrants further comment or clarification.

I think this should do the trick in this crazy world where saying boo to a goose, swinging a cat, sleeping like a log, wagging a dogs tail or beating an egg, would get you six years for causing detrimental harm to interested parties. In short-

Please, ALL, without exception (on second thoughts, except irresponsible dog owners who don't clean up - sorry there are limits, I really am fed up having to clean dog mess off my shoes), have a Happy Christmas, a peaceful one and a happy new year.

Devils Advocate.

PS, yes it is a joke, I do not really advocate beating eggs it better to boil or poach them.

To Colin: - 20/12/07

I don't want to get into a slanging match with you. The car parks, police, parking enforcement and the state of the market place are all the responsibility of the District Council and not the Town Council. Personally I share your point of view.

The problem of the slip road by the Town Hall is ongoing. If you have any suggestions as to how we can legally enforce the restrictions, I would love to hear them.

I think the whole town would like a solution to the problem.

Jane Boulton

Faringdon Town Council has signed the Nottingham declaration for climate change - 21/12/07

All District councils in Oxfordshire have signed this agreement- Faringdon Town Council is the first to do so.

By signing, they pledge to actively tackle climate change in your area and work with others to reduce emissions country-wide

It includes a commitment to produce an action plan(within 2 years) to reduce the energy use within this area. The plan should be produced in consultation with local residents.

[Further information from the Energy Saving Trust site](#)

Showcase for local artists and craftspeople - 21/12/07

Work for sale will be displayed for one month in the Pump House. A commission will be charged on any items sold. If after the display, there are enquiries for you, we will pass them on.

To find out more, please contact Faringdon Tourist and Community Information Centre, Pump House, 0930 - 1300, Mon to Sat or phone 01367 242191

Re FARINGDON'S CARBON FOOTPRINT - 20/12/07

Two things on this:-

Anyone who logs on to the Energy Saving Trust's website - <http://www.energysavingtrust.org/>- I believe, or something similar can read their Green Barometer newsletter November 07 edition which, among other things, contains a survey of local authority districts across the UK rating them on their performance when it comes to CO2 emissions.

While there is nothing specific for Faringdon, you will find that Vale of the White Horse District rates down towards the bottom of the list of 434 authorities, along with other parts of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire while places like the City of London and other inner London Boroughs are all the "good Guys" at the top of the list.

The reason for this is quite simply that people in our sort of area have to make longer car journeys to get to work or the shops or on the school run or whatever and also that the areas like ours take in a lot of larger older properties with solid walls which are not suitable for environment-friendly things like cavity wall insulation etc. So a pretty useless survey really that tells you what we already know but it keeps people in a job I suppose.

Secondly like me people will probably have read seen or heard recently that global warming etc is not all down to evil people flying about in planes after all but to those wicked unthinking cows chomping all that grass and producing zillions of cubic metres of methane gas.

Now possibly all the world's climate change problems, to say of demands for alternative fuels for energy generation could be solved in a single fell swoop if some boffin could come up with a simple tank or canister device to attach to each cow to extract and store the methane. Full tanks could be emptied at milking time and the gas used to supply heat or energy for the farm or to be piped into a grid system to supply local power stations. What's more there would be a vast fortune to be made. So the question is - is there anyone out there ready to come up with the goods?
Signed MGH

Festive Faringdon - 19/12/07

Tonight I drove home from work through Highworth into Faringdon and noticed a vast difference in the Christmas lights in each town.

I would like to congratulate the Faringdon Town Council for arranging a spectacular display of lights and would suggest that whoever arranged those in Highworth come and have a look one evening for future ideas.

A very poor display in this neighbouring town in my opinion.....especially the TREE!!!!!!!
Name Supplied

Re dog bins and disabled access. - 19/12/07

I know nothing about disabled access but I know about Dog Poo. I also know that the Town Council here are the most expensive in practically the entire Oxon County so I don't think I was being rude.

We have a part time Police Force, pay and display parking that ought to be free, poor parking enforcement throughout the town and now the expensive makeover in the Market Place is crumbling in places. Its also free for all for the "rat run" past the Paper/Post Office as no one takes a blind bit of notice about the restriction there.

Rudemy arse!
Colin

Dog Bins and Disabled access - 18/12/07

To Colin: I'm sorry there don't seem to be enough dog poo bins around. Personally I don't currently have a dog so am

not aware of a problem. The Town Council provide bins in the Open Spaces but the District Council are responsible for those in the town centre.

I'm sure that if you write to both the Town and District councils they will then be aware of any problems and can address them. Being rude about the council without first informing them of your concerns in writing is just a little unfair.

To: Lynn Pettit. Could you please write to the Town Council voicing your concerns. They can then address them. I think you have a valid point.

The opinions given in this post are entirely my own and not those of any other person or body.
Jane Boulton

Evening Market Thurs 20th - 18/12/07

The next Evening Market will be this Thursday (20th) from 3pm till 7pm. It will coincide with the late night opening by the Faringdon Retail Group.

There will be a range of stalls and Faringdon & District Chamber of Commerce will be selling Mulled Wine to keep everyone warm!

Please try and come along and support your local retailers and marketeers.
Jayne Haynes

Blue Christmas. - 18/12/07

Two Jam Club Gigs @ The Crown over Christmas period.

Sat Dec 22nd. Rockin the Blues with Storm Warning and guest Lewis Cohen. 8pm. Entrance £5-00.
29th Dec from 4pm blues Jam Session all players and non players welcome. No Charge. then from 9pm, Pete Boss and The Bluehearts.
Entrance for Pete boss is £5-00. <http://www.maddfaringdon.co.uk/>

Worth a try. - 18/12/07

I think that the sarcastic comment about lonely chicken, Betty's, need for a companion was very insensitive..

I can appreciate Joan's problem as I have a similar need for my lonely Kruggerand.
Can anyone help ?
Eb. Scrooge

Faringdon on TV, (Sunday 6th January at 11.00am on BBC One) - 18/12/07

The BBC program Countryfile, hosted by John Craven is located at the Folly Tower for a program about Eccentrics.

Quite a bit of time was spent talking about and filming the Folly, so it should be interesting for Faringdonians
Eddie Williams

Folly Tower Open 13/1/08- 18/12/07

The Tower will be open to the public on **Sunday 13th January 4.00pm till 8.00pm.**

I'm sure it will be an exciting experience to climb the illuminated Tower, and be in the woodland with the pink glow of the lantern.

The inside of the Tower has lights but visitors should bring a torch for the footpath.
Adults £1, Children 11-16 20p, Children under 11 free

Eddie Williams

Lonely Chicken ? - 18/12/07

Joan's story about Betty, her lonely chicken brought tears to my eyes.

I would like to help in the search for an appropriate companion but don't have a spare chicken. But I would be willing to offer some roast potatoes and garden peas.

Name Supplied

Mummers Play on Boxing Day - 18/12/07

Market Square, 10am
Gene Webb

Lonely Chicken - 16/12/07

Having had a few chickens this year I am now left with only one lonely bird. I had intended to wait until spring to get more but 'Betty' is all alone and needs a companion or two.

Does anyone have any chickens looking for a good home or know of someone who does, please?

Joan Monks

Faringdon First Responders December 2007 - 16/12/07

Since the last time of writing, Faringdon First Responders have attended just six calls - a very quiet month for us.

We would like to say a big thank you everyone who has supported us financially over the past year; we could not function with your generous fundraising donations and gifts. On behalf of the team, we wish everyone in and around Faringdon a very happy and healthy new year.

Enquires to Gof Smith 07799 880 091

Ed(GW) Monthly reports can be found on hhresponder.htm

Christmas Dr Who - 16/12/07

I'm very pleased to say that I've written a Christmas Doctor Who short story which will appear in the Daily Telegraph on Saturday December 22nd.

Please check it out, and I hope you enjoy it.

And Merry Christmas, one and all!

Paul Cornell

Wheelchair access in Faringdon - 16/12/07

I am doing some research into wheelchair access in Faringdon - shops, pubs, cafes and public venues. Does any wheelchair user out there have any information??

There doesn't seem to be any reference to accessibility issues on the tourism webpage.

I have a friend in Witney who is a wheelchair user and we tend to go to village pubs where we know there is reasonable access. But it would be nice for us (and good for the town) if we could sometimes have lunch/coffee in Faringdon.

Any suggestions gratefully received!

Lynn Pettit

Dog poo bins. - 15/12/07

Responsible dog owners are expected to use "scoop the poop" bags for times when required; yet around the town there are hardly any bins.

Considering the exorbitant amount that we pay in Council Tax surely the town Council as well as talking a lot of crap,

could afford some more bins for the dog crap
Colin

Re: New bus timetable. - 12/12/07

I doubt that the better service to account for the larger population is likely to occur until that larger population exists ie after the houses have actually been built.
Jane Boulton

Faringdon Wantage Buses - 13/12/07

Hello I would like to know, what is happening to the bus time table from Faringdon to Wantage seeming as the council have now sold it to another bus company than hayfordian.

I was wondering if you had any information on what times they will be running on a friday. I am a regular user of the bus on fridays, as i go into wantage. And i would like to know about any other information please.

Write back as soon as possible please.

Name Supplied

Ed(GW): Have a look at the [bus page on the VWHDC website](#)

A Huge Thankyou - 12/12/07

A huge thank you to the Faringdon Chamber of Commerce, for the ball last Friday and for donating to the Jacob Robinson Fund to raise money for the PICU at the John Radcliffe hospital.

In August 2006 Jacob fell from his first floor bedroom window on to the patio below, causing 4 major fractures and many minor fractures in his skull. If it were not for the excellent care that we received in the PICU we may not have Jacob back, let alone unscathed (bar the odd dent in his head). We want to raise money so they can carry on helping families as we were helped, so THANK YOU FCC!

May I also take this opportunity to thank all the people in Faringdon who gave us so much support at the time and have shown concern for Jacob afterwards. My family and I really appreciate it.

Catherine Robinson

Police Station - 12/12/07

From my snooping around I think you'll find it is the front desk at Faringdon Police Station that is closed, and not the station behind it.

There's a notice on the door that states that due to unforeseen staff shortages the front desk will be closed until further notice. It then refers people who need assistance to Wantage or Abingdon Police Stations or the usual number 08458505505 - with apologies.

I'm informed that when staff are in place it will be open again for callers, but in the meantime...the door is closed.
Private Sleuth

Grant funding from OCC - 13/12/07

If you would like to apply for one-off funding from Oxfordshire County Council, Social & Community Services, please contact Heather Elms Administrator Community Development Team Social & Community Services Oxfordshire County Council City Office 134b Cowley Road OXFORD OX4 1JH <mailto:heather.elms@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

The deadline is 31/1/2008, max amount is £500, and details and forms can be found on the [Oxfordshire County website](#)

Gene Webb

Police Station closed? - 13/12/07

I've heard it said that the police station in Faringdon is closed due to staff shortage.
The Thames Valley Police website simply says 'Closed until further notice'

Anyone know any more?
Gene Webb

Folly Tower Light - 11/12/07

So who should we thank this Year ?...

Whoever it is....Thank you !

Name Supplied

Ed:(GW) It's Peter White- he put the electricity supply into the tower, constructed the Millennium Beacon and has lit the tower every year since then.- what a great thing to do

Hush Festival (24th-27th July 2008) - Update. - 11/12/07

Hi Folks

Right, we're rolling now!

All local bands and 2 breaking bands are booked. I'm close to finalising 1 or 2 more breaking bands and a couple of household names, almost ready for the first announcement of acts.

All of you who have made reservations for the £20 tickets have now been sent a message from me detailing how and when to pay.

Any £20 reservations not paid for by the due date (Monday 24th December) will then be offered in order to those of you who have made £30 reservations, who will then only have to pay £20 for the surplus reservations, so fingers crossed for the £30 people!

Once the £20 reservations are all paid for I'll make the first (of a few) acts announcements, and start to publicise the festival to a much wider audience. At that point the tickets are likely to go up again in price.

There are still some £30 tickets left, so if you haven't made a reservation yet and think that you might want to, then now is the time to do it! You won't have to pay for the £30 tickets until probably late January (I'll let you know nearer the time), and there is no commitment to pay even then; you can change your mind when it comes to paying and have fewer than you've reserved, but not more unless you pay for them at the prevailing (higher) price at the time.

£30 will still be good value though, as the top price will be much more as the bigger names are announced.

Please email me at PortwellBar@aol.com if you'd like to reserve tickets, and state whether you'd like camping (at £10 each extra).

Finally, don't forget it's all fully refundable if the event does not go ahead.

Oh, and don't forget to tell all your friends!

Thanks folks, this should be big.....!

Cheers

Martin

New Bus Timetable - 09/12/07

Today (Sunday 9th December) the 65 and 66 bus services to this town started on a new timetable.

This is downloadable from the Stagecoach website as a PDF here:
<http://www.stagecoachbus.com/swindon/timetables.php?service=1044>

The main differences are to the 65 route, which has a different daytime schedule and no longer goes to Stanford as it used to on Saturdays, and to the Sunday 66 times (hope nobody was caught out today). On Sunday we get a later bus from Swindon as far as Faringdon and an earlier bus in; there are no extra buses to/from Oxford, and although the buses are on average no more frequent they confusingly no longer follow a memorable two-hourly pattern. Apart from that, the weekday morning commuter buses now leave 1-4 minutes earlier, there's a new Saturday morning bus to Swindon starting from here but no more extra Sat. evening half-route, and that's about it.

Most interestingly for me, the Friday late bus from Oxford has been moved from 2300 to 2325. This would have been a godsend in the days of 11:20 pub curfews for music and comedy events, but I was really hoping for an even later bus (and one on other nights of the week) now events go on till midnight. At least we are back almost to where we were before the licensing laws changed -- having to leave just as the main act takes to the stage. Admittedly this is an improvement on missing the one before as well, which was so frustrating I've only taken the late bus twice in the past year, down from 3x a month before that.

So the rumours of a better bus service to accommodate the new housing seem not to have come true, and after this change there will likely not be another for quite some time. I'm rather disappointed that we still don't merit a decent service (even leaving aside Stagecoach's predilection for changing the route with no notice and no signs at the old stops, or for its buses to have the wrong destination on the front, claim to be "not in service", or just plain speed past the stops without looking). Nearly every 66 I've been on lately has been full or almost full and yet we remain stuck in the dark ages of one an hour and nothing after 7pm.

I know there seem to be contributors here who for some reason don't find Faringdon's own musical nightlife lacking (weekends only, volume limiting, covers only please, preferably about the grand old god-fearing gun-toting joys of the Swindon-postcoded singer's imagined Alabama or West Virginia upbringing), but surely even these people would appreciate the opportunity to get home from our nearest city without forking out £45 for a taxi?

Chloe Alexis

Grove Lodge / Cottage - 09/12/07

Message for Ian Smith regarding the history of Grove Lodge. My Great Great Great Grandfather lived at Grove Lodge between 1841 and 1861 according to the census. I would be keen to come and see the house sometime when the weather warms up if you wouldn't mind.

Thomas Collett

Tony's Fruit & Veg - 8/12/07

The previous poster beat me to it !.

How nice to have this stall in our market town. I hope more and more people will support him so that it can continue. Nothing better than fresh produce with no silly, wastful and harmful packaging. With two great butchers and now a fruit and veg man we have even more reason to stop putting money into the huge greedy supermarkets - and we don't have to waste money driving to get to them. Please support our local shops.

name supplied

Big Faringdon Gig - 6/12/07

5th July 2008
Faringdon Junior School

I have now published the website for this new unique event where all bands participating will play original material and only original material.
All profits from ticket sales and from the bar will be given to support the Faringdon Arts Festival(2008) and a charity (yet to be nominated).

There will be a number of opportunities to also participate, even if not playing in one of the many bands, to ensure the event is a success.

We will be looking for volunteers:
2 stage managers and;
bar staff and;
other volunteers is due course.

There will also be the an opportunity for stall holders (charity/fundraisers or otherwise) to have an outside pitch at the

event. In particularly BBQ, Teas/coffess cakes etc, craft stalls. A pitch will be available for £10 for the day.

For more information see <http://www.bigfaringdongig.com/>
or contact Sean 07712 530405

Tony's Fruit and Veg - 6/12/07

I tried out the new fruit and veg stall today - outside the Bell. I hadn't realised that this is a local man. Seems to have a good range of fruit and veg, described as local, and the prices are very good.

He's there Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat
Name Supplied

Pat Pending's problem... A 2 minute solution. - 5/12/07

One of the many joys of this website is that postings are not excluded just because they make no sense. Pat Pending must be grateful for this.

He, unfortunately I have to assume Pat is a man, is labouring under the misunderstanding that speed limits don't apply to non-crusties. He feels that when he is faced with the situation when he has, to use his own words, "a legitimate need to get somewhere on time trying to pass folks religiously doing 49mph" any resulting accident will be the fault of the driver, OF WHATEVER AGE, obeying the law.

An alternative way of achieving his legitimate need would be to allow an extra 2 minutes for the Faringdon/ Wantage part of his journey.
Crusty

To Prat Pending - 5/12/07

How many more times?

It isnt speeding *in itself* which causes accidents, speed limits exist to reduce the severity of accidents when they do occur, caused by silly, impatient, selfish know-it-all drivers overtaking in unsafe places, for example.

If you're in such a hurry to get everywhere, start out earlier.

Name supplied

Commercial Development Exhibition - 5/12/07

A quick reminder about the exhibition for the proposals of the commercial development land along Park Road on **Saturday 8th December from 9:30am to 2:30 pm in The Old Town Hall, Faringdon.**

We would be very grateful for your comments, and to answer any questions, if you are able to pop in. We are also replicating the exhibition on-line at <http://www.four-twenty.co.uk/> from 8th - 20th December for those people unable to make the real thing!
Sarah Allen Stevens

Wantage Road - 4/12/07

Don't know how many people have noticed that the Wantage road has now fallen foul of the 'lets put a speed restriction on it'ers' .

There is now a 50 mph restriction on its complete length which will no doubt delight the hordes of crusties who will now be able to take even longer going to the garden centre whilst being able to listen to a complete episode of the archers.

Now before all you people who blame global warming on virtually everything, consider this; how many more accidents will be caused NOW due to speed because the speed limit has been reduced?

Look out for people who have a legitimate need to get somewhere on time trying to pass folks religiously doing 49mph.

Also another thought, how much does the carbon footprint increase each time one of these countless 50mph signs is produced, delivered, fitted and maintained, food for thought.

Sometimes just sometimes the authorities are wrong, but of course its to do with speeding so it must be correct..
Merry Christmas
Pat Pending

Ed(GW) One of the great pleasures of being a crustie is that you are seldom in a hurry to get anywhere - who cares about speed limits- just enjoy the radio for a minute or two longer!

Use of low energy light bulbs and save up the money...mmmm. - 4/12/07

Perhaps after trying to read a newspaper by the light of a low energy light bulb would result in a strained and subsequent poor eyesight. A small price perhaps for saving the planet of course the failing eyesight would have to be addressed. A visit to an opticians, a car journey or two or three (adding to the carbon foot print) and the expense of purchasing the glasses.

Lets not ignore the carbon foot print of the associated costs of running the opticians businesses that now begins to flourish as the increase in demand for glasses due to the increased failing eyesight problem associated with low energy light bulbs.

And the cost of delivering all the components from the wholesalers and manufactures for the opticians to make the glasses will also add to the carbon foot print.

And not forgetting the tax and VAT business tax associated with all this activity to resolve the problem.

Options: 1. Use low energy light bulbs and use the money saved to buy reading glasses but remember the carbon foot print and the on costs or;
2. Buy a nice bright light bulb, save the planet and pay less.

I vote for Citizens Smiths 150 watts then we could 'Illuminati' the room.
Seamus O'Hodge
Ministry of Prattle

Ironing Service? - 3/12/07

Does anyone know of an ironing service in the local area?

This is really urgent so if anyone can help/knows anyone who can help could they please email me at garthpool@btinternet.com

Many thanks

Happy Christmas Everyone.. 2/12/07

Our lights and our tree now look festive

(Let's hope they stay on every night)

But it does seem a shame that our main claim to fame.

Isn't lit.

Where's the Folly Tower light ?

Anon

Name Supplied

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CARBON FOOTPRINT UPDATE - 2/12/07

I now feel I was a bit unfair and hasty about my comments of the wast of energy used leaving on a string of Christmas Lights all day and night.

As I walked through the town on Sunday night I counted 26 faulty lamps in the light strings,

I now realise that the practice of fitting faulty lamps must be intentional with the aim of improving our Carbon Footprint.

Peter White

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CARBON FOOTPRINT - 2/12/07

It was nice to see the Towns Christmas Lights switched on yesterday

its just a shame that some of them don't ever switch off again!!! (i.e. the string from community centre to the portwell)
I am sure if we just had someone who actually knew what they were doing we could reduce our Christmass Lights Carbon Footprint.
Peter White

Identity Theft. - 1/12/07

At this so called "Season of Good Will" I usually feel it is my duty to point out that there is no place in this uncharitable world for misplaced "Charitable Acts".

I was preparing a comment on the donation of low energy light bulbs by an unknown benefactor when I noticed the comments from Citizen Smith.

I can only conclude that he has been given access to the Discs lost by the HMRC and has stolen my persona.
Ebenezer Scrooge Esq
